

## News Briefs

### Pilgrimage

Sophomore Dakin Sloss has been nominated to attend the sophomore pilgrimage due to his exemplary standards of honor, courage, citizenship, leadership and service in school and the community. The event takes place in Jefferson City for a day to encourage citizenship and provide insight into the government in action.

### NSPA Honor Roll

Members of the Journalism staff were eligible for the National Scholastic Press Association's Journalism Honor Roll. The students selected include juniors Sophia Agapova, Amy Brooks, Rachel Harris, Rebecca Katz, Rebecca Wall and sophomores Gila Hoffman, Nava Kantor, Kelly Moffitt and Dakin Sloss. To be eligible for NSPA honor roll, students must be on the staff for at least one year and have at least a GPA of 3.75.

### Editors announced

The new Globe editors-in-chief for next year will be juniors Amy Brooks and Rachel Harris. Sophia Agapova, Rachel Dickens, Rebecca Katz, Kate Rothman and Rebecca Wall will be senior managing editors of respective sections of the paper. Congratulations!

### AP Class Awards

CHS has been recognized by the College Board as having one of the strongest AP biology and chemistry programs in the state. Chemistry teacher Nathan Peck and Biology teacher Sally Lazaro are now eligible to receive the Siemens AP teacher award. One teacher from each subject will win.

### Art Shows

Sophomore Evan Moore recently had his work displayed at the Contemporary Art Museum in the show, "Self Portrait with Paper." For this show he received assistance from artist Kimiko Yoshida. He was also involved with the project "Hero, Comprised" with the artist-in-residence Jason Wallace.

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# Globe

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SOPHOMORE LEIGH KATZ prepares for the Arts Fair. Despite the absence of Dr. Musick who started the CHS tradition, all preparations are going smoothly as planned.

## Planning for annual Arts Fair begins

MEGHAN BLISS

The annual CHS Arts Fair is a standing tradition that many graduates remember. Each spring CHS invites Special School District (SSD) students and teachers to CHS for a fun-filled day of arts and crafts. CHS students are paired with SSD students and travel from room to room completing different crafts and various activities in themed, club-sponsored rooms.

This year CHS will again host the Arts Fair and it will be held on April 6. Students from both the Litzsinger and Neuwöhner Schools will venture to CHS on what could be their only field trip of the year.

Planning for the event began in the middle of first semester in order to ensure the event's success. This year the Arts Fair is being directed by Dee Blassie, StuGo sponsor and Learning Center Director, and Annie Etling, StuGo sponsor

and math teacher along with the Arts Fair Steering Committee.

"The Steering Committee meets twice a month starting in October," Etling said. "We plan Buddy Recruitment Day, Buddy Training Day, Activities Day and the Invitation Days. We book performers, design artwork for bandanas and the program. We plan activities for each room and purchase supplies for each activity. We match CHS students with SSD students. The Steering Committee is open to the whole student body. There are about 20 students on the committee in addition to the Student Government members that help out."

The Steering Committee has chosen this year's theme to be St. Louis Monopoly and believes it is one that will help to make this year's event unique.

"I think this year is going to be different because the theme is really unique and there are going to be different activi-

ties," logistics committee co-chair Allyson Golden said.

To go along with the theme, each room will be decorated to go with a St. Louis landmark ranging from the Magic House (in a room hosted by the Harry Potter Club), to the Science Center (in a room hosted by the Chemistry Club), to the Fox Theater (in a room hosted by the Drama Club).

A large number of clubs will host rooms this year thanks in part to club recruitment that took place during club picture day. Also, a video, made for Buddy Recruitment Day, was played following Friday morning announcements. The video was time efficient and allowed a consistent message to be presented to all students during buddy recruitment.

"I worked with Whitney Bruce to put out a buddy recruitment video for this

ARTS FAIR, 8

## Three candidates for two spots

CAROLINE BLEEKE

On the surface, it is easy to differentiate between the three candidates running for the two available Clayton School Board spots: each candidate is from a different ward of the city, each pursues a different career, each has had experience with a different Clayton elementary school.

These superficial differences have helped the candidates to define unique identities, shaped by experience and beliefs.

Rick Hummell, Jane Klamer and Lily Raymond are all going into the school board election with several years of involvement in the Clayton School District behind them.

Hummell, the only incumbent, has served one term of three years on the Board and is currently Vice President. Hummell has also served on several other Clayton boards, including the City of Clayton Economic Development Advisory Commission and the City of Clayton Parks and Recreation Commission. A member of the Clayton community for 20 years, Hummell hopes to continue his involvement.

"I enjoy serving our community, and the school is one of our most important assets, so [being a member of the school board] is something I really enjoy doing," Hummell said.

Klamer, who has lived in Clayton since 1982, has served on numerous committees, including the Captain PTO as Secretary, Treasurer and Co-President; the Clayton PTO Council as Secretary; the School District of Clayton Literacy and Assessment Committees and the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan Committee (CSIP).

Klamer believes that her involvement would be a strong asset as a school board member.

"I think that my experience with the district, in terms of the number of people that I've worked with and I know from all the different



BOE CANDIDATES RICK Hummell, Jane Klamer and Lily Raymond meet with members of the community during the Breakfast with the Candidates on March 16. At the event, Clayton residents had the opportunity to ask questions regarding district policies, programs or personal concerns.

things that I've done is helpful because I've had a working relationship with a lot of people," Klamer said. "I've worked with the various elementary school principals through the literacy committee, a number of faculty through assessment and literacy and a number of parents through PTO."

Raymond, who moved to Clayton in 1999 but who has lived in the St. Louis area for 16 years, has also participated in a wide variety of committees, including CSIP, the Glenridge PTO and the School District of Clayton Early Childhood, Math Curriculum and Health Curriculum Committees.

Raymond's passion for education and public service inspired her to run for School Board.

"I just have this tremendous empathy for teachers and students and parents," Raymond said. "I think that the way I arrive at decisions, by taking in large amounts of information, listening to people with different viewpoints, remaining open-minded, caring about others, will help me on the Board."

All three candidates agree that their careers have been instrumental in shaping the qualities they can bring to the Board.

Hummell, the Executive Vice President of Missouri State Bank and Trust Company, believes that his expertise on financial matters is an asset the Board needs.

"I think I bring a different perspective because of my employment," Hummell said. "As a banker, I'm involved in great financial matters and I'm very involved on a day-to-day basis with the community in a business and financial sense, and so I think that perspective is unique compared to my opponents."

Hummell also values his executive skills.

"I'm a leader," Hummell said. "I am diplomatic in my approach. I'm very involved and very committed in whatever I get myself involved in."

Since stepping back from her job as a lawyer to be more involved in the community, Klamer has had the ability to watch the Board work.

"I have been interested in the work of the School Board for five or six years, and I've been going to School Board meetings for that long," Klamer said. "The work of

the board around curriculum and improving curriculum was the thing that initially brought me to pay attention to what the board did, back when my kids were

smaller."

Klamer's experiences as a lawyer have helped her improve collaboration skills.

"I think that my legal background, being primarily a contract attorney where I had to represent

my client and negotiate things to try to reach agreements, is a great experience for working on a board where you're just one out of seven," Klamer said. "I think I'd be good in a group in terms of collaborating."

As a psychologist, Raymond also values her collaboration skills.

"As a psychologist I'm trained to listen, to collaborate with others, to set goals, to think strategically, to consider various viewpoints and perspectives in making decisions," Raymond said. "And I also see myself as very open-minded and comfortable with complexity, and I think that's why school district decisions and policies are about: they're not simple, they're very complex."

Raymond believes that her profession enables her to bring a unique perspective to the Board.

"I don't mean this critically because I don't think I'd want a School Board with seven of me, but I think we've got a lot of good business people, finance people and attorneys that are currently on the School Board, and I think my professional experience is different from that," Raymond said. "It's

BOE ELECTION, 8

## Childhood landmark goes out of business

PHILLIP LEVINE

Since 1947, Spicer's 5 & 10 Variety store has been a shopping favorite of children living in Ladue and Clayton. From Halloween costumes to the memorable candy aisle, Spicer's once was a young child's paradise. The store contained all of the usual items including candy, chewing gum, cards, dolls, toys and party supplies.

Spicer's made its final sales after four decades of business at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26.

"I used to work at Spicer's and it was a fun job," sophomore Marta Toczylowski said. "I got to see all of the little kids, running around look-

ing for all sorts of stuff. It seemed as though a good amount of people came into the store. It was fun to work at a place that had been my main store as a child."

Although pricey, Spicer's specialization in variety. With a huge assortment of modeling clay or hundreds of colors of thread, Spicer's had the exact item for the exact special occasion. It will be tough to find the selection that Spicer's had at any other store in St. Louis.

"I would always go to Spicer's to get my Halloween costume," sophomore David Lutten said. "I was pretty picky in what I wanted, but Spicer's always had a costume for me, whether it be Batman or the

popular baseball player at the time. While there, I had the option to pick one matchbox car out of the dozens of possibilities. There was a whole section just for those little cars, and it was tough to choose one. When I would leave, I would get a piece of candy. I used to love Spicer's."

For children living close to Spicer's, it was a quick and easy place to get the usual necessary elementary school items. Children would come to unload their piggy banks to buy candy and toys that might last a few days, as well as memories that would last for a lifetime.

"With my pocket filled with \$5 of assorted coins, I would hop off my bike and run into the store joy-

ously," sophomore Matt Katzman said. "I would sprint to the candy aisle and once I could get my breath back, I would grab a handful of Smarties, which were 5 cents each. I would then get my normal bag of Swedish Fish, which were always delicious. I would make my way to the prank aisle buying itch powder and stink bombs for my little brother's room."

Throughout elementary school, hundreds of students would stop by Spicer's with their parents choosing from the wide array of cards, for Valentine's Day, to pick out that special card for the children that they liked.

"I remember always going there

for my elementary school Valentine's Day cards," freshman Diane Martin said. "I had to get different cards for my different friends, and the selection at Spicer's was a huge help for that. It is one of those childhood stores that you just never forget. The idea of going there annually for Valentine's Day or Halloween is just so memorable."

Spicer's is the cornerstone of many childhood memories for students here at CHS.

The reminiscences of going there every year for a costume, or card, or for the weekly handful of candy, Spicer's will be the store that they remember as part of their childhood experience. ☺

# Iran developing nuclear weapons

The Bush administration believes the weapons to be a threat to international security and peace.

✎ **ROLAND REIMERS**

Throughout the middle part of the past century, scientists and researchers have scurried to find the most potent weapons for their respective governments, soon establishing the beginnings of the arms race in the Cold War. As technology rapidly advanced, the event of a worldwide nuclear conflict became increasingly probable.

Not only did the former Soviet Union and the United States engage in this frantic accumulation, but in the 1970s, the United Kingdom, France and China also joined the ranks of the nuclear powers of the world. In the past few years, to the surprise and fear of some countries, India and Pakistan have also amassed nuclear weapons.

Today, however, the potential threat of Iranian nuclear arms looms above the entire international community.

Despite the panic that has erupted, Iran is still more than a year away from even producing one nuclear weapon. According to the official International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) website, this country of nearly 70 million inhabitants has made noticeable progress since the mid-1970s when construction of two nuclear power plants started. In 1974, the Atomic Energy Act of Iran was passed in order to regulate the activities that nuclear energy would be used for, such as

atomic energy in industry and agriculture, as well as the basis for a general technological infrastructure. In 1979, work was suspended indefinitely.

In 1991, the Islamic Republic of Iran restarted work on the nuclear power program through a bilateral agreement with China, but the plan was never carried out. Three years later, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the Ministry of Atomic Energy of the Russian

Federation reached a settlement for the completion of a nuclear power plant unit located at Bushehr, a coastal city in the southwestern portion of the country bordering on the Persian Gulf.

Since then, experts maintain that Iran has begun to enrich fuel at a slow pace.

"American and European officials said they viewed Iran's action as largely a political statement — an effort, in the words of one senior American official, 'to get something in operation in hopes that the world will just get used to it,'" the New York Times reported in late February.

John Bolton, the recently appointed U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said that the U.S. should continue to dissuade Iran from further developing a nuclear weapons program.

"The [Bush] Administration has believed for over three years that the Iranian nuclear-weapons program should have been referred to the Security Council because the program constitutes a threat to international peace and security. Now [the issue] is here," Bolton said in a February interview conducted by Time magazine. "And now that [the nuclear arms issue] is in New York, we have the ability and we should — if the Iranians don't change their policy — increase the pressure on them to give up the pursuit of nuclear weapons."

Yet the entire debate over Iran's emerging nuclear program is considered by some to be a matter of unjustified discrimination

against Middle Eastern countries that they believe has sprung up in the years since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Whether we care to admit it or not, we are discriminatory, both on the national and individual levels, against the cultures, countries, and people of the Middle East," senior

Mark Goldman said. "The discrimination is mutual. The core cause of this discrimination seems to be a lack of understanding between two extremely different cultures. The resulting conflict is one that I don't think can ever be truly resolved until both cultures learn about each other, and develop tolerance for one another."

Not everyone agrees that Western suspicion has not been deserved.

"I think that we are discriminatory, but rightly so," junior Matt Schlessman said. "[The Iranian government] hasn't secured its borders or fought against terrorism."

Although a process of reconciliation may take a while to be enacted, top Iranian and European Union (EU) officials met in Vienna on March 3 to resume tense negotiations. Despite repeated efforts by chief diplomats from France, Britain and Germany to turn the course of Iran's advancements, no significant change in Tehran's stance was noticeable.

"We wanted to see if Iran was in a position to give a positive answer to the coming [IAEA] board. Unfortunately, we were not able to reach agreement," French foreign minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said in an announcement reported by Reuters news agency.

Ever since substantial fear erupted more than three months ago, Iran has continually repeated its claims that the developing nuclear programs were merely for peaceful purposes. Nevertheless, European and other politicians remain distrustful. In whatever way this dilemma resolves itself, whether through nuclear war or gradual diplomacy, a hard, dangerous road remains ahead.

"The problem is that Iran seems to have the upper hand as of now," Goldman said. "I think that we are on the verge of some harder times in the Middle East. Iran has made it perfectly clear that they will disregard diplomacy, and the way in which [Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad] has been insulting the West implies that he understands the position he is in."

In the recent past, Iranian president Ahmadinejad was quoted in



THE FLAGS OF the world fly in front of the United Nations building in New York. Iran has recently been referred to the United Nations Security Council in the hope of finding a way to force it to abandon its ambitions to acquire nuclear weapons.

the New York Times as saying that, "Iran wants to wipe Israel off the map," and has even denied that the Holocaust happened at all. Such revolting remarks have earned the Iranian regime the proper amount of scorn from the international community.

However, some believe that the Bush administration should not be focusing on merely what the Iranian government professes, but also more on its actions.

"The rhetoric coming out of Iran right now is dangerous, but our government officials need to determine the actual threat to our country," history teacher Paul Hoelscher said. "Many times leaders in countries like Iran use anti-Israeli and anti-American speeches simply to bolster their own popularity with the most extreme interpretations of Islam in their own country."

In any case, the precarious situation is not nearly resolved. With Secretary of the Supreme Security Council of Iran Ali Larijani still vigorously defending the Iranian pursuit for nuclear capabilities, the IAEA will assemble its members on March 6 to analyze a report con-

cerning Iran's stubbornness composed by its Director General, Mohamed ElBaradei.

In a document from the Permanent Mission of Iran dated Feb. 2 of this year, Larijani wrote to ElBaradei about further talks between the two groups, but also gave warnings to the IAEA.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to believe that negotiation is the most appropriate way to help the [IAEA] in resolving the nuclear issue of Iran," Larijani said. "It is convinced that if negotiations with [Britain, France, and Germany], the EU and other parties continue constructively and seriously, and free from any kind of threat and pressure, besides contributing to the Agency's ability to resolve the issues, it will help to reach an ultimate solution for the nuclear issue in a reasonable time."

In an intriguing turn of events, both the Western diplomats and Iranian officials have agreed to continue negotiations. However, there is limited tolerance on the two sides. An official U.S. document from Feb. 4 to the head of the IAEA expressed similar thoughts as the

Iranians.

"We continue to seek a diplomatic solution and we do not envision diplomacy ending as a result of this report," the letter said. "Quite the contrary, we see this as part of a new phase of diplomacy, one aimed at strengthening the ongoing efforts of the Agency to investigate Iran's deeply troubling nuclear activities, and underscoring the calls on Iran to resolve our concerns through peaceful diplomacy rather than threats and confrontation."

Although the tone of these two manuscripts is cautiously optimistic, much still remains to be resolved in the continuing struggle for power and influence in the post-Cold War world. This issue remains vital to both the safety of our country, and the safety of future generations to come.

"Given the current political condition of the world, there are numerous rogue organizations that are attempting to acquire any destructive capacity to injure the U.S., and any and all technology related to this subject is in high demand," Hoelscher said. ☺

*The problem is that Iran seems to have the upper hand as of now.*

senior  
**MARK GOLDMAN**

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# Students seek green cards to help get into college, apply for jobs

☛ TIAN QIU

Ready? Set? Go!  
College, viewed as a big step for everybody, is in the center of countless high school seniors' minds. As the race for a good college continues, some students face more obstacles in their tracks than others.

As a second-semester senior and an aspiring botanist, Taharah Reed has already made some plans for after her graduation. Although it was convenient for Reed to apply for college financial aid online, the final and the only obstacle that's keeping her out of her ideal universities is how much scholarship money she can obtain from each of the colleges she applied to. After all, many people apply for the same scholarship and not everyone can win.

As a member of CHS' prestigious TEAMS, International Students Association, Tri-M, and the National Honor Society, many people believe senior Cong Yu to be the perfect student to get into the college of his dreams. While he bathes in some students' envy with a GPA around 4.2, Yu still can't help but frown at the thought of college. However, it's not really financial issues that are keeping Cong out of his dream universities, but the fact that he lacks a powerful thing called the "green card."

A green card is an official document issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. Not only does it grant people the status of a permanent resident in the United States, it also grants the cardholder many important privileges they cannot otherwise obtain. To Yu, such privileges might include being able to apply for early decision to his dream university.

"I want to be a doctor or a surgeon," Yu said. "My dad is a doctor, and my mom is a pharmacist. My parents have influenced me a lot in the medical career. They have also always wanted me to go to MIT. To me, MIT is very competitive and its engineer program and medical programs are pretty nice. I tried to apply for early decision (to MIT) but I couldn't, because I needed a green card."

Furthermore, not having a green card has the potential of directly hindering a foreign student's chance of getting into almost any college.

"International students who do not have a green card are not eligible for federally-

subsidized loans and grant programs available to citizens and permanent residents or 'green card' holders," E.L.L. teacher Karen Hales-Mecham said. "Students without permanent resident status typically must show the university that the family has the 'money in the bank' to cover all four years of a college education. With tuition, room and board close to \$40,000 at many universities, families need \$160,000 set aside to cover expenses and must submit documentation from a bank to confirm the balance."

Furthermore, Hales-Mecham says that although universities sometimes offer need-based scholarships to international students, these scholarships are extremely hard to obtain because of the abundance of talented international students applying for them.

"As for all other students, admission to elite American universities is very competitive for international students," Hales-Mecham said. "Perhaps it is even more so for international students at some universities because so many international students apply, however, I do not know this for sure. Though I have no personal knowledge or reliable evidence for this statement, I have been told by some people, that it is very, very difficult to gain acceptance to one of the elite American universities as an international applicant without the money to pay up front."

In accordance with Hales-Mecham, Stanford University quotes on its website that "Stanford has a limited amount of financial aid for international students (students who are neither U.S. Citizens nor U.S. Permanent Residents)." Moreover, only 5 percent of Stanford's undergraduates are international students.

As one of Yu's good friends, senior Steve Jia is not only the Vice President of the International Students Association, but is also immersed in the college/green-card whirlpool with his buddy.

"The wait to get a green card is ridiculous," Jia said. "It can be as fast as one to two years or as long as who knows. Sometimes I feel funny talking about this topic. Even my friends make fun of me. It's cool though. The American government has to speed up the process. I mean, how hard is it to read and sign some papers?"

Since he came to CHS as a freshman from China, Jia's family recently applied for their green card and have already waited a year to



SENIOR STEVE JIA examines brochures from University of Missouri - Rolla and Washington University. As a relatively recent immigrant, Jia is still awaiting his green card, which would expedite the process of his college applications and assist him in any future search for a job.

proceed in the official process. However, they still expect to wait for another typical three to five years for their green card to be issued.

"In the near future, the green card would save me money when I go to college," Jia said. "Green card can at least get me grants and loans to pay for college. The green card saves money on my tuition for about \$10,000 (since) international students who do not have a green card need to pay more for tuition in most schools. If I have a green card, I could also apply for a couple of scholarships at Washington University."

Although the lack of a green card brought financial obstacles directly onto Jia's college journey, most of the colleges he applied to do have some financial aid for international students. However, Jia is frustrated at how he isn't even able to get a side-job to pay off for some of his future debts.

"A green card could actually help me to find jobs and just would make my life much easier and normal in the United States," Jia said.

Compared to Yu and Jia, junior Zeina Hossayrami is lucky. She arrived in America on December 12, 2005, and her family received their green card about a month later as a result of 12 years of paper work done by her mother and grandfather back when they were in Lebanon.

As lucky as she is, Hossayrami will be starting her first job in a hotel with the help from her mother and the presence of her green card. Even though Hossayrami does not see the importance of owning a green card yet, she is aware of all

the hard work her family has put in to bring her and her brother to America for a better education.

Despite the fact that Hossayrami still can't make up her mind about what she wants to study in college, she has taken a liking to St. Louis University and has a vision of herself working in an office in America as a married woman with kids in the future.

Besides school, green cards affect foreign families on a more personal level. Because they are not permanent residents in America, families such as Yu's cannot go back and visit their homeland for many years because they risk losing the chance of returning to the United States after they visit China because of the possible overturning of their visas. Yu's parents would like very much to visit their parents, relatives and mother country, but they are unable to because they don't want to risk their visa and ruining their son's education.

Although his parents try not to put too much pressure on him, Yu is very motivated to get into a good university and pursue his medical career to help others.

College is an important step for everyone, especially for students like Yu and Jia. As students in a foreign country, they have to put more energy into their academics to better their chances of getting into their ideal schools.

However, with or without the green card, Yu is determined to "make them (my parents) happy, to show that they can be proud of me." ☺

# U.S. falls behind academically, CHS strong

## CHS also continues to dominate in the area against both public and private schools.

☛ FENG-SHUANG STAMME

Some people have expressed an increasing concern about strengthening America's long-term leadership in science and technology. Many studies have shown that the United States is falling behind other nations. But are these reports accurate?

Some studies take all U.S. students and compare them to the top students in other nations, making the United States seem more behind than it really is. Locally, CHS students seem to be doing very well in the math and science departments, even rising above the national average score on the PLAN and ACT math tests.

But in the face of rising demand for science and engineering, U.S. companies increasingly must go offshore to hire talent because of the falling number of U.S. graduates in these fields. In 1970, America produced more than half of the world's science and engineering doctorates; by 2010, the U.S. share of the world's science and engineering doctorates is predicted to

fall to 15 percent (Richard Freeman of National Bureau of Economic Research).

Fewer than half of all high school graduates are prepared for college-level math and science, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

*Fewer than half of all high school graduates are prepared for college-level math and science, according to the U.S. Department of Education.*

who were born abroad, up from 24 percent in 1990, according to the National Science Board. Similarly, doctoral positions at the nation's leading universities are often filled with foreign students.

To go to the root of the problem, some people argue the fault lies in the nation's schools. By the time U.S. students reach their senior year of high school, they rank below their counterparts in 17 other countries in math and science literacy, according to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, completed in 1996-1997.

In 1983, the "A Nation at Risk" report recommended that high school students be required to take a minimum of three years of math and three years of science to graduate. Yet today, only 22 states and the District of Columbia require at least this amount to graduate in the class of 2006, according to the Department of Education.

According to Trends In Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2003 results, U.S. average mathematics scale scores of fourth-grade students is 518, higher than the international average (consisting of 25 countries) of 495. However, when comparing the U.S. average to other nations individually, the students of 11 nations and regions scored higher than U.S. students, including Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Taipei, Belgium, Russia, and England. The trend is similar among the science scores of fourth graders and eighth graders' math and science test scores.

High school test scores have barely moved since the 1970s. American students rank only 27<sup>th</sup> in the world in mathematics problem-solving, according to the Programme for International Student Assessment, an internationally standardized assessment that was jointly developed by participating countries and administered to 15-year-olds in schools.

However, some reports compare all of U.S. students to the top stu-

dents in other nations, which some consider comparing apples with oranges. However, the reports are accurate because they do show the results from the U.S. schools and compare them to other nations - it's just that some other nations do not educate all of their students.

Nevertheless, some do consider the comparisons inaccurate.

"The data causes an alarm in the U.S.," science teacher Charles Collis said. "It is a tool the press uses to make the point stressed out about something that's not exactly true."

In other nations, it is possible to select the top students because of the structure of their education system. Math Department Chair Stacy Felps points out the difference between the U.S. education system and the Japanese education system.

"I know that in the Japanese school system, if students are not on the right track, they might be sent to a job framing school," Felps said. "In the U.S., we are obligated by law to teach all students, so all students have an equal chance to go to school."

Collis agrees that selecting top students in the U.S. education system would be difficult.

"I don't know how they can select top students with our school because our schools are more heterogeneous compared to those of other nations," Collis said. "It's going to be hard to do."

At CHS, students seem to be doing very well in the science and math departments. According to CHS data from 2003 to 2005, CHS sophomores exceeded the national average on the PLAN test. Juniors also scored higher than the national average on ACT math.

"Keep in mind, that when you are looking at the results of the standardized tests, you expect the scores to be constant," Felps said. "In Clayton, we have had more students taking the ACT each year, and the score is staying relatively the same."

You would expect the score to drop when you open to a bigger group, but the scores have stayed consistent. For example, with the ACT five years ago, we had maybe 50 students taking the test, and say you have 100 students take the test the following year you would expect the numbers to fall, but they haven't."

In 2004, CHS' ACT math average was 23.8, with 150 students taking it. In 2005, the average went up to 25.1 as the number of students taking the test rose to 182.

Science Department Chair Mike Howe agrees that CHS students have done very well in science.

"Trends in CHS science test scores are very good," Howe said. "Historically, we've done well, and our students continue to improve in regional competitions."

Howe points out that CHS students have excelled on regional and national science competitions.

"In both regional and national competitions, physics has been strong for a long time," Howe said. "Recently our chemistry students have begun to dominate the local chemistry competition. In 2005, our students took 16 out of the top 30 spots. This year we took 20 out of 30 spots. Considering that we are competing against quality schools such as John Burroughs, Ladue, MICDS, Parkway and others, we are very happy with our students' performance." ☺

science department chair  
**MIKE HOWE**

*Trends in CHS science test scores are very good. Historically, we've done well, and our students continue to improve in regional competitions.*

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# Despite state requirement, pledge still controversial

☛ KATIE WEISS

Every Friday morning at around 10 a.m., the sound of students reciting the pledge rings throughout the hallways of CHS.

On Aug. 28, 2002, Gov. Bob Holden signed Senate Bill 718 making it mandatory for every public school in Missouri to recite the pledge of allegiance at least once a week and in at least one scheduled class of every student.

CHS faculty and student reactions to this law were not very warm.

"I am not in favor of this law," Principal Louise Losos said. "I think that while it is good to say the pledge in grade schools, I think that at the high school level it would be more beneficial to lead classroom discussions about the pledge and its meaning rather than reciting it every week."

*I think at the high school level it would be more beneficial to lead classroom discussions about the pledge and its meaning rather than reciting it every week.*

CHS Principal  
**LOUISE LOSOS**

English teacher Emily Grady is not only opposed to the law itself but to saying the pledge in general.

"I think the pledge is overly nationalistic," Grady said, "and I tend to be afraid of nationalism. From what I have studied in history, I think it is where we have gotten ourselves in trouble with other countries. I am proud to live in the country I live in, but I think pledging to a flag is just too non-critical of your own country."

However while Grady is opposed to the pledge herself and to saying the pledge each week in class, she is not against the personal desire of other students or teachers to say the pledge.

"I think that students should be able to have the opportunity to say the pledge, but I think that students can exercise that right independently at school," Grady said. "We have flags all over our school and there is one big flag outside of the school that students can stop by and pledge to in the morning."

However, while both Losos and Grady are opposed to the law, sophomore Krystal Bell is not only in favor of the law but thinks that the pledge should be said every day at school.

"I think that the pledge is important," Bell said. "This country gives us a lot and by saying the pledge everyday we are saying thank you to our country."

Spanish Teacher Stephanie Martin also thinks that saying the pledge is very special and an important part of our country. "I think it is important to recognize the beauty of the mixture of cultures in our nation that have all come together," Martin said. "Our country gives us a lot of wonderful things that we should take the time to appreciate."

Bell also points out that even with the new law, students are still not forced to say the pledge.

"Even if we were to say the pledge every day, students don't have to say it if they don't want to," Bell said. "But I think that there should still be an opportunity to say it everyday."

In fact, freshman Matt Reznick said that he has found that most students don't bother saying the pledge even now when it's only

said on Fridays.

"Most kids in my third hour class don't say the pledge," Reznick said. "Most of the kids who don't say the pledge aren't morally opposed to it or anything; they just don't really care about saying it."

And while the pledge might not have been embraced by every student and faculty member at CHS, it has seemed to fit nicely into the Friday morning schedule.

"I think that it works really well to say the pledge every Friday on the TV screen," Losos said. "By doing it on the TV, it automatically provides a flag for every class room as well as the fact that I think it is nice to do the pledge at the same time every week."

Grady, however, finds the idea of saying the pledge every day at the same time with everyone at once as more scary than comforting or nice.

"I don't think a group chant of the pledge is ever appropriate," Grady said. "I believe in being respectful so I won't talk during that time, but I never put my hand on my heart and even in front of students, I don't even feel I have to model the act. I will be quiet and I will make other students be quiet, but I will not participate."

Martin, however, says that all students should take the time to say the pledge on Friday.

"All students should stand up and be respectful," Martin said. "I think that by saying the pledge, it gives us a chance to remember everyone who died in 9/11 and all of the soldiers who are fighting for our country."

Group chants of the pledge are very popular in other schools and especially at the grade schools in Clayton. Meramec guidance counselor Lynn Lowrance says that not only do Meramec students recite the pledge every day in the classroom, but they even have an all-school assembly every Monday morning to honor the pledge and the country.

"Mrs. Lyons has an assembly every Monday morning," Low-



Carlin Ly

rance said. "The pledge is lead by Mrs. Lyons and the students who have birthdays that week. Then the entire building sings the national anthem."

This grade school tradition of chanting the pledge together is not only something that has been going on recently at Clayton grade schools but has been practiced by many schools for many years.

"When I was in grade school, I had to say the pledge every single day," Grady said. "But I think that with young kids, they aren't even aware of what they are saying. Kids are just chanting what they have been forced to memorize. The whole thing just reminds me a lot of Nazi Germany."

So while the law may not be favored by all, it looks as though it is here to stay.

"I think that our school has been able to make this new law work," Losos said. "Most schools have been able to find a way to fit it into their schedules whether it's reading it every Monday morning or saying it Friday before video announcements." ☺

**THE AMERICAN FLAG** flies above CHS. Although not every classroom has a flag, the school is required by state law to provide the pledge of allegiance at least once per week. The school currently satisfies that requirement by having the pledge before the weekly news broadcast. A digital image of the flag replaces the need for a real flag in every classroom.

# Club teaches art of safety

☛ ADRIENNE STORMO

"One day you will be in college and you will be in a basement doing laundry. Three big drunk men will approach you whether you want them to or not. And they won't leave. They will stay and they will bother you, unless you know what to do, and how to defend yourself. That is what we teach."

These were the words of Rick Voskuil, the sponsor of the new Clayton Martial Arts Club.

"The club is part of the 'Fight Like a Girl' program sponsored by the Oxygen Network and Charter Communications," Voskuil said. "It's to help women and men of all ages to be aware and prepared, so no one can hold you against their will."

Voskuil is joined Wednesdays after school in the Greyhound Room by about a dozen students to practice Hapkido, a form of martial arts.

"Hapkido is 90 percent defense," Voskuil said. "It developed recently, between World War I and World War II, in Korea. It does not require a large amount of strength or ability. Hapkido is different from Taekwondo and other martial arts where you need to be in excellent shape."

The idea for the club came from Clayton freshman Dave Denlow. He has been doing martial arts for about a year and a half and his instructor, Master Gray, needed more students and thought that bringing Hapkido to schools would increase local interest.

At a typical Wednesday meeting, Voskuil - who is dressed in an all black robe with a crest reading, "American Hapkido Academy" - and the students, who come in their everyday street clothes, welcome newcomers in. While Denlow leads the returning students in breathing activities, Voskuil instructs new students individually.

"It's kind of difficult to understand Hapkido if you don't experience it," Voskuil said as he demonstrated the different breathing techniques. "We do this to improve our flexibility and focus."

Next, Denlow leads the students in a series of different defensive and offensive positions while Voskuil individually teaches the positions to a new student, like Freshman Wen Zhang. Afterward, the students pair up and practice different moves, such as different methods of escaping from the hold of an "attacker." At the end of the meeting, Voskuil and Denlow do an advanced demo showing the students what they will eventually be able to do.

"This is just a way for kids to hang out after school and do something new and cool," Denlow said.

After her first day, Zhang was impressed by the club and everything she had learned.

"All the kids seem to like the club," said Denlow, "but I think it would be more fun if we had more students."

Voskuil considers the lessons learned in the club to be essential. He knows the risks that people, especially girls, can face everyday and he believes knowing just some of the basic techniques of Hapkido can make a difference.

"When my daughters went off to college," Voskuil said. "it was really comforting to know they had this knowledge. Now if someone wants to put their hands on them, that's fine, they won't be there long." ☺

# Electronic music class increases in popularity

☛ JON IGIELNIK

The "best kept secret in the high school" is getting out, and it's a good thing. The secret is the electronic music class, taught by music teacher Kim Shelley. Throughout the past few years - despite those who took it enjoying the class - it has remained relatively unknown, but recently it has seen the increased popularity that the class so deserves and needs.

"It's taking off," Shelley said. "[Electronic music] provides an opportunity for those not in band, and even for those who are, to have a creative outlet with a less formal approach."

The electronic music class is basically a professional digital music studio, but it is available for student use.

"Students can learn to work with professional recording equipment... some equipment is so good, professional studios use it," Shelley said.

*[Electronic music] provides an opportunity for those not in band and even for those who are, to have a creative outlet with a less formal approach.*

music teacher  
**KIM SHELLEY**

enjoys being able to learn more about what he has a passion for while he is in school.

"[Electronic music is] a powerful medium," Krehmeyer said. "It makes music customizable... any song you

Shelley has been teaching the class since its start, but she doesn't think of it as all teaching.

"I do some teaching, but mostly it's like coaching...I give a path, but don't tell them how to take the path," Shelley said.

Additionally the class has no set prerequisites.

"I have students who barely know what a whole note is to very advanced students," Shelley said. "It's a class a lot of people can enjoy."

Not only does Shelley love the class, but the students in the class do as well.

"[Electronic Music] allows me to create the songs in my mind," junior Nick Krehmeyer, said.

Krehmeyer has been a musician for a long time now, and he

enjoys being able to learn more about what he has a passion for while he is in school.

can imagine, you can create."

Krehmeyer is among a growing group of students taking the class, and with the ability to take it again and again, students can learn more and more.

Shelley is looking forward to a bright future for the electronic music class, and with enrollment up, the administration is allowing for the technology to get better and better. At the moment, electronic music is mainly digital recording, with not much vocal or audio recording, but Shelley's hope is that situation will change soon.


"[We] hope to get to get audio [and voice] recording to the same level as digital," Shelley said.

The class is even helping students like Nick to start a music career.

"[We are getting] help from Mr. Hoffman to allow some students to sell created music online," Shelley said. "Our goal next year is to have the technology to make music videos."

Shelley has been waiting for a year like this one to jump-start the electronic music class and to boost enrollment. The class is truly something anyone, whether they are already involved in music or not, should take. Additionally, there is no homework, which is a big plus.

"[In electronic music] we work hard, and we play hard," Shelley said. ☺



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# DECA looks towards state

BY ANYA VEREMAKIS

This month, on March 19-21, CHS students will join other state-wide schools in the state's capitol. This trip away from home is far from an early spring break, but rather a competition that, for the students competing in it, meant a lot of work.

With the districts DECA competition just last month, this year's state DECA competition has rapidly approached as March has come to an end.

The components of the competition vary from subject to subject. Students who are competing in subjects like apparel and accessory marketing or vehicle and petroleum marketing will start by taking a 100 question test on marketing concepts.

Next, the student will participate in two role plays consisting of a case study. The students get 15-20 minutes to review the case study. After this, the student will meet with a judge in order to discuss how they would handle the given situation.

The combined scores on the test and role play give the student his or her score.

"The hardest part for me was the

test," senior Stefanie Glynias said. "No matter how much you prepare there is no way you can know all the questions. I got first place on the test, but I still only got a C."

While the test proved to be challenging to some students, others chose to compete in a part of the competition with no test, but instead a presentation.

If a student writes a project for the competition, then he or she must present the project to a judge in a 10-15 minute presentation.

"The hardest part for me was memorizing the whole thing because we didn't want to read off of the script," junior Max Hillman said. "We wanted to be able to talk to the judges."

Although the DECA competition is a great amount of work, the number of CHS students participating in the competitions continues to increase.

According to DECA sponsor and business teacher Marci Boland, CHS usually has 12-15 students go to the districts competition. However this year, 37 students attended the competition.

"The program is growing and more students want to participate in DECA," Boland said. "It looks great on a college application and

students really do enjoy the competitions."

Other than looking good on a college transcript the competitions have a great deal of real world value.

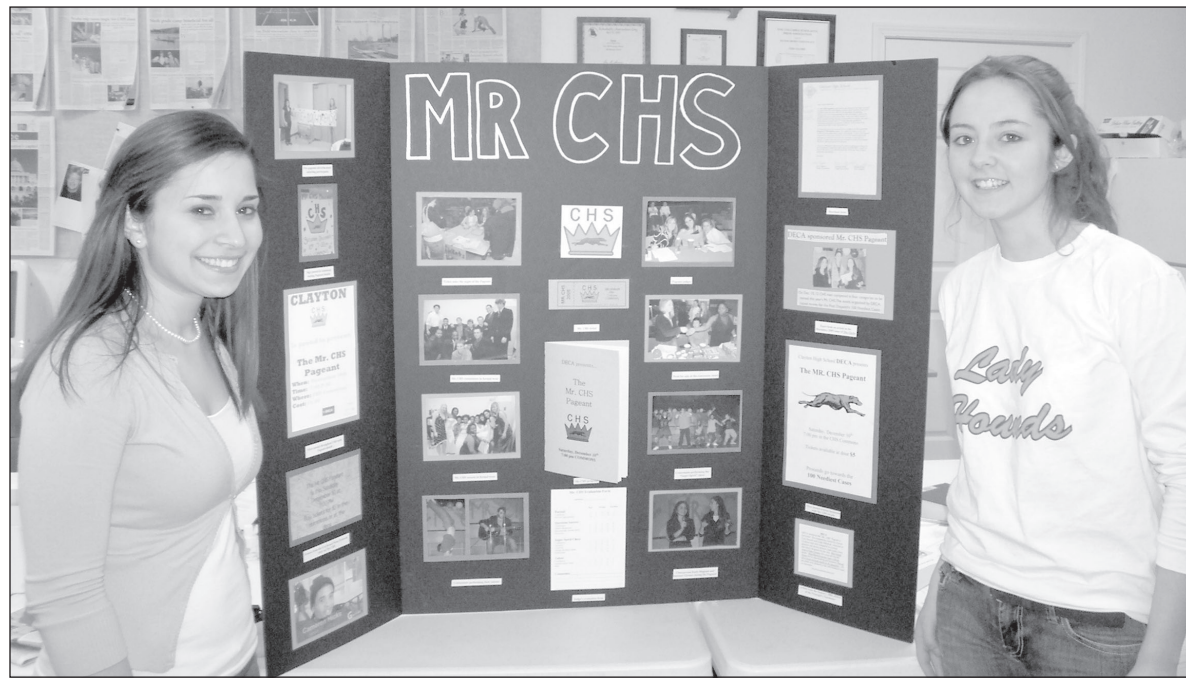
"If students think that they would like to major in business, management, advertising, marketing or any business related field, then DECA is the way they should go," Boland said. "It gives them more real life experience than any other class at CHS. DECA definitely helps students plan for the future."

However, DECA is not just something for students considering pursuing some sort of business or marketing career.

"I like being able to compete against students from other schools with something we have in common," Hillman said. "It's also a good way to meet people from other schools."

While the growth in the number of students in DECA increased this year, the number of students from CHS to make it to the state competition grew as well.

"We qualified 20 out of 37 students for state [54 percent], a higher percentage than any other school in attendance," DECA sponsor and business and marketing teacher at



SENIORS STEFANIE GLYNIAS and Katie Magraw stand next to their project for the State DECA competition, which takes place March 19-21. Twenty CHS students qualified for the state competition this year, a remarkable number. "When you place it is exciting because all your hard work has paid off," Glynias said.

CHS Bennett Sweet said.

This year two CHS sophomores even made it to state. Although new to the DECA competitions, the boys proved they would not get knocked out at districts for lack of experience.

"I didn't think I did very well in the role plays, but I thought I did well on the test," sophomore Vikram Chakravarthy said. "I thought I would maybe make it to state, but that I would be borderline. I never

thought I would take second place overall."

For many students who went to districts the hard work seems to have paid off.

"We used what we learned in class and put it into action," Glynias said. "When you place it is exciting because all your hard work has paid off."

All the students going are anxiously awaiting the state competition.

"I'm looking forward to being able to compete against more students because we only got to compete against four projects at districts," Hillman said. "And next, the goal is to go to nationals."

CHS is expecting great things from the students attending the DECA state competition, whether it is advancing to nationals, or just obtaining an amazing experience through this competition. ☺

# Amnesty International helps students make a difference

BY WENNY DONG

Amnesty International is a worldwide organization made of ordinary individuals with diverse backgrounds and points of view. Through respectful protest, its goal is to prevent human abuse and maltreatment in all areas.

Amnesty International has had many successes in improving human rights. Mostly, it is a group advocating peace and justice in the world. The CHS branch of this group takes steps to share this spirit every other week at Amnesty International Club.

Students of all types are welcomed to discuss pressing issues in the world.

"At Amnesty, students learn valuable lessons that will aid them throughout life," Curry said. "Amnesty can make you feel more at home in your generation, your region and the world itself. Students take part in something simple but of global importance and effect."

Curry encourages members to take an avid stance on a range of international humanitarian issues. Topics vary from prisoner abuse, domestic violence, public sanitation and the conditions of refugees.

"Amnesty is an organization

with research excellence and proven credibility in its nonpartisan pro-human rights position," Curry said. "It draws the ear of corporations and governments oftentimes when other kinds of approaches are rejected."

However, despite its noble purpose, Amnesty is a fairly unknown club. In fact, junior Christine Ford haphazardly stumbled upon the club and discovered something she is enthusiastic about.

"At the time, I had heard a little about Amnesty, and I thought it was interesting," Ford said. "I was originally going to a community service club meeting after school. No one was at the meeting, so I went to the Amnesty International meeting instead. It was a surprisingly small group and I think I increased the membership by 20 percent."

Ultimately, Ford finds the experience a valuable chance to expand her views.

"I was totally able to learn so much about the condition of other people," Ford said. "Amnesty is a really interactive club. We research social or political controversies and then we write letters to the government of the country where the event is taking place. It's really great to actively have a voice and



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SPONSOR Janet Curry and her daughter made the colorful banner for Amnesty International.

to offer opinions about worldwide issues. Afterwards you really feel like you can make a difference."

In Amnesty, students contribute by writing letters on behalf of those suffering from human rights abuses around the world.

"Through these letters, Amnesty advocates for putting an end to extra judicial punishments and executions," Curry said. "We try to free prisoners of conscience and to ensure prompt and fair trials for all political prisoners."

"Writing letters with Amnesty is

a way to say to academia that your efforts do not stop at the ivy walls," Curry said.

Though writing letters is a vital part of the club, students were originally hesitant.

"At first sending letters to people is kind of intimidating because it's like, 'oh no, the government's going to come and get me,' but it's pretty harmless," junior Marie-Sophie Ritter said. "The letters are respectful and objective and the most they can do is influence another person's opinion. A lot of the times

if they do respond, you end up getting an automated response."

Ford also likes the letter-writing. "So far, we've written emails to the people at Yahoo about internet companies assisting the Chinese government with the arrest of a journalist," Ford said. "We've also researched the UK government's war on terror policies. It's pretty awful to know what can happen to people because of a difference in opinion."

Currently, Amnesty International club is pursuing links with the active chapters at Washington University, Ladue and a Chicago high school. They are aiming to identify a common project, possibly regarding relief for the Darfur region of Sudan.

"Within CHS, we are working with STUGO to determine a good recipient for the student battle of the bands fundraiser," Curry said. "We are also looking into collaborations with FLAME, GSA and also new the Socialist Club."

By collaborating with other clubs, Amnesty seeks to broaden its membership.

"Amnesty International is really an awesome club," Ritter said. "It's like saving the world one step at a time and just being able to contrib-

ute is completely worth it. We meet every other week on Wednesday mornings and I think being able to help other people that early in the morning is so uplifting. Afterwards I feel really great and it's a great way to start the day."

"Amnesty is also a wonderful club to keep me updated on current political topics that I normally wouldn't know as much about," Ford said.

She thinks the issues discussed at Amnesty can be applicable outside of club meetings and school. For one thing, topics about human rights are wonderful conversation-starters. Comments like 'isn't the weather nice' can be replaced by 'what do you think of the ethnic discrimination for employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina?'

"These issues are so important to our society and they should totally concern everyone," Ritter said.

Nonmembers have equal weight in the movement for human rights.

"Nonmembers can help raise awareness by reading news from a spectrum of mainstream and alternative sources," Curry said. "I encourage students to ask better questions in class and commit to a more global perspective now, through college and beyond." ☺

# Prom promises good time

With prom night fast approaching, students have begun to make plans and raise money for the special event.

BY ABBY EISENBERG

Saturday April 22 will be a day that many juniors and seniors will always remember. The 2006 prom will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton from 7pm to 11 pm. The junior class officers along with the prom planning committee,

consisting of Eric Hamylak, Sam Horrell, Dee Blassie and Christine Pupillo, are responsible for planning this occasion. The officers are Alex Heil-Chapdelaine, Molly Dubro, Rebecca Wall, and Chelsea Fischer, and these people have been working for a long time to make this event memorable.

"Before homecoming, the other officers and I did fundraising by selling t-shirts at Wydown to raise money for homecoming as well as prom," junior Rebecca Wall said. Other fundraising activities were planned as well. There will be a silent auction held in which stu-

dents can bid for a day with various teachers planned such as shopping and lunch with Mrs. Blassie, and horseback riding with Mrs. Tennill. For \$25, parents can sponsor a table at prom, which helps to make the scene of the dance more festive in appearance, as well as provide free tickets for students who may other-

wise not be able to attend. Also, the PTO was very quick to donate funds to help out with the affair as well. These fundraisers are very important to the cause, because the committee is so dedicated to making the prom terrific at an affordable admission price.

"I've been on the prom planning committee for four years," Blassie said. "My first year teaching here, I attended the prom and it wasn't that successful, so I just wanted to make prom something our kids deserve."

Included in the \$50 price for seniors and \$60 price for juniors is a dinner which takes place at 8:15 at

the location of the dance. The menu will also be selected by the planning committee. Also included in this low price is a ticket to another special event.

For every good party there is an after-party, and prom is no exception. Held in our very own CHS commons from 11:30 pm to 3 am, admission to this PTO sponsored event is free with admission to prom or ten dollars without attending prom. The party keeps the same theme as prom itself, and therefore is a great complement or even alternative to the prom dance.

"After prom is a lot more casual and much less expensive," Wall said. "There are games with prizes like ipods and gift certificates."

Prom is the biggest dance of the year, and because so much work goes into the planning, the night is always a success.

"It's a good time and a memorable experience," Hamylak said. "It's one of the classiest proms around at one of the lowest prices around."

"It's so fun to see everyone all dressed up in fancy clothes," Blassie said. "It's a phenomenal evening." But without Blassie, everyone wouldn't be so elegant-she has already begun lending out her shoes and accessories to students.

"As long as you're a size seven and a half, we're good!" ☺



A TALENTED GROUP of students perform their act at the recent 4-A's talent show.

# 4-A's show full of talent, fun

The recent 4-A's talent show was a success, raising money to benefit the Dr. Virginia Beard scholarship fund, as well as the Ready Readers program.

BY CALEAH BOYKIN

CHS has no shortage of talent, and that was evident at the second annual 4A's talents show on March 10. The performers ranged from rock bands to country and R & B singers to steppers and dance groups.

MCing again this year was senior Johnetta Cunningham, who told the audience what she was "thinking" after every performance. Cunningham also made sure that she told the crowd not to "Boo" because the talent show was not the Apollo.

"It was a bittersweet moment," Cunningham said. "I was happy it was going well but sad because it was my last time."

Cunningham kept the crowd laughing and energized through the whole show.

"She was funny," junior Rochelle Lloyd said. "She kept the crowd alive."

Keeping the crowd "alive" wasn't hard with rock bands and hip-hop dancers performing. With such a wide range of talent the judges found it hard to pick a winner.

"I adored watching everyone," history teacher Janet Curry said. "Seeing the interaction with the performers and the crowd, made it a rush - it also made it very difficult to pick a winner. The judges had different takes on who should win. There needs to be a great reward for everyone that entered."

Along with Curry, judges were bookstore clerk Rosalind McCoy, math secretary Michelle Hudson and last year's winner sophomore Brad Rolen. Curry wasn't the only one who had thought picking the winner would be hard. As usual, different audience members had their own favorites.

"I thought British Williams should have won," Lloyd said.

The winner of the talent show was senior Josephine Pang who played and sang "Jump Time," an original composition. The fact that she displayed such a variety of talents weighed strongly in her favor.

"I was surprised to win," Pang said. "There were so many talented people in the show, and the crowd was so energetic."

In second place was Tashara Earl who danced solo after her partner dropped out of the show at the last minute. Tashara did a hip-hop dance to a mixture of songs.

In third place was a group of 4A's steppers: Brianna Benson, Azoria Moralez, Melissa Bethany, Brittany Cunningham, Terisha Davis, and Lauren Phillips.

The profits from the talent show went to benefit the Dr. Virginia Beard scholarship fund and 10 percent of the proceeds went to buy books for the Ready Readers program. ☺

# I-64 expansion displaces students, families

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) began to acquire property in Richmond Heights in August of 2005, to prepare for the future construction and renovation of I-64, better known as Highway 40. Many Clayton School District families have been forced to relocate as a result, often outside of the district, sparking controversy.

☛ **KELLY MOFFITT**

## Why, Who, and How

Some can't even remember their first day at a Clayton School, that's how long they've been here. Some have memories that they don't want demolished. Some feel angry. Some feel optimistic. Any way the angle is placed, the construction of the new I-64 will change students' lives who are currently attending Clayton Schools and living in a construction zone.

Beginning in August 2005, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) began acquiring properties on the streets Everett Drive, Linden Drive, and Antler Drive. These properties were chosen as space for an expansion of the traffic-laden I-64, commonly known as Highway 40.

"We are going to be rebuilding everything; repairing bridges, adding lanes, making new interchanges," Community Relations Manager for MoDOT Linda Wilson said. "Everett I-170 is a huge interchange- there is a lot of traffic there, so we are going to fix that."

Though this task may sound simple, but there are many different layers to consider while acquiring property to make these renovations.

"The first thing we did in this situation was determine what properties we needed," Wilson said.

"Secondly, we appraised the property and then we made an offer to the property owners to negotiate a price with them. The final offer includes the appraised price for the house and miscellaneous relocation expenses."

However, the property owner does not have to accept this appraisal done by a MoDOT employed appraisal service.

"If they deny the proposal, we continue negotiations," Wilson said. "If the owner refuses to accept, we can go to court with the property owner."

Here, the court acts as a middleman to make sure the offer is reasonable. If the court finds it so, they use court condemnation to force the families to sell their property to MoDOT at a court-sanctioned price.

Court condemnation is a form of eminent domain. With the recent scare in the news over this topic, MoDOT is quick to explain their use of it:

"The reason the highway department has the right to use eminent domain is because we are working for the safety of all," Wilson said. "This isn't like [what] you see in the news. We aren't building a shopping center, we are working for the greater good of the general public."

Only 15 percent of their cases actually resort to the use of eminent domain.

"Most people agree that the highway needs a lot of work," Wilson said. "It is just a shame that some people have to be affected by it."

## Widespread Effect

In the Clayton School District, eight families will have to be relocated for renovations. The process started in August 2005 and each family has until June 2006 to move out, so students can finish out the school year and MoDOT's contractor can get the plans together in time to start construction in January 2007.

"About a year ago we found out that MoDOT wanted to expand the highway and was going to take part of our house," sophomore Drew Lefkowitz said. "So around October [2005] my mom started looking for a house."

The Lefkowitz family presently resides on Everett Drive, a street

in the Clayton School District that backs up to the highway.

"We knew that once MoDOT closed on our house, then we would have three months after that to move out," Lefkowitz said. "Then we found out that they would only be taking part of our driveway. Which would mean that the highway would back up right to the front of the house."

For the Lefkowitz family, this proposed a difficult choice.

"My family and I decided that with all the construction that the best decision would be to move and not have to deal with it anymore," Lefkowitz said.

Lefkowitz is glad that the process of relocation is coming to a close.

"Luckily we found a house because a lot of things on the market these days are really horrible or too expensive," Lefkowitz said. "Actually, it's really hard to find a house that works for you."

However there is one thing about the house that Lefkowitz is not too excited about: it isn't in Clayton.

## Less Than Excited

"We bought a house in Ladue," Lefkowitz said. "I will still go to Clayton, but I'll have to pay tuition. That part kind of stinks. Because MoDOT is not actually taking the house they won't pay compensa-

tion for tuition. I still don't see how they can't actually buy the house if they're taking part of the property."

Lefkowitz will soon be a tuition student at Clayton High School. This adds even more apprehension to an already nerve-rack-

ing experience.

"I know my mom says that if anything should happen, I could end up going to Ladue," Lefkowitz said. "As of now, though, I'm definitely going to Clayton."

Along with the nerves, Lefkowitz is starting to feel the move is bittersweet.

"My family and I have lived here for eight years," Lefkowitz said. "It's going to be kind of hard because I won't be as close to my friends. At the same time, I'm not moving too far away. It's not as bad as it could be."

## An Unwieldy Market

MoDOT is trying to find homes for Clayton's students in Clayton but the process is not turning out too easy.

"We have tried to help property owners to find housing in the Clayton School District but, in most cases, the prices were too high," Wilson said. "It's a very tough housing market right now."

However, MoDOT has slimmed down the number of students affected by the highway's renovations from earlier plans.

"I've followed this project for about the last five years and the amount of people being displaced all along the scope of the project has significantly decreased," Director Of Communications for the School District of Clayton, Chris Tennill said. "They really have refined the designs throughout: they are trying to do this with as little impact with regard to everyone as possible."

## Who's Responsible?

For MoDOT, many of the students' families, such as Lefkowitz's, have successfully closed on their houses. For some, the process has not been so easy.

Sophomore Claire Wong is another one of the students faced with relocation.

"My family couldn't find a home here in Clayton that was livable and in our price range," Wong said. "So now I'm faced with either moving to a new district or paying tuition for my last two years of



ABOVE: A FOR Rent sign in front of a house on Everett Drive. Beginning in August 2005, MoDOT began acquiring properties on Everett, Linden, and Antler Drives to prepare for the expansion of Highway 40. Some Clayton families have been forced to relocate, and will need to pay tuition to continue to attend Clayton Schools. Below: Sophomore Drew Lefkowitz stands in front of her house, pointing to where the highway will be. Lefkowitz and her mother recently bought a house in Ladue, and will soon move in. "My family and I decided that with all the construction, the best decision would be to move and not have to deal with it anymore."

Sarah Powers

high school."

The Wong family has been undergoing negotiations with MoDOT over the appraisal of their house for several months.

"My house is one of the biggest of the street [Everett Drive]," Wong said. "My parents think that we deserve more money than MoDOT is willing to offer."

As well, the Wong family is worried about the fact that MoDOT will not pay tuition for the rest of her schooling.

"My family wants MoDOT to pay for tuition, so they are in negotiations right now to see if MoDOT might be able to do that," Wong said. "We aren't going to court over it...yet."

However, MoDOT has certain stipulations regarding how they can use the money for the relocation of families.

"We cannot pay tuition because transportation tax dollars can only be spent on roadway projects (including the cost to buy properties)," Wilson said. "By law the money can't be spent any other way. We talked with Clayton School District at length to find a solution but nothing workable came out of it."

For Wong, the prospect of leaving Clayton is a shock. In part, she feels betrayed by the Clayton School District.

"Well, actually, I've gone here since I was in kindergarten," Wong said. "So, I'm a little upset. I just don't see why I have to start paying tuition now."

The Clayton School District also has certain stipulations to abide by in regards to relocated students' tuitions.

"We don't really have a policy, per say, that addresses that [student's relocation tuition]," Tennill said. "We have been working with MoDOT all along, trying to make sure that they were considering as many options as they could to help these students out. We actually tried to work an arrangement so that MoDOT would pay tuition for the students who couldn't stay in the district."

When that didn't work out, some families confronted the school board on the subject.

"A couple of families did approach the board and made the request to allow them to keep attending school here at no cost," Tennill said. "The board, at that time, felt that wasn't at the best interest of the school district. They were worried about the precedent it would set for all the other families displaced out of Clayton for every other reason."

As for now, students relocated outside of the district will have to pay full tuition. The going rate for a Clayton Education is \$13,450 for high school students per year and \$10,000 for elementary school students. MoDOT is trying to make amends.

"We try to work the 'value' of the school district into our property appraisals for the owners of the homes," Wilson said. "It may not pay tuition but the owners are getting the value."

## A Sticky Situation

Even though MoDOT is relocating people from houses they've lived in for many years, some still maintain a grateful attitude.

"They've been pretty generous, pretty compensating for removing people from their houses, I think," Lefkowitz said.

Tennill agrees. "MoDOT is not in an enviable position, they're kind of in a lose-lose situation," Tennill said.

"They're trying to do something that will improve traffic on Highway 40, but just based on all the highway hubbub over the past few months over closing it down, they can't win. No one is really going to appreciate the job that they are doing until it is all done."

For the moment, Tennill believes that MoDOT is being very easy to work with.

"MoDOT is working with everybody they can," Tennill said. "At the end of the day, if they could do this project without displacing anybody, they'd do it. It's just not possible."

Tennill also thinks many things come into play when deciding whether or not to pay tuition here.

"It's a different decision based on where you are in school," Tennill said. "If you're an eleventh grader, going to be senior next year, deciding to pay tuition is a different deal than if you are a second grader."

## Repercussions

For Wong, one of the biggest worries about moving out of district was over playing sports. Next year, Wong will be a varsity volleyball player. Since the scandal two years ago over tuition-paying sports players, Wong is nervous about her eligibility. According to Tennill, it won't be a problem due to her previous experience.

"Since the students have already been enrolled, they will still be able to play all levels of Clayton sports," Tennill said. "If they were coming from Parkway and decided to pay tuition for Clayton they would have to 'sit' a year and wait out their eligibility. Only the footnote at the bottom of their transcript saying they are a resident or tuition student changes for the students in this situation."

## The Future vs. The History

Some students are starting to understand the need for new highway renovations.

For Lefkowitz, the ultimate coming-of-age driving lesson has attributed to her understanding of the highway's situation.

"At first I thought it was stupid that they were expanding the highway, but since I've been driving more and I've experienced the traffic, I can say that it does need reconstruction," Lefkowitz said. "Yes, I can definitely say it needs to be refurbished."

Wilson believes that the age of the highway should make it obvi-



Sarah Powers

ous why it needs repairs.

"Most of this highway was built between the 1930's and the 1960's, so some of it is over 70 years old," Wilson said. "It definitely needs to be replaced."

Lefkowitz sees a different side to the age of the highway and her neighborhood, however.

"I think that [my] neighborhood has been around since World War II so, it's kind of sad," Lefkowitz said. "It's really hard because the Metrolink is going right through [the neighborhood] and the high-

way will be right by it so the neighborhood will be noisy and hard to live in."

I know a lot of houses are having a really hard time selling. I think it's going to be a less desirable place to live."

Wong is also worried about the deterioration of the neighborhood that her once home belonged to.

"It's sad, in a way," Wong said. "I mean, that neighborhood will probably deteriorate in the next 10, 20, 30 years. Right now, that property is worth a lot, and it will be gone."

According to MoDOT the direct opposite will happen.

"This construction will change the neighborhood but, typically, road improvements are helpful and beneficial to a community," Wilson said. "Most investigations state that the success of a community is directly related to the success of the roads around that community."

## Valuable Lessons

For those who will be living in the community in which the highway will come closer, valuable lessons can be learned from the Wong and Lefkowitz families who lived by the highway for many years.

"It's surprising because, when I lived next to the highway, I didn't

notice it," Lefkowitz said. "I guess you just learn to live with it. I'm just glad not to be living next to the highway anymore. I'm so excited about my new house-it's really, really quiet."

After what Wong has been through, the advice comes in slightly different package.

"My advice to those who will be living by the highway: get out now because it is just going to get worse," Wong said.

For Tennill, there is nothing left to do about the highway relocation.

"We told them that they had to design this in a way that was going to provide the least impact on

the families in the schools," Tennill said. "Beyond that, our expertise is in teaching, not building roads."

Lefkowitz, for one, believes that, in the end the highway will be good for all.

## The End is Near

"I think, for the roadways of St. Louis, the highway reconstruction will be a good addition," Lefkowitz said. "I think it's necessary. The highways need a lot of work so, I think the fact that they are expanding it can only help. It's just unfortunate that all these people have to move."

For all of the people in the Clayton School District who have undergone the process of relocation, the end is soon near. However, the problems of the new highway construction are just around the corner for everyone.

"It's like a band-aid," Wilson said. "You can pick it off a little at a time, or rip it all off. Either way, it's going to hurt. We decided to rip it off and just get it done. Even if it is a little more painful at the moment, later on all will be well." ☺

*The reason the highway department has the right to use eminent domain is because we are working for the safety of all. We are working for the greater good of the general public*

MoDOT Community Relations Manager

**LINDA WILSON**

*I think that [the Everett] neighborhood had been around since WWII, so, it's kind of sad.*

Re-located sophomore  
**DREW LEFKOWITH**

# Plans for Arts Fair underway as excitement for upcoming event grows

## ARTS FAIR, I

year," senior and decorations committee co-chair Leah Squires said. "For the most part effective, it was very clear what the commitment was going to be and we still had people going around to rooms to answer questions, but having the video was more time-efficient."

Despite the video and students going to classrooms to recruit students, there was an initial lack of response from students, especially underclassmen.

"I heard rumors that when the kids went to the classes [freshmen didn't sign up]," Blassie said. "I think the freshmen hadn't heard about the Arts Fair before, but you wouldn't believe how many kids have signed up with me after some of the upperclassmen started saying 'Hey, this is a wonderful activity, you need to get involved.' I think that peer-pressure added a lot. We have more than enough right now. It's like you wouldn't believe. It's wonderful."

As students continue to sign up to become involved, Steering Committee members and sponsors grow more anxious as they anticipate the arrival of the event they have spent months planning.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the CHS students working with the SSD students," Etling said. "You don't always get to see your students in that capacity. I'm hoping everything runs smoothly and

the SSD students feel welcome and enjoy their day."

Everyone hopes that the event will run smoothly.

"I'm most looking forward to making sure everything runs smoothly and that everybody has a fabulous time," Blassie said. "I want them to go away saying 'wow, what a great day. I've made a difference with a student or maybe the SSD students saying, wow, I had so much fun, I can't wait for next year.' As long as I hear everyone saying 'I can't wait for next year,' I'm ready to start planning."

Squires, too, is looking forward to seeing the event come together. "I just like seeing it all come together and having all the students come and enjoy the day and having the CHS students, especially freshmen, be a part of the Arts Fair" Squires said.

Despite all the preparation, planning and hard-work, one thing – or person – will be noticeably absent from the Arts Fair: former associate principal, Student Government (StuGo) sponsor and founder of the Arts Fair, Dr. Mike Musick.

Musick helped start the CHS Arts Fair 16 years ago and had an active role each year through last year. This year, with Musick as principal at St. Louis' Construction Career Center, Etling and Blassie have taken over.

Despite Musick's absence in helping to coordinate the event, Steering Committee members are confident the event will be successful.

"The only difference I see – because there are always juniors and seniors that step up and fill the leadership positions – is that Dr. Musick isn't here," Squires said. "He was really someone who was influential in the Arts Fair. This year Ms. Blassie and Ms. Etling together are working together and taking over Dr. Musick's role, so it is still

going to be a great Arts Fair." Both Blassie and Etling have worked to plan the Arts Fair in previous years, but both have a larger, more active role this year and acknowledge they have big shoes to fill.

Although Musick is not in actively involved in Arts Fair planning, Blassie and Etling remain in contact with him and ask him questions about planning an the event when they arise.

"Of course the fact that Dr. Musick is no longer at CHS is going to have an impact on the Arts Fair," Blassie said. "And the reason for that is that it was his dream; the Arts Fair was Dr. Musick's dream."

StuGo sponsor  
**DEE BLASSIE**

Principal Louise Losos will experience her first Arts Fair just after spring break and is excited to see the event take place.

"I am excited to see the Arts Fair in action," Losos said. "I have heard a great deal about it and all that I have seen has left me impressed. Any activity that involves 80 percent of our student body in a community service project, that's just amazing. I think the Arts Fair says a lot about the students at Clayton High School, and I am proud to be associated with them."

For those who have experienced the Arts Fair before, the day still remains special.

"I just love seeing the interaction between the SSD students and the CHS students, and when I see everyone smiling, just going down the hall, and interacting, and making it a special day for the SSD students," Blassie said. "This is probably the only field trip the SSD students go on in the whole year, and just to see that touches me, I just love it."

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JUNIOR BECCA WALSH folds bandannas in preparation for the upcoming Arts Fair. It has taken great effort by Steering Committee and StuGo members to plan the event.

# Three candidates compete for April school board election

## BOE, I

really a lot of understanding the development of the whole person, understanding multiple perspectives and not feeling like I have to have the answers, but also being able to make hard decisions."

Community experience and professional expertise have helped the candidates formulate goals and expectations as they look ahead.

As an incumbent, Hummell has already been able to accomplish certain goals with the School Board, but hopes to be able to continue current projects.

"The top issues that we're paying attention to are student achievement and protecting and expanding our revenues," Hummell said.

"We're continuing to try to develop a longer term financial plan which is very difficult to do given the chaotic state of state funding. That would be wonderful if we could; I just don't know that it's possible."

Raymond agrees improving student achievement is essential.

"I think one of the most important issues is student achievement, and by that I mean not only test scores but also ensuring that our children have a love for learning and that they develop a strength of character," Raymond said. "I think we have to be invested in having high-quality teachers and we have to pay attention to any gaps we have in achievement."

With the end of the VST program only a few years away, Raymond

believes that ensuring the continuation of diversity is important.

"We have to start thinking about and planning for the end of the VST program, not only in terms of diversity, but also in terms of the funding and the number of kids we're going to have in our schools," Raymond said. "We have to start planning what we want to be like in five years and ten years."

Klamer believes that student achievement and school diversity should be some of the Board's highest priorities. She also feels that making sure the Board collaborates with the Clayton community is important.

"I want to make sure that we don't lose the support that we have in our community because

the voters in Clayton have been really strong supporters of the School Board, so we need to make sure that we are following the voters' leads in a lot of ways," Klamer said.

Klamer hopes to see the Board continuing current projects and methods.

"I'd like to see the School Board do business the way it has, carefully, considering things that come up, keeping the curriculum review schedule that it has so that our curriculum is reviewed regularly, and basically doing business," Klamer said. "I don't have any great agenda other than just being part of what will be going on in the future."

All three candidates have special connections to the Clayton School District as all have at least two chil-

dren in Clayton schools.

Hummell currently has children in all three levels of school: a daughter at CHS, a son at WMS and a daughter at Meramec.

Raymond has two daughters at Glenridge.

Klamer has a daughter at WMS and a son at Captain. She believes that being concerned for all schools in the District is important for candidates.

"In terms of working on the board, I've been watching the board for a long time and I certainly know that the board members represent the whole community, so while it might be advantageous for a board member to be familiar with one school or the other, you have to keep all the schools in mind and the

needs of all the students in mind when you're making decisions," Klamer said.

As the April 4 election looms, the candidates have spent countless hours meeting with members of the community, formulating ideas and preparing for a potential spot on the School Board.

For Raymond, that work alone has been beneficial.

"The whole campaigning process has really been remarkable," Raymond said. "I've met some wonderful people, and just seen the level of commitment of this community and our administrators and our principals and our teachers. It's made me feel even more committed to do this service and that I have something to offer."

# Summer school schedule changes to 4-week program

## AMY BROOKS

Something to consider while organizing your summer: there are big changes to the summer school schedule in store for this year.

Over the course of the school year, the district graded itself on summer school and decided a change was needed to earn the coveted A+.

According to Assistant Principal and Director of Student Services Dr. Don Rugraff, self-assessment is a regular ordeal on the quest for a better school.

"With all of our programs we always evaluate how effective our programs are and look for ways to improve what we are doing," Rugraff said.

The new summer school program is four weeks instead of six, but longer days ensure students spend the same number of hours in class.

The summer school program for middle school students, Mark Twain Experience, is also switching to four weeks, while the elementary program, SummerQuest, remains the same.

The four-week schedule has several benefits over the old six-week program.

"The four week program gives students an opportunity to earn credit in a shorter duration but with the same amount of seat time, provides teachers with more summer vacation and gives our maintenance department more time to get the buildings ready," Rugraff said.

Academic Director and summer American Government teacher Josh Meyers agrees and provides several other advantages of the new system.

"First, moving from six weeks to four weeks is easier on our teachers and students," Meyers said. "Quite simply, if you are teaching or taking summer school, you now have two more weeks of summer vacation. A second and probably more important factor was cost savings. It doesn't cost as much to run a four week program, and the budget for summer school is extremely tight."

Rugraff believes the new schedule improves the main goals of the summer school program.

"Summer school is basically an extension of the school year, but our summer school programs have many additional facets," Rugraff said. "One, to provide courses students need and are interested in taking; two, to provide remedial courses for students who are struggling or having difficulties in one area; three, to provide transition programs between grades 8 and 9 to give the middle school students a head

start; and fourth, we want teachers to think outside the box and be creative and do things that they simply couldn't do during the school year, such as special field trips."

However, some students believe the old schedule was better.

Junior Rebecca Blackwell is taking one of the most popular summer school courses, American Government, this summer, and wishes the shorter three-week option was still available.

"I really don't see the point of switching from three weeks or six weeks at all," Blackwell said. "It's just taking options away from students. I travel a whole lot most summers, and I am probably going to have to miss one trip with my family in order to fit in the new four week schedule, something I may not have had to do if it was three weeks."

However, Meyers believes after teaching with the new schedule for a summer, he and others will be able to determine if it produces a better learning environment.

Meyers himself is looking forward to the changes.

"I think the jury is still out on how it will impact learning," Meyers said. "My gut feeling is that the longer day might be more grueling, but it mirrors the school day during the regular school year. A bonus from a teaching perspective is an extra week of teaching: the Government course has gone from two three week sessions to two four week sessions. This allows us to add an extra level of enrichment, practice on homework, and other assessment possibilities. From a strictly personal perspective, I love it – two more weeks of summer vacation. In my nine years of teaching, I have taught summer school nine times, so any extra vacation time is a real bonus for me."

No matter what the results are, expect more assessment of the summer school program next fall.

"The key thing is to see how the program runs this year, then solicit feedback from not only teachers, but students as well," Meyers said. "Hopefully this change, regardless of the motivations behind it, will be beneficial for all parties involved."

Rugraff agrees that constant evaluation is needed.

"We're continually trying to improve on what we're doing and thinking about what's in the best interest for students," Rugraff said. "The bottom line is that we want to have the best product out there, we want to say, 'this is the summer school to model.'"

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--the Globe editors

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Winner of NSPA All-American, MIPA All-Missouri, Quill and Scroll Gallup Award, CSPA Silver Crown

# Dancing through life

"Quick, quick, slow, quick, quick, slow." As I practice my dance steps, I remember dancing with my dad as a child—the street, living room or beach—all were our dance floor.

We didn't need music; there were no beats or set steps.

With no music, we never had to stop dancing, it was forever there, whether it was to the cars in the distance, crickets or waves.

I hardly ever touched the ground as I was lifted in one arm and twirled with my hair outstretched.

Within his arms, I was safe. I became a princess dancing with my prince.

Later when my Grandpa would come to my elementary school classes to talk of his blindness and WWII experiences, he would always have me do the jitterbug with him.

As a young man sighted or blind, he would often win jitterbug contests.

Fifty years later, the music is still ingrained in him as he hums the music for us and is transported back to his younger days.

Dancing has since changed as I am no longer lifted into the air. The turns are coordinated and steps precisely placed.

As a sophomore, I began to take ballroom dance classes with my Dad.

We were the youngest in the class with a 25 year gap between my dad and most of the other couples.

I sometimes would return from the class with bruised feet from our step mishaps.

My junior year I decided that I was too busy in school to waste time with frivolous dance steps although I did miss the shopping trips that

we occasionally took afterwards.

One weekend a friend and I went to see "Shall we dance?" a movie about a man going through mid-life crisis who starts to ballroom dance.

As we stood in line my friend said, "Hi, Mr. and Mrs. Shumway." Shocked, I turned around to see my parents.

After seeing the movie, I started to miss dancing but was not ready to return to the dance floor.

Months later as a family we saw "Mad Hot Ballroom," a movie about New York City fifth graders learning ballroom dance and having a competition.

I then knew that I could no longer stay away from one of the things I loved the most.

This year it has been my passion. I have often been seen practicing my steps in the halls and under my desk.

Most importantly, it has been the way for my dad and I to connect.

Together we have had to blend our individuality to create a partnership so I could understand the changes of his hand position to signal the next step.

We have learned humility as we look to other advanced couples and copy their expression. We have learned conformity as we learn the basic moves, persistence as we perfect the steps and finally artistic expression as the moves become our own.

This week as we learned the Bolero, we were able to create our own dance involving steps from other dances.

Months ago I would have been afraid to get off the beat but as we mixed traditional moves with some more modern steps, I was able to see the admiration and a laugh in our teacher's eyes as we finally gradu-

**Making our MARK...**



...Annalise Shumway

*I hardly ever touched the ground as I was lifted in one arm and twirled with my hair outstretched. Within his arms, I was safe. I became a princess dancing with my prince.*



photo courtesy of Annalise Shumway

ated to pure feeling of the music instead of a memorized sequence. Although I have learned the patterns and structure of dance and life from my various studies, I recognized that without spontaneous laughter or turns, we can miss the joy of the moment, the feeling I felt in my Daddy's arms. ☺

**FOUR-YEAR-OLD Annalise Shumway dances with her dad at Disneyland in 1992. Shumway now takes ballroom dancing classes with her father once a week.**

# First Amendment rights should be protected

For the Globe, the rights afforded by the First Amendment are one of the best parts of being American.

As journalists, it's difficult to imagine life without freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Sharing ideas and communicating beliefs is so much easier when censors are turned off and everyone is allowed to have their say.

During the past month, however, Missourians have had to face the fact that the First Amendment does not come without its share of problems.

Recently, a Kansas-based group, headed by Westboro Baptist Church Rev. Fred Phelps, has been making headlines across the Midwest with their use of the First Amendment.

The homophobic group, long known for leading protests at the funerals of homosexuals, believes that American tragedies—from the Pennsylvania coal mining disaster

to the high death toll in Iraq—are the result of God's wrath towards Americans for their toleration of homosexuality. The group's trademark sign is "God hates fags."

While picketing at the funerals of homosexuals is appalling, Phelps' group was not met with

widespread public horror until they began spreading out,

**StaffEditorial**

*By strictly banning funereal protests, the Missouri government is compromising First Amendment rights, which should be protected above all else.*

their protests to the funerals of American soldiers—regardless of sexual orientation—who died in Iraq.

Their blatant disturbance of mourners prompted the Missouri government to pass a new state-wide law, which, according to the Associated Press, "bans picketing and protests 'in front of or about' any church, cemetery or funeral establishment from one hour before a funeral to one hour after it ends."

Although this law was no doubt

proposed with the good intention to protect people grieving for lost loved ones, its passage is deeply disturbing.

By strictly banning funereal protests, the Missouri government is compromising First Amendment rights, which should be protected above all else.

The actions of the Phelps group are undoubtedly disgusting. It's difficult to imagine that anyone would be so insensitive as to use a funeral as an opportunity to advocate hateful, discriminatory beliefs. But though it's hard to swallow,

their actions are protected by the Constitution.

If we want to be able to enjoy all of the good that the First Amendment offers, we have to force ourselves to accept the bad as well.

The new law is hypocritical: the government cannot say that it loves and values the First Amendment and then deny free speech to certain groups simply because what they say is offensive to others.

The KKK is a widely-despised group because of their violence and cruelty towards African Americans.

Yet although most Americans hate what the KKK stands for, the group must be tolerated because their beliefs are constitutionally protected. They are perfectly within their rights to hold meetings and vocally express their viewpoints.

The essence of diversity is that

not everyone holds the same beliefs. America is special because it is diverse.

Our Constitution is so valuable because it protects people who want to be different and unique and go against societal norms.

Sometimes those people accomplish great things and set new trends, paving the way for advancement and change.

Sometimes those people abuse their rights and hurt others with their behavior. But the latter type must be tolerated in order to have the former.

By establishing laws that put limits on First Amendment rights, the Missouri government

is setting a dangerous precedent. Governor Blunt and the rest of his office should closely examine how much they value our Constitutional freedoms before compromising them. ☺



# Creating art for own satisfaction admirable

On the bank of the Thames River across from the Houses of Parliament there is a stretch of pavement meant for accommodating masses of people. Everyday, thousands walk along the water, past the street vendors and post-card booths, past the huge London Eye Ferris wheel, past the countless artists who set up shop.

European artists know that tourists mean business, so whenever there are major pedestrian thoroughfares, you are sure to find them.

Walking along the Thames, I saw caricature sketchers selling portraits, guitar players with their cases filled with coins, a man spray-painted in silver standing perfectly still for the camera flash-bulbs.

It's hard not to admire street artists. I don't think I would ever be brave enough to devote my life to a talent that would only bring me someone's spare change. I don't think I have that sort of passion.

At the same time, though, there would be a certain satisfaction in knowing that everyday hundreds and hundreds of strangers see that

street art, marvel at tone quality, paint color and originality.

The artist I will most remember from that day in London drew with chalk. His canvas was that stretch of street along the

Thames. Every week or so, he would map out a large square of pavement for one of his drawings. He would mark the square with masking tape and the masses of pedestrians would have to walk around it, so that his area was the

only open space in the midst of the crowds and chaos. When I met him he was almost finished with a giant rendition of The Last Supper. He was kneeling at the corner of the square, sketching final touches: facial expression, shadowing. His knees were white with chalk dust



photo courtesy of Caroline Bleeke

**AN ARTIST'S RENDITION of The Last Supper, drawn in chalk, covers a stretch of pavement along the banks of the Thames River.**

and his hands were rough from the pavement.

The artist spends hours and hours laboring over his masterpiece. But every time it rains, they wash away. He has no copies to keep in

frames, to sell to tourists to hang in the hallways of distant homes.

His work is only captured in the frames of photos.

The first time I saw him, I thought he was crazy: too much sun soaked into his head or maybe a mental disorder from birth.

How could someone voluntarily spend their life creating art with the knowledge that it won't last for more than a few days?

In London, it seems as though it is constantly raining. I'm surprised he had enough time even to finish

his drawings.

But for him, maybe the final product wasn't what was important. When he bent over his square of black street, you could see he loved what he did. I guess that was enough for him, just being able to draw everyday.

In some ways, I feel jealous of him. He had no need to be remembered forever. He didn't make his art for other people: he made it for himself. Too often, I feel like I'm writing with the hope that someday I'll create something good enough to be remembered, to live on forever in a book or magazine or newspaper.

When you write for someone else, it's easy to be disappointed. But it's hard to change: I couldn't ever rip up my finished pieces and still feel happy and satisfied. I don't think there are many people that could.

That afternoon in London, I saw huge barges sail up the Thames. I saw the clock on Big Ben. From high up in the London Eye, I saw the city spread out all beneath me. But what sticks in my mind most is stepping carefully around a huge chalk drawing and a man who hardly noticed the crowds around him.

And although that picture washed away a long time ago, I remember it, so in a way, it didn't really vanish with the rain. ☺

# Letters to the Editor



## Reactions to the Hamas article

Senior Donna Iken and junior Eli Fredman's responses to the controversial Hamas story from the February Globe issue.

Dear Editor:

The February article "Hamas' victory in Palestinian elections bad sign for peaceful progress in the region and conflict with Israel" unfortunately contained misinformation and bias. Throughout the article, the author refers to Israel as being Palestinian land, which is simply not true. Palestinian Arabs never had their own country or sovereignty of the land.

The land often referred to as Palestine had never been a separate country, but always a small part of various empires, such as the Turkish Ottoman Empire (1517-1917) and the British Mandate (1918-1948).

Additionally, the author constantly refers to the Palestinian Authority (PA) as Palestine, thus making the inference that it is a country, which it is not, and the proper terminology that should have been used is PA, or Palestinian Authority.

While referring to the 1967 Six Day War and its impact, the author forgot to mention some important details, such as the fact that Egypt provoked the war by blockading Israel's access to Straits of Ti-

ran (under international law, this is an act of war, *cassis belli*). The Egyptians were massing troops on Israel's borders and Nasser was announcing that this was going to be a war of annihilation. So Israel pre-emptively struck Egypt, but it did not strike Jordan first. If Jordan had not attacked Israel, the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem would still be under Jordanian occupation (Jordan occupied it in 1948 rather than letting the Palestinians keep it to form a state).

While speaking about Hamas, the author implies that it is a charitable organization with a militant sector; however this is not the case, which can be understood by simply reading Hamas' mission, which includes the complete destruction of Israel through jihad.

Additionally, the article states that, it was not surprising to most that Hamas gained a majority of seats, however that is incorrect, since even the exit polls on election day predicted a Fatah victory.

However, the fact that Hamas gained a majority signifies that the anti-Jewish hate education that permeates Palestinian society made it possible for many people

to vote for terrorists without worrying about it being immoral or unacceptable.

The last paragraph of this article was preposterous and completely inappropriate. Aside from the fact that Sharon is in a coma and essentially out of the picture regarding politics, the implied comparison between Sharon and Hitler was beyond tasteless.

That someone would even begin to compare Sharon, who actually did have a plan for peace, including unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza (in other words, essentially giving it to the PA on a silver platter), where there is a fairly significant Israeli population and economy, to Hitler, who is the epitome of evil and inhumanity is appalling. Moreover, the fact that it was published in the Globe was inexcusable. Frankly, I am speechless.

The Globe staff should, in the future, take more care regarding their research and editing, making sure that not only all of the information is correct, but also that subjective articles appear in the Forum, not News section of the paper.

Thank You,  
Donna Iken ☺

Dear Editor:

In her article "Hamas' victory..." Sarah Rangwala misrepresents facts in order to promulgate the notion that Israel stole Palestinian land after World War II. And if Israel were to simply return it to its "rightful owners" they would become peace-loving neighbors.

But a look at historical facts paint quite a different picture.

First of all, the Jewish peoples claim to the land in question predates World War II by more than 2,000 years.

In fact there was Jewish presence in Israel long before Palestinian people laid claim to the land. According to journalist Charles Krauthammer, the Palestinian people make the Holocaust the engine of Zionism and its justification. "Indeed, it is a classic narrative for anti-Zionists, most recently the president of Iran, who says that Israel should be wiped off the map. And why not?" asks Krauthammer. "If Israel is nothing more than Europe's guilt trip for the Holocaust, then why should Muslims have to suffer a Jewish state in their midst?"

But Jewish history did not begin with the Holocaust. The first Zionist Congress occurred in 1897, and the League of Nations gave permission to the Jewish people to establish a "Jewish national home in Palestine" in 1922; two decades before the Holocaust. "But the Jewish claim is far more ancient," states Krauthammer. "If the Jews were just seeking a nice refuge, why did they choose the malarial swamps and barren sand dunes of nineteenth century Palestine?"

Because Israel was their ancestral home, site of the first two Jewish commonwealths for a thousand years—long before Arabs, long before Islam, long before the Holocaust. The Roman destructions of 70 A.D. and 135 A.D. extinguished Jewish independence but never the Jewish claim and vow to return home.

For three generations since the creation of the state of Israel the Jews have offered to partition the house. The Arab response in every generation has been rejection, war and terrorism.

So to say the Jewish claim that the land in question is any less legitimate than that of the Palestinians is simply not factual.

Rangwala states that Hamas

only wants to get its land back. Notwithstanding the fact that both Palestinians and Jews see themselves as having legitimate claims to the same land, Hamas' stated goal is the complete elimination of the state of Israel.

No sharing, no compromise, no division of land, no two states for two peoples.

And how do they go about trying to achieve that goal? Just ask the parents of eight year old Ilan Perlmann or sixteen year old Michael Sharshevsky who died in a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem on November 22, 2002; or the children and grandchildren of fifty-eight year old Kinneret Hajbi who, on March 1 2006, on her way to volunteer at the hospital, and too afraid to take the bus, was stabbed to death while waiting for a taxi; or the husband of holocaust survivor Leah Levine, who was taking her lunch-break when a sixteen year old boy detonated himself in the food-court; of course you can't ask wife and mother, Tali Hatuel, 34, and her daughters -Hila, 11, Hadar, 9, Roni, 7, and Merav, 2, who were found shot to death hugging each other on the way home from school; or countless others who were the specific targets of the Hamas terrorists.

These same murderers who glorify the very act of an individual exploding in a crowded disco filled with teens on a Friday night, leaving scores dead and many others permanently disfigured, also dote out "charity" in their neighborhoods.

Rangwala indicates that these charitable projects allowed Hamas to win over the Palestinian public. But ask yourself whether you would accept charity from such people.

And how do we know that it is the charities that won over the people, and not the policy of suicide bombings on men, women and children?

According to Krauthammer, "The Palestinian people have spoken. According to their apologists, sure, Hamas wants to destroy Israel, wage permanent war and send suicide bombers into discotheques to drive nails into the skulls of young Israelis, but what the Palestinians were really voting for was efficient garbage collection."

Since when has charity excused acts of terrorism and hatred? "The

Palestinian people have chosen these known stances: rejectionism, Islamism, terrorism, rank anti-Semitism, and the destruction of Israel in a romance of blood, death and revolution. Garbage collection on Wednesdays."

Finally, the most outrageous misrepresentation of fact in the article is the subtle comparison of Ariel Sharon to Adolph Hitler.

Even at his very worst, Ariel Sharon can be accused of not protecting the Muslims of Sabra and Shatila from the hands of their Christian Arab neighbors, no one should ever think to mention him even in the same sentence as Adolph Hitler, the world's most ruthless mass murderer, whose death camps rewrote the definition of man's inhumanity to his fellow human being.

Ariel Sharon, to his credit, was willing to compromise the Jewish claim to the land for the sake of real peace. Ariel Sharon was willing to offer a two state solution, but on the basis of real peace and real peace partners. Those who aim to murder children on a school bus are not interested in peace. And the only way to engage this type of enemy is to defeat them.

-Eli Fredman ☺

Editor's Note:

The last paragraph of the February article, "Hamas' victory in Palestinian elections bad sign for peaceful progress in the region and conflict with Israel," was unintentionally included. Although the paragraph appears to be commentary by the author, it is actually a quote from Rabbi Norm Chomsky and was included as part of the author's notes for the story, which inadvertently were not removed. The statements made in the paragraph, including a comparison between Hitler and Sharon, do not reflect the opinions of either the article's author or the Globe editors. We apologize for any misunderstanding that the inclusion of the quote caused.

## Anti-abortion bill not the right route for Missouri, United States

"No person shall knowingly administer to, prescribe for, procure for, or sell to any pregnant woman any medicine, drug, or other substance with any specific intent of causing or abetting the termination of the life of an unborn child. No person shall knowingly use or employ any instrument or procedure upon a pregnant woman with the specific intent of causing or abetting the termination of the life of an unborn child."

Missouri's state senate recently jumped on the pro-life bandwagon by introducing the tenth bill nationwide to ban abortion in all cases where the mother's life is not at risk.

Not only does the bill ban abortion, it also makes abortion a class B felony. This essentially means that doctors who perform abortions against the law would be punished with between five and 15 years in prison. Additionally, they would be considered worse criminals under the law than many rapists, child molesters and human traffickers.

A similar bill was recently passed in the state of South Dakota and suggested in eight other states across the nation in an attempt to bring the Roe vs. Wade precedent before the Supreme Court again.

The movement has been reenergized with President George W. Bush's appointment of two conservative justices to replace a conservative and moderate. The current political environment lends itself to worrisome developments in the debate concerning abortions.

Although an abortion should not be considered a form of birth

control, it is necessary at the present time to have such options available in a variety of unfortunate situations. For example, when a woman is a victim of rape or incest, forcing her to keep the child may be unreasonable. Legislation, especially that which does not make exceptions for rape victims, is not the answer to preventing abortions.

Legislation would, in many cases, only force women seeking an abortion to do it illegally and in an unsafe environment. The bill would be unenforceable and there are much better ways to combat high abortion rates.

Opponents of abortion should not continue revisiting abortion in a legal manner. This is a simplistic answer to a complex issue that has divided the nation for over 40 years.

Better ways to address the topic do exist. Those that wish to remove abortion should seek to educate young women. Sex education would prevent many unwanted pregnancies and therefore many abortions.

control, it is necessary at the present time to have such options available in a variety of unfortunate situations. For example, when a woman is a victim of rape or incest, forcing her to keep the child may be unreasonable. Legislation, especially that which does not make exceptions for rape victims, is not the answer to preventing abortions.



SUPPORTERS OF THE newly proposed anti-abortion bill congregate in downtown St. Louis on Mon. March 13.

The bills nationwide are not the first of their kind. The courts have repeatedly defeated the bills and granted the right to have an abortion.

The current trend in bills is an obvious ploy to get a more conservative Supreme Court to revisit Roe vs. Wade. By once again attempting to ban abortions, the nation's attention is diverted from the real problem by controversy over an already decided issue.


The key to preventing abortions is two-fold. First, a better system of education must be created to stop women from having unwanted pregnancies.

Second, women that are already pregnant must be provided with alternatives to abortions. Legislative action accomplishes nothing in the long run.

Clearly everyone wants as few women as possible to have abortions, however senate bill number 1248 to ban abortions is not the right approach to resolve the issue. ☺




Dakin Sloss



Thumbs Up

Thumbs Up

- Spring sports
- End of third quarter
- Almost spring break
- Fourth quarter seniors



Thumbs Down

Thumbs Down

- Crazy weather forecasts
- Crowded parking lot
- APs approaching
- Third quarter in general

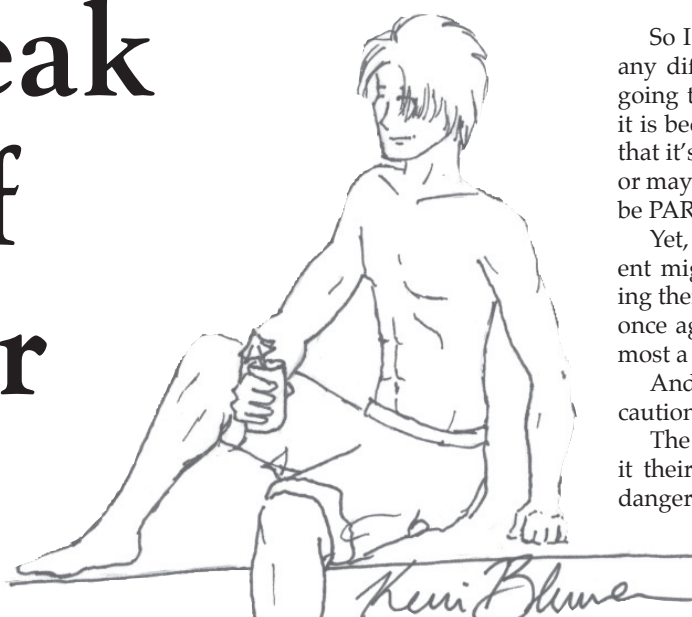
# Spring break trip rite of passage for seniors

A senior Spring Break has become a tradition at CHS, and that same tradition will be continued this year when 18 kids and 14 parents travel to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico for the week. I will be going on this trip with my friends and family and I view it as a last chance to spend a lot of quality time with the friends that I grew up with. But some parents viewed this trip simply as a chance to binge drink with no parental supervision. The number of parents going on the trip clearly shows parental representation, but the drinking age of 18 in Mexico led to many questions about what we should be able to do on this vacation.



Max Shapiro

While many parents showed concern about letting their children drink in a foreign country unsupervised, one insisted that a different location be chosen and that the trip was outrageous. This parent proceeded to write a letter to the editor of the Post-Dispatch about Spring Break "debauchery." In this article, he bashed the idea of all senior spring break trips and requested that schools take action and not support these trips. He also stated that parents only let their kids go on this trip because they feel as if they have no other choice. Although this letter did not affect my trip whatsoever, I still feel as if "certain" parents don't understand the situation that is known as Senior Spring Break. In my opinion, this trip is a reward for all of the hard work that I have put forth in my high school career. I hope to graduate high school with honors, and I am going to a four-year university next fall as are the majority of the students going on this trip. Yes, there will be alcohol legally consumed on this trip. And, yes, Mexico can be dangerous in some parts, but that's why we are staying at an all-inclusive resort. Oh, and yes, we are going to college five months after the trip takes place, where alcohol will be just as available as it is in Mexico, with no parental supervision.



So I ask myself, how is this trip any different than my friends and going to college next fall? Perhaps it is because this trip is cheaper, or that it's for a shorter period of time or maybe it's the fact that there will be PARENTS present.

Yet, I still understand why a parent might be worried about sending their kids on a trip like this, but once again that's why we have almost a 1:1 kid to parent ratio.

And, we are taking other precautions.

The parents have also made it their goal to educate us on the dangers of alcohol and Mexico before we get on the plane.

We've already had a trained college student talk to us about the dangers of alcohol and the travel agent briefed us on proper behavior and etiquette while in a foreign country.

This education is all on top of the pressure we've received from our parents, teachers, and peers that drinking can be harmful.

The fact is, we are educated, responsible students. We are going to college and we do understand that this trip can be dangerous. The reason why we're allowed to go on this trip is because we've proven that we can handle this responsibility. And I think I speak for all 18 students who are going on the trip, that we are proud to carry on the senior spring break trip tradition.

Oh, and by the way. The parent who wrote the letter to the Post-Dispatch his kid is going on the trip too.

# Boys vs. girls debate invalid

## Comparing boys and girls is an outdated concept.

An age-old question: who are better, boys or girls? This question, which was posed last month at the beginning of an article in the Globe is certainly an interesting one.

That being said, it's also a childish, naïve, and extremely absurd one. It is a question that, at least in my opinion, went out of style along with cooties and ninja turtles (or Barbie dolls, if you are one of those icky girls).

This article goes on to explore the differences between men and women in sports. It states a "rumor" that "men are more physically fit than women." First of all, that is either worded poorly or completely wrong. The common misconception that the article tries to bring up is that men are more adept in some way physically than women, whether that means stronger, faster or whatever.

The issue is not, to be sure, physical fitness. That can be excused though, and I will deal with the point that the article tries to bring to focus.

Men are, without much question, stronger physically than women. For this reason, we have separate teams for boys and girls in high school, separate leagues for men and women when they turn professional. Without these separate teams and leagues, women would not get the fair chance that they deserve when it comes to athletic competition, and that would be a crime.

So let's not quibble about boys vs. girls in sports, because both are given an equal opportunity.

It does not matter that boys are bigger and stronger, which they are, because that does not mean that their sports are better, just different.

The article foolishly tries to argue against this, and blurs the line between girls' and boys' sports by saying that girls are better at basketball because the leading scorer of the boys' team does not average as many points as the leading scorer of the girls' team.

Do I really even need to acknowledge such a claim? Both players are excellent, but if the leading scorer of the boys' team played in the same games against the same teams (girls, that is), he would be averaging well over the 17 points that the girls' leading scorer is putting up. That is not a sexist statement, just a true one.

It is the folly of the article that the two scorers are even compared. It is akin to comparing apples to oranges.

The article then, without even making a conclusion, moves from athletics to academics, or "brawns to brains." Statistics are given that say more girls are enrolled in Ad-

vanced Placement classes than boys. What these statistics are trying to say, I can only assume, is that girls are somehow smarter than boys because more are enrolled in harder classes. That is a ridiculous statement, and the quotes that the article presents supposedly in support, contradict it.

Teachers of the AP classes are quoted as saying that there is no "sufficient differences through the years with any of the AP classes that I've taught that would say one group is better than the other," or that "[class numbers] wouldn't matter because there will always be one guy that's better than one girl, and vice versa."

What? Are these quotes supposed to support the statement that girls are smarter than boys because to me what these AP teachers are saying is there is no difference, that the class number differences don't matter, and that boys and girls are, in fact, not equal, incomparable.

Then, the article switches abruptly from AP classes to the Arts, and the statistics that there are more female participants. This statistic, present alone as it is, is no more than a meaningless sentence and a waste of ink.

First of all, there are more girls than boys at the school, which may be an explanation for the disparity in numbers. Second of all, the fact that girls are more drawn to things such as Show Choir does support the assumption that girls are winning any war between the sexes. It simply means that girls like to sing.

Congratulations, sometimes I sing in the shower. Does that give me a leg up in the battle? Of course not.

In conclusion, which already makes this column more credible than the article, none of the points in the article support the statement that the girls are winning the battle of the sexes.

In fact, many of the quotes the article presents take away from her final conclusion that "this round of the battle of the sexes goes to the women of CHS."

In contrast to the article, the point of this column is not to make any outrageous claims that one sex is superior to the other. It is simply just to point out that the article is ridiculously wrong. I would like to think that in the future, we at the Globe newspaper, the author of the article and anyone else stuck in this third grade mindset will please stop, pause, and realize how absolutely stupid they are being.

It would save us all the five minutes of wasted time it took to read the article, and the 15 seconds of wasted time that it took to realize how little sense it actually made.

# Congressional actions concerning port deal show prejudice against Middle East

A Dubai company called Ports World has recently decided to give up a deal in which they would manage six U.S. ports. They had bought a British company, Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company, who was previously in charge of these ports.

Sadly enough no one has really paid any attention to the controversy surrounding this, until after Dubai Ports World backed out. Dubai is a state that is part of the United Arab Emirates. The U.A.E. is part of the Middle East and is located on the Persian Gulf surrounded by Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Dubai Ports World (DPW) has become the world's third largest port operator, as a result of this purchase. It currently operates numerous ports in 12 countries, none of which, by the way, seem to have any problem with DPW. They include Saudi Arabia, India, Germany, Australia and China.

President Bush has surprisingly stood steadfast with DPW insisting they be given the deal. Sad, though, how this is the first satisfactory stance he takes and most of the senators are against him. It was pretty obvious that this debate was going no where, after Republicans challenged Bush by amending a bill that would provide money for the Hurricane Katrina relief, and the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Basically, if Bush had rejected this bill, DPW might have gotten the contract to manage the ports, but Bush would've been refusing money to all three of those causes. Luckily for him, DPW agreed to give up the deal because they wanted to save their relationship with the U.S. and Bush.

Many senators, both Republican and Democratic, had challenged this decision saying that the United States shouldn't become dependent on any country at all and should not allow any foreign company to be in charge of U.S. ports. They say this, of course, after the British have given up control. What kind of message is the U.S. sending to the world when they accept British companies but not Middle Eastern ones? What kind of example is the U.S. setting for their citizens and the rest of the world when they reject Arabs, but accept Europeans? They are essentially saying that the Arabs are untrustworthy.

P&O has been in control of these six ports since 1994. In the last decade no one has created such a brouhaha, as there has been in the last month over the U.S. ports. It is only when a Middle Eastern state might have power in the United States that some politicians decide that the U.S. would be unwise to outsource their ports. The U.S. had really no reason to cause DPW to reject this deal, but by doing so they have greatly endangered their rela-



PORT CONTAINER TRAFFIC at the Seagirt Marine Terminal in the Port of Baltimore, MD., on Wed., March 8, 2006.

tionship with the U.A.E. A relationship they need, considering their current relationship with many of the Arab countries.

Like almost every other country that isn't actually fighting them, the United States considers Dubai "a key ally in the fight against terrorism." So then why did they think that this deal would make the United States more susceptible to terrorism?

The main concern politicians voiced is the fact that if this transaction had carried through, terrorists will have easier access to the United States, endangering its security.

The fact that DPW would have managed security as well is false. The ports are in the United States after all and everything goes through U.S. Customs.

In any case, DPW has very advanced technology, technology many United States companies have yet to set eyes upon. In an interview on CNN, Mohammed Sharaf the CEO of Dubai Ports World, showed off (and rightly so) their security systems. Their systems can detect chemicals, biological agents, nuclear weapons and illegal drugs, all through very heavy metal. This technology is approved by international standards and complies with the rules of all the countries DPW works in. And so even though the main reason for rejection of this deal on Capitol Hill makes no sense at all, politicians were determined not to let it go through.

Many government officials that were in opposition claim that this is not only dangerous because Dubai is located in the Middle East, but that the U.A.E. has also been known to support terrorists and two of the hijackers that were involved in the attacks on the World Trade Center were citizens of Dubai. This is a weak argument.

First of all, if they want to admit countries based on their reasons to deny Dubai, then not even American companies are necessarily worthy of managing U.S. ports. Raed Hijaz, a US citizen, was captured and found guilty of plotting attacks with Al Qaeda. Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen of Puerto Rican descent, (whose case proves that not all terrorists are Arabs) had been held for three years on the charge that he was planning to fund terrorist group. Being an American citizen isn't a guaranteed assurance that you have no sympathies with Al Qaeda or any other terrorist groups.

These are only a few cases, but two terrorists of Dubai citizenship were all the U.S. needed to deem DPW incapable of operating their ports. The U.S. isn't exactly one to point fingers considering there are citizens within it that do identify with terrorists.

In any case, the United States has supported terrorists in the past, like they now accuse the United Arab Emirates of doing, before the attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Even if the U.A.E. has assisted the Taliban, the U.S., itself, is not completely innocent. They also supported Osama Bin Laden and the would-be-Taliban, financially

in the 80s against Russia. The only difference is, of course, they were committing atrocities against other countries. The United States also supports terrorism, through their policies of extraordinary rendition.

Secondly, 15 of those hijackers were from Saudi Arabia and Osama Bin Laden, the ring leader of it all, was very close to the Saudi royal family. Yet, no action or refusals have been made towards them.

The United States can't shun the countries that had citizens involved in attacks on them forever. They will acquire many enemies, lose their diminishing respect, and be viewed as hypocrites.

"A professor of mine, Bernard Lewis once made a comment that he thought most of Americans weren't entirely convinced the rest of the world existed," said Colonel Kevin Massengilla of the U.S. army in an interview on CNN. "The best way I can say that is that for the average American all they hear is that Arab Muslim attacked us. Now, an Arab Muslim company is going to somehow have control of the ports. You make that linkage in that fashion, it is unreasonable to say this seems reckless. This seems unreasonable. The better analogy is to say, I'm an American. I am a veteran and a Christian, so was Tim McVeigh. We shouldn't all paint everybody because of the actions of a few."

By rejecting this deal the U.S. has proved their ignorance to a world that already doubts them. Many Muslims are convinced that this "war on terror" is simply a war against Muslims, more specifically Arabs. By rejecting this deal, the U.S. has proved them right.



Sarah Rangwala

## Corrections:

- The hockey photo on p. 1 was from the 2nd game vs. Parkway West of the tournament, not the 1st game.
- Rebecca Katz wrote the article "Someone's Watching" on p. 6, not Rachel Katz.
- Connely is spelled Connolly.
- Michael Root was misspelled.

## Teacher's dedication honored

History teacher Donna Rogers-Beard has been at Clayton for 16 years and teaching since 1968. Last month, Rogers-Beard was named Missouri Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

### CAROLINE BLEEKE

Donna Rogers-Beard has only been Missouri Social Studies Teacher of the Year for a few weeks, but for many of her students, it is a title she has long deserved.

Rogers-Beard, who currently teaches World History I and AP World History at CHS, was awarded the honor by the Missouri Council of Social Studies, a state branch of the National Council of Social Studies, which annually recognizes outstanding social studies teachers at the high school, middle school and elementary school levels.

Senior Ya Xiao recognized Rogers-Beard's outstanding qualities as a member of her AP World History class last year.

"Her greatest strengths are defi-

nately her knowledge, her intensity and her passion for the subject," Xiao said.

That passion follows Rogers-Beard everywhere.

"I think probably the most difficult thing is that it's hard for me to turn it off," Rogers-Beard said. "It's difficult for me not to be making connections to the big picture, so it's hard for me to engage in conversation with people when they don't understand cause and effect or why it's not OK to let this happen because in the larger scheme of things it can have very, very serious consequences."

Rogers-Beard's passion for the world stems from her childhood.

"I've always wanted to be a teacher," Rogers-Beard said. "I always loved history. I loved to read as a kid, and my favorite reading was historical novels and biographies and autobiographies."

Rogers-Beard's passion followed her to college at Illinois State University, where she majored in history with a political science minor. As a college student, she focused on American and Western history. Her exposure to world history came from classes she took later.

"I took Latin America courses at Washington University, African studies at St. Louis University,

Latin American history at San Diego State, just taking courses here and there," Rogers-Beard said.

Her extended studies culminated in 1992 with the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship at Princeton University. Rogers-Beard's time at Princeton solidified her love of world history, her favorite subject to teach.

"I enjoy world history," Rogers-Beard said. "World history is truly one of the most important courses as we face the global century."

Rogers-Beard began teaching in 1968 and is currently in her sixteenth year at CHS. Besides teaching World History I and AP World History, Rogers-Beard has taught Latin America, African Studies, Psychology and Sociology at CHS.

Of the many areas of history that she has taught, Latin America is Rogers-Beard's favorite.

"I think too few people teach Latin America," Rogers-Beard said. "I can't understand how in the world it is that we just sweep our relationship with this continent, our neighbor, under the rug."

In addition to teaching, Rogers-Beard has taken many trips abroad. Travel has helped her understand the world, particularly Asia.

"I have a little bit greater sense, having seen the Great Wall of China, having seen the Forbidden City, of how fast China has been growing," Rogers-Beard said. "It makes you appreciate the history a lot more, the big picture and the future."

Senior Aditi Iyer, who had Rogers-Beard as a freshman and again as a junior, believes that Rogers-Beard's passion for particular regions is beneficial to students.

"She has just a general fascination with certain areas of the world," Iyer said. "We spent so much time on China; I've inherited her fascination for that region."

For Iyer, Rogers-Beard best spreads her passion to students through class involvement.

"She's really open to discus-



Kate Waterbury

**HISTORY TEACHER DONNA** Rogers-Beard lectures to her World and U.S. History I class. "I like when she lectures and when we ask questions," freshman Jacob Goldsmith said. "Sometimes she goes off on tangents [to answer our questions], so the lesson isn't anything like what she planned but we still learn so much."

sion, especially freshman year," Iyer said. "It wasn't anything like a lecture, it was just all the students sharing their opinions."

Freshman Jacob Goldsmith, who has Rogers-Beard this year for World History I, agrees that student participation is a good way to vary classes.

"I like when she lectures and when we ask questions," Goldsmith said. "Sometimes she goes off on tangents [to answer our questions], so the lesson isn't anything like what she planned but we still learn so much."

Rogers-Beard loves when students make connections from her lectures to current topics.

"My favorite part of teaching is when something happens in the news and students can come back and say, 'Whoa, I really understand this because in class we did the following,'" Rogers-Beard said. "Or they read something in another class, say an English class,

and they say, 'Whoa, I understand this so much better because...' Or when they come back after graduation and they say, 'I traveled,' or 'I took these courses in college because...'"

Xiao believes that it's easy to make connections from Rogers-Beard's lectures.

"I enjoy the lectures a lot because they're very informative," Xiao said.

"The information she brings to the table is outside the textbook, and it makes you connect the dots that much easier."

the table is outside the textbook, and it makes you connect the dots that much easier."

The clarity of Rogers-Beard's lectures is also a great strength in the eyes of her students.

"The thing about her is that she's not just an awesome teacher, but whenever she says her opinions in class or explains anything, it makes perfect sense," Iyer said.

Goldsmith agrees. "She goes through everything

really thoroughly," Goldsmith said. "She repeats everything so there's no way we could miss it."

The knowledge gained in Rogers-Beard's classes stays beyond the school year.

"You really walk away with a new respect for the world. You understand why things are the way they are," Xiao said. "Before, when you just hear about the politics, you never understand why people disagree so much, but once you learn the history and the traditions and the culture of a nation you understand why there are disagreements, and that's basically what saves politics today."

Iyer agrees that Rogers-Beard teaches more than just history.

"It's not just learning some facts," Iyer said. "It's learning about trends in history, learning how to predict stuff."

If Rogers-Beard could have her students walk away with one thing, she would want it to be an understanding of their world, not just historical facts.

"I'd want them to take away a sense of responsibility as citizens of the United States, as citizens of the world, to know that it takes sacrifice and commitment," Rogers-Beard said. "You have to give: you can't just expect to receive." ☺



Kate Waterbury

**ROGERS-BEARD JOKES** with students in her World and U.S. History I class. In Feb., Rogers-Beard was named Missouri's Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

*I enjoy world history. World history is truly one of the most important courses as we face the global century.*

history teacher

**DONNA ROGERS-BEARD**

## Substitute teachers prove persistent, demand respect

### MADDIE HARNED

Depending on which classroom you ask a substitute teacher in, their job can be very difficult. From dealing with annoyed students, to confusing questions, to the standard bad attitudes, it is hard to see why anyone would want this job. However, there are the brave few who attempt.

Little is known about the substitute teachers who are regulars at CHS, besides possible ways to annoy them.

One of those brave souls is Paul Kram, a former construction engineer, and a regular substitute teacher at CHS.

He may be familiar to students for substituting in history, English and journalism classes.

"My wife was joking and told me that I would either have to get a job, or she would divorce me," Kram said. "I couldn't afford a divorce."

While becoming a substitute teacher not only benefited his marriage, but he claims that it has kept him active as well.

"It gets me out of the house," Kram said. "Substituting keeps me active."

With the student behavior being less than extraordinary at times, being a substitute teacher means being on your guard. Kram speaks proudly of his encounters with rowdy classes. They are what keeps his job interesting and keeps him on his toes.

"Some kids have their peculiar ways," Kram said. "Some are pretty opinionated. There are always those kids who are trying to be the joker all the time, disturbing the class."

However, as a whole, Kram prefers to talk fondly of his experiences at Clayton, and quickly answers each question thrown at him about bad behavior and moves on to talk about the positive aspects of being a sub.

"There's some bad acting, but Clayton's been good to me," Kram said. "I know how to handle a problem."

As he jokes he warily looks at my shirt, which has the words "Whisky a Go Go, 24 hour Hollywood bar" written on it.

"Is that shirt really appropriate for school?" asks Kram, who shows a look of disapproval on his

face. The shirt probably is not appropriate for school is I explain to Kram, but the frown on his face is still present. I further explain that I do not promote any of the material written on my shirt, and that seems to suffice, but it's hard to tell.

"I hope you don't mind if I read now, OK?" Interrupts Kram, midway through the conversation. I allow him to read the paper even though it probably wouldn't matter because he is the teacher.

Kram has lasted as a substitute teacher for five years, and not even seniors intimidate him anymore, but for now Mr. Kram is taking his job one day at a time.

Another substitute teacher who is familiar with the halls of CHS is Ron Lefcourt. Lefcourt is a part-time sub and also is a commercial real estate broker. Along with substitute teaching, he is a tennis teacher and girls' basketball coach.

This five-year substitute teacher admits he's had his fill of peculiar experiences on the job.

"I had an experience once when I had someone who was attempting to stab himself during class," Lefcourt said. "I don't think it was because I was there. Hopefully he wasn't so bored that I was there. I think it was because of psychological reasons. It was memorable."

Because of that strange incident, Lefcourt admits that he tries to keep his guard on during rowdy classes.

"I can only imagine what the kids might do to me if I fell asleep," Lefcourt said.

Even after an odd experience Lefcourt still says that he enjoys his job as a teacher, including the unique experiences and personalities.

"I like all the classes," Lefcourt said. "There are definitely different personalities in different offices, math, history, English and science."

From language to literacy, teachers get their days off just like the students. This is when the brave few who substitute for absent teachers enter the students' lives.

Depending on the class, a sub's job can be fun, or a nightmare. As a whole however, CHS students' behavior gets good feedback.

"Clayton kids are great," Kram said. "As a whole they have a good attitude." ☺

## THE ROBERTSON SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Robertson Scholars Program, a joint merit scholarship of Duke University and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, proudly welcomes Clayton High School as a Partner School. Please see your college counselor to find out more about this innovative scholarship.



[www.robertsonscholars.org](http://www.robertsonscholars.org)

# CHS graduate takes different path, attends West Point

BY HYRUM SHUMWAY

Many students from CHS choose to go to solely academic schools, but last year Michelle Alderson opted to go to the renowned United States Military Academy at West Point located 50 miles north of New York City on the Hudson River.

"I decided to go to West Point partially as a career choice," Cadet Michelle Alderson said. "I like the challenge especially because it is physically demanding. I also wanted to serve my country."

Even with only 1250 students per class, West Point has a great deal of diversity.

"There are kids from all over: rural, urban even foreign backgrounds," Alderson said. "There are many religions, many ethnicities many backgrounds. West Point cadets' backgrounds are proportional to the army for instance the Army is only 15 percent women so women only represent 15 percent of the cadet population at West Point."

The academy offers classes similar to those found in typical colleges.

"Some of my academic classes are Chinese, philosophy, American history, calculus, literature and psychology," Alderson said. "Clayton has done a great job preparing me for West Point, especially the math and English departments."

Aside from schoolwork Michelle does military training on weekends and breaks. New cadets go through cadet basic training or beast barracks and after the first year, second year cadets travel to Camp Buckner for further training.

Military training extends to juniors and seniors who work in a variety of places.

"Third and fourth years cadets serve in active Army units across the globe learning airborne, air assault and northern warfare," Alderson said. "Northern warfare is fighting in cold (or) harsh climates. Along with physical instruction like how to use weapon systems is the thorough knowledge of military science essential for upcoming officers."

The knowledge Michelle is gaining now at West Point will help her in her service to the country for five years after West Point.

"Because I am taking Chinese after I graduate the Army may want me in Asia," Alderson said. "Since I am a woman there are a lot of places I can't go to, such as infantry, armor (tank squadrons) or field artillery."

"Most of the military training is done during the summers," Alderson said. "Periodically through the academic year, we have Training Saturdays, where we train for four hours."

The type of training depends on the day.

"The scope of this training varies depending on who's in charge of organizing it," Alderson

said. "We've loaded into Hummers and practiced convoy operations off-post, we've gone through four hours of rotating station work, practicing reflexive fire, reaction to IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices, very commonly used in terrorist warfare), reaction to ambush in a squad. One Saturday, we just played dodge ball for four hours against another company."

There is also a part of the military that no one teaches you, but is learned all the same by example.

"Then there's the military stuff you pick up day to day," Alderson said. "We are in the Army, after all. I learn the most by watching the guys ranked above me. I learn vicariously what to do, such as how to speak to those above me, and how to wear my uniform correctly."

To be at West Point cadets need to be in peak physical condition. One day Alderson and her friends had a "power hour" where they did nothing but push-ups Michelle hit 700 and the guys all did 1200. Michelle is also faster than some of the guys when they are running. The physical test consists of running, sit-ups, pull-ups for men and extended arm hangs for women.

"The physicals standards are less in quantity for women but no less demanding," Alderson said. "We have to do fewer pushups for our bi-annual Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and our run time is slower. But sit-ups are the same for men and women. Physical fitness is very important at West Point. I know it's not fair to judge someone based on looks, but it happens anyway. If you see someone who cares enough about themselves to hit the gym every day, you know they have a work ethic and endurance."

The same rigorous testing is placed upon academics as well.

"You can't help having a little respect for the A students," Alderson said. "If you had to pit a C student with a 350 on his APFT against an A+ student with a 211, the former would definitely win more respect from his peers."

With the little time cadets have with their overfilled schedules many talk with friends, relax or involve themselves in various activities.

"There is no such thing as spare time at West Point," Alderson said. "Cadets eat, sleep, study, work out, and pray. I'm being facetious, of course. But it's true that there's not a whole lot of time for hobbies here. My hobby, if you want to call it that, is "Orienteering." That's a word you don't hear often in Clayton. I basically run around in the woods with a map and a compass looking for control points. I love my team. I run 30 miles a week, so it keeps me in shape. We get to go all over the country to compete."

While many incoming college freshman at other schools spend their time doing homework, watching movies and television, Alderson

was not allowed to enjoy any of these for the first semester which was a part of the older cadets' haze. Hazing occurs all the time.

"All the hazing takes place after Intramurals," Alderson said. "At least three times a week, we have to assemble in a "duty room" where all the laundry to be delivered is. Our job is to deliver all the laundry, but we have to do it in rank-order: the cadet captains get theirs first. When we're en route to the room we're delivering to, the upperclassmen are allowed to halt us and quiz us on plebe (freshman) knowledge. It can be anything from "What did you read in the paper today?" to "What's the range of an M-16 for a point target?" to "Recite Schofield's Definition of Discipline." If we answer everything correctly, they let us continue to our destination (deliver the laundry). If we get it wrong, they haze us and send us back into the "duty room" until we've memorized the knowledge. It used to be really tough when all this stuff was new to us, but now things run pretty smoothly."

There are also other duties and restrictions that apply to all parts of life at West Point.

"My dorm room is a little bigger than normal college rooms, but it is inspected every morning by cadet in charge of quarters," Alderson said. "In my dorm room I am allowed to put one poster on my door, but I really do not have room for it with all my memos all over. On my bookshelf above my desk I am allowed to have six knick-knacks. My knick-knacks are a stuffed animal, a dry erase board, a picture, a hat and on some days a water-bottle or piece of fruit. In addition to room restrictions we are not allowed to talk in room or in classroom not in halls or courtyards. Restrictions apply to dress and meal times."

"There are a lot of restrictions especially with dress," Alderson said. "I can never wear civilian clothes except when I am going home. Also I can get marching hours if I eat with my elbows on the table, but my friends and I say, 'please pass the nutmeg' whenever the colonel walks around us who is normally the one who gives you marching hours for elbows. Often on weekends you can see dozens of cadets marching back and forth in full dress."

Across the Army soldiers realize the importance of West Point.

"West Point is important because it produces the most officers," First Lieutenant Becky Connell Walsh said. "It is the highest officer commissioning location for the army."

While West Point offers free tuition and other benefits it is not for everyone.

"I can't imagine ever going to a school like West Point because I like to live my life independently and not have a huge routine," Michelle's twin sister Natalie Alderson said. "Also I don't really want to join the army. Michelle has always liked structure in her life and the more discipline she has the more productive she feels. Michelle is also very self-motivated."



photo courtesy of Michelle Alderson

While the Army is different from other careers it also is very rewarding.

"It is different to have a Clayton High School graduate go into the military," Michelle's mother Nancy Alderson said. "We have had lots of questions why she did this. We are very proud of her though."

The Army is very competitive though with other civilian jobs.

"The Army is different from other civilian jobs because it is a lifestyle," Walsh said. "I go to work at 5:30 a.m. and end around 6:30 p.m. We work long hours and we wear all the same clothes, but we have medical, dental, housing, and other benefits."

Although it may be hard to get into West Point, and live the Army lifestyle the career does fit many. To get in admissions West Point weights academics at 50 percent, your physical condition 15 percent and your leadership ability 35 percent. Alderson thinks West Point is good at giving you leeway in one area if you make it up in another.

"It was a lot of work to get into West Point," Nancy Alderson said. "Michelle had to write essays by hand to fit them into a small specified space, apply to the college, get nominated by a congressman and turn in medical forms. During the examination they saw that she had allergies so it took a lot of time to revoke it and show that she was totally healthy. She also had her cross country coach send in letters saying she was healthy. But Michelle and I think it is worth it."

Although cadet life is long and challenging Michelle has enjoyed it.

"I love West Point because it is beautiful, I am learning a lot, I am much more fit than I ever was in high school, and if I was ever addicted to music, books or TV. that is all gone because I am not allowed to have it," Michelle said. "I didn't live at home the same way I live now but it has been a relatively easy transition." ☺

**WEST POINT CADET**  
Michelle Alderson paints as a service project assignment. After graduating from CHS last year, Alderson chose to take a different path, opting to attend West Point and join the Army instead of the traditional college path. "I can't imagine ever going to a school like West Point because I like to live my life independently and not have a huge routine," Michelle's twin sister Natalie Alderson said. "Also I don't really want to join the army. Michelle has always liked structure in her life and the more discipline she has the more productive she feels. Michelle is also very self-motivated."

## Typical Daily Schedule at West Point

- 0520: Open of business (earliest you can leave your room)
- 0600: Average time to get up, prepare for day
- 0655: Assembly for breakfast formation
- 0705: Breakfast (family style)
- 0735-1140: Classes
- 1155: Assembly for lunch formation
- 1205: Lunch (family style)
- 1245: Dean's Hour (free period reserved for briefings)
- 1350-1550: Classes
- 1610: Intramurals, Club squad, Corps squad practice, Drill or free period
- 1800-1900: Dinner (usually cafeteria style)
- 1930: Evening Study Period (ESP) (must be either in room or library)
- 2330: TAPS (must be in room with door locked)
- 2400: Lights Out

# CHS students find fitness outlet in competitive skiing

BY GILA HOFFMAN

At the young age of four years old, sophomore Chiara Corbetta had already hit the slopes. With her father as her teacher, she remembers gliding down the bunny hill in between his legs. Similar to most child ski beginners, Corbetta enrolled in ski school to learn some of the basic techniques.

With her miniature skies and child-sized ski jumpsuit, Corbetta fell in love with a sport that would play a part in her life for years to come.

Corbetta's love of skiing is seen in many aspects of the sport.

"It's a very different type of sport from something like soccer or basketball," Corbetta said. "You still get to do it with other people, but it's also just you alone skiing down the slope. It's really challenging sometimes and it's fun to be with the snow. I love the scenery, the mountains and the forest around the slopes and the trees are all so beautiful. I love the fresh smell. I especially love when it's powdered snow or when it's snowing."

In addition to Corbetta's love for skiing, other CHS students share the same passion for the sport. Senior Kit Szybala and sophomore brother Tucker Szybala are regulars on the slopes. Both try to go to a mountain whenever possible, at least four or five times a year.

Tucker, who began skiing at around age seven, learned from lessons he took during a family vacation. Over the years the trips to the slopes become more frequent, both Tucker and Kit continue to improve. The difficult of the runs that they ski has increased dramatically since their first ski.

Both enjoy the excitement and exhilaration received from skiing.

"There is that thrill that you can't get too many other places except when you are going down the mountain," Kit said. "And there's no speed limit, so you can go as fast as you want."

But speed does not mean everything. Having the right technique is key to being a successful skier.

"Ski school has helped a lot with my technique and my dad also taught me to find the right technique," Corbetta said. "I can go on much harder slopes now from when I first started skiing."

The difficulty of ski runs range from green to double black dia-



photo courtesy of Laura Tetri

**SENIOR LAURA TETRI** maneuvers around a flag in the Utah Winter Games over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. Tetri has been skiing since her second birthday and began racing at the beginning of high school. She plans to pursue ski racing as a sport in college.

mond. The green circle indicates that the run is easier compared to other runs at the resort. A blue square is classified as an intermediate slope. Blue ski runs are generally steeper than green runs. A black diamond is one of the most difficult runs at the ski resort and may or may not be groomed.

Until the 1980s, most North American ski resorts limited trail

difficult to green, blue and black diamond. Since the slopes were able to become more difficult from technological improvements in construction, a new type of run was created: the double black diamond. The increased difficulty in this run is because of the increased slope angle and possible obstacles through out the run. Only very experienced skiers and snowboarders should

attempt double black diamond runs.

Corbetta skies a variety of runs, ranging from green to black.

"I like blues the most," Corbetta said. "It still has that challenge to it, but it's not too hard on you."

As skiers are exposed to the mountain longer, their technique improves.

"I used to do the entire little bunny and greens slopes and I was afraid to go fast," sophomore Laura Bliss said. "And now that I'm older I can go on harder runs and I can go fast now."

In addition to the labeled runs on the trail map, more experienced skiers will venture off into the areas where the terrain is more difficult.

"Right now my friends and I ski and different runs in the woods," Tucker said.

Many skiers enjoy the challenge of moguls, but for some the experience is painful.

"When I was little I loved to ski moguls because I would ski on top of them and I would fly in the air,"

Corbetta said. "I have realized how challenging they really are and they hurt your knees, but they are fun. They aren't my favorite, but I can still enjoy them."

With all of the benefits of skiing, there are always some setbacks, such as injury.

"I had a bad fall last year," Corbetta said. "Instead of planting one of my ski poles on the outside of my skis, I planted in on the inside and it hit me in the stomach. I flipped over the pole and my skis came off and I got the wind knocked out of me. The funniest part was that my pole broke in half."

Tucker's injuries include running into a few trees here and there, but the injury never became serious.

Bliss, who began to ski when she was in kindergarten, has also never had any serious falls.

For most skiers at CHS, the most popular ski resorts can be found in Colorado, Utah or other states. Corbetta, for example, has traveled Jackson Hole, Tahoe, Whistler, Vale, Breckenridge and several other mountains in Utah.

Overall, the benefits from skiing are considered positive by most.

"It's a really great activity that everyone should try at some point in their lives," Corbetta said. "Especially if you enjoy the cold and outdoors, it's a really good experience to have." ☺

# Testing the Waters

Twelve states, including Missouri, are following a new trend: many state governments are proposing new anti-abortion bills with the hope that the new, more conservative Supreme Court will reconsider its *Roe vs. Wade* decision.

☛ KATE WATERBURY

**T**he decades-long debate over abortion erupted in a flurry of proposed bills in recent weeks, fueling hundreds of angry protests and renewed disputes over the legality and morality of abortion.

The movement began in South Dakota, where the state legislature approved a bill to ban abortion unless the pregnancy posed a significant threat to the life of the mother.

On March 6, South Dakota Gov. Michael Rounds made history by signing the bill into law, directly challenging the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Along with a handful of other states, Missouri has followed South Dakota's lead. State senator Jason Crowell (R-Cape Girardeau) introduced the bill to the Missouri legislature.

"The proposed bill was designed to protect the sanctity of unborn life," Crowell said. "As soon as a fetus is conceived, it is a living being and deserves the same rights as any other individual, including the right to be born."

## THE REASONING

The bill has been supported by many pro-life organizations. Program Coordinator for the Respect Life Apostolate of the Archdiocese of St. Louis Christina Heddell believes that the bill is simply an extension of laws that ban obvious crimes such as murder.

"Murder is wrong," Heddell said. "It is both morally reprehensible and illegal. The desire to make abortion illegal is fueled by the desire to protect the lives of the children who are being killed."

Heddell and pro-life supporters also argue that an abortion negatively affects a woman. According to Heddell, a law banning abortion serves to protect women in addition to unborn children.

"After 33 years of studying the consequences of abortion, there is solid evidence that abortion is physically and emotionally dangerous for women," Heddell said. "Studies also show that the majority of women who aborted their child said they would not have made this 'choice' if someone had helped them carry the pregnancy to term – if they had known about the agencies that are available to help women choose life for the unborn child."

## THE TREND

Crowell states that the proposal was based on his own beliefs, and was not suggested in response to events in South Dakota.

"I have always been 'pro-life' and have approached my political career with that state of mind," Crowell said. "I have not read and do not know any details of the law passed in South Dakota, but I can say that the bill I proposed was based on my own convictions. I believe that the *Roe v. Wade* decision is inherently wrong and eventually needs to be overturned to support the ideals that our country was based on."

Political director at Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region Alison Gee sees the bill as part of a nationwide push to reevaluate the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision.

"Bills such as this abortion bill have all been introduced to state legislatures all at once," Gee said. "Basically the idea is that once enough states present the bill, it will have to go to the Supreme Court to review *Roe v. Wade*. Conservative state governments hope that the new changes in the make up of the Supreme Court will challenge the *Roe v. Wade* decision."

Gee fears that presenting the new bills to the Supreme Court has the potential to set a very dangerous precedent regarding the nature of women's rights.

"Other cases that have been brought before the Supreme Court regarding abortions have all been overturned," Gee said. "But the new bills only consider the imminent danger of the mother's life as a reasonable cause for an abortion. Without a clause to consider the health and well-being of the mother they could decide that the woman's health is not necessary, which is a very dangerous trend to begin."



## THE ARGUMENT

In the days following the proposal of the bill, citizens of Missouri and South Dakota communicated their strong opposition in the form of protests.

"There has been a ton of response to both the Missouri and South Dakota bills," Gee said. "All of the Planned Parenthood affiliates have received hundreds of phone calls and e-mails in the past few weeks from people who are outraged, especially by the fact that the idea was actually signed into law in South Dakota. Everyone has asked what can be done individually and collaboratively to reverse this trend."

However, the protests were not limited to within the affected states; pro-choice demonstrations have been held across the country.

"There have been dozens of protests around the country," Gee said. "Governments have taken this movement too far; people are saying 'enough's enough.'"

Many protesters have argued that the bill is too religiously based, accusations which Heddell disputes.

"Many pro-life people are motivated by religious beliefs, but that does not make abortion a religious issue," Heddell said. "The determination of when life begins, which is frequently drawn into the debate, can be answered in a medical and scientific way, not just in a 'religious' way."

Heddell stresses that murder and stealing are un-

disputed crimes, despite their status as "sinful" in Christianity.

"The Ten Commandments forbid murder and stealing," Heddell said. "But that doesn't mean that murder and stealing are religious issues. The separation of church and state is completely irrelevant in the abortion debate, which is a matter of human dignity and civil rights, not a matter of religious belief."

In Heddell's opinion, moral beliefs are always included in politics; abortion is no exception.

"Of course it is useful to legislate on moral issues; we do it all the time," Heddell said. "Many laws are created in order to keep people from inflicting their immoral decisions on others. The fundamental rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness should always be protected by law. Our country has already made the decision that murder is immoral; now it is just a matter of extending that basic right to all people, born and unborn."

Pro-choice advocates have been particularly appalled by the bill's lack of support to victims of rape or incest.

"Mississippi has passed a similar bill in their legislature," Gee said. "However, their bill included exceptions for rape, incest and 'medical emergencies' to protect the life of the mother. These additions are an incredible improvement compared to Missouri, yet they still are not enough. In previous cases using the same language, 'medical emergencies' have only been

considered valid when the mother was already virtually dead, which is far too late."

Heddell thinks that these arguments overlook the overall objective of the bill.

"Abortion is the murder of an unborn child; the way that the child was conceived is irrelevant," Heddell said. "Studies show that women who became pregnant due to rape and then forced to have an abortion felt that they had had to endure violence twice – there was even more to grieve; if they are lovingly supported through the pregnancy they feel that at least one good thing came from the experience."

In addition, protestors have accused Crowell and other pro-life advocates of intentionally attempting to confuse the public in other recent decisions surrounding the issue of abortion.

"There are two types of pills that can prevent or abort a pregnancy," Gee said. "One is the abortion pill; this pill is taken after a woman becomes pregnant and actually aborts the pregnancy. The other is called 'Plan B,' and is basically a higher dose of birth control that can be taken to prevent pregnancy in the first place if a condom breaks or if there is some other emergency."

Gee accentuates the idea that there are distinct differences between the two treatments.

"Plan B and the abortion pill are very different drugs," Gee said. "Recently there has been a federal move to qualify Plan B as an over-the-counter drug like Aspirin to make it more available. Crowell and other political leaders have openly opposed the bill. But in doing so, they have purposely tried to blur the lines and confuse the public about the differences between Plan B and the abortion pill. This is absolutely absurd; the public deserves to be correctly informed."

## THE FUTURE

Because the bill has not yet been referred to committee in Missouri, there is still an opportunity for additional clauses to be added. Crowell remains open to suggested changes.

"The current bill does not include any additional clauses to support special cases such as rape or incest," Crowell said. "I am open to discussing and revising the bill to include these clauses once it reaches the committee level. The current bill is only preliminary."

Crowell stresses that Missourians themselves will be the deciding factor in the future of the bill.

"As of now, the proposal has only been made to the legislature," Crowell said. "Once it is discussed there, it will be assigned to a committee where any changes can be made if necessary. Once the bill is passed by committee and voted on in committee, it will be debated in the Senate and House. Assuming it passes all of those steps, the final step requires it to be voted on in November by the people themselves, who determine whether or not it will become law. In the end, the power lies in the hands of the people."

Gee hopes that Gov. Matt Blunt's voiced opposition to the bill will help terminate it.

"Crowell has received a lot of criticism from this bill, even from conservative parties," Gee said. "Gov. Blunt has even stated that he does not think it is time for such a law in Missouri, which is hopeful."

Gee stresses that even additional clauses in the bill will not make it morally acceptable.

"It is outrageous that any state would attempt to ban a safe medical procedure simply because they disagree with it. The truth is that in today's world there are a lot of legitimate reasons that would cause women to make the responsible decision to have an abortion. If a woman cannot support a child, or has a medical obstacle that would endanger her or the child, then she is making the right decision by getting an abortion, and the government is wrong to stop her from doing so."

Overall, Gee feels that the proposed law is heading in the wrong direction.

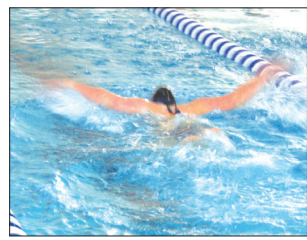
"This senator is the same senator that won't help women get birth control," Gee said. "It is radical, extreme and gives women absolutely no chance. It is dangerous, unfair, unreasonable and unrealistic. If we want to reduce abortions, the only responsible way to go about doing so is by educating women and providing them with other viable options and means of protection, otherwise we are only setting ourselves up for failure." ☛

## Divisive Issue

- 1) Most Americans say that *Roe vs. Wade* should not be overturned but are divided over whether the U.S. Supreme Court's decision went too far in making abortion legal.
- 2) Most Americans say abortion should be legal in most circumstances but would not allow an abortion if it is because a woman cannot afford the child.
- 3) Both abortion rights supporters and opponents agree anti-abortion protesters have the right to hold peaceful demonstrations.
- 4) Majorities say abortion should be legal in most circumstances but would not allow an abortion if it is because a woman cannot afford the child.

\*information from Public Agenda, a nonpartisan opinion research and civic engagement organization since 1975.

# Recreation



## Swimming

Girls' swimming season has started and looks promising

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## Summer Camp

Summer camp allows students to develop independence

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## Aquamarine

A sweet movie for preteens, unsatisfying for adults

23

## Spring brings love, sports

From the Back Field



### JACK McCLELLAN

It's springtime once again. The flowers are blooming (sort of), the sun is shining (some of the time), and, as the cliché goes, love is in the air.

This atmospheric infatuation can be smelled in the leather of a baseball glove and heard in the voices on the soccer field. The bounce of the ball on the tennis court and the bounce of the rubber pellets that fly up from the new Gay Field. It can be seen through the nets of lacrosse sticks and felt in the chlorinated air of the pool.

Spring sports mark the end of the year's athletic calendar and therefore hold a special place for the avid Clayton sports fan. Here are some highlights of the season that nobody should miss:

The first thing that must be said about this upcoming spring season is the new field. A year ago, it looked like the field was little more than the pet idea of Coach Grawler, but now it is a reality. Girls' soccer and both lacrosse teams will make use of the field throughout the season. All of Clayton should try to make it to at least one game at Gay Field this spring, if only to see where all the money is going.

There are also the games against Ladue. As it seems that no dinners will ever settle this rivalry, the games against Ladue this season are sure to be, at the very least, interesting.

The girls' soccer team plays the cross-town kids on April 25, a Tuesday, at 4 p.m. Rumor has it that this game was originally scheduled for a Saturday night (wouldn't that have been exciting?), but we will have to make due with a Tuesday game.

"One of our team goals is to beat Ladue this year," senior soccer player Whitney Bruce said. "We lost to them in overtime last year, and every year it has been a hard game."

If the game this year can match the excitement last year, not even the 4 o'clock start time on a Tuesday is an excuse to miss this one.

The boys' lacrosse team's game against Ladue is definitely a must-see. It has all the ingredients of a sure-fire, rivalry-fueled grudge match: Friday night (7 p.m. on May 12), club sport (just like that "other" sport), and a game under the brand new lights at brand new Gay Field.

"The reason we have it as the last game is that the mistakes we have made in all the games before that, the anger is going to come out under the lights," senior Brandon Favia said. "It's our Independence Day."

The Boys' tennis team has a match versus Ladue on April 11, at 4 p.m. Although it is at Ladue, Clayton has dominated Ladue in tennis over the past few years, and is looking to maintain that success.

"We are looking really good as a team this year," senior Joe Nicolazi said. "The match against Ladue should be really fun. I love beating Ladue."

The girls' swim team should not be overlooked this season. They have a meet with Ladue on March 23, at 4 p.m. While swimming may not be the most exciting of spectator sports, any chance to beat Ladue is, well, a chance to beat Ladue.

"We are excited about swimming against Ladue," senior Alison Byrnes said.

The baseball team is going to have until wait until the Suburban East Conference tournament to play La-who, having no regular season tilt scheduled, which gives the game that much more significance.

"Of course we are thinking about it, Ladue is always on our mind," senior Kit Szybala said. "But we take it one game at a time. When we get there, I am positive that the game will be an awesome match-up."

Of course, Szybala is right in his mind-set. The Ladue games are certainly going to be highlights, but let's not get ahead of ourselves. There are other games to be played, other games to be watched. Let's take this spring sports season one game at a time, one team at a time.

It's spring - remember the flowers, the sunshine, the love, and most of all, the sports. ☺

## Boys' golf tees off

by MIA HARLAN

As the spring season sports began this year, students were excited for another year of boys' golf. Although they have only been through a few weeks of practice the team has a positive view on the season.

"It's going well," junior Kevin Smith said. "We have a good team and so far practice has been great."

Other team members agree this year's team is looking successful despite a few disadvantages.

"It's going pretty well for the most part," senior Sam Miller said. "We lost a lot of our team to graduation last year, but I think we're pulling together again, we might have a good season ahead of us."

Although several strong team members were lost last year, there are promising new players.

"Our advantage is that we had a lot of new members join, so there's potential there," Miller said.

Other students agree.

"We have a lot of young talent," Senior Daniel Limbert said. "They will gain a lot of varsity playing time and get a feel for the game."

Smith has also noticed the newer players.

"We have a lot of depth," Smith said. "The lower players can still perform well and fill in."

In addition to new golfers, there are experienced team members.

"We have a few seniors who have done really well in the past," Miller said. "Then again we also have some promising new guys, so it's going to be an interesting who rises to the top as we get further into the season."

Not only does the team look strong, but they are preparing for state.

"I am going to state," Smith said. "The team will go, too. Although MICDS is pretty good I think we can beat them."

Despite Smith ambitious feelings about the season, some golfers are less sure about state.

"I'd say it's to early to tell if we are going to state," Miller said.

Although not all golfers plan on going to state, they agree that practice is going better than last year.

"Our team last year did not do as well as we are doing this year," Smith said. "Practice is great, the course is great and the kids work hard."

Miller points out that practice is going well because of the coaches.

"We lost coach Hildabrand, but other wise our other coaches are doing great, despite the setback," Miller said.

Smith agrees that the coaches this year are helping the team.

"Coach Gamlin is a great coach," Smith said. "He always motivates us and he works us hard. The other coaches are strong too. Coach Hagar and coach Moody do great things."

As the golf season continues the team plans on being successful because of their hard work teaming members, and motivating coaches.

"I am excited for the rest of the season," Smith said. "We have been working hard and I know we will continue to make progress." ☺



ABOVE: FRESHMAN CAITLIN Rogers prepares to make a catch at Lacrosse practice. The team has to practice at Wydown Middle School because they have low priority for fields as a club sport. Bottom Right: Freshman Amber Fisher practices Lacrosse with enthusiasm. Lacrosse players must wear eye and mouth protection for safety.

## Girls' lacrosse anticipates strong season

With a new coach and promising young players, the girls' varsity lacrosse team hopes to have a successful season this spring.

by SIOBHAN JONES

It takes a very strong group of athletes to pull together and create a winning squad. Take CHS' girls' lacrosse team. Admittedly, they hardly have enough athletes to make two teams. But the girls are hanging tough.

"We have a very small group of girls," senior and former team captain Leigh Mehlman said, "It's going to be rough. But the team is looking good in practice."

The relatively new varsity status was quite a shock, as the team found the opposition to be a lot stronger than they had anticipated. "Last year was the first time we competed on that level," senior Natalie Thomure said, "there was more competition."

But the biggest and most noticeable change from last year is the new coach, Sarah Hartong. "We've gotten a new coach who is really intense," Mehlman said. "[She] knows a lot about the game."

Hartong has been well received by the lacrosse team.

"She is teaching us a lot of new techniques in practice," Fisher said. "We want to make her really proud."

Thomure also thinks that a more serious coach will lead them to a winning season.

"This is the first coach we've had who actually played lacrosse before," Thomure said. "She's very knowledgeable about the game. For example, she's teaching us to work with our left hands, which is an essential part of the game. We have proper drills and plays."

Wilcher adds that Hartong also provides motivation.

"Our new coach really motivates us,"

*We are going to need some help on defense especially. Last year we lost a lot of really good players so we will have to work to make that up.*

senior  
**LEIGH MEHLMAN**

## MSHSAA to consider girls' lacrosse, not ice hockey



THE HOUNDS' HOCKEY team had a successful season despite controversy. Although a popular sport at CHS, it will likely not become a MSHSAA sport in the near future.

by MICHAEL ROOT

The issue concerning sports becoming school-sponsored under Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) extends well outside the halls of CHS and throughout the entire state of Missouri. Many sports such as girls' lacrosse and even bowling are on the bubble to become school sponsored in the near future, while long shots such as ice hockey are still fighting for daylight.

"Girls' lacrosse was on the ballot this year and we voted for it becoming a MSHSAA sport," Athletic Director Rich Grawler said.

Although Clayton has voted in favor of allowing girls' lacrosse to become a school-sponsored sport,

the likelihood of the ballot passing throughout Missouri is slight.

"Big city schools will vote for lacrosse," Grawler said, "but it puts a lot of pressure on small schools to incorporate it in their school."

A sport can apply to be on a ballot by getting administrators to sign a petition. The advisory committee for that sport files a petition or the Missouri board of directors advocates the addition to that year's ballot. Schools then vote for the sport, and in most cases, over 50 percent have to approve in order for the sport to pass on the ballot.

"I have only been approached by girls' lacrosse, but I am open to any other sport," Principal Louise Losos said.

However open CHS is to other

sports, major issues such as costs of insurance and scheduling may make it impossible for sports like hockey to ever become a MSHSAA sport. Currently it costs \$41 per hockey player for insurance through USA Hockey.

"I think it's a shame that hockey hasn't been given a chance to become a school sponsored sport yet, like it has become in Minnesota, Wisconsin and on the east coast," Varsity Hockey Head Coach Sean Ferrell said.

In addition to the costs, the constant fear of the fans looms over the heads of all administrators.

"We are always looking for problems, and big crowds often

CLUB SPORTS, 17

# Bracketology 101

Senior editor talks about who he would place in the NCAA March Madness tournament.

MAX SHAPIRO

My mom calls it just another Sunday, but for me it's more than that. It's the Sunday that lays down the foundation for the next three weeks of my life. It's selection Sunday. The Sunday where the NCAA Committee places 65 Division I basketball teams into a bracket to be played out over the next few weeks. The NCAA officials critique these teams on such things as: RPI (Rating Percentage Index), strength of schedule, conference record, performance in the conference tournament and road victories. The committee uses these criteria to place the deserving teams. Division I basketball has 31 conferences, and the winner of each tourney gets a bid in. The team with the best overall conference record is automatically in the tournament.

With 31 spots taken by conference winners the NCAA committee is put into a tough position to pick the remaining 34 "at-large" choices. The committee answers prayers and crushes dreams on this busy day.

For years, I've made it a habit to sit down and watch the hour long show and evaluate the selections made by the committee. Last year, I thought the committee did a pretty good job with placing the correct teams in the tournament. This year, I can't say the same. The committee did an awful job on assigning at-large bids and seeding.

The most outrageous bid that the committee gave was to George Mason out of the Colonial Athletic Association. I have no idea how this team made the tournament. They lost to Wake Forest, Old Dominion, Creighton, and Mississippi State. All four of these teams did not make the tournament. The team that should replace George Mason is Florida State out of the ACC. Florida State plays in one of the most competitive conferences, in the nation and it was able to finish at 9-7, which is deemed tournament worthy. Unlike George Mason, Florida State beat Wake Forest. They also beat the #1 overall seed in the tournament, Duke. If face, they almost beat Duke twice. I just don't understand why they didn't get placed in the tournament. They had the marquee wins. It was a simple decision that the committee botched.

Another horrible decision made by the committee was to place Air Force into the field of 65. Air Force, like George Mason plays in a small conference. The committee is always keen on doing well in your conference tournament. Air Force did exactly the opposite. They lost first round to a Wyoming team that they had already lost to earlier in the season. Wyoming finished 5-11 in the Mountain West Conference. That's abysmal, and Air Force lost to them twice. Instead of giving Air Force the bid the committee should have given it to Cincinnati.

Cincinnati showed that they could compete with the best. They have wins over tournament teams such as Marquette, West Virginia, and Syracuse. They lost in the first round of their conference tournament to the eventual champions, Syracuse. And they only lost by one point. Ultimately, their resume was better than Air Force's.

The last selection that made me furious was when the committee placed Bradley into the tournament over fellow Missouri Valley Conference foe Missouri State. They also lost to Drake and Indiana State in their conference. Both of those teams finished with sub-500 records. Missouri State, however, finished with a better conference record, didn't have any bad non-conference losses, and beat Bradley the last time they played. The committee really screwed up with this one.

As for the tournament itself, is going to be awesome this year. This is the most parity I've ever seen in college basketball, and it's not out of the question that we see an 8, 9 or even a 10 seed advance to the final four. Anybody can win in these situations.

My favorite to win it all is Connecticut. They have the best player in the nation in Rudy Gay and just have a solid corps of disciplined players. I don't see Duke making it past the sweet 16 as they could fall to George Washington in the second round, or LSU/Syracuse in the round of 16.

My sleeper for the tournament is Arkansas. They are an eight seed in the Oakland region and could possibly face Memphis in the second round. Arkansas played well all year and only had one bad loss to Mississippi. Look for them to do some damage when the ball is thrown in the air. ☺



SENIOR CO-CAPTAINS WHITNEY Bruce and Mary Morris are this month's female athletes of the month. Their dedication and leadership during the girls' basketball season has earned them this award.

## Girls' basketball: Whitney Bruce and Mary Morris

REBEKAH SLODOUNIK

"Never in a million years did I think Mary and I would be athletes of the month," varsity girls' basketball co-captain Whitney Bruce said.

True, Bruce and co-captain Mary Morris are not the star players of this year's girls' basketball team.

Neither Bruce nor Morris hold the lead in points scored, rebounds or assists.

But both Bruce and Morris have contributed something arguably more important than points, rebounds or assists: team spirit, dedication and support.

As co-captains, Bruce and Morris worked hard to promote team unity.

"Whitney and I worked super hard to maintain a level of happiness on the team," Morris said. "We tried to make the players feel good. We didn't want to make it a chore to come to practice; we wanted to make it fun."

Fellow players appreciated Bruce and Morris' leadership throughout the season.

"Whitney and Mary brought leadership to the team," junior and teammate Adira Weixlmann said. "There were times when we had hard losses, and Coach Ford would have them talk to us in order to boost our morale. They kept us on the right track."

One main aspect of the co-captains' leadership was their ability to maintain a positive attitude.

"They were always encouraging us," Weixlmann said. "If someone was missing shots, they would give suggestions on how she could improve, or they would give you compliments when you did well."

Morris and Bruce also made sure every

player felt like a part of the team.

"Mary and Whitney did a good job of including everyone," Weixlmann said. "We had players from all four grade levels, but we never thought about the different grades."

Although Bruce and Morris were not regular starters in the games, both were still an integral part of the team.

"My place wasn't to start when we have such a talented junior class," Bruce said. "My job was to support, not to really contribute skill-wise. Because of that, my leadership is different than the starters' leadership because use their leadership is directly on the court whereas mine is on a team."

Bruce and Morris helped keep the team's main goal in mind during practices and games.

"I think this year we tried to build towards our main goal, to go to districts," Bruce said. "Everything we did we worked for that."

Bruce was particularly goal-oriented, but she kept the team focused on their goals.

# Athletes of the Month



"If you had a frown on your face, Whitney would beat you up," Morris said. "She kept us focused when it was time to get down and work hard. She was the enforcer."

Aside from providing leadership, both Bruce and Morris demonstrated extreme dedication to the sport.

Bruce began to like watching and playing basketball when she was in the second grade.

"I would go to Washington University to watch the girls' basketball games," Bruce said.

Bruce and Morris recognized that basketball was not a single-season sport.

"Basketball was what I worked for every day all year round," Bruce said. "Even if I was playing golf or soccer, I was still working on basketball. Everything I did, I did for basketball."

Because of her commitment, Morris was able to improve her skills.

"I've grown a lot as a player," Morris said. "For example, I've learned to get meaner on the court."

Bruce and Morris have fond memories of this season.

"My favorite events were beating Ladue twice, winning the Clayton tournament, getting second in districts and the team activities," Bruce said. "For our team activities, we had sleepovers, movie nights

and dinners. Once we even went to Mizzou and watched a game against Kansas. We also attended camps over the summer and worked the concession stand for the boys' basketball games."

The team had such a successful season due in part to their closeness as a team.

"I love my girls," Morris said. "We are such a family, and for basketball, you have to love each other. It's the longest season and it can be depressing if you're not happy with your teammates."

Bruce echoes Morris' sentiments about her teammates.

"The team is really like an extra family," Bruce said. "I treat those girls like my sisters. They all mean so much to me. We had so many traditions together that is was hard to come back to my regular friends once the season was over."

Being the only two seniors on the team was not hard for either Bruce or Morris.

"Mary is amazing and so much fun to be around," Bruce said. "I wouldn't have liked it any other way."

Next year, Bruce and Morris' former leadership on the team will not be forgotten.

"They were a lot of fun to have around because they were always so positive," Weixlmann said. "They will definitely be missed."

Morris and Bruce's leadership and dedication helped the team have a successful season.

"Everything we worked towards for four seasons finally came together into a successful season where we got the recognition we deserved," Morris said. "Nothing could compare to this year." ☺

*My leadership is different than the starters' leadership because their leadership is directly on the court whereas mine is on a team.*

senior co-captain  
**WHITNEY BRUCE**

## Boys' basketball: Dan Stamborski

KATHERINE SHER

The varsity boy's basketball team didn't have the best season in recent history.

They didn't break any school records.

They didn't finish with a winning season (13-16).

However, one thing they were able to do was win Districts, and they did show potential for next season. Some of that potential came in the form of Dan Stamborski, who stepped up down the stretch, and helped lead the basketball Hounds to their late season success.

Stamborski began playing when he was young.

"I've been playing since first grade," Stamborski said. "I played for my dad and for the Hoopsters with all of my friends for fun."

Stamborski's practice with the game has paid off. He was third in scoring on the Greyhounds, scoring 294 points in 27 games.

His offensive ability is impeccable. Stamborski averaged 10.9 points per game. Stamborski also came down with third highest amount of rebounds, 121. 47 of those rebounds came while on the offensive side of the ball. He also had 26 assists for the season.

His defense shouldn't be overlooked either. 74 of Stamborski's rebounds came from the defensive side of the ball. Stamborski is also credited with 30 steals.

However, he is never one to take all of the credit.

His favorite memory of the season was reached as a team, not individually.

"The last seven games we got on a winning streak that kept us rolling through Districts and into the Sectional round," Stamborski said.

However, Stamborski's role in this stretch cannot be ignored. During these seven games, Stamborski scored 115 points, scoring 20 points or more in three of the games.

He lead the Hounds in scoring during five of the seven games, including four of five playoff games. He scored a season high 26 points on the Feb. 10 game in a one-point loss to Jennings.

Even Stamborski's goals at the beginning of the season were team oriented.

"We wanted to get as far as we could," Stamborski said. "We hoped to go to the Final Four in Columbia. But we won Districts, which gives us confidence for next year because we know how far we can go."

Despite the last second loss to Jennings in the first round of Sectionals, which ended the Greyhound's season, Stamborski has hope for the future.

"We're going to be good next year," Stamborski said. "We have really good juniors coming back next year. We will be high scoring because we aren't losing most of our big scores. We're gonna be good." ☺



JUNIOR DAN STAMBORSKI has high hopes for next year's basketball team. "We're going to be good next season," Stamborski said. His performance through the final games of this season has earned him the title of male athlete of the month.

THE  
POINT  
105.7 FM

ST. LOUIS' NEW ROCK ALTERNATIVE



## Girls' lacrosse promises entertainment

LACROSSE, 15

a variety of girls."

The girls think that the team looks strong early in the season.

"So far practice has been fun," sophomore Elicia Wartman said. "We have done a lot of drills. After the first week of practice we were all very sore."

Younger players have made an impression too.

"The freshman are all pretty good," Wilcher said. "So that will help. Even though it's such a small group of girls. We will have to work around that."

The freshmen are also excited for the season. Many anticipate a great year ahead.

"This year I just want to get some experience," freshman Khira Gabliani said. "Practice has been brutal so far, which means we will be in good shape by the time the first game rolls around."

The girls on the team will enjoy certain privileges that were not available last year.

"In the '05 season, we all had to drive ourselves to games," Fisher said. "But now we have a bus, which is so much more convenient."

Because the girl's lacrosse team is a club sport, there are certain benefits that they do not receive because they don't have the status of a school-sponsored team.

"It requires a huge effort from our parents," Wartman said.

Many players said that the expenses were a huge part of the season.

"We all have to pay dues which are very expensive," Thomure said. "I think there are some athletes who could come out and really help the team but can't because they can't afford it, which is really

unfortunate. Finance is the biggest difference."

The girls agree that the high price of the game is what sets lacrosse apart from other sports.

"We have to pay for everything," Fisher said. "It's so much more expensive than other sports."

But lacrosse also misses out on other advantages that school-sponsored sports receive.

"We are the last priority to get the fields," Thomure said. "We have to practice at Wydown and that field is just horrible."

Although the lacrosse team is perhaps not supported by the school as much as it should be, the girls have a very big fan base.

"Because it's such a fun sport to watch, we get a lot of support from fans," Thomure said. "And all the athletes get the word out by making posters and signs."

The biggest objective for the girls is to become a very close team.

"The team is very into teamwork," Gabliani said. "We are working great together."

Fisher agrees. "I think the team is going to bond together really well," Fisher said. "I want to make a lot of friendships in lacrosse."

The athletes anticipate a great season. They have also aim to accomplish personal goals.

"This is going to be my last sport I play for a school," Fisher said. "I want to win a lot of games, of course, but I also want to go out my senior year knowing I played my hardest. I want to have my last season be my best season."

The girls now look forward to the season with more than a little ambition in mind. Although many athletes seem pretty pleased so far, they know their limitations and what needs to be worked on.

"We are going to need some help on defense especially," Mehlman said. "Last year we lost a lot of really good players so we will have to work to make that up. And this year's schedule looks pretty tough."

The girls have already targeted certain very strong teams that they played last year as challenges in the season.

"MICDS was very good last year, and one of the Parkway schools was quite strong too," Fisher said.

The game against Parkway West is going to be a very important and big game.

"Last year we played them and they just dominated the game," Thomure said. "If we play them this year, we will have to come out and show that we have improved a lot."

So what does the new lacrosse team hope to get out of this season?

"It's important to remember why we are playing," Fisher said. "Since it's a club sport, it isn't supported [by the school] the same way other sports are. We're there because we want to be."

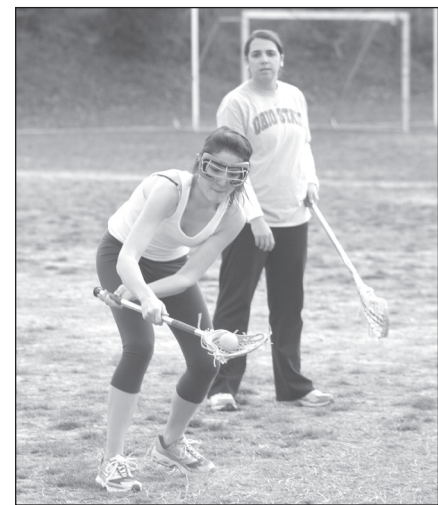
Thomure agrees. "We pride ourselves on being able to have a lot of fun," Thomure said. "And I think this year, the team will show drastic improvement."

Many of the girls anticipate a year of fun.

"Of course we want to win," Wilcher said. "But we also want to have fun. I think the team is made up of very compatible athletes; I think we will all get along."

Having fun while playing is an important part of the sport for all.

"It's not only about the experience," Gabliani said, "I also joined lacrosse to have a good time." ☺



FAR LEFT: FRESHMAN Rebecca Singer practices as girls' lacrosse coach Sarah Hartong watches from behind. Left: Hartong demonstrates stick work as senior Stephanie Cooper observes and takes note so her game will improve in the future.

## MSHSAA considers club sports for state sponsorship

CLUB SPORTS, 15

equal big problems," Grawer said.

At a school-sanctioned sporting event, the school is required to have an administrator on duty wherever a crowd is present.

At CHS, no sport is refused some degree of acknowledgment; however, the means of acknowledging vary from sport to sport.

"Clubs can send in announcements and they will be read," Grawer said. "We only give school sports basic announcements without other information."

Outside of announcements, CHS is ahead of other schools in the relationship with its teams.

"We are more integrated here than in other schools, especially with our newspaper and broadcasting class," Losos said.

Besides the cost and control issues, it is ultimately the individual sport's decision on whether they would actually benefit from becoming a school-sponsored sport. Surprisingly, the answer may not always be yes.

"We would exert more control if a sport became a MSHSAA sport," Grawer said. "It wouldn't be to the advantage of all sports."

However, control issues may not be strong enough to outweigh the possible benefits of working with an organization like MSHSAA.

"It would be extremely beneficial for hockey to work with MSHSAA," Ferrell said.

"We would finally have a tremendous support system that other sports currently have."

If a current club sport such as ice hockey and lacrosse became a MSHSAA-sponsored sport, CHS would not allow them the travel very far for tournaments or other games. CHS would also control the timings of games, coaching, discipline and various other topics that could possibly cause controversy between the school and the teams.

"It would be a disadvantage for the lacrosse team because we would not be able to travel to Chicago like we did last year," sopho-

more lacrosse player David Sherby said.

Concerning hockey, there would be no problems with the school or MSHSAA controlling coaching and travel, since there is already extensive control under Mid-States Hockey. For a hockey team to travel they must apply and receive travel permits from Mid-States before the trip.

Currently, there are already major restrictions for coaches of a high school hockey team. For someone to become a hockey coach, Mid-States requires a level three certification by USA Hockey.

Every member of a coaching staff must also have a legal background check with USA Hockey and Mid-States before becoming a coach.

"It would be fine to have more coaching restrictions that would force coaches to train better," Ferrell said, "It would increase their skills and make them more effective with their players."

Although becoming a MSHSAA sport might restrict some of a team's functions, there may be a happy medium.

"I would like to see a transition and maybe a merger between Mid-States hockey and MSHSAA, such that there is no financial burden on the school, but the students gain the sense of recognition that is missing right now," Ferrell said.

For players who play a club sport, like junior hockey player Richard Kopitsky, having their sport become a MSHSAA-sponsored sport may not be totally necessary.

"I can tell the difference between how school and club sports are treated," Kopitsky said, "All I want is for teams like hockey to be recognized and gain a little respect for our hard work."

Unfortunately, the future looks dim for sports like hockey considering that it has been a club sport for the past 35 years, but for other sports the decision to become a school-sponsored sport is still a possibility, but whether or not it will be beneficial remains debatable. ☺



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TOP: FRESHMAN PAIGE Meneses practices diving in the Center of Clayton competition pool. Below: Members of the girls' swimming team race freestyle at practice.

## Competition Schedule

March 14: Rockwood Summit  
 March 17: Parkway North  
 March 23: Ladue (A)  
 April 4: Rosati Kain

April 11: Parkway Central  
 April 13: St. Joe  
 April 17: Pattonville  
 April 18: Webster (A)  
 April 21: Hazelwood East (A)  
 April 25: Eureka

April 27: Affton (A)  
 April 28: Hazelwood West (A)  
 May 2: University City  
 May 4: Parkway West (A)  
 May 8: Oakville (A)

# Building Dreams

Girls' swimming works to form season goals for its young, high-potential team.

**UGOCHI ONYEMA**

Along with the change in weather comes the change in sports seasons. One sport to look out for is girls' swimming. Coach David Kohmetscher is back after a brief hiatus, and he is anticipating a great season.

"The team has a lot of potential," Kohmetscher said. "We have some great swimmers and divers, but there were also some good swimmers who chose not to swim this year. We [also] have a good spread of young swimmers and older swimmers."

Freshman Caitlin Bladt agrees with Kohmetscher. "This team is so strong," Bladt said. "I don't know how we are going to match up against other teams, but we have some very strong swimmers on the team."

Junior Laura Goldsticker agrees that the team is strong.

"I think that with the addition of new freshmen we'll be a really strong team and we'll do well at meets," Goldsticker said. "Even with a new coach I think we can still do well."

Although some feel the team has potential, senior Paige Romer has her doubts.

"I think that we have a lot of freshmen, and it will be interesting to see how they compete under pressure," Romer said. "I'm not sure how we'll be this year because we lost a lot of really good swimmers."

Kohmetscher believes that his absence for the past two years will make this season's success difficult to predict.

"Usually when you coach every year you know the competition, but with me being gone for a couple of years, I am kind of blind-sighted," Kohmetscher said.

The team will not be competing as a group, but many will be competing in individual events.

"I compete individually," Romer said. "I swim middle to long distance freestyle."

Romer has been swimming for CHS since she was a freshman and started swimming for Clayton Shaw Park Swim Club, a private team, two years ago. She plans to continue swimming.

"I hope to swim in college," Romer said. "I've been look-

ing at colleges that I can swim at. I hope to coach when I'm older."

Goldsticker has been part of the CHS swim team every year of her high school career.

"I swam the past two years and enjoyed the atmosphere and made good friends," Goldsticker said. "Plus, it's a great workout."

In Goldsticker's mind, the camaraderie that comes with swimming is one of the best parts of the experience.

"I love that we are a team and everyone is really close and we root for each other and cheer during meets and no one feels left out even though it's an individual sport," Goldsticker said.

Goldsticker anticipates improving in her individual events.

"I'm looking forward to getting better and improving my times in breaststroke and in other events that I haven't been strong in before," Goldsticker said.

Kohmetscher does not anticipate very many things when it comes to the team, but just takes it one day at a time.

"Performance-wise, I expect every student to improve," Kohmetscher said. "I don't have a lot of preconceptions as to where we will be in the league."

Some of the team's younger members do have a few expectations of their own.

"I am looking forward to improving [my technique]," Bladt said.

Sophomore Lisa Ast anticipates improving her time on the butterfly stroke.

Freshman Jessica Morse, who joined because she has always enjoyed swimming, is excited about being part of a varsity-level high school sport.

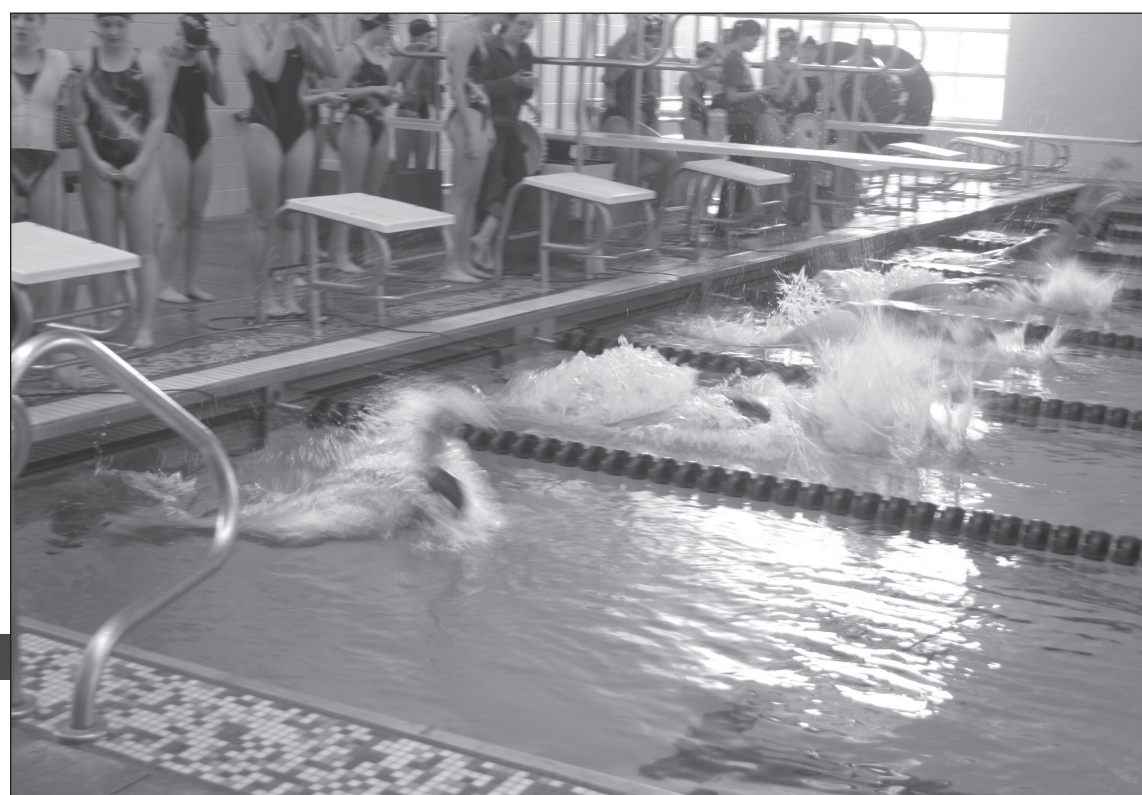
"I'm looking forward to getting [varsity] letters and going to the championship," Morse said.

Kohmetscher is very laid back when it comes to competition.

"If the kids drop well we could get a relay for state," Kohmetscher said. "But whatever our record becomes, we'll be happy with it." ☺

*The team has a lot of potential. We have some great swimmers and divers, but there were also some good swimmers who chose not to swim this year.*

coach  
**DAVID KOHMETSCHER**



photos by Laura Terri

# Camps encourage independence, new friendships

☛ **KATIE WEISS**

- You know you're a die hard camp person if:
- Being at home makes you homesick.
- Dressing up involves slightly cleaner clothes.
- Most of your stories start with, "and then there was this one time at camp..."
- You value the friendship bracelet you got at a carnival last summer more than any other piece of jewelry.
- You were disappointed to find out you can't major in camp.
- Your primary method of diplomatic resolution is rock, paper, and scissors.
- You go to school just to fill up time between the summers.
- Your "real world" friends have ever limited you to only five camp stories a day.

For camp people, the preceding statements embody everything that makes their life different from everyone else's. Going to camp is no longer just a thing to do during the summer; it is a lifestyle. So what is it about camps that entrance so many kids every year?

"I can talk about stuff with camp friends that I can't talk about with home friends, like the meaning of life and what's outside the galaxy,"

what you wear or what you say."

But while Wartman feels she is more herself at camp, sophomore Lisa Ast, a Camp Stone camper, feels the exact opposite.

"I think I'm different at camp because I'm in a different place," Ast said. "I'm around my camp friends a lot less than my home friends during the year so I act differently around them and I'm not as close."

Leyton expresses the opposite sentiment. "I've grown up with all my camp friends," Leyton said. "I've known them all forever."

But having friends who live across the country is about as easy as it sounds.

"I have friends who live all along the East Coast," Wartman said. "I try to keep in touch by calling and visiting and instant messaging, but it is hard because I don't always know what's going on in their lives."

Leyton agrees that the downside of camp friends is their location.

"My friendships are great with my camp friends because we always have so much fun," Leyton said. "But at the same time it sucks because they all live so far away and I only get to see them three or four times a year."

For Wartman camp is not just about friends but Suth atmosphere and the activities.

"I love the atmosphere of camp. There is such a sense of tradition at my camp which I love," Wartman said. "Every year you get a new special privilege. It gives you something to look forward to."

Ast also finds the activities at her camp to be exciting.

"There are so many different things to do each year," Ast said. "Last year we went on a four-day canoe trip, which is something that we were not able to do when we were younger. So each year the activities



photo courtesy of Emma Leyton

sophomore Elicia Wartman, a Kweebec camper, said. "And when I talk about that stuff, people don't think I'm weird."

Senior Emma Leyton, who not only grew up at Camp Thunderbird, but is now a counselor at the camp, feels the same way as Wartman.

"The best part of camp for me is the people," Leyton said. "My friends aren't just friends at camp, they're sisters."

Freshman Diane Martin, a Thunderbird Camper, agrees that living with people creates a special bond.

"I think everyone who goes to camp feels like they are closer with their camp friends than their school friends," Martin said. "Living with the same girls for eight weeks in a row makes you become really close with them. I don't know any other girls I could live with for eight weeks straight and not get on each other's nerves."

Wartman also agrees with the idea that camp friends are more like family than friends.

"You live with your camp friends, and you get to know them on a whole other level that you don't usually get to know your home friends on," Wartman said. "At camp I'm able to be myself because at camp no one cares about

change for us."

Martin agrees that part of the reason she goes is because of the different activities that her camp offers.

"I go to camp because of all the big trips I get to go on," Martin said. "Like this summer, I get to go backpacking in Canada."

But camp is not all sunshine and happiness even for campers who have been going almost half their lives.

"It is hard to go to camp all year round because the summer is when everything goes on at home," Wartman said. "It is hard to come back home after camp because everything and everyone has changed so much."

Leyton agrees that being away all summer is not always an ideal situation.

"You miss out on a lot of stuff when you go

to camp for eight weeks," Leyton said. "A bunch of my friends get mad that I leave for so long. But I also have friends who have been there and understand my need to go to camp."

Ast says that the hardest thing for her is not the time spent away at camp but the time spent at home after camp.

"When I first get home from camp, I don't want to do anything," Ast said. "It takes me a while to get out of camp mode."

But while being away from home may be hard, that does not diminish the desire to go back to camp each year.

"I miss a lot with my school friends and family when I go away all summer," Martin said. "But I never regret going."

Wartman, who only has one year left as a camper, has already made plans to return back to camp as a counselor.

"I want to give back to camp and I want to help give campers the same experience my counselors gave

*I think everyone who goes to camp feels like they are closer with their camp friends than their school friends...I don't know any other girls I could live with for eight weeks straight and not get on each other's nerves.*

freshman  
**DIANE MARTIN**

me," Wartman said.



photos courtesy of Diane Martin

TOP AND ABOVE: Freshman Diane Martin poses with her friends at Camp Thunderbird. Martin goes to camp because of the different activities Camp Thunderbird offers. This summer, Martin will go backpacking in Canada. Left: Senior Emma Leyton and her camp friends at Camp Thunderbird. Leyton is now a counselor at the camp.

# Sophomore drivers accept responsibilities along with licenses

☛ **DAKIN SLOSS**

Everyday the CHS parking lot gets fuller as more sophomores turn 16, get their licenses and acquire cars.

By April of each year, most sophomores have reached the age at which they can drive and in Clayton many receive cars as birthday presents.

"My parents surprised me by picking me up in the brand new car," sophomore Jackie Wilcher said. "I was at my friend's house Feb. 17, three days before my birthday and they arrived in a Jeep Liberty."

Sophomore Megan Berkery also received a car before her birthday. She went with her father to the dealership and they bought it together even though her birthday is April 5. Her dad bought her a Jeep Liberty just like Wilcher.

"I cannot drive it alone yet, but it is cool to look at it," Berkery said. "I do let some of my friends drive it."

Even though some students receive new cars, others get used ones.

"I went to a used car dealership with my parents last November and I bought a Geo Prism with my own money," sophomore Michael

Hycr said. "It was like three months after my birthday, which was July 25."

Another sophomore also received a used car.

Steven Schilmeister got his sister's old car, a Saturn SC1.

No matter what car they have, or how they got it, all sophomores agreed that having a car is awesome.

"Now that I have my own car and a license I have a lot more independence," Schilmeister said. "The ability to transport myself wherever whenever gives me freedom I never had before."

Not all sophomores get to enjoy the benefits of having a car. Among 60 polled sophomores, 24 do not have cars.

"My parents require that I pay for my own car," sophomore Mark Heil said. "I do not have sufficient income or savings to purchase a car right now."

He agrees that having a car



Caitlin Ly

SOPHOMORE EMILY ANDERSON prepares to drive home from school. The CHS student parking lot has become increasingly filled as more sophomores receive their driving licenses.

would be terrific.

"It really stinks to not have a car," Heil said. "I need to get rides from other people, I have no freedom and I feel tied down. When I want to drive somewhere I have to borrow my parents' car."

Heil is not alone. Sophomore

Erik Jones does not have a car either. He also cannot afford to buy himself a car and his parents refuse to purchase one for him.

"Not only do I not have a car, I do not even have a license," Jones said. "My parents want to save up enough money to pay insurance for

a year before I get a license."

Sophomores with licenses really appreciate the privilege while those without are often upset about it.

Approximately 65 percent of sophomores already have licenses.

"It is really convenient because whenever I have to go anywhere I can take myself there," Wilcher said.

Jones is resentful of students that do not have to pay for their cars or insurance.

Around 75 percent of sophomores do not have to cover these costs.

"I am jealous of people whose parents give them cars and money for insurance,"

Jones said. "My birthday is Jan. 16 and there are lots of kids getting cars before me. There are a lot of negatives, but it isn't 100 percent bad. Unlike them I do not have to spend money on gas and I can't be responsible for a car crash."

Wilcher, Schilmeister, Hycr and

Berkery all pay for gas.

A little more than 50 percent of the sophomores already pay for gas or will have to.

They do think that the price is worth the incredible positives. Heil and Jones look forward to having the same opportunities.

"I will have a car when I can pay for it," Heil said. "I cannot wait."

Jones feels the same way about getting a license and car.

"I will hopefully get my license by the end of the summer," Jones said. "Then I will have a car by senior year if I continue working. Finally I will be able to do things on my own schedule and I won't always have to get rides to do things."

All the students think that driving is great, but with the privilege comes responsibilities.

Hycr picks up his younger sister everyday after school.

"I do seat belt checks, run errands and sometimes take my nephew to school," Wilcher said. "I also have to be sure to drive safely no matter how much of a rush I am in."

More than half of the sophomores are now finding out what it is like to have a car and their attached freedoms and responsibilities. ☺

# Cultural dancing combines connection with heritage, friends

by NAVA KANTOR

Cultures around the world have their own unique stories, clothing, foods and languages, most of which are incredibly foreign and strange to the other peoples of the world. But dance is a language we can all understand, a method of communication more direct than any written or spoken word. Students right here at CHS are learning to connect with their diverse heritages through cultural dance.

Sophomore Annie Rogers is involved with Irish dancing. She is fifty percent Irish, from her mother's side.

"I've been dancing for nine years," Rogers said. "My first grade teacher's kids were both world champions in Irish dance, and one is currently in Riverdance. My mom started talking to my teacher, and that's how I got started."

Irish dance is unique in its style; the main aesthetic is straight and perfect movement.

"In Irish dance, you don't move your arms too much," Rogers said. "They mostly stay down at your sides. We use two types of shoes for footwork; soft shoe is more like ballet and hard shoe is more like tap."

For competitions, Rodgers dresses in elaborate costume.

"We have both solo and team

competitions," Rogers said. Our costumes are kind of crazy. We have to have curly hair, so most people buy wigs. Our dresses are incredibly weird; mine is made of sequins. The dresses can cost over one thousand dollars."

But that's not the extent of the costumes Rogers wears in her Irish dance competitions.

"We wear socks that come up to mid-calf," Rogers said. "We even have special sock glue that we use to make sure our socks don't fall down. We also wear bloomers for when we lift our legs, and tiaras so you can't tell that we're wearing wigs."

But competitions go beyond the dancers' elaborate costumes; they work tirelessly to prepare for their performances.

"For competitions, we go one or two at a time," Rogers said. "We usually do one hard shoe dance and one soft shoe dance. There are three judges, and they evaluate how straight our legs are, how loud the beats are [in hard shoe], if we keep our toes pointed, if we're turned out, and proper dance technique in general. We have to make it look effortless."

The stress of competitions is also apparent in the dancers' health; dancing can be physically taxing and injuries are common.

"It's a huge time commitment

and it can hurt your body," Rogers said. "My feet and ankles are really weak, and I have to tape them. I also got a special ankle brace from my doctor. We're always getting blisters on our heels and toes; our feet are basically crunched into our shoes."

Rogers will soon begin to supplement her Irish dancing with other styles.

"I'm starting to take ballet and modern dance to help my Irish dance," Rogers said. "It will help strengthen my legs and improve my flexibility."

Although physical safety can be a concern, Rogers loves Irish dancing and the people she has encountered through it.

"I've made a lot of friends through dance," Rogers said. "They live all over the place. It's nice to have friends out of school as well as in school. We've become really close. We spend so much time together, and we all help each other to prepare for shows."

But friends aren't the only benefit Rogers sees in her involvement in Irish dance; it has helped her improve stage presence and poise, as well as given her an outlet for energy.

"Dance gives me the confidence to be in front of people," Rogers said. "It's also really good exercise and it improves my stamina."

Sophomore Sara Rangwala, whose heritage is Indian and Pakistani, started learning classical Indian dance when she was seven.

"I started taking lessons because I watch a lot of Indian movies, and I wanted to be able to dance like the people in the movies," Rangwala said.

Eventually, though, Rangwala realized that particular dream wouldn't be realized anytime soon.

"I quit learning

at them," junior Stacey Lawrence said. "It goes much deeper. People can be pretty good at putting on a face for friends and family. They could also just be in a really bad mood. You really can't see the chemical imbalance in their brain."

When depression isn't treated, it can get worse, last longer, prevent teens from getting the most out of their life and lead to more dangerous feelings.

"The biggest problem is suicide," Todd said. "For adolescents this is the third leading cause of death (unintentional injuries and homicide are first and second, respectively). Depression can also increase your risk for infections by decreasing immune system function and in severe cases can result in malnutrition. Depressed teens are also at much greater risk for developing problems with nicotine, alcohol and street drugs."

Fortunately, most people with depression can be helped with treatment. But a majority of depressed people never get the help they need.

"Depression is treatable and suicide can be prevented," Todd said. "Even without treatment most depressive episodes resolve in a year. Treatment will decrease the intensity of the episode, reduce the time of the episode and keep the teen alive. Most teens who commit suicide have told a friend that they are

hopeless or don't want to love or are going to kill themselves."

"I would probably go to a counselor for help or call a hotline, but I don't think I would have any idea where to go if I was depressed," sophomore Jack Butler said.



courtesy of Annie Rogers

ABOVE: SOPHOMORE ANNIE Rogers with her Irish dance troupe. Despite the physical difficulty of the dances, she enjoys the costumes, confidence and friends she makes while doing it. Several other CHS students count traditional cultural dancing as one of their favorite hobbies. Left: sophomores Sara Rangwala and Farzana Saleem perform a traditional Indian dance, celebrating the Hindu gods. Rangwala says the colorful costumes are her favorite part of Indian dance, which is a fun activity she can participate in with her friends.

classical dance last October," Rangwala said. "Now, I mostly just get together with my friend Farzana. We choreograph and dance to modern Indian music, which is more contemporary and westernized."

Indian dance has evolved over the years, and Rangwala enjoys the modern aspects of it.

"Parts of different cultural dance styles from all over India are now starting to come together," Rangwala said. "It's becoming much looser and less structured than the traditional style."

Rangwala has a slightly different relationship with the people she has met through dance than Rogers.

"The girls in my class were always older than me and much more accomplished in Indian dance than I was, so we were never that close," Rangwala said. "But dancing did help me meet other Indian people from around St. Louis."

Though she is half Indian, classical Indian dance is not completely part of Rangwala's heritage.

"The dances are stories about the Hindu gods, but I'm a Muslim, so that's not really my culture," Rangwala said.

As a person not very interested in sports, Indian dance is good exercise for Rangwala.

Learning classical Indian dance helped her to become disciplined and coordinated enough to do modern dance. Her favorite thing about Indian dance is definitely the costumes.

"My favorite thing about dance is

dressing up in cool Indian clothes that I wouldn't normally get to wear," Rangwala said.

But Rangwala denies that she possesses any extraordinary dancing talent; she is a self-described "crazy, uncoordinated duck."

Sophomore Sumi Garg has been studying classical Indian dance for eight years.

"I do a south Indian dance called bharatnatyam," Garg said. "My family is from Northern India,

but it still connects me to my heritage. My parents basically forced me into it, and at first I hated it. Now I love it, and it's one of my favorite things to do."

In Garg's opinion, the most unique part of Indian dance is the emphasis on the hands and face.

"There are several parts of Indian dance," Garg said. "There is the body movement and pure dancing part, and then there are the hand gestures and facial expressions. You tell the story of the music with your hands and face. That's how you bring out the emotion of the poem in the song."

Garg also enjoys the costumes she wears when performing Indian dance.

"Our traditional costume is pants and a top," Garg said. "The pants have a piece of cloth between them like a fan, so when you bend down it spreads out. This is one of the first types of dance in India, and it is traditional to have long hair, so I wear a fake braid that goes down to my waist. We wear tons of jew-

elry and gold chains, and we wear orange and white flowers. We also wear little bells so that the audience can hear our footwork."

Garg takes ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop in addition to her Indian dance lessons. These make her more flexible than her peers who don't do additional types of dance, but occasionally they affect her Indian technique.

"Sometimes my positions are a little too much like ballet," Garg said. "Indian dance is very different than ballet and jazz because you're not just dancing. In these songs, the lyrics tell a religious story and you have to act it out and give it emotion."

According to Garg, anyone can participate in Indian dance.

"I know some Americans that do it," Garg said. "It's pretty easy to pick up. You just need to be open-minded, because a lot of religion is worked into it. The original purpose of the dance was telling stories of the Hindu gods."

Garg's schedule is filled to bursting with all of her dance classes, which can make it difficult to have adequate time for schoolwork.

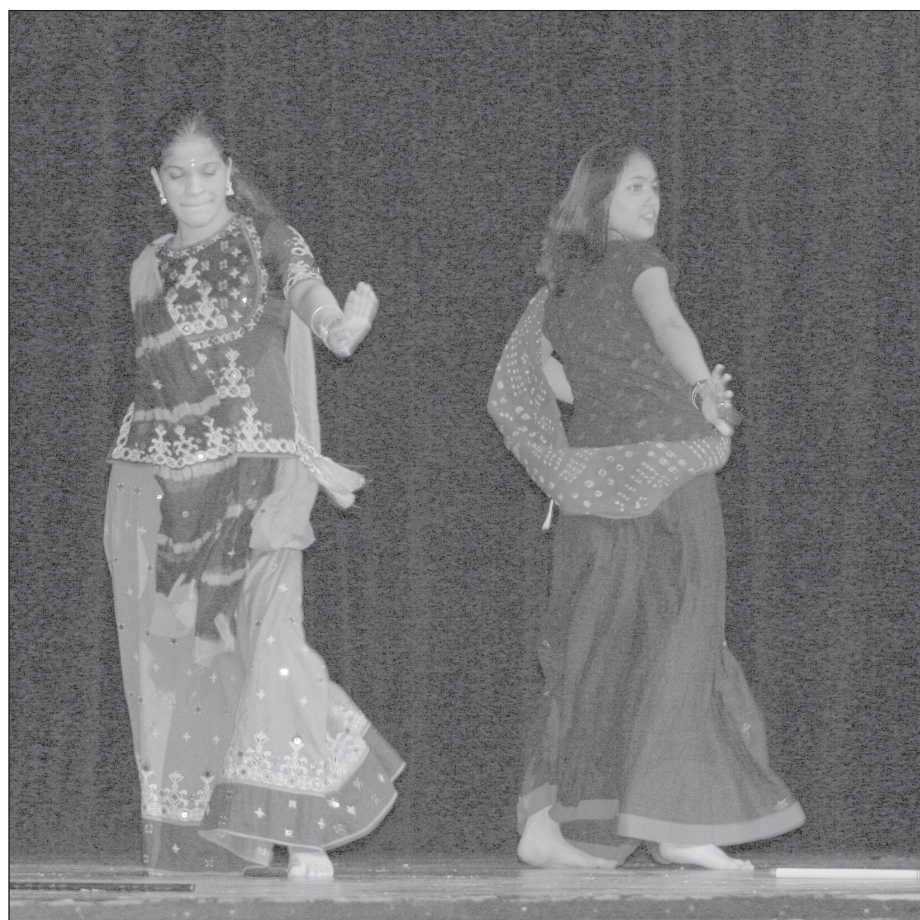
"On Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays I have only an hour to eat and do homework," Garg said. "I get home at nine-thirty or ten o'clock. I have to sleep at some point."

Garg is new to CHS this year, and her busy calendar has made the transition to Clayton more complicated.

"Being new this year, I wanted to get involved at school," Garg said. "It was hard because I take so many dance classes."

But in the end, Garg believes the benefits outweigh the negative aspects of dancing so much.

"I love how alive it makes me feel," Garg said. "I know that sounds corny, but it's true. It energizes me and boosts my confidence. Dancing makes me happy." ☺



globe staff

# Teen depression dangerous problem, silent killer

by RACHEL HARRIS

They're young, they're vibrant -- and they're deeply troubled. Today's teens may appear strong as they strut from class to class, but in reality, the rate of anxiety disorders and depression are soaring within this age group in recent years.

Dr. Richard D. Todd is a professor of pediatrics and professor of genetics and is Chief of Pediatric Psychiatry at Washington University.

Todd does a combination of clinical child and adolescent psychiatry and research where he encounters depressed teenagers on a regular basis.

"The key [symptom] is a change from usual behavior," Todd said. "Teens may not recognize they are depressed per se but may feel people are treating them badly. Frequently the earliest signs are irritability, low energy, social withdrawal, changes in personal hygiene and dropping grades."

Depression is a silent disease. Teens often suffer in silence because they think their feelings aren't normal or are embarrassing. Due to its unspoken nature, the disease as well as those who fall victim to it do not receive as much recognition and help as they would if their disease were an external one.

"I don't think you can tell if someone is depressed just by look-

ing at them," junior Stacey Lawrence said. "It goes much deeper. People can be pretty good at putting on a face for friends and family. They could also just be in a really bad mood. You really can't see the chemical imbalance in their brain."

When depression isn't treated, it can get worse, last longer, prevent teens from getting the most out of their life and lead to more dangerous feelings.

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hopeless or don't want to love or are going to kill themselves."

"I would probably go to a counselor for help or call a hotline, but I don't think I would have any idea where to go if I was depressed," sophomore Jack Butler said.

Larry and Marian McCord founded CHADS (Communities Healing Adolescent Depression and Suicide) Coalition ([www.chadscoalition.org](http://www.chadscoalition.org)) in memory of their son Chad who was 18 years old when he took his life on April 15, 2004. In October of the previous year, Chad had been diagnosed with a succession of mental disorders including depression and an anxiety disorder as well as OCD (obsessing to hurt himself) and rapid cycling Bipolar Disorder several months later.

"It never ceases to amaze me how many teens suffer from depression," Marian McCord said. "Due to the stigma our society has placed on mental illness, so many of these teens suffer in silence. Our society labels them as having a mental weakness versus a mental illness. Everyone is quick to point the finger and blame someone for the illness erupting. If only our society would treat them with respect, love and compassion. The stigma can be incredibly damaging to their recovery."

Some of the first symptoms the McCord family noticed in

Chad were increased moodiness, his grades beginning to slip, and his attempt to isolate himself from his friends and family. As a family, the McCord's were very supportive of Chad's illness.

"We got him into psychiatric care ASAP," McCord said. "We continued to be very patient, loving, and supportive of him, as the doctors tried to help him both with medication and counseling."

Tragically, treatment was not as successful for Chad as the McCord family had hoped and Chad took his own life.

"On April 15, after Chad's death, I was shocked and devastated," Marian McCord said. "There is no greater love than the love a parent has for their children. To lose a child in such a horrible matter is every parent's worst nightmare. I would not wish that experience even on my worst enemy."

The McCord family started the organization after Chad's death be-

cause they felt there was a strong need for education, advocacy, and research regarding mental illnesses in teenagers.

"This was Chad's dream, to help bring mental illness out of the closet," McCord said. "This is also a way for us to honor our son, by trying to save the life of another teen, and their family, so they would never have to experience the heartbreak that we had to and still live every day."

CHADS has been wildly successful. They have been featured in the St. Louis Post Dispatch and several other local newspapers, radio and several TV stations, and a national educational video on teen depression and suicide. They aspire to sponsor a teacher and doctor symposium in 2006.

While the McCord family was not as lucky, suicide can be prevented if loved ones know what signs to look for.

"I guess I would look for signs of sadness," Butler said. "But then

again, I really don't know what to look for."

"Families, teachers, and friends need to recognize the warning signs of depression and act," Todd said. "Don't think it is usual adolescent moodiness. If a friend tells you that they are hopeless or suicidal don't keep it to yourself - even if you promised not to tell. Call your friends parents or tell a teacher. Your friend may feel betrayed now but will be thankful when they recover."

While not everyone recognizes depression when it happens to someone they know it is a real disease. Even though people cannot see this disease externally, it exists nonetheless in nearly four in every 100 teens.

"We would never treat a child with cancer like this," McCord said. "Why does our society have to be so cold-hearted to the mentally ill?"

While some still may not recognize depression as a serious illness, the number of teens becoming aware of the growing epidemic is increasing.

"The longer I'm in high school, the more I realize how common it is to suffer from depression," Lawrence said. "I've realized how good people are at hiding it and how common it is for kids to see psychiatrists on a regular basis." ☺

*If only our society would treat them with respect, love and compassion. The stigma can be incredibly damaging to their recovery.*

CHADS Co-Founder  
**MARIAN MCCORD**

# Smoking unhealthy habit for many teens

Although they are aware of the health risks and CHS' anti tobacco policy, several CHS students continue to smoke for a variety of reasons.

**ANNALISE SHUMWAY**

"The biggest problem with smoking is that it is habit forming," school nurse Carol Flannery said. "It is difficult to stop. At a young age people are being exposed to toxins like nicotine and tar."

Despite the Clayton tobacco policy that states that "no student, regardless of age, will possess, consume, purchase, transfer, distribute or be under the influence of ...tobacco on school property, during a field trip, before or at athletic events and on any school sponsored events" some students are unaware of the stature.

"I have walked out of the high school before and lit a cigarette," senior Alexis Connell\* said. "No one cares. I am surprised to hear there is a tobacco policy. I guess they only enforce the alcohol use or try to."

Federal studies show that about 21.7 percent of high school students still smoke, as do 20.9 percent of adults.

As a freshman, Jones remembers Clayton being more smoke-friendly despite the Board of Education tobacco, drug and alcohol policy.

"At first I would borrow cigarettes from upperclassman because I could not afford them," Jones\* said. "It was easy. Now it is a lot harder to find people at CHS who smoke. It okay though because now because I can afford them. I like Marlboro because they are harsh due to the high amounts of nicotine in them. They give you a good buzz."

According to a federal survey, one-third of all smokers have had their first cigarette by the age of 14 and in 2002 ten percent of all middle school students smoked.

"I started smoking when I was thirteen," senior John Smith\* said. "I have no idea why. When I was younger, I had to go to state-mandated rehab. The teachers told us to smoke cigarettes to get over our drug addictions. When I was five I watched my Grandpa die from lung cancer. It mystifies me that I do something that I watched him die of. I have no false ideas about my lungs. I have been smoking for five years. They are f\*\*\*\*\* up."

In February of 2004, it was reported that 23 percent of CHS ninth

graders had tried smoking and 2 percent of the ninth graders regularly smoke cigarettes.

"I started smoking regularly as a freshman because I thought it would be fun," Jones\* said. "I would smoke a cigarette after smoking pot but now it's to the point that I like to

learned that from eighth grade even more. I smoked once this summer and then recognized that everything I learned in health was true. It is a gross habit and not cool. I wish I did not have to smoke to learn that fact but at least I know it."

Since the new smoking curriculum at WMS was implemented, the number of freshmen who have tried smoking has dropped dramatically from 40 percent to 11 percent.

"I would love to think that at least a small part of it is due to the information they receive here at Wydown," Warner said. "However, I also

feel a large part of the decrease is also due to the change in the opinion of the general public. I also feel groups like Truth have helped to make the general population more aware of the dangers of cigarettes and the companies who manufacture them."

A decrease in tobacco can also be attributed to changing society standards after the federal government began to release more information about the perils of smoking. Today few public places allow people to smoke on the premises.

"I also think there is a social norm that affects this choice," Smith said. "Students have told me that smoking is just not cool. We all know kissing a smoker is like kissing an ashtray."

Smoking however is seen as a way for some students to meet others and relax.

"Smoking is wonderful," junior Jane Jones\* said. "I love doing it. It is a great way to get through the day and relax. I will probably quit someday but not now. It is also a good social [activity]. When you are at a party you can walk up to random people and see if they have one. It is a good way to start a conversation. Smoking and drinking together is a good social activity together."

Smoking culture has greatly changed despite usage now. Last year, about 378 billion cigarettes were sold in the United States last year, the lowest number since 1951.

"When I was in nursing school everyone smoked, because they did not know how bad it was," school nurse Carol Flannery said. "Now people know about the correlation between smoking and lung cancer. There were many cigarette ads. Johnny Carson's late night TV show always had him smoking. Smoking was very present, like in the movie 'Good night and Good Luck.' The army used to distribute cigarettes. I never liked the smell. It is sad because there are more sinus infections and children and adults with asthma. Maybe it is not all

from smoking but the air is different."

The curriculum may help many students from smoking but some students continue to experiment and enjoy the nicotine rush.

"In eighth grade I used to be one of those peo-

ple who thought smoking was so bad," Jones said. "We were taught to think that as we learned about all the effects of smoking. Now, as a smoker, I just have a different perspective."

Like Jones\*, Smith\* also justifies his cigarette use.

"There are so many other things I could die from that are a whole lot worse than smoking," Smith said. "I just chose to give my money to Marlboro."

A recent survey by the American Legacy Foundation reported that among students under the age of 18 years old, 69.4 percent had never been asked for proof of age when buying cigarettes in a store.

"It is really easy to buy cigarettes," Connell\* said. "I steal them from my Mom but you just walk over to a gas station and ask for them. I have never been asked for

an ID. People act like they are hard to buy but they are not. So many places do not card people."

Getting access to cigarettes may be easy for some students but smelling smoke-free and not getting parental attention is much harder.

"My parents are suspicious but when they ask me about it I say I have been around people who smoke," Jones said.

"School also gives me a chance to air out before I go home. The hard part is that I do not know if I smell like it. Sometimes I will bring an extra shirt to school."

Students who have both parents smoke are two times more likely to start smoking underage. Also 23 percent of youth are exposed to secondhand smoke in the home.

"When I was little I thought I would never smoke because my Mom does," Connell\* said. "I remember as a child people telling me that I smelled like smoke and I did not want to be in that environment later. But I changed. I do not know what changed about me. Maybe I was tired of being the good girl."

Jones\* often smokes during free periods despite complaints from teacher and students alike.

"I smoke four to five cigarettes a day during my free periods and a lot more on the weekends," Jones\* said. "It is a nice way to relax and regroup myself. Quite a few teachers have complained to me and tell me it is bad for my health or ask me not to do it before their class. Sometime obnoxious students will draw attention to it. I do not want

to make the teachers mad so I usually try to air out before going to a class."

There may be many tools to help students quit smoking, although it seems many students could quit if they wanted to.

"I smoke a pack every few days," Smith\* said. "I tried to quit last summer. I lasted about three months or so but smoking is a good way to relieve stress. I do not think quitting is very hard. I had no withdrawal. I just weaned myself off of it. I just made a regimented schedule. It's easy."

Cigarettes cost about three dollars a pack therefore money is sometimes a factor. In an agreement between states and the tobacco industry in 1998, \$246 billion had to be paid by the industry to settle lawsuits over cigarette-related health costs.

Tobacco companies in return have passed their costs along in the form of higher prices, which has hurt their profits.

"I quit smoking every once in a while," Jones\* said. "It is mostly because I don't have any money. I will be kind of sick for a few days and jittery because I really want a cigarette. I never figured out how addicted I was until I had to quit for a day or week."

Five years after quitting, the risk of lung cancer decreases by 50 percent and after 15 years the risk of cardiovascular disease and lung cancer is almost the same as someone who has never smoked.

"Quitting at any age is always beneficial," Warner said. "The human body is amazing. It begins to attempt to repair as much damage as possible as soon as someone quits. Within one to nine months after quitting smoking, shortness of breath diminishes. I hope the younger generations continue this trend towards decreased numbers of smokers. Remember, cigarettes are one product that, if used exactly as directed, will kill you."\*

\*names changed to protect student anonymity



Sam Bader

smoke them alone."

In eighth grade at Wydown Middle School, students have an extensive smoking unit where they examine cigarette ads and send a letter to the magazine, asking for cigarette ads not to be included in the publication. At the high school level, freshmen watch a video about a woman with emphysema and some activities that highlight the effects on the body. In tenth grade students have a diseased organ presentation that includes lung with emphysema and cancer.

"There is a large unit on Tobacco in 8th grade that as of next year will be moved to 7th grade," Wydown Health Teacher Jill Warner said. "The unit covers everything from the basic components of a cigarette, diseases related to smoking and the effect that smoking has on society. We also focus much attention on the roles of the big tobacco companies and how they market their products, especially towards children."

"Smoking is glamorized," freshman Paul Halsey\* said. "I really

*When I was younger, I had to go to state-mandated rehab. The teachers told us to smoke cigarettes to get over our drug addictions.*

senior **JOHN SMITH\***

## Teen Smoking Statistics Courtesy of the American Lung Association

- Each day, nearly 6,000 children under 18 years of age start smoking; of these, nearly 2,000 will become regular smokers. That is almost 800,000 annually.
- It is estimated that at least 4.5 million U.S. adolescents are cigarette smokers.
- Approximately 90 percent of smokers begin smoking before the age of 21.
- If current tobacco use patterns persist, an estimated 6.4 million children will die prematurely from a smoking-related disease.
- According to a 2001 national survey of high school students, the overall prevalence of current cigarette use was 28 percent.
- Adolescents who smoke regularly can have just as hard a time quitting as long-time smokers.
- Of adolescents who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, most of them report that they would like to quit, but are not able to do so.
- Tobacco use in adolescence is associated with a range of health-compromising behaviors, including being involved in fights, carrying weapons, engaging in high-risk sexual behavior and using alcohol and other drugs.

<p>Lily <b>RAYMOND</b> for Clayton School Board</p>		
<p>As a school board member, I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize my professional skills of active listening, open mindedness, collecting and evaluating data, and careful decision-making.</li> <li>• Use the district's student-centered mission and guiding principles as a basis for my participation.</li> <li>• Support the district's belief that providing and valuing diversity is important to our student's education and development.</li> <li>• Make sound decisions regarding allocation of district resources.</li> <li>• Uphold and respect the established roles and responsibilities of a board member.</li> </ul> <p>"I believe in the power of education to cultivate a love of learning." <i>Lily Raymond</i></p>		
<p>Paid for by Lily Raymond for Clayton School Board, Bob Newmark, Treasurer</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Married to Bill Schmidt</li> <li>• Children, Alex, 11 and Lisa, 7</li> <li>• St. Louis County resident, 16 years</li> <li>• Clayton resident, 7 years</li> <li>• Licensed Psychologist, 14 years</li> </ul> <p>To learn more, please email lilyraymond@aol.com or call me at 662-1468.</p>

# Wikipedia popular among students, though controversial

While many CHS students find Wikipedia helpful and easily accessible, many teachers question its credibility and discourage its use for classroom research.

by JIM AN

Wikipedia, "the free encyclopedia," located at [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org), is a widely-used and well-known resource, used for research as well as entertainment.

"It is the single most fantastic thing ever," said junior Chris Jeffery.

Wikipedia, founded in 2001, now encompasses over 3.5 million articles in over 100 languages. Wikipedia is "licensed to the public under the GNU Free Documentation License," which essentially grants its users freedom to edit, copy and redistribute the content of the encyclopedia at their will. This lends Wikipedia incredible flexibility and openness, allowing the encyclopedia to encompass over one million articles in English, compared to the 120,000 articles of Encyclopædia Britannica. However, the open license of Wikipedia also leads to controversy.

"I would never trust Wikipedia," junior and self-proclaimed technological expert Andrew Bassett said. "Anybody can write anything on Wikipedia."

Though Bassett doubts the reliability of the Wikipedia system, the open-editing system of Wikipedia allows for quick fixing of intentional errors and vandalism, as there are both voluntary editors as well as regular users who fix errors and vandalism.

"Once I made up some random stuff on a page about a subject I knew nothing about," junior Kyu-Sang Eah said. "They erased it right away."

Still, sometimes some things slip through the cracks. For example, in 2005, a page in Wikipedia accused John Seigenthaler Sr., who was an editor for the Tennessean newspaper and USA Today, to have had

connections with the Kennedy assassinations, a false charge that nevertheless remained on Wikipedia for months.

Because of incidents like these, Bassett's faith in Wikipedia is minimal.

"Wikipedia has no accountability," Bassett said. "Nobody is paid to write or edit Wikipedia. On the other hand, people are paid to write something like the Encyclopædia Britannica."

In December 2005, Nature, a well-respected scientific journal, conducted a peer-review of 42 articles pertaining to science in Wikipedia and in the Encyclopædia Britannica. In its study, four "serious errors, such as misinterpretations of important concepts," were found in each set of articles.

However, 162 and 123 more minor errors were found in Wikipedia and Britannica, respectively. While Wikipedia in general appears to have more minor errors in the study, according to Wikipedia, all errors were corrected by Jan. 25, 2006. On the other hand, there is, of course, no way to update a copy of a print encyclopedia without purchasing a new set.

The rapidity at which information is updated, especially information concerning on-going events, and errors are corrected on Wikipedia is a major benefit of the Wikiped-

ia system.

"From what I hear, Wikipedia is accurate and has good information on current events and pop culture, better than print encyclopedias," library media specialist Lucinda Menkhuis said. "However, on other things, it is less reliable."

For most students, however, trust is strong in Wikipedia.

"I use Wikipedia a lot to look up words for English," junior Dan Dowd said. "I definitely trust Wikipedia, as I've looked up some stuff from Wikipedia in a print dictionary and Wikipedia was right."

Eah also uses Wikipedia extensively for school.

"A lot of science stuff I look up on Wikipedia," Eah said. "I trust Wikipedia as much as I would a textbook or another encyclopedia."

However, Bassett said this trust is grossly misplaced.

"People who use Wikipedia for school are being pretty foolish," Bassett said. "Teachers will laugh at any student who uses Wikipedia for school."

While Menkhuis cautions kids to be careful about what they find on Wikipedia, she added that it is not totally bad, and simply has its advantages and disadvantages.

"I don't use Wikipedia that much myself because I know how to search," said Menkhuis. "I think that students use it a lot because it's convenient. However, for students,

the school has purchased Encyclopædia Britannica Online so that students can access an encyclopedia at school or at home. I think that is something many students do not know."

Wikipedia has other notable advantages due to its authorship, which consists of essentially anyone who has a desire to edit Wikipedia.

"Textbooks tend to give the viewpoint of one group of people," said freshman Alice Lehmann, "whereas Wikipedia can give the viewpoints of everyone. They [also] have a wide variety of topics that aren't in other encyclopedias"

Indeed, Wikipedia's one million articles cover everything from classic rock albums to quantum mechanics to the backgrounds of small rural towns. Nevertheless, Wikipedia is nowhere near "complete."

In addition to Wikipedia, the non-profit organization Wikimedia also maintains sister projects in Wikibooks, a collection of textbooks, Wiktionary, a dictionary, Wikinews, a "news source containing original reporting by citizen journalists from many countries," Wikiquote, a collection of quotes, and Wikispecies, a directory of biological life, in addition to other projects. Numerous "Wikicities" also exist to provide comprehensive, encyclopedic information on a variety of subjects such as Star Wars and botany.

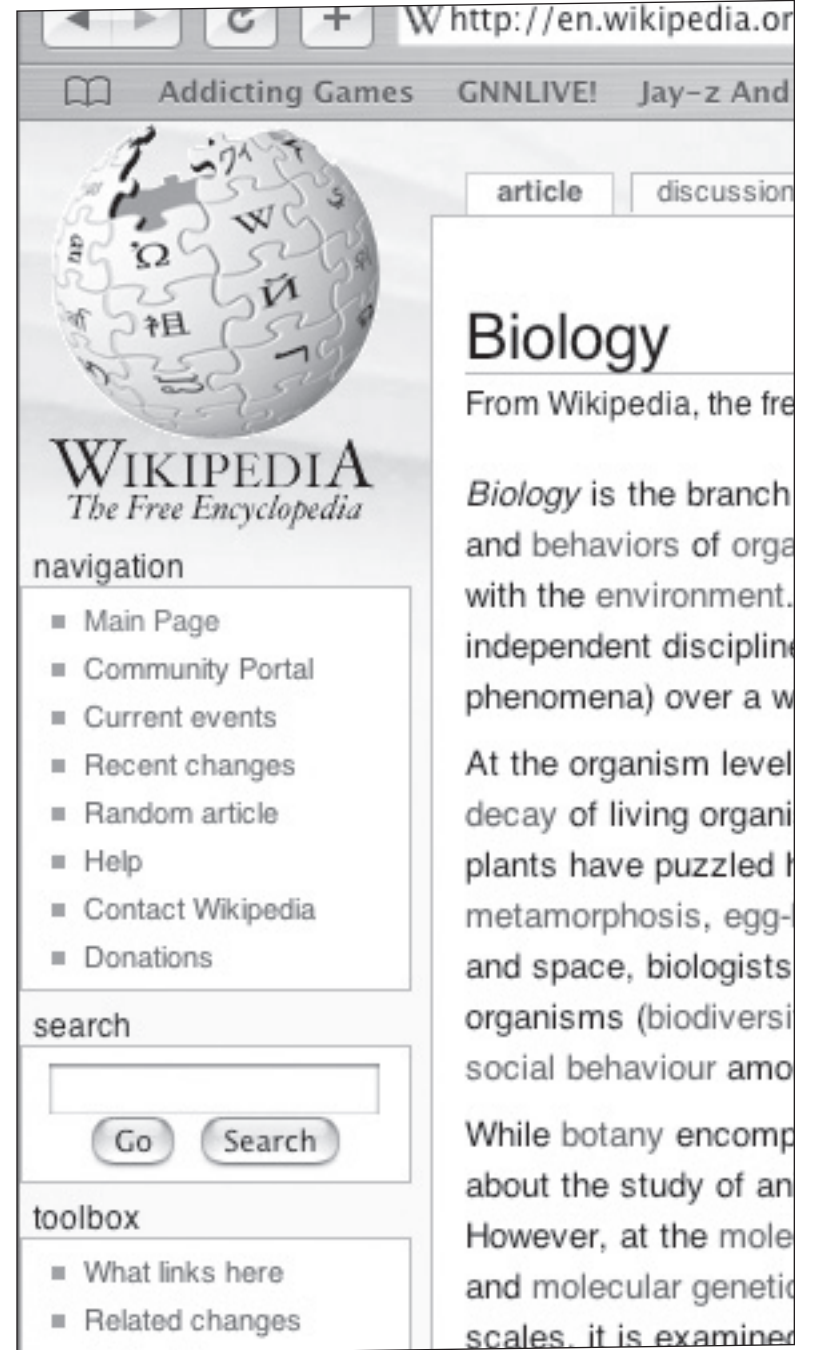
Indeed, there is quite the trove of information, interesting and boring, useful and trivial, on Wikipedia.

"Wikipedia is a repository of human knowledge," Dowd said.

Is Wikipedia such a repository? Maybe its accuracy and content is not quite at such a high level yet, but progress for Wikipedia marches on. ☺

*From what I hear, Wikipedia is accurate and has good information on current events and pop culture, better than print encyclopedias.*

library media specialist  
**LUCINDA MENKHUIS**



THE FREE ONLINE encyclopedia is widely used by CHS students, in this case for biology. Wikipedia is a very popular source for information about many topics, though its accuracy has recently come under fire.

# Dedicated musicians go 'Into the Woods' in pit

by ADRIENNE STORMO

Next time you go to one of CHS's musicals, please enjoy the magical singing, wonderful dancing and excellent acting, but don't forget about the hard-working students off stage. I don't mean the tech crew - although they are indispensable - I'm talking about the few dozen students who are sitting right under your nose.

The pit orchestra can sometimes be overlooked, with only the little lights on their music stands to illuminate the musicians, but they are nonetheless crucial to CHS's musicals. In Clayton's most recent production, Into the Woods, the pit of about twenty-five students, directed by band teacher Charlie Blackmore, sat in the front of the auditorium and provided all the music, and many sound effects, for the actors on stage.

"We have the best vantage point in the theater," sophomore alto saxophone player Drew Lefkowitz said.

Into the Woods was the second musical that Lefkowitz has watched from the pit. Last year, she played baritone saxophone for Seussical the Musical.

"The music isn't as fun and upbeat this year," Lefkowitz said. "They're in the woods a lot of the time so it has a mysterious feel."

Junior trumpet player Krishaun Dotson-Orange also participated for the second time in pit orchestra for Into the Woods.

"I did the Student Run Musical last year," Dotson-Orange said, "and that was much more laid back than this year."

Indeed, the pit orchestra for this year's Spring Musical had a rather demanding schedule, although not as demanding as the rehearsals for the actors in it. Pit starts practicing much later than the actors, but the work is still very intense.

"We signed up in the band wing," Lefkowitz

said. "Sometimes there are auditions, but there weren't any this year for the saxes."

"We had four four-hour rehearsals from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. at night some weeks," Dotson-Orange said. "That was probably the worst part. But we do learn something new each time."

"It's definitely a commitment but it's well worth it," Lefkowitz said. "This music is confusing and hard with lots of time changes so we need lots of practices."

Now that the musical is over, the students in pit get more free time to relax. However, the hours spent practicing and learning will not be soon forgotten.

"It really was an enlightening and musical experience," Dotson-Orange said, "and the shows went pretty well."

"I thought it was really fun to take part in a production," Lefkowitz said. "Plus, it's really fun with everyone there, and I know it's corny, but we all got along great, and there was good food."

Dotson-Orange highly recommends joining pit to all students in band, and Lefkowitz adds that with many of the seniors leaving, there will be many spots open next year.

However, even if you don't play an instrument, you can still appreciate the time and effort that these students put into every musical



at CHS. Next time you enjoy the melodic voices of the Clayton singers on the stage, don't forget about the pit orchestra in front of it. ☺ SOPHOMORE JACOB RIENSTRA and senior Julie Shore perform in the pit during "Into the Woods."

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## Dogs in 'Eight Below' warm human hearts

QING ZHANG

Days on their own: 4.  
Days on their own: 15.  
Days on their own: 50... 133... 150...

The number on the screen soared into upsetting heights as the recent Disney release, "Eight Below," retells the invigorating story of survival, friendship and adventure of abandoned sled dogs against the backdrop of Antarctica.

Based on actual events in 1957 and inspired by the 1983 Japanese thriller "Nankyoku Monogatari," "Eight Below" opens when Jerry Shepard (Paul Walker), a guide at the National Science Research base in the southern end of the world, is enlisted to accompany scientist Davis McClaren (Bruce Greenwood) in the eager pursuit for meteorites.

But what seemed an innocent expedition is robbed by ensuing peril. As a brewing winter storm blurred the vision of the icy continent, McClaren accidentally falls and though he is rescued in brave efforts by the dogs, he becomes ill with hypothermia. And combined with worsened weather mandates, the base crew is demanded immediate evacuation.

But the dogs are left behind, for the airlift cannot accommodate their weight; and as the helicopter hovers above the blizzard, all voices became inaudible as the dogs stood watching, their barks desperately drained by the storm.

The plane is not to return for the dogs.

Shepard, upon hearing the news that the snow had blocked the promise to rescue his beloved four-legged friends, is consumed with guilt and anger.

His vast blue eyes, have never seemed so lonesome as he is devastated by the thought of the dogs chained up in the raw cold.

While the human performances are competent but thoroughly one-noted, director Frank Marshall wisely chooses to focus on the dogs, and they shined.

Each displayed such remarkable personalities that translate into a warm welcome at the box office.

"Eight Below" achieved the beautiful balance between the exploration of Shepard's relationship with the dogs and the efforts of the dogs to survive against under the almost impossible odds.

Their basic but dignified animal nature is respected and brilliantly depicted as they fight with a leopard seal in a clever maneuver, offer food to a crippled member in striking selflessness and comfort each other in heart-warming tenderness.

Unquestionably, only in this second half of the movie when the dogs are forced to battle for survival did "Eight Below" truly embrace the entire power of endurance and love, and only then did it tell a wordless, unpretentious tale that marvels at the dogs' bravery, loyalty, cooperation and genuine nobility, qualities in which humans shrink thin.

Walker's performance is notable but somewhat static, but the supporting crew provided an unexpected sense of freshness and energy for the movie.



JERRY SHEPARD (PAUL WALKER), a guide at the National Science Research, works with the sled dogs that steal the show in Disney's "Eight Below."

Greenwood, a charismatic actor, gives the most impressive performance as an arrogant scientist whose consciousness and decency leads him to join the effort of the rescue of the dogs. Jason Biggs, who played a comical cartographer, sparked the movie with occasional lightness and unique personality.

Also, Mark Isham's score perfectly coupled the film's scenery and the cinematography, attended by Oscar-nominated Don Burgess, is stunning in its serenity and fluidity, though weak at times, especially in a Van Goghish scene of northern lights that is visibly manufactured.

When the movie draws to a close, the dogs, all except two, are happily reunited with Shepard; their faces are captured in close-up, absorbed in thought.

What is it? Is it anxiety? Is it yearning?

It is strength, it is power, it is love. ☺

## 'Sabrina' remains impressive

More that 50 years after it was originally released, 'Sabrina' continues to wow audiences.

ABBY EISENBERG

Released in 1954, "Sabrina," which stars Humphrey Bogart and Audrey Hepburn, is a black and white Cinderella story that is a must-see for all lovers of the heart-warming romantic comedies made during the height of old Hollywood films.

Sabrina Fairchild (Hepburn), the daughter of chauffeur to the rich and famous Larrabees, has an undying devotion to her prince charming, David who happens to be one of the Larrabee sons.

In an effort to get her mind off of David, Sabrina's father sends her to a cooking school in Paris, France.

Reluctantly she leaves, writing letters home to her father and the rest of the house's staff letting them know how terribly she missed David.

She returns home a lovely, refined woman, and no longer a girl.

Her new found grace immediately attracts the likes of her Prince, and the thrice married playboy who can't seem to settle down decides to cancel his engagement to another woman to who the chauffeur's daughter.

Unfortunately, this engagement had also helped to make a business deal happen for David's older (more serious) brother, Linus.

In an effort to save his multi-million dollar business deal, he attempts to steal Sabrina away from his brother.

His scheme backfires, and he ends up falling in love with Sabrina as well.

Though the plot line is simple, the actors make this film a very enjoyable 113 minutes.

Every line said is heartfelt and believable, and the love triangle is a refreshing new spin on the classic



AUDREY HEPBURN PLAYS Sabrina in the 1954 movie. She stars as the daughter of the chauffeur to the Larrabee family. The plot of the story is valid because secretly Sabrina loves the son of the Larrabee family.

Cinderella tale.

Hepburn is a bit unbelievable pre-transformation, because no matter how her hair is done or what dress she is wearing, Audrey Hepburn is Audrey Hepburn, and portraying a homely girl who no one notices seems slightly oxymoronic.

However, after the transformation, the character really fits her. Her confidence and elegance really add to the character of Sabrina.

Linus, played by Humphrey Bogart, made a good prince charming.

Especially contrasted to David the playboy, Bogart steals the audience's heart as the serious but sweet business man.

Both play the parts well, but there isn't a terrific connection be-

tween Sabrina and Linus. However, the slight imperfection isn't something that greatly affects the movie, because the two don't get together until very near the end of the movie.

The happily ever after ending of this movie is a guaranteed smile, especially with the slightly unpredictable ending that through me off guard.

The movie has remained impressive even after 52 years from when it was originally released. The movie is a truly a classic.

I was given this DVD as a gift for my birthday, and I've made it a point to see it once a week.

It's the honestly and feel-good factor that this movie possesses that brings me back to it every time I'm looking to be cheered up. ☺

## 'Aquamarine' interests preteens, fails to float with adults

SOPHIA AGAPOVA  
AMY BROOKS

"Can you make boobs come out of hiding?"

Preteen flick "Aquamarine" answers this tough question and many more.

The movie centers around two blossoming girls on the cusp of puberty, Hailey ('JoJo' Levesque, saucy songstress of "Leave (Get Out)" glory) and Claire (Emma Roberts, niece of Julia, as evidenced by her impeccably large mouth), who find a "sassy" beached mermaid who promises to grant them a wish if they help her.

After she runs away from her strict, weather-controlling merman father and her arranged marriage, Aquamarine (brilliantly portrayed by Sara Paxton of "Darcy's Wild Life" fame) is on a quest for true love in order to prove to her father that it does indeed exist.

She sets her sights on local heart-throb Raymond (which reminds one of "Everyone Loves Raymond" or an old geriatric man with broken hips, not a hot young stud...played by Jake McDorman, formerly of the Emmy-winning show "Quintuplets").

However, Aquamarine has some competition - local "barnacle" Cecilia (Arielle Kebbel) who is after the same man. But Claire and Hailey will do anything for their wish so they can prevent Hailey from moving to Australia at the end of the summer. Ultimately, the three girls realize that 'true love' does indeed exist, but not where Aquamarine had initially searched for it.

Sophia: As soon as the film started I was in awe of the beautiful and serene marine imagery. The cinematography is breathtaking and complements the raw emotions of the three heroines.

Amy: Any merit it had in that field was completely offset by the cartoon bubbles and tacky surf-shop décor, not to mention the annoying giggling that accompanied the open-



SARA PAXTON, WHO plays the main character, Aquamarine, has also played the main character in Disney's "Darcy's Wild Life." Although Aquamarine is perfectly suited for preteens, it tends to bore parents and older siblings.

ing moments.

Sophia: Regardless, there's no way one can question the impeccable acting talent displayed by the

three young leads. Even more impressive is their status as true Renaissance women of the 21<sup>st</sup> century - they all excel in both their singing

and acting careers. JoJo in particular has established herself as a megastar, and all three lovely ladies have songs on the sonorous soundtrack. The musical highlight was perhaps Emma Roberts' beautiful rendition of "Island in the Sun," which is undoubtedly a masterpiece.

Amy: I completely agree. I especially enjoyed JoJo's occasional gangsta action, including when she told her goldfish to "stop frontin'" and the soon to be infamous Emma Roberts brat scream.

Sophia: Actually I think JoJo's attitude was a key part of the film and will set an example for girls all over the country on how to be powerful women. Indeed, all three of the

young heroines showed through their epic journey of discovery the importance of friendship.

Amy: Unfortunately, these roles

only enforce the typical stereotypes of women - Aquamarine is a topless mermaid, which is irresponsibly inappropriate for younger fans. And Raymond only likes Aquamarine in the first place because she is "hot."

Sophia: Yeah well, we all know this is inevitability the way life is so it just prepares girls for the stark reality of our society. It also exposes the rivalry between gurlz.

Amy: In fact, the characters rely on fishy humor that is even dumber than the pun I just made to express their dislike for each other. In addition to being called a barnacle, Cecilia is also a "sand-witch" and a word inappropriate for this publication - and small children. Thank Heavens they stop short of dropping the F-bomb. The sea humor continues when Aquamarine gets a call on her "shell phone."

Sophia: Overall, Aquamarine is a simple film that can be enjoyed by the whole family and can teach us all the importance and beauty of friendship, the bond that can unite us all.

Amy: Ignore the voice in your head that tells you to "Get out, right now" and you will be in for a magical movie-going experience. ☺

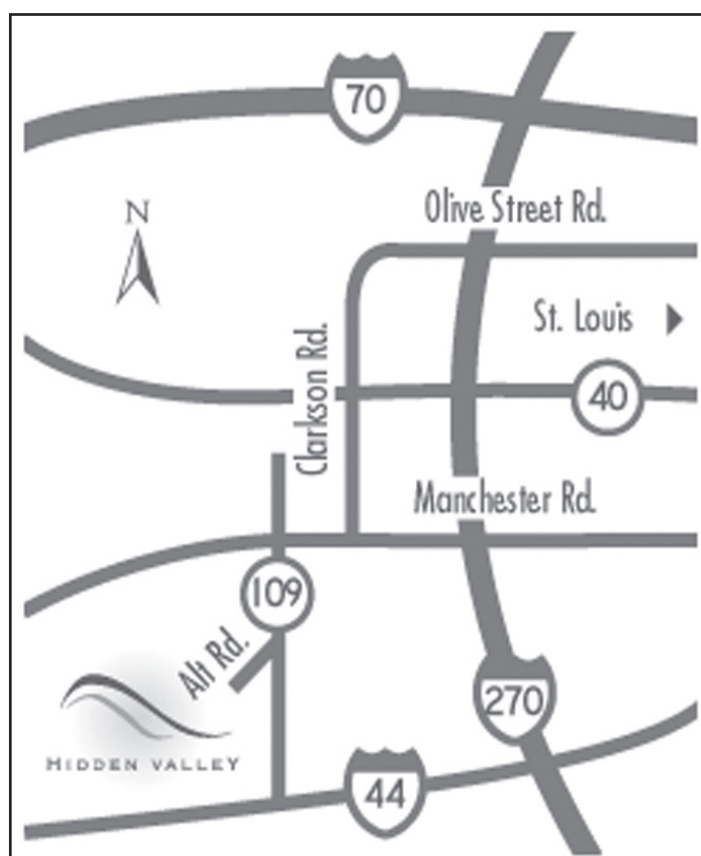
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# The Fray offers enthusiasm, motivation, quality



LEAH EBY

The road to success for The Fray began in 2002, when co-founders and friends Isaac Slade (lead vocals and piano) and Joe King (vocals, guitar) united with other longtime friends Dave Welsh (guitar) and Ben Wysocki (drums). Originating in their hometown of Denver, Colorado, they quickly became the 'it' band, conquering radio station after radio station and were soon dubbed 'Best New Band' by Denver's Westword Magazine.

I first came across The Fray early this year when their hit single "Over My Head (Cable Car)" was the free download of the week on iTunes. I was immediately hooked and rushed to buy the CD as soon as possible.

In 2004, the quartet signed with Epic Records and began work on their freshman album "How to Save a Life."

"How to Save a Life," released in September of 2005, is an interesting mix of piano-filled melodies, eclectic themes, and textured rhythms. The Fray professionally blended the musical styles of U2, early Coldplay, and Ben Folds, maintaining a profound feel all their own.

Early in their career, the band had the lucky opportunity to tour

with artists such as Weezer and Ben Folds. As a result bits and pieces each band's influence can be found within The Fray's music.

The premiere song on the album, "She Is," is a rhythmic tune filled with the underlying pulse of the piano keys. The lyrics are honest and raw, yet heartfelt, dutifully expressing the artist's longing for love.

"Over My Head (Cable Car)," one of the longer songs on the album and the single most frequently playing on the radio, is a combination of reflective lyrics and a catchy beat. As one of the better songs on this inspirational album, let's hope it's not too overplayed.

If you are in the mood for a ballad, go straight to Track 07 for "Look After You." While very appealing to the ears and mind, this song also demonstrates the vocal range of Slade and the ability of The Fray to slow down the beat and still come up with a catchy song.

Sharing its title with the album, "How to Save a Life," is a motivational song that conveys the feelings and experiences of someone losing a friend to a drug addiction. This serious song of confrontation and truth proves that The Fray do not hesitate when it comes to honesty.

"Dead Wrong" is another example of a song filled with the subtle melody of the piano. This instrument is the foundation for many songs by The Fray, and creates a mood that is characteristic of the band.

I am not a 'pop' music fan. Yet, my favorite song, "All At Once," may be a bit more on the 'pop' side of pop-rock. Despite this, The Fray magically stray from the stereotypical pop-rock and instead let out a song with an edge that can only be associated with The Fray. This song, about choice and perfection, is one that is closely related to our lives. And yet again, the quartet masters the critical components of performing to create a song that inspires and entertains.

With an average song time of about 4 minutes, the first album from The Fray never gets boring. Each song is a new mix of sympathy, integrity, and defiance. Slade's voice is relaxed and slurred, perfect for the mood of the album. He instills a sense of awe in any listener's mind, truly captivating the audience.

Overall, The Fray is a motivating group with an enthralling sound that is sure to stick around for a while, because of both their passion and musicality. ☺

## CDs received by mail introduce rising artists, musical variety

Being the arts editor in everything but official denotation has its perks, not least of which is the Globe's subscription to Moxie, an organization that sends us (me) free music.

Imagine how cool it would be to get free CDs from the hottest/your favorite artists, before they are released.

You walk into the newspaper office, never knowing what music will be waiting for you. Coming to newspaper meetings ceases being a burden, and quickly becomes a joy, nay, the supreme pleasure of the school day.

The above scenario I have conjured up would be true except for a singular detail: the CDs that we receive in the mail are by anyone but the hottest/my favorite artists. In truth, the CDs the Globe gets are by the most obscure artists, all of whom are unwittingly comical to almost, to be sort of artsy and melodramatic, cinematic proportions (to see movie reviews, go to page 26).

For this reason, I have decided to recap of the all-time best (translation: worst) CDs we have been sent. The artists may range from punky to sensual, but they are all united by an unbreakable bond of idiocy.

A relatively mild example of music we were sent is by a band called The Like. What a horrible name. I can't tell whether The Like is an allusion to how they see themselves as "liked" by everyone or because they seem to stumble musically in a manner analogous to a stuttering adolescent girl giving a speech.

Maybe they got their name because someone asked them what their band was named, and they were such airheads that they spat out "The, um, like-" and that verbal spew of nonsense was taken to be their name.

But enough about The Like, because, in all honesty, they are just about the best thing Moxie has sent. To really delve into the sonic garbage we have been sent, I would bring Kaci Brown back up.

Brown really does everything wrong on her nearly unreviewable album (which, incidentally, I reviewed), from referring to the language Arabic as Arabian to writing a disgustingly sensual ode to God.

However, I can't neglect to mention Black Buddafly, another immortal offering sent to the Globe. Clever misspellings aside, they might be my favorite artist, for they sent awesome pins with pink buddafly on them. Tragically, I decided to listen to their CD, and immediately after I discarded my pin.

Another artist I was exposed to by Moxie is Marcos Hernandez. I must confess that I never actually listened to his CD, because as I read the biographical sketch sent with the music, I came across this:

"Upbeat and contagious rhythms like 'Get Personal' and 'Lovely Girl' become Marcos' way of paying close attention to women with using compliments instead of aggressive behavior."

Clearly, writing rhythmic dance songs is the only alternative to beating your wife or girlfriend or whatever you call her. After such progressive and astute social insight, I decided to pass entirely on Marcos Hernandez.

There is one artist, however, that rises above all others. Almost transcendent in his impeccable idiocy, this artist has merited repeated playings.

When we first got Chris Glover, I had never heard of him. His CD lay ideally for many weeks, until one day we decided to try it.

Glover (who is rumored to have written on MySpace that he is the most influential poet of our times) can best be described as a borderline-incapacitated Eminem rapping to country music with NSYNC like interludes as choruses. In addition, the balance on his CD forces you to strain to hear his mythical lyrics, which, not surprisingly, give little indication that Chris Glover will ever be considered the premier poetic voice of our times.

As a closing remark, I would like to say that through most music we have received is God-Awful, every time a new box arrives feels like an important holiday, like Pi Day. Make what you will of that remark, but know that Pi Day is one of my favorite holidays. ☺

### Sounding Off



Rebecca Wall

## Book provides new take on old story

REBECCA KATZ

Dreams. Brothers. A coat of many colors. While the Biblical story of Joseph is generally familiar, its original text lacks many details, including a more in-depth look at the personalities of its characters and a comprehensive background of the time and places in which it occurs. These items were imaginatively filled in by Thomas Mann in his monumental masterpiece "Joseph and his Brothers."

Although originally written in German, the book was recently and eloquently translated by John E. Woods. It covers more than the title of the work suggests, including much of Genesis from the wanderings of Abraham to the death of Joseph. However, the life of the latter is covered in far more detail than that of his fathers.

We first meet Joseph as a handsome, spoiled teenager, his father's favorite, adored by his younger brother and hated, because of his arrogance and also out of jealousy, by his ten older half-brothers. Eventually he informs them of two of his dreams in which he appears as lord over his siblings. Stung by jealousy and hatred, his brothers attack him and leave him for three days in the depths of a well. His brothers falsely report that he is dead to his distraught father, Jacob. Joseph is then rescued by a caravan of Ishmaelites who carry him to Egypt and sell him as a slave.

While a crucial part of the original Biblical story, Mann transforms Joseph's experience in the pit as a defining moment of his life and as a nearly literal death and rebirth. After, he takes the name "Osarsiph" to define his new persona.

Joseph becomes the slave of a high-powered Egyptian official named Petepre (in the original, Potiphar). Due to his remarkable charm and administrative skill, Joseph rises to the head of Petepre's household. In the meantime he catches the eye of Petepre's wife, Mut-em-enet, and she falls madly in love with him (this too is poetic license; in the original, no reason is

given besides lust for her next actions). She attempts to seduce him, and then, when Joseph refuses and flees, accuses him of attempted rape. Unable to disprove her claim, Joseph is sent to prison.

Mann sees this experience as a second "death," very similar to the first in the well. In the jail, Joseph rises very quickly in the esteem of the warden, and is soon put in charge of the prison, just as he had been put in charge of the house of Petepre. Soon two disgraced officials are put under his care. With divine assistance, Joseph is able to correctly interpret two of their dreams; one foretells the official's subsequent hanging, and the other predicts the other official's imminent return to power. Eventually

Pharaoh, too, dreams, and wants an explanation; eventually he is informed by the second official of Joseph's skill in such matters. Joseph is taken out of prison, correctly interprets the dream, (it

refers to coming years of plenty and famine) and is set as Pharaoh's right-hand man with dominion over all of Egypt.

Eventually the famine predicted in Pharaoh's dream arrives. Joseph's brilliant planning saves Egypt from starvation, but the citizens of surrounding countries, including Joseph's family in Canaan, are forced to descend to Egypt to buy food. There, Joseph is reunited with his father and brothers.

Because "Joseph and his Brothers" is a massive volume of nearly 1500 pages, it seems a bit daunting at first. Long passages of dense philosophy, while interesting, do not help. However, the book is well worth the read. It is formed in layers of interconnecting themes and ideas that are gloriously interwoven into a true masterpiece. The volume also includes incredible amounts of background information, which for the first time place the Joseph story in a realistic social and historical setting. These elements do mean that the book cannot be skimmed, but must be read in installments and slowly digested; ultimately that only makes it even more of a pleasure to read. ☺



KEVIN FEDERLINE'S WORK emits a low-quality, thrown together feel that could easily be mimicked by anyone. His new 'Extended Play' (EP) album is no exception. Overall, Kevin Federline's fame comes from his dramatic relationship with Britney Spears, not from his music.

## Federline's EP dismal, bad

REBECCA WALL

If I wanted to make up a clever knock-knock joke, which would be totally out of character for me, I could easily think of many involving Kevin Federline.

Example 1: Knock-knock. Who's there? Interrupting Kevin Federline. Interrupting Kevin Federline.

IS WHITE TRASH.

Example 2: Knock-knock. Who's there? Interrupting Kevin Federline. Interrupting Kevin Federline.

HAS ABSOLUTELY NO MUSICAL ABILITY.

I could go on, but I think I have made my point. Kevin Federline is a man who has no business making an album. He is neither musical nor enough of a character to justify a career in music. To be offputtingly shallow, he is not attractive enough to warrant celebrity status, either.

Regrettably, it seems like every minor celebrity who wants to make it is the music industry these days turns to rapping. Not only does this snub the genre of rap by acting as though it, being sub-musical or something along those lines, does not require actual talent. While it is true that the musical talent of rappers is not analogous to that of a guitarist or concert pianist, some possession of musical sensibility is still unnecessary.

Furthermore, I believe that rap music, to be considered worthwhile, needs to serve some sort of purpose. Not all songs must function as

vehicles for political enlightenment like Public Enemy or Common.

Obviously hedonistic party anthems also serve a legitimate purpose in my opinion. If a song makes people dance well or have fun with their friends while they are driving there is a purpose for its existence, so to speak.

Clearly, Kevin Federline's songs, which come from his EP, "Popozao," do not serve the scholarly function of giving its listeners a social or political education. That is probably to be expected (don't you love how snooty and condescending I am?).

However, I had hoped that perhaps Federline would at least concoct (or, rather, his producers would concoct) a catchy, mindless song that was mildly amusing to listen to.

Unfortunately, I have a hard time imagining that his song, which appears in four slightly different incarnations of the EP, will ever find serious popularity.

Perhaps in a refutation of what I just said, I actually could see Federline becoming a minor sensation, given his connection with the omnipresent Britney Spears. However, I would bank on the statement that Federline will never be considered a serious artist.

If Federline fails in both meaning and sound, then one would have to conclude that his music serves no purpose. On the contrary.

Kevin Federline's music career has severed as an inspiration to me. If someone who obviously has zero talent can make a moderately popular rapper out of themselves, then why can't I.

I should go buy studio time right now. ☺

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# 'Spamalot' keeps audiences howling long after show

by JACOB BLUMENFELD

Despite a convenient location, The Schubert Theatre is one of the smaller theatre venues in downtown New York. Outside of it, there is the rest of Broadway – an entire world of singing and dancing, with such popular musicals as “The Producers,” “Phantom of the Opera,” “Wicked,” “The Odd Couple,” “Mamma Mia,” “The Spelling Bee” and “Fiddler On the Roof” proudly displaying their names in enormous, neon letters for the world to see.

Across the street is Sardi's, a popular restaurant for actors, politicians and celebrities. Just several blocks away lie Times Square and Grand Central Station. From the theatre, the shimmering spire of the Chrysler Building casts its affluent gaze over the city.

But *within* this modest theatre lies some of the greatest treasures in New York, as well as on the modern stage.

Behind these doors lurk insulting Frenchmen, fish-slapping Finns, dancing corpses, cows catapulted over castle walls, coconut-wielding knights and man-eating rabbits.

It's titled “Spamalot,” and it is a new musical based on the classic cult film “Monty Python and the Holy Grail.” The film is regarded as among the funniest movies ever made – and for some, re-creating it in musical form was almost sacrilegious.

Monty Python was a British comedy troupe best known for its films and its television program, “Monty Python's Flying Circus.” “The Holy Grail,” the Pythons' most famous work, is based on the medieval tales of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table at Camelot. “Spamalot” was co-written by Eric Idle, a former Python – ensuring that the musical would not lose any of Monty Python's quintessentially excessive and outlandish absurdity.

It cannot have been terribly difficult to assemble, considering that many scenes from the movie are already in song, such as “Brave, Brave Sir Robin,” and “Camelot.” However, it must also have been terrific fun to develop, as director Mike Nichols does with brilliant spontaneity.

Certain scenes can only be described to an extent – they must be witnessed in order to fully appreciate their madness.



“SPAMALOT: THE MUSICAL,” which prides itself on being ripped off from the Monty Python movies, attracts audiences with a knight outside the Schubert Theater in New York City. Left: King Arthur (Tim Curry) and Guinever (Sara Ramirez) share a moment. The musical charms audiences with countless laughs, constant mocking and stupid jokes, making it stick with the audience long after leaving the theater.

represented by a pair of 30-foot feet with rockets attached. In a deep, booming baritone, (voiced by John Cleese) He proclaims, “I'M GOD, YOU STUPID [expletive]!”

Or perhaps visualize the song sung by Arthur and the Lady of the Lake, aptly titled “The Song that Goes Like This,” which mocks the sappy, romantic and slow song that is unfortunately inevitable in every stage production.

Or maybe Python fans can re-

member the famous French castle scene, where Hank Azaria (also a featured voice talent on “The Simpsons”) proclaims in a hysterical, exaggerated French accent, “I wave my genitals at you, you silly English pig-dogs...I fart in your general direction!”

Or try to imagine the musical's trademark song, “I'm not Dead Yet,” featuring dirty corpses that come back to life in order to perform a hilarious musical number – until the lead singer, “Not-Dead Fred,” is smashed over the head



photos courtesy of montypythonsspamalot.com

with a shovel – thus (naturally) ending the song.

An essential ingredient to this Tony Award-winning musical is the acting, which is absolutely top-notch.

Simon Russell Beale, a former Shakespearean actor in London, portrays Arthur with a perfect balance of nobility and folly.

David Hyde Pierce, who for years played Dr. Niles Crane on television's *Frasier*, gives a flawless performance as the cowardly Sir Robin. Azaria demonstrates his as-

tounding versatility by portraying Lancelot (who eventually discovers that he is gay), Tim the Enchanter, The Night who Says Ni, and of course (you can't forget), the Taunting Frenchman.

The lighting and sound cues are unparalleled, and the set is astonishing considering the lack of space. The costumes are colorful and outrageous, as is the makeup and choreography. Make no mistake; any ticket holder will experience world-class entertainment. With any luck, St. Louis theater-

goers will one day soon be able to enjoy this remarkable production as well. But until then, Spamalot comes to Chicago's Cadillac Palace Theatre from April 19 through June 4. Online tickets are available now at Ticketmaster, with prices that range from \$30 to \$85.

The show moves at a breakneck pace, beginning in Finland (don't ask me why) and quickly moving on to Camelot, which bears a striking resemblance to Las Vegas. Arthur, Bedevere, Lancelot, Robin, Galahad and Patsy begin a quest to find the Holy Grail, a legendary golden goblet used by Christ at the Last Supper.

“So let me get this straight,” one knight asks. “God the Almighty and Ever-Knowing, the Omega, the Eternal and the King of the Heavens, has misplaced a cup?...”

“Couldn't we just buy him another one?” asks another.

“It seems that if he were really Ever-Knowing, he would know where it is,” ventures one puzzled knight. Nevertheless, the determined knights continue on their expedition.

Unfortunately, because it is Broadway, certain elements of Pythonian charm are lost. The final moral is that every knight must, metaphorically, “find his grail.” The Pythons would never stick such a predictable and sentimental message on at the end – it's simply not their style.

There was at least one improvised moment on stage, involving The Knight who Says Ni (Azaria). Just two days after Vice President Cheney had accidentally shot his friend in the face, the Knight adjusts his line slightly. “We are no longer the Knights who Say Ni,” he decrees. “We are now the Knights Who Say Ecky-ekky-ekky-ptang-zwoop-boing-blabberdy-blibberdy-snibberdy-yes, Mr. Vice President, It's Your Turn to Shoot.”

The audience erupted in thunderous laughter that shook the ceiling and nearly stripped the seats of their velvet.

The end result is clear: Spamalot, in its own mocking, insulting and self-deprecating way, is the ultimate Broadway experience.

If and when Spamalot reaches the Fox Theater in St. Louis, any Knight with half a brain (or half an arm) will make it a top priority to see. ☺



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# Local movie theaters target different crowds

Although there are a variety of movie theaters to choose from in the greater St. Louis area, many CHS students flock to theaters close to home.

by KATIE SMITH

So, you've decided to go see the hot new movie with all your friends this weekend. Now, the question is—where do you go to see it?

With two major theatres in Richmond Heights, the decision can be tough. Both the AMC Esquire 7 and Galleria 6 Cinemas are located just off Clayton Road, within ten minutes of practically anywhere in the area. Well, depending on the traffic on Clayton, it might be more like 15.

At first glance, the theatres seem pretty similar. They usually carry some, if not all, of the same movies. So which theater is better?

When it comes to ticket prices, both theatres are pretty much the same.

At the Esquire, the matinee and student price is \$5.50.

At the Galleria, matinees and student tickets are \$6.

The Galleria has six screens, while the Esquire has seven. However, the upstairs theatres at the Esquire are rather cramped, with little maneuvering room between rows. I know that this can be a problem when a show is crowded because there's an increased risk of kicking someone on the way to the bathroom or of knocking over concessions.

Although both facilities contain stadium seating in select theaters, it is only offered in one theater at the Esquire and several theaters at the Galleria. This is great because it provides everyone with a good view of the screen and leaves more room for people to move around.

Also, the stadium seats have movable arm rests with attached cup holders, so patrons can choose whether or not to pull the arm rest down and use it.

When walking into the theatres, the design and theme of them really offers a look into the history



Chelsea Fisher

THE GALLERIA THEATER, which boasts arcade games, unique concession items (\$3 for Ted Drewes' ice cream) and classic-themed murals, is generally preferred over the Esquire. However, for students on a budget, the Esquire is a better option, where a student or matinee ticket is a mere \$5.50.

of the building and the company behind it.

The Esquire is decidedly more futuristic, with the bright lights and video games. The modern motif fits well with today's world of iPods, cell phones, and Blackberries, especially among teenagers who are attracted to this mood.

Meanwhile, the Galleria's mo-

tif is more classic, as it has murals of old-time filmmaking along the walls of the lobby. These show the long history of St. Louis Cinemas, the company that owns the Galleria, Chase Park Plaza cinemas, and the new Moolah Theatre and Lounge.

At the concession stand, the Galleria does charge sales tax, whereas

the Esquire does not. This means that the Galleria charges more for both tickets and concessions.

Both theatres have a great selection, but the Galleria's drink selection is much wider, encompassing Arizona teas, Sobe drinks, Starbucks Frappuccinos, and even wine and beer for patrons with valid ID cards.

When it comes to food items, the Esquire and Galleria both have their own unique options.

The Esquire offers hot dogs and pretzels, and (according to some) better popcorn.

My personal favorite food to get, though, is Ted Drewes' frozen custard, sold for \$3 a cup at the Galleria.

The location of the box office is another important aspect to consider.

At the Esquire, the ticket box is outside, which, in my experience, means standing in bitter cold or sweltering heat while waiting for tickets.

As for the Galleria, the box office is on the lowest level of the St. Louis Galleria mall, so it is not affected by the weather.

Both the Esquire and Galleria offer pre-movie activities in the lobby and on the movie screen.

The Esquire has a wide selection of video games, ranging from Deer Hunter to Crazy Taxi to skill games. As a gamer, I really enjoy being able to play the arcade games that aren't available on home consoles.

At the Galleria, patrons are able to get food or go shopping while waiting for a movie to start. I've often had dinner at Panda Express or Subway, or have gone shopping for some new clothing before seeing the latest film.

Post-film impressions of the theatres are very different, as well.

At the Esquire, the workers seem a little more impersonal and indifferent toward the customers.

However, at the Galleria, the workers are interested in finding out what people thought of the movie, often begin conversations with patrons and sometimes even have platters of mints and candy for the patrons as they leave the theatre.

So my recommendation is that you go to the place that works best with your budget and the kind of visit you want to have.

For a slightly less expensive movie night, the Esquire is probably the best idea.

However, for comfort and history, the Galleria is a better choice.

Of course, my opinion is a little biased—after all, I work at the Galleria. ☺

## PJ's Tavern proves refreshing, fine

I like exploring different parts of the city, and I've noticed that other suburbs are more bustling than Clayton. We've all been through downtown Clayton at 9 p.m. on a Saturday night, where the sidewalks are usually rolled up and no one is out.

I've ventured into Kirkwood a few times in the past year, but my friend Sam and I were tired of our usual routine of Clayton restaurants and those closeby, so we crossed the train tracks and headed into downtown Kirkwood for something to eat.

Filled with tons of restaurants, we decided on one of the first ones we saw: P J's Tavern located at 123 W. Jefferson. P J's is a traditional Irish pub, serving traditional pub food. We walked in and the nightlife was booming.

The bar was packed with people of all (legal) ages and college football was showing on all the televisions. Despite the crowded look, we were seated immediately in the seating area right off the bar.

The menu was packed with bar favorites, ranging from burgers to pizza to fish and chips. We ordered some drinks, which arrived right as we were had decided on what to order.

I ordered a cup of potato soup and the Club sandwich, while Sam ordered the chicken strips appetizer with a side of fries.

While we were waiting for a little sooner than I thought it



staff photo

PJ'S TAVERN, IN the heart of Kirkwood, offers the perfect setting for a laid-back dinner or to watch a game. With reasonable prices, PJ's Tavern fits the high-schooler's budget.

our food, my eyes wandered to the walls of the restaurant. There wasn't anything that jumped out, but there was a nice amount of memorabilia on the walls, including some from local high schools such as Vianney, Kirkwood and Webster Groves. These include old jerseys, team pictures as well as footballs from past championship seasons. Personally, this adds a nice touch for a local restaurant to have.

Our food arrived

would, but it was great. The potato soup was awesome, tasting like a baked potato with the right amount of cheese and onions. It tasted like what I imagine homemade potato soup to taste like.

The Club sandwich tasted like a normal Club sandwich with three pieces of bread, turkey, mayo, lettuce and bacon. Although there was nothing special about it, it was really good.

Sam's chicken strips were ordinary, but they had less breading on them than most other chicken strips I've had, which is a plus for me. They were served piping hot and with a side of really good barbecue sauce. The fries were also served hot, seasoned with the right combination of salt and pepper.

Once again, although there wasn't anything special about his meal, he really enjoyed eating it.

The service was really good, despite being a crowded night. Our waitress was attentive and kept refilling our drinks and stopping by our table. The atmosphere was really nice, despite potential problems filled with a room of people who were drinking. What surprised me was the way that the restaurant was filled with the partiers as well as families out for a Saturday night dinner.

I thoroughly enjoyed my dinner at PJ's, and if you ever feel like you're sick of your normal routine, venture outside of the bubble to other suburbs that aren't that far away. ☺

### OUTSIDE the BUBBLE



Katherine Sher

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# Jack Bauer granted restraining order against President

PERCY OLSEN

Kiefer Sutherland is a tired, tired man. It's 5 a.m., and he's still tied up on the phone. Who is he talking to? Is it his agent? Possibly his neighbor, once again complaining about Sutherland's untended garden? Kiefer comes back to his bed.

"President Bush is presenting me with a medal tomorrow," he says. "Fifth one this week..."

That's right, as I'm sure many of you have heard, The White House's TiVo and Fox's hit "24" have made sweet television love, and the entire White House is enamored of the show.

"It's a very realistic show, it's like looking in a mirror," Vice President Dick Cheney said. "Of course, with you-know-who here running the show, we have a bit of a problem on our hands."

The "problem" is that our 43rd President, George W. Bush, is getting a little too much into the show.

And by too much, I mean that he's basing our nation's homeland security on the "intelligence" he receives from his "briefing" every Monday at 8/7 Central on Fox.

"Yes, yes, I have to give out a lot of medals to Jack Bauer this week, I understand that," President Bush said. "I feel like he deserves this. I mean the work that he's done over the past 4 years has been amazing, and this year is even better. Just last week he stopped the terrorists from killing thousands of people in a local mall. He's just a great guy."

White House officials do not know when they'll actually tell Bush that he needs to press the "Input" button on his television remote to get back on the real intelligence line. It's a little bit trickier than one might imagine.

"We really are in a bit of a pickle at the moment," Cheney said. "If we tell the President that he is watching a fictional television show, not a reality show based on the life of special agent Jack Bauer, then publicity for the show will plummet, as will viewer ship. Fox cannot take another ratings hit, we're—I mean they're already in third place as it is."

As it stands, Homeland Security has been bulking up on anti-terrorist attacks in the Washington D.C. area since Jan. 15 at 9:02 p.m.

Although this means that there

is a lack of funding in other areas, some politicians are looking at it positively.

"Well, we Democrats are very happy about the return of '24,'" Former President Bill Clinton said. "Bush has finally found a reason to pull our troops out of Iraq, which is very good news. There is a lack of funds because he's building a castle around the White House...out of bricks. I don't think he understands how nerve gas works."

However, not everyone is taking this situation optimistically. Kiefer Sutherland, for one, would like for Bush to stop calling him "Jack Bauer."

"He also had this to say: 'I know the President personally, I guess. He won't stop calling me, saying he has 'intel that will blow me away.' Once it was 'knock my socks off,' but that ended quickly.'"

White House press officials are mad at President Bush about his "late night phone calls" as well.

"Well, for starters, Kiefer lives all the way in Orange County, so the phone bills are enormous," Cheney said. "We almost had to cancel a trip to China last month, but Expedia saved us. And second-

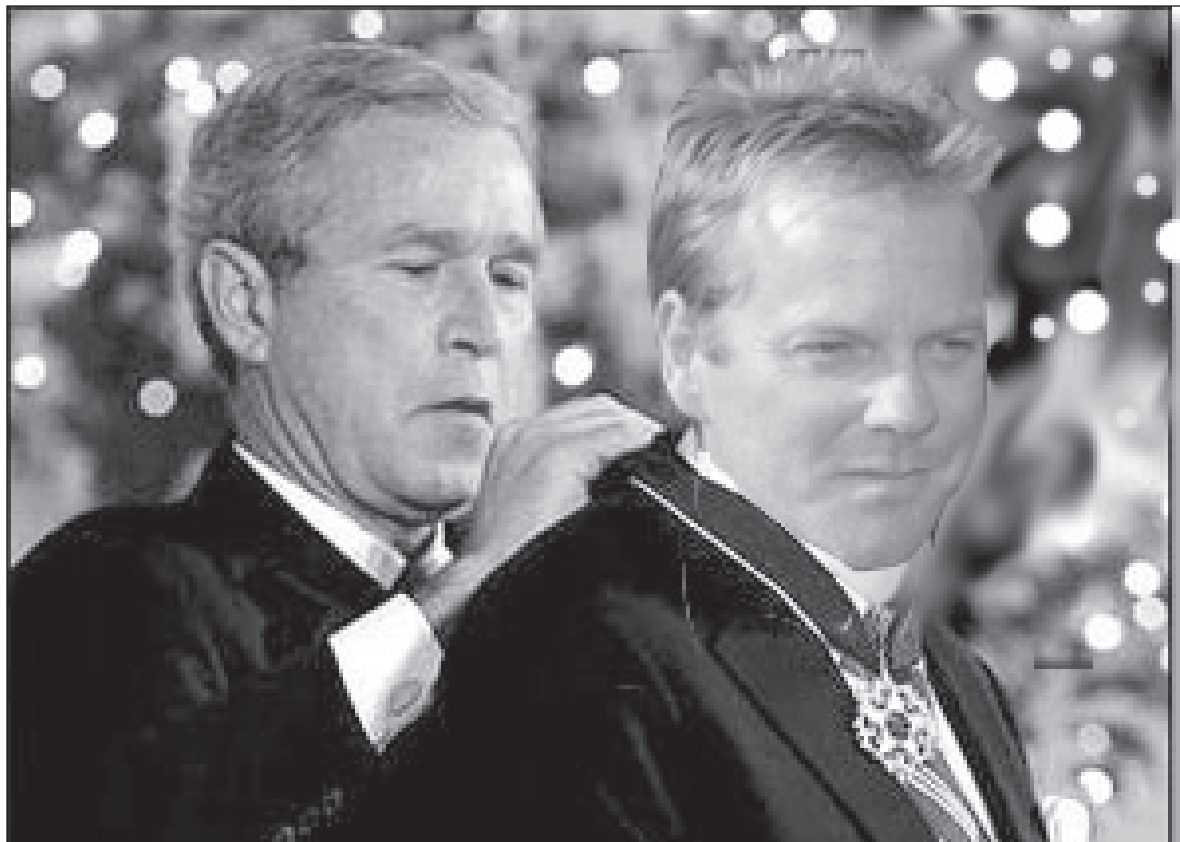


photo illustration by Sarah Powers

SUTHERLAND ACCEPTS A medal from the President, inscribed to Jack Bauer. The medal honored Bauer's "super-cool ability to save the country, one day at a time." Sutherland humored the President for fear that if Bush was publicly corrected the fair and balanced Fox Corporation would cancel "24."

ly, I think the fact that he's disclosing all of this information to a man who plays an agent on a show is a little concerning and a matter of national security... Bush used to tell me all his secrets first...those were the days [stares off into space]..."

But does Kiefer Sutherland know any real intel besides what he "knows" in his show? More than you might imagine.

"Yeah, I have some dirt that I probably shouldn't disclose," Sutherland said. "Apparently, Bush knows where Bin Laden is hiding, we have a Saddam Hussein look-

a-like in custody, and aliens from Sector 7-G have been running The New York Times for years now...I shouldn't have told you that."

In the end, all that matters is that Fox is finally getting the ratings that God has mandated for it.

"The free publicity we're getting is amazing, and the ratings boost is incredible. I bought a new boat last night, third one this month," one producer for "24" said. "Still, I wish I had my vote back, that'd be nice."

There is one person who's happy that President Bush is in the White

House: President Bush.

"If I wasn't here, would have the guts to give Bauer all of these medals?" President Bush said. "Also, I have a secret to share with you [brings me in closer]. This is classified information, so you can't tell this to anyone. Next week on "24," you know, that CIA feed I get through my television, Bauer's going to stop the outbreak of 'the virus' by making the ultimate sacrifice!"

Oh Lord, I knew getting Bush a DVD player for his birthday was a bad idea. ☹

# To win more medals, America creates new Olympic sports

JEREMY BLEEKE

The Olympics is a time when athletes from around the world can come together in friendly competition.

It is a time when, for two weeks, countries put aside their political differences and unite in the spirit of sports.

It is not about the medals, but the ability to promote peace through cultural exchange. At least that's what they say.

But America knows better. During its reign, the USSR dominated the games: both winter and summer. After its collapse, the United States became the top team in the Summer Olympics.

As of yet we have not been able to establish a dominant position in the winter games as well. Germany has taken first in the medal count for four of the last five Winter Olympics (finishing second to Norway in 1994.)

Throughout the '90s, the U.S.

team had consistently finished a disappointing fifth or sixth place overall, unable to overtake the European supremacy. So what do you do when you just aren't good enough in already-existing events? In the true spirit of fair competition we did what any clear-minded American would—just invent some more sports.

This is a strategy which recently has been paying off. Moguls made its Olympic debut in '92, Aerial Freestyle Skiing in '94, and Snowboard Half pipe and Slalom in '98.

As more and more interest grew (particularly amongst Americans) in these sports, the number of American medals has grown.

The U.S. finished the medal race second overall in Salt Lake City, helped out by a medal sweep in men's half pipe, and a gold medal in women's half pipe.

We finished second again overall in Torino with first and second in both men's and women's half pipe, and medals in snowboard

giant slalom and snowboard cross (the newest snowboard event).

One of the things that makes

these sports so popular, at least in the United States, is how wonderfully American they are. What could say "America" better than a teenage hot-dog from Southern California doing 360s 15 feet up in the air?

The commentary is just as amusing as the actual event itself. In-

stead of entering the half pipe, the competitors "drop in." Instead of doing a nice job they "throw down"

great runs. Occasionally someone will "hit the lip" after getting some "enormous air."

And the descriptions of whatever it is they are doing up in the air are absolutely to die for. For instance:

"O k a y, here comes the big t r i c k ... A d o u b l e - t w i s t i n g r o l l - o u t w i t h c o m b i n a t i o n t r i p l e b a c k f l i p b y 7 2 0 r o l l s p i n !!! W H A T T H E ... D I D H E

JUST GO 960!!!!?? OH MY GOD HE GRABBED THE NOSE!!!!!! Now just the landing...WIPEOUT!!! HAHHAHAHAHA! Oh that's gotta hurt."

Yet another highlight of this incredible discipline is the characters that it produces.

These are exemplified by Shaun White, the men's gold medal winner in the half pipe competition, who calls himself "The Flying Tomato."

In an interview after he won his medal, the Tomato said that he believed he had a shot with Sasha Cohen who he thinks "digs gold." (Later on in an interview with Bob Costas Sasha rejected him.)

These are people who commonly bandy about phrases such as "that run was totally hard core" and "I'm fully stoked for this trick."

Finally, one of the most important aspects of snowboarding is the outfits (it has this in common with Ice Dancing, where one of the biggest challenges for the women is to

get through their routines without having a wardrobe malfunction). The U.S. snowboard team's costumes are fully wired for both iPod and cell phone compatibility.

There are more remote controls on them than there are useful accessories, and they are ridiculously baggy. When people say that snowboarding is difficult they aren't kidding— you have to do multiple flips, rolls, and spins, all the while trying to keep your pants on. That is no easy accomplishment.

With the recent climb in American medals, we can only assume that our tactic of inventing sports is paying off. Maybe in a few more Olympics we will climb to the top of the medal count.

In the future I can only see more events, with more American dominance. Who knows, soon we may see things like "Synchronized Half Pipe" or even "Ski Dancing." And Americans across the country will be cheering our athletes on to victory. ☹

Editor's note: The stories on this page are SATIRE and not intended as serious news stories. Any resemblance to real people or real situations is purely coincidental. No animals were harmed in the production of this page.

## Styx by Alex Ferguson



## Low School by David Redick

Today's Topic: Newsic		
<p>What's on Dick Cheney's MP3 Player?</p> <p>I Shot the Sheriff Bob Marley</p> <p>Well... actually an attorney...but close enough.</p>	<p>What about Jake Gyllenhaal?</p> <p>Save A Horse Ride a Cowboy Big and Rich</p> <p>Just don't break your back.</p>	<p>And Michael "Brownie" Brown of FEMA?</p> <p>When the Levee Breaks Led Zepplin</p> <p>It's a little late for that.</p>

Boys' Basketball came

SO CLOSE...

Jennings 51  
Clayton 49



Junior Daniel Stamborski led the Greyhounds with 17 points. Junior Zach Warner scored 10 to help Clayton outscore Jennings 21-14 in the fourth quarter.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP left: The basketball team lifts weights together during training. Junior Bo Lanter takes the court. Basketball coach Michael Knight talks to his team before the game. Senior Cameron Hicks makes a bucket shot. The bench reacts to a call on the court. Jennings celebrates after scoring the winning basket. Lanter blocks a Jennings player. Hicks waits for the ball. Max Leabman dribbles past a leaping Jennings defender. Bottom row from left: Senior Evan Hammond and junior Charlie Matthews cheer at the game. Lanter retrieves a loose ball. Knight talks with his players. Clayton defense drives up the middle.



Jennings reacts after scoring with just under one second remaining in the game.

