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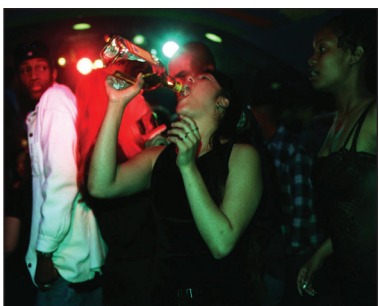
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## Unenforced rules cause controversy in school

**Kate Rothman**  
Senior Managing Editor

According to principal Louis Losos, CHS does not have a “cook-book” of written instructions detailing actions to be taken and procedures to be followed regarding many student disciplinary problems.

However, this is not the case with the schools drug and alcohol policy. Or rather, it is supposedly not the case.

“Alcohol and drug use is an exception to this,” Losos said. “It doesn’t matter whether a student is caught under the influence, or in possession of alcohol, or even consuming, it all falls under the same policy. For a student’s first offense, they are suspended for a total of five days out of school. This can be reduced to three days out, two days in if the student goes to NCADA (National Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse) for an assessment. The idea with that it that its not just going to be punitive, there’s two parts: consequence for choices, and we want to educate and treat, we want to make sure that there aren’t bigger problems.”

Although, according to Losos, the vast majority of alcohol suspensions at CHS are one-time suspensions, the district does outline consequences for students with recurring problems.

“For a students second offence, they receive a 10 day suspension, though that can also be reduced,” Losos said.

According to the student planner, the police will be informed of all offenses.

Last month, at the annual STUGO broomball tournament, Steinberg Ice Rink officials were forced



Courtesy of STUGO

**This year’s Peppers King candidates pose on the Commons staircase.** The CHS administration drew a distinction between “kidnapping” for sports teams, like field hockey, and the tradition of “kidnapping” Peppers King nominees.

to end the event early when they discovered a bottle of alcohol in the girls bathroom. Although consequences for drinking at, or coming to a school even drunk are the same regardless of where the event is held, the incident at broomball posed a difficult situation for administrators.

“We haven’t suspended a student for the incident at Broomball,” Losos said. “To suspend a student, we have to feel that the student we are suspending is guilty of the infraction. With Broomball, from what I understand, there were a good 15 or 20 girls in the bathroom when the rink manager unlocked it. From what I understand, the manager told everyone to leave and then corralled two girls. There was no indication that these girls had brought or been involved with the bottle. We investigate incidents like this thoroughly, [Assistant Principal Dan Gutchewsky] talked

to lots of students. It would have been easy for us to just suspend everyone in the bathroom, but that wouldn’t have been fair.”

For a student to actually be suspended for an alcohol violation, that student must be brought to an administrator’s attention.

“In the more common situation, a dance situation, it usually has to be brought to our attention that somebody is under the influence,” Losos said. “Generally, a student brought to our attention is probably having difficulty in some way, shape, or form. If a student is glassy eyed, their eyes are red, but that’s it, if they don’t fail a field sobriety test, if there’s nothing more than sheer suspicion on our part, it would be difficult for us to suspend that student—sheer suspicion isn’t good enough.”

It can be difficult, at times, to identify students that are under the influence.

“There is this belief by the student body that we know that x-amount of students are under the influence, but you can’t always tell, it isn’t always that easy,” Losos said.

It stops being a question when a student starts having difficulty standing, or dancing. At this point, normally, the administration tries to step in. They would try to identify other people that the student came with, and check with them. Probably, the car driven to the dance would be looked at as well, and somebody could be suspended for possession, in addition to those suspended for drinking.

“You are responsible for the contents of your car,” Losos said.

Having to punish a student (or students) at a dance puts a damper on the whole evening.

“At say, Peppers Prom, there are about three administrators at the dance,” Losos said. “Dealing with

a couple of students takes lots of time. By the time we’re done dealing with those students, the dance is usually over. It’s no fun. It’s the least enjoyable aspect of our jobs.”

Clayton High’s lack of a “cook-book” of rules was the root of another sort of recent controversy.

At the start of this school year, a new policy regarding hazing was developed and put into action. Any sorts of hazing, which is defined in the MSHSAA official handbook as “any action or activity which inflicts physical or mental harm or anxiety, or which demeans, degrades, or disgraces a person, regardless of location, intent, of consent of participants,” was prohibited.

“This past summer, [the CHS administration] got word that there were some hazing incidents occurring outside of school on weekends, at parties,” Losos said. “At least one party that we’re very well aware of, students were forced to drink, which is very dangerous.”

As a whole, the administration came together to talk about the hazing problem and decided to do several different things to try to curb the issue.

“We reiterated with coaches that there would be no tolerance for hazing,” Losos said. “We asked them to keep an eye out for that and to talk to their athletes about the issue. And, we looked at some of the individual issues occurring.”

To the administration, certain CHS customs and traditions stood out as hazing more than others.

“The issue of the freshman field hockey girls being kidnapped and dressed up in a dramatic fashion and taken out to breakfast came up a lot,” Losos said. “In many ways,

RULES, 5

## Activists push zoo to end Indian elephant programs

Animal rights advocates believe the St. Louis Zoo should phase out its elephant possession, citing studies that show elephants need large areas to roam. Zoo staff disagrees.

**Jeremy Bleeke**  
Staff Reporter

Recently, and over the past few months, demonstrators have been seen with signs and banners in locations such as Turtle Park, the riverfront, and the entrance of the St. Louis Zoo.

According to Janet Powell, Director of Public Relations at the Zoo, the St. Louis Animal Rights Team (START) has been advocating the removal of the zoo’s Indian elephants for about a year. START is a local group representing In Defense of Animals (IDA), an international animal rights organization campaigning to get elephants out of zoos all across the country.

In 2006 several zoos, most notably the Bronx zoo, the Philadelphia zoo, and the Lincoln Park in Chicago, decided to end, or phase out, their elephant programs. The Philadelphia Zoo will move three of its elephants to a larger environment at the Maryland Zoo, and one to the Hohenwald Elephant Sanctuary, a 2,700 acre park in Tennessee.

START’s campaign focuses on Clara, a 54 year old Asian elephant who has been suffering from foot complications and is not expected to live much longer. IDA attributes this foot disease to an inability for the elephants to move around enough in their current accommodations. The Zoo disagrees.

“[Clara] is 54 years old, well beyond the average life expectancy of Asian elephants—44.8 years,” Powell said. “She has arthritis and foot problems related to her age. Our other eight elephants, despite allegations otherwise, have healthy feet.”

IDA states that elephant sanctuaries, like the one in Tennessee, provide a humane refuge for elephants that zoos cannot reproduce. In its “Ten Worst Zoos for Elephants in 2006” IDA ranked St. Louis as number four, citing the zoo environment itself as the root of health-related issues. IDA claims that the elephants do not have enough space, and that “St. Louis’ largest outdoor yard is only one-half acre, for a species documented to move tens of miles daily in the wild.”

St. Louis’ nine Asian elephants

(the ninth, Jade, was born Feb. 25) live in the River’s Edge section of the zoo, in a 1.2 acre enclosure comprised of three yards. 1.2 acres is 52,272 square feet—a little smaller than a football field (if both end zones are included). The zoo has also built a 13,000 square foot holding complex for cold temperatures or inclement weather.

The three outdoor yards contain a stream, a waterfall, and a 90,000 gallon pond as well as a variety of enrichment items, such as large deadfall trees, that the elephants can manipulate like they do in the wild. While the Zoo meets and exceeds the guidelines put down the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), IDA says that this simply isn’t enough space.

This brings up another aspect of the clash of opinion over the elephants-in-zoos issue. In addition to disagreement over life expectancy, the IDA and the Zoo differ in their opinions over the extent to which the elephants need to move around.

In the letter that it sends to animal rights activists, the zoo states “the average lifespan of an elephant in the wild and in zoos is 45 years—Clara has tipped the charts at 53 years”. In contrast, IDA reports on its website that the average lifespan of an elephant in the wild is 65 to 70 years.

Secondly, IDA claims that the elephants do not have enough space because in the wild they typically travel up to 30 miles a day. Powell, on the other hand, cited a study done by Dr. Peter Leimgruber of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Zoo Conservation and Research Center who radio-collared a group of Asian elephants in Myanmar and found that over the course of 24 hours, seven elephants moved no more than 0.5 miles, some less than 0.3 miles. Furthermore, the zoo maintains that foot disease is completely independent of the elephants’ ability to exercise.

“There is no scientific evidence demonstrating that the amount of exercise correlates to healthy feet,” Powell said. “The best approach to promote good elephant foot health includes a vigilant preventative foot care program, along with



Jeremy Bleeke

**An Indian elephant** explores its habitat at the St. Louis Zoo. While some animal rights activists insist that it is cruel to keep the elephants confined in small yards as is done at the Zoo, Zoo officials insist that the elephants are well cared for and enjoy a high quality of life.

a good nutrition and health care program, an active enrichment and exercise program and a variety of substrates.”

Independent of zoos and animal rights groups, National Geographic’s Asian Elephant fact profile stated that the animals live, on average, 60 years, and they “roam over great distances while foraging for the large quantities of food they require to sustain their massive bodies.”

Powell said that despite the allegations and the actions of other zoos, the St. Louis Zoo will not be sending the elephants away.

“We have no plans to give up the elephants,” Powell said. “We are

committed to their care and conservation both at the Saint Louis Zoo and in the wild.”

With only 35,000 to 50,000 Asian elephants left in the wild and predicted extinction within the century if habitat destruction continues at its current rate, the zoo is giving special attention to protection efforts of the species around the world. The zoo annually gives 20,000 dollars to conservation projects in Sumatra and Sri Lanka as well as in Kenya. Powell says that maintaining a captive population is also important for the future of the elephants.

“Given the uncertain future for elephants in the wild, captive man-

agement programs are becoming increasingly important to the survival of the species,” Powell said. “These programs can create secure reservoirs of animals’ gene pools.”

As this situation continues to progress, there is little doubt that the two sides will stand firm in their positions.

“Elephants are ambassadors to the public, calling us to action to protect all wildlife,” Powell said. “Our commitment to them and to wildlife conservation has never been stronger.”

Note: As the *Globe* was went to press, Clara was euthanized. The zoo put her to sleep the morning of March 14.

# DESE to require exit exams

Beginning in 2009, Missouri will eliminate Missouri Assessment Program testing and require high school exit exams for every high school student.

**Aaron Praiss**  
Staff Reporter

Missouri students have to worry about exams for classes, the SAT, ACT, MAP and final exams. Yet, starting in 2009, the state of Missouri is requiring high school exit exams for every high school in Missouri.

Originally, the MAP test was used to see how schools across the state were doing. Now, the Missouri State Board of Education wants to replace the MAP test with exit exams for every high school student.

So far, the proposed exams consist of an exam for English II, algebra I and biology.

"I think the MAP test is good at both elementary school and middle school, yet not good at high school," Steve Singer, President of the Clayton Board of Education said. "The high school students don't take the test seriously, and the results aren't indicative. In comparing the MAP to national tests like the ACT, we see a big disparity."

Many students blow off the MAP test at the high school level, because they are worried about more important exams and the MAP test doesn't go on their transcripts.

"The biggest problem with the MAP test is high school motivation," CHS Principal Louise Losos said. "Our students are college-bound and involved in high stakes tests like the ACT. The MAP test is a test that 'doesn't count.' I think that when a student goes in for the SAT there is more intellectual energy and time spent on every question. There is no pressure involved in taking the MAP test. Students don't double-check their answers, and some probably even blow it off."

Some students who have taken both the MAP and ACT tests in high school agree.

"Because we've already taking the ACT for college, there is no reason for the state to enforce an exit exam," junior Mark Heil said. "Besides, the ACT is a good indicator of how students are really doing, since they truly focus more and work harder on a test they know counts."

Then, why not simply use the ACT over the MAP? "There was a big debate between dropping the MAP and taking the ACT," Clayton Superintendent Don Senti said. "School districts similar to CHS wanted the ACT. The other half of the schools wanted to keep the MAP, which is essentially ignored by many students as it doesn't influence college."

There is a great difference between a standardized state test like the MAP and a national exam like the ACT.

"The MAP test is a criterion-referred test, which means that essentially a student could receive 100 percent," Losos said. "This is while the ACT is a norm-referred test, allowing some students to stand above the rest. Not everyone can receive 100 percent on the ACT."

There are other positives in using the ACT, besides the immense effort students put into the test.

"One attractive thing about the ACT is that it is a national test, and the same test is used for the whole country," Singer said. "So we can compare scores not only within our school, but with other districts across the nation."

However, not all school districts want the ACT to be used as a mandated high school exam.

"One main reason a school district wouldn't want to use the ACT as an exit exam, is because they might not do well," Singer said. "The test might be too hard and their students might not do so well."

The ACT isn't all positives, even for Clayton. There are some negatives in using a national exam in

place of the MAP test.

Losos explains that some districts have focused so heavily on the MAP test that they are more invested in keeping a similar assessment than Clayton is.

"A negative of using the ACT is that the state loses control over the contents of the test and the grading of the test," Singer said. "Yet it sets a rigorous grade that no one can fiddle with."

Nonetheless, many people are still upset with the drastic change made by the state.

"I'm against the exit exams, as they should use the ACT," Singer said. "Almost all of CHS's students are already taking the ACT, and it is a test that they will need to go to college. This is the best way to assess our students."

Besides the debate of the ACT versus the MAP, some educators have other concerns about the exit exams.

"By virtue of the name of an exit exam," Losos said, "I would assume that the test would be taken at the end of the school year. In some school districts this exit exam might replace finals, but I don't envision that replacement at CHS."

Finally, to encourage students to put even more effort into these exams, the state might include them on student's grades or transcripts.

"There is mention that a student's grade on these exit exams might be counted for as 10 percent of their final grade for that semester," Losos said. "The details have yet to be truly decided and announced."

Besides the concern about how the tests could count as a grade, people also are concerned about what exactly would be on the tests, and whether this could lead to a state-mandated curriculum.

Not every school district sets up their curriculum the same way and so these exit exams could become

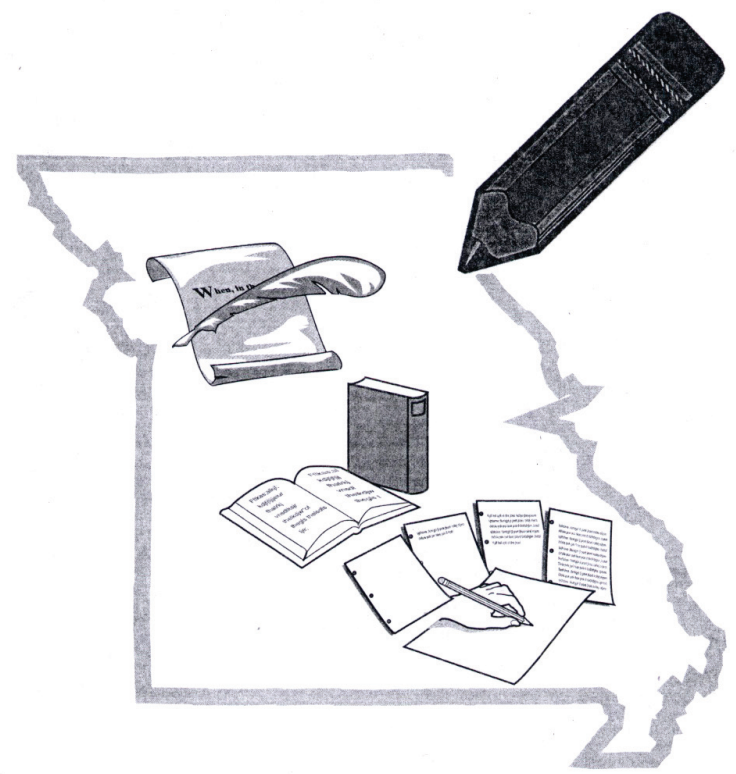
problematic.

"There are many problems with the new exit exams," Senti said. "Most students in Missouri take biology in ninth grade. At CHS, students take biology in eleventh grade."

The question then arises as to when students take the biology test.

"It seems that the exit exam is taken upon the completion of the course, yet CHS students will already have two extra years of math and science behind them, by the time they take the exit exam for biology," Senti said. "Also, our eighth graders take algebra, whereas algebra is usually a ninth grade course throughout Missouri. The State Board of Education hasn't thought through all of the details." ☹

## Missouri Assessment Program



## Examiner's Manual

### Communication Arts Assessment

Spring 2006

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

48208

The MAP test is going to be replaced by high school exit exams beginning in 2009. The details of exit exams are still to be determined.

# Primary seat belt law proposed for Missouri



Ryan Walden

Sophomore Daniel Shore buckles up before leaving the school parking lot. A new county ordinance as well as pending state legislation will allow police to ticket those riding without seatbelts

**Nicholas Andriole**  
Staff Reporter

Many students at CHS know that they should buckle up for their safety and the safety of others on the road.

However, some Missourians have not been buckling up when they ride in their cars. Due to the carelessness of drivers, those without seat belts are in great danger.

A major bill being debated through the Missouri House of Representatives and the Missouri State Senate, as well as a new St. Louis County ordinance, could change many people's driving habits.

St. Louis County currently has a primary seat belt law, which went into effect on March 9.

The county law states that the driver and all passengers in a passenger car must be buckled up.

A passenger car is defined as every motor vehicle designed for carrying 10 persons or fewer and used for the transportation of people. Under the county law, United States Postal Service (USPS) employees would be exempt while performing work-related duties. Violators receive a \$10 fine and are not assessed court costs.

Currently, outside of St. Louis County, police and state highway troopers cannot ticket drivers for not buckling up, unless they have been pulled over for another traffic offense, such as speeding.

However, if the new state legislation passes it would allow police officers all over the state to ticket drivers and passengers for not being buckled up. This is a referred to as a primary seat belt law.

The bill to institute this law, House Bill 90, was passed with a vote of 8-2 by the House of Representatives Transportation Commit-

tee. However, there would be some strings attached.

First, United States Postal Service employees while performing work related duties, persons using motor vehicles for agricultural activities, and people with a medical reason documented by a physician would be exempt from the law.

"I support the primary seat belt law because I believe it is one step in keeping drivers safe. It is estimated that a primary seat belt law could save as many as 90 lives per year in Missouri," Margaret Donnelly, Missouri State Representative for District 73, said.

The legislation in the State Senate is known as Senate Bill 17. The proposed bill in the Senate would pass the primary seat belt law; however, it would also eliminate the emissions testing and automobile inspection laws in the state, with the exception of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

"I will be voting for the primary seat belt law and against any effort to do away with vehicle inspections," State Senator Joan Bray said.

Some students and law enforcement personnel feel the law will have a positive impact on people's habits.

"I think it should be passed because a lot of other drivers don't wear their seat belts," junior Peter

Glick said.

School Resource Officer Dan Hegger believes the law will change people's habits as well.

"I think for a majority of people not wearing their seat belts having a law that requires them [to buckle up] will encourage them to do so," Hegger said.

Others oppose the legislation because they feel law enforcement personnel shouldn't pull them over for not buckling up.

"I think it would be stupid to pull someone over just because they aren't wearing their seat belt, therefore I don't support this law," sophomore Andrew Dowd said.

Some feel that without legislation, drivers simply won't make the safe and responsible choice.

"I think education won't do much. They need to get the law passed and enforce it,"

Glick is the cousin of Charlie Glik from Ladue High who was killed in a car crash this past July.

Click 4 Glik, a collaborative effort of students at CHS and Ladue High School, was formed to raise awareness and bridge the rivalry between the two schools.

Students were able to purchase t-shirts and bumper stickers to support Click 4 Glik, a Peers Protecting Peers group was formed, and two assemblies were held in response to the tragedy. ☹

“It is estimated that a primary seat belt law could save as many as 90 lives per year in Missouri.”

Margaret Donnelly  
Missouri State Representative for

Fischer & Leonard, LLP

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# Rising political star controversial at CHS

Fontasha Powell  
Staff Reporter

After recently announcing his intent to run for President of the United States, U.S. Senator Barack Obama is constantly being scrutinized in the spotlight. Known for his distinguishing looks and scholarly philosophies, he is seen as a strong contender for the White House. While some predict his charisma and strong oratory will drive his campaign to great heights, others vehemently argue that his inexperience and vague policies will not earn him the coveted position of President. In fact, conservatives, moderates and liberals alike at CHS take different viewpoints on the matter.

Liberal sophomore Joshua Oberman supports the senator.

"I would vote for Obama even though he may be seen as inexperienced," Oberman said. "He's bipartisan and able to lead our country into the right times. He would get votes from a broad spectrum because he has traditionally conservative rural white farmers willing to listen and be flexible. I think he'll make very wise and intellectual decisions."

Conservative Republican sophomore Teddy Monson argues that Obama is not fit to be president because of his lack of experience in politics.

"I would not vote for Obama, because he is under-qualified to

be president," Monson said. "The president should be a person who has governing experience. Although he has been a senator for two years, he hasn't actually been a governor or even a mayor."

Moderate history teacher Donna Rogers-Beard has not decided whom to vote for, but she disagrees with Monson.

"I don't know who to vote for as of this moment," Rogers-Beard said. "I am waiting to see the debates and I'm considering what's happening on a global scale. I know that people are concerned about his inexperience, but it will only hurt him if other political leaders decide not to cooperate. It won't be his inability to lead, but resentful Democrats and bitter Republicans eager for Democratic failure."

In fact, Rogers-Beard thinks that Obama's youth will add a fresh twist to politics.

"I think that people are a product of their environment, and I like the environment that Obama grew up in," Rogers-Beard said. "He was forced to become an observer. He was one of the few blacks in Hawaii; he's traveled in Southeast Asia and has lived in Kenya. This is a man who has had to see things from different perspectives, and this will help him bring a fresh approach to politics."

Freshmen Aundrea Van Dillen takes some of the same viewpoints as Rogers-Beard. Being biracial like Obama, she feels as if she can iden-

tify with the junior senator from Illinois.

"I would vote for Obama because he is rooting for African-Americans," Van Dillen said. "In the United States, there are hardly any presidents who seem to care about African-Americans. Obama and I somewhat have the same point of view. I know how Obama feels; he wants to help both races of his people. He wants to help everyone!"

Obama has specifically outlined his policies, and he has articulated that he plans to gradually remove troops from Iraq and regulate taxes, if elected.

Monson thinks that Obama's Iraq policy is flawed.

"I don't agree on with Obama on the war in Iraq, because all he does is criticize the Bush Administration," Monson said. "He wasn't a senator when the invasion occurred, thus he never had a say in it. Obama says that the Iraq campaign is a waste of 'time, life and money.' If he pulls out America like he says he will, he will be making even more of a waste of 'time, life and money.' He will broadcast to the terrorists that the United States is weak, and that we are unwilling to follow up on a commitment if the going gets rough."

Oberman, however, disagrees with Monson's interpretation of Obama's stance.

"I think that it's a good idea that Obama wishes to gradually remove

troops," Oberman said. "I think that Obama would be a lot better on fighting terrorism because he would pursue more diplomatic relations while simultaneously being in touch on national security without infringing on people's constitutional rights."

Many of Obama's other policies also arouse controversy.

"Obama is extremely vague on his tax policies," Monson said. "His web site says 'we need taxes as long as we can afford them. Everyone should pay their fair share.' What does this mean? This is un-specific."

Rogers-Beard agrees with Monson to a certain extent, but approves of the ideologies on which Obama's policies are grounded.

"I don't know if we know enough about where he is politically," Rogers-Beard said. "However, Obama knows the importance of accessibility of the economy, education and health care for all. Most importantly, he wants these opportunities for all Americans and he feels as if we have to step up to the plate. He drives the importance of national sacrifice. This will inspire and appeal to the younger generation."

No matter how the 2008 election turns out, the race certainly will be exciting.

"I think that all of the candidates are good choices, and it will be interesting to see how the campaigns unfold," Van Dillen said. ☺



Chuck Kennedy/MCT

Sen. Barack Obama listens during a hearing by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Filing papers to form a presidential exploratory committee, the Illinois senator signaled his intent to run for the presidency.

## Iranian-Saudi meeting a step toward Middle East stability



Farzaneh Khademian/Abaca Press/MCT

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks during a press conference in Tehran, Iran in August 2006. Ahmadinejad offered George W. Bush a live television debate as he shrugged off the threat of sanctions.

Roland Reimers  
Section Editor

As part of a growing regional effort in the Middle East to quell the political tensions in that area, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad met with King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on March 3 – a potentially significant step towards containing the sectarian violence that has plagued Israel, Lebanon, and Iraq in recent years.

Though relations between Iran and the Saudi kingdom have been considerably less friendly since Ahmadinejad took office in 2005, the past months have shown an increased diplomatic effort by Saudi Arabia to counterbalance the rising amount of influence exerted by Iran, according to a March New York Times article.

The visit has been both characterized as a move by Iran to decrease its isolation in the politics of the Middle East as well as the beginning of another aggressive effort by the Iranian president to improve his image worldwide.

What is more certain is that a renewed, functional Iran-Saudi Arabia relationship will play a large role in determining the outcome of U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the antagonism between Hezbollah and

the leadership of Fouad Siniora in Lebanon. Hezbollah is supported by the government of Iran while Siniora is backed by the U.S.

Khaled Dakhil, a professor of political sociology at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was optimistic about the meeting.

"The Iranians want to come to an understanding with the Saudis,"

Dakhil said in the New York Times. "The Iranians want the help of the Saudis on the nuclear front, and they do want to improve relations between Syria and Saudi Arabia."

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, like most top-level Western diplomats, has continued to stress the importance of resolving the troubles in the Middle East as efficiently as possible.

"Today, we are at a critical juncture in efforts to move beyond crisis management, and renew efforts toward genuine conflict resolution," Ban said at a session of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of Inalienable Rights of the Palestin-

ian People this year. "Neither [the Palestinians nor Israel] can achieve their legitimate demands without a settlement of the conflict."

Both economically and politically, the Shiite-majority Iran and the Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia are the strongest states in the Middle East. As a result, fluctuations in political coordination between these

two countries could disturb the volatile atmosphere of international diplomacy.

"Peace and security in the Middle East has been longstanding and unresolved,"

Ban said at a press conference before a meet-

ing of the Quartet, which includes high-ranking officials from Russia, the U.S., the E.U., and Germany, on Feb. 21. "This has great, very serious and important implications for world peace and security. I know that this will be again a very difficult process, but this time what we need to do is to encourage the parties concerned."

Since Ahmadinejad's election to the presidency of Iran, a number of

Gulf nations have calmly supported moves, including U.N. sanctions, against Iran's nuclear program. Still, Abdelaziz Sager, chairman of the pro-Saudi Gulf Research Center in Dubai, emphasized in the Times the Iranian view that any attack by the U.S. on Tehran will affect the rest of the region.

"[Iranian officials] want to deliver two messages – 'It is bad for the area; if we are attacked you will be affected,'" Sager said. "The other message is, 'If you have an easy way to solve the crises, tell us what it is.'"

Saudi Arabia, for its part, has increased its involvement in the situations in Iraq and Lebanon by acting as host of the Hamas and Fatah parties in Mecca.

Mohammed Hosseini, the Iranian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, agreed that action must be taken by both Saudi Arabia and Iran in the near future.

"When the views of the two countries get closer, they can play an influential role in the chaotic situation of the Islamic world and the Middle East," Hosseini said in an interview with IRNA, the official Iranian news agency. "Unrest is increasing in the Middle East and if the situation continues, it will become a threat for all the countries in the region." ☺

**“If you have an easy way to solve the crises, tell us what it is.”**

Abdelaziz Sager  
Chairman, Gulf Research Center

## CHS students give their opinions on the contempt of a soldier

Sara Rangwala  
Staff Reporter

It has become common for politicians, historians, and news analysts, almost everyone to compare the U.S.'s current process of liberation of Iraq to the Vietnam War. Many say that the America's involvement in Iraq is becoming a second Vietnam. Certainly there are many similarities, and First Lieutenant Ehren Watada just added another to the list.

During the height of the Vietnam War, Muhammad Ali became known throughout the United States for refusing to go to Vietnam after he was drafted. He claimed he wasn't supposed to "take part in no wars unless declared by Allah or The Messenger", in accordance with his religion Islam.

In June 2006, Watada's unit left for Iraq but Watada did not board the plane with them. After reading much about the war, he had decided that the war was illegal and against the Constitution, according to the Guardian in a Jan. 4, 2007 report. He refused to join his unit when they were deployed to Iraq and was court-martialed. He is being charged with one count of missing movement and two counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Watada, 28, joined the Army in 2003, ready to go to Iraq and "protect our country," but he soon learned more about the foundations of the war.

"As I read about the level of deception the Bush administration used to initiate and process this war, I was shocked. I became ashamed of wearing the uniform. If the president can betray my trust, it's time for me to evaluate what he's telling me to do," Watada said while he was on trial according to France 24.

Watada began to realize he might be sent to Iraq while serving in South Korea. He was soon informed that he would be deployed to Iraq. He then tried to get out of it by offering to go serve in Afghanistan instead. This proposal was turned down. Watada also refused a desk job with no combat duty in Iraq. Seeing no legal way to avoid being sent to Iraq, Watada decided not to board the plane to Iraq with the rest of his unit.

Junior Kyle Owings didn't agree with his decision saying that Watada abandoned the Army. However he

did agree that one should not participate in a war with which one does not agree.

"If you're doing a project [for school] you want to work with someone who cares about the grade," Owings said.

Several Clayton students said that they would not have found themselves in that position to begin with.

Junior Sam Jewett had dreams of joining the Air Force, but after the United States became involved with conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, he changed his mind.

"This isn't worth fighting for," Jewett said.

"I would go to Canada," junior Kevin Johnson said when asked what he would do if he were ever forced to go to Iraq. Senior Marek Poplawski said he would also try to avoid service. However, Poplawski considered Watada's actions cowardly since he had volunteered for the army.

While many have condemned Watada and his actions, there are also those who applaud his stand. A web site, [www.thankyoult.org](http://www.thankyoult.org) has been set up by his supporters. This web site contains updates on the subject as well as encouragement from many well-known figures. A "Letter of Support" from Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu to Watada is posted on this web site in which Tutu writes that he admires Watada's "courageous and moral stand". There are additional "statements of support" from Reverend Al Sharpton, U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich and actor Tim Robbins.

Despite the similarities in the way both Ali and Watada approached a war they didn't want to be involved in, there are many differences between the two. The most significant is that Watada was not drafted, but rather signed up for the military voluntarily and holds a commission as a lieutenant. He voiced his opposition to the war while in uniform and representing the U.S. military. This offense, in and of itself, made up a significant portion of the charges made against Watada.

Watada has already been on trial but it was declared a mistrial after the judge threw out a stipulation of Watada he considered an admission of guilt. Another trial has been scheduled for July 2007. ☺



MCT Campus

U.S. Army First Lt. Ehren Watada prepares to speak to the media, June 7, 2006, during a press conference in Tacoma, Washington. The judge supervising Watada's court martial called a mistrial on February 7, 2007.



The annual dressing-up of peppers kings was initially banned due to new hazing policies. However, after talking to students, the administration decided that the tradition could continue because it involved a different kind of humiliation.

## Inconsistent rules spark controversy

**RULES, 1**  
this was an initiation to the team. If hazing in a continuum, we understand that it was fairly mild. However, being forced to embarrass yourself for any team—that's hazing. Also, in talking to a number of girls, especially junior and senior field hockey girls, when asked, they admitted to being made to feel uncomfortable at the time, and they didn't necessarily enjoy the kidnapping."

Senior Rebecca Rivard, who was one of the field hockey team captains this year, was disappointed that the team was not permitted to kidnap the freshman players.

"I thought [being kidnapped] was fun when I was a freshman," Rivard said. "It was kinda cool, and it really brought the team together. [The then-seniors] called my mom ahead of time, so she knew about it too and was fine with the idea. Also, kidnapping makes it really obvious who the field hockey girls are, and can get a lot more people to come to our games."

The issue with the field hockey team kidnapping was solved with a discussion between the team captains and administration.

"We went to the field hockey captains and asked them to come up with a new tradition to build team unity, and bond," Losos said. "I think that they did a really good job finding a mix."

The upperclassmen picked the freshman up at their houses before school, and brought them in early for a big team breakfast.

"It was fun, but no better or worse than the kidnapping would have been," Rivard said. "I would have liked to be able to kidnap the freshman, now that I'm a senior."

A similar issue came up when Peppers Prom King

nominations were announced before the annual dance. Like the field hockey girls, Peppers King nominees are traditionally dressed up and decorated with a big sign, much like the girls had been in past years.

"An almost parallel [to the girls] was the peppers king dressing up and wearing sandwich boards," Losos said. "Our initial response was that it was the same thing, and that it couldn't go forward either. But then, we started having students at principal's advisory talk about the issue, and we had other groups of students come forward making arguments that they're not the same thing at all. Students felt that there was a difference between upperclassman requiring underclassman to humiliate themselves, and seniors dressing up other seniors."

The dressing up of king nominees is different for another reason as well, as Losos points out.

"When you come out for a team, you come out because you want to play the sport," Losos said. "You don't come out for the field hockey team because you want to be dressed up or embarrassed, or make a spectacle of yourself. But, the King candidates are almost agreeing to that part of the process. The students that we heard from had valid and tangible arguments over how the cases were different, and we listened to them and talked about it a lot."

In the end, the administrators decided to listen to the students, accept the arguments, and keep a close watch on what went on with the King candidates.

"While it looks like, in one way, we have two sets of rules, another way to see it is that the administration listens to students," Losos said. "They made the argument that they were two separate things, and we listened."

**“Students felt that there was a difference between upperclassman requiring underclassman to humiliate themselves, and seniors dressing up other seniors”**

**Louise Losos**  
Principal

## Vague dress code leaves room for interpretation

**Hannah Novack**  
Staff Reporter

"It's nice to know that when I wake up in the morning I can express the way I feel that day through my clothes," sophomore Morgan Johnson said.

Clayton students are very privileged when it comes to the dress code. Students can pretty much wear whatever they want as long as they don't promote something illegal and the clothes aren't too revealing. Most students don't understand the dress code or are even aware that one exists.

The dress code according to the Clayton Board of Education is as follows:

"The Board of Education expects student dress and grooming to be neat, clean, and in good taste, so that each student may share in promoting a positive, healthy and safe atmosphere within the school district."

But what does that really mean? It's pretty vague and open to interpretation.

"What's appropriate is basically up to individual teachers," math teacher Ann Marie Snodgrass said.

This means there are a lot of inconsistencies when it comes to enforcing the dress code. Snodgrass believes illicit language and underwear or stomach showing crosses the line. Some teachers believe the dress code is too lenient and crack down on students' dress.

"We pretty much let [students] express themselves as long as it's appropriate," assistant principal Dan Gutchewsky said.

Exceptions to this rule are overt sexual or drug messages are not allowed.

"There aren't very many issues, typically a handful in a given school year," Gutchewsky said.

Don't expect to see Mr. Gutchewsky walking the halls looking for inappropriate or disruptive clothing. Violations of the dress code are usually reported by teachers.

Snodgrass has noticed that there are more issues in the summer time when students wear short skirts and small shirts. When cases do arise, Gutchewsky has the student brought to his office and has a discussion about why the outfit is inappropriate. The students are asked to change. Johnson was one of the few cases.

"I wore Captain Morgan shorts because of the name, not because I wanted to promote alcohol," said Johnson. "I was just told not to wear them to school anymore."

Johnson complied with this request.

In the rare case that a student refuses to change, he or she could be sent home or suspended.

Although students typically follow the dress code, Snodgrass has an idea to improve the policy.

"There should be common expectations for clothing among the staff because we are so inconsistent," Snodgrass said.

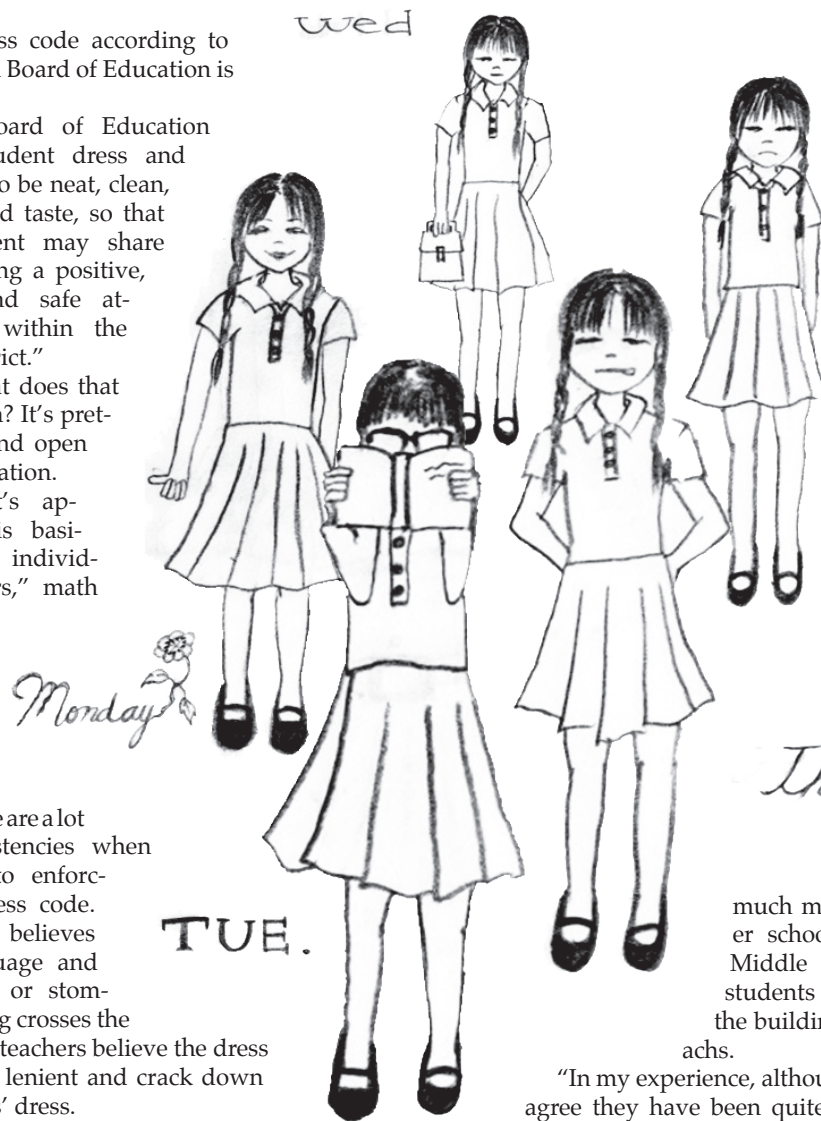
CHS students have much more freedom than other schools, such as Wydown Middle School. At Wydown, students can not wear a hat in the building or show their stomachs.

"In my experience, although students might not agree they have been quite cooperative," Gutchewsky said.

Snodgrass agrees that students are mostly responsible and respectful when it comes to dress.

Despite the one incident, Johnson supports the dress code.

"I like being able to wear whatever I want," Johnson said.



graphic by Wenny Dong

## Chess team checks in at state tournaments, wins big

**Feng Shuang**  
Section Editor

The chess club has done well in past state tournaments, likewise in the 2007. On February 24, the chess club tied for the first place trophy with Parkway Central in the Missouri State High School Chess Championship held in Jefferson City.

Many members of the club received individual awards. Seniors Jim An won a third place trophy, Charlie Johnson received a first place trophy, Paul Lehman won a fifth place trophy, Yi Zhao won a metal, and junior Ka Suen received a sixth place trophy.

Students drove themselves and

made the over 100 miles trip to the state to compete among Missouri's high school teams. There were four rounds, many schools arrived at 9 a.m. and didn't leave until well after 6 p.m. All together, 35 schools from all over Missouri participated in this event.

Si Wen was the only freshman on the team, he went into the competition with the idea to have fun and try his best to win prizes. Wen learned many valuable things on his first state tournament.

"I learned to be patient," Wen said. "Even if you think you are going to lose. I also learned to take notation so other people can't cheat and have you pay for it."

At times, there were conflicts

among the team members about board placement. Board one was usually the most challenging, which means the chance for winning an individual award was more difficult. So the goal was to have at least one strong player in each of the four boards to guarantee a strong finish for the team.

"No one really got along," Wen said. "Yi wouldn't get on board 2, and he was arguing with Paul. Then they decided to put me on board 2 instead."

Johnson thought the only negative aspect of the tournament was the timing.

"We had to sit down for two hours at a time," Johnson said. "Which could equal to eight hours

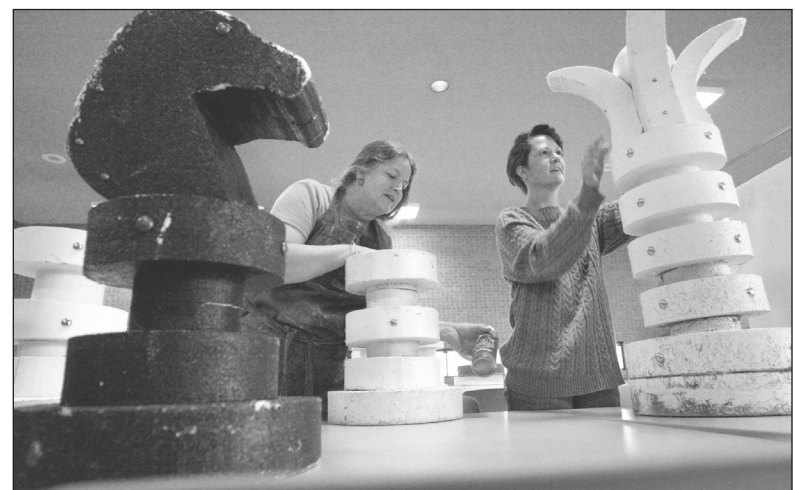
of sitting down time." Zhao agrees with Johnson that it was frustrating to sit for hours at a time, but overall, he thought it was time well spent and the experience rewarding.

"The tournament was awesome because I performed well and had fun playing the games" Zhao said. In the end, Wen felt that the team overall performed well.

"I felt very happy," Wen said. "I mean, we were co-winners, the team obviously did very well."

Johnson, who won all four of his games, likes chess because of many of its many different strategies.

"The tournament was awesome. Chess is the best game ever!" Johnson said.



The CHS chess team did well this year at state, which took place in Jefferson City in late February.

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# CHS Speech and Debate enjoys success at district tournament

While a few Clayton students will have the opportunity to contend in the national competition, others have relished the experience of being a part of the debate team. Overcoming adversity in the judging proved to be a stumbling block for some teams.

**Ken Zheng**  
Staff Reporter

Ever wondered how a politician is so good at knowing what to say during elections or how someone becomes so good at public speaking?

The answer is simple, practice.

That is exactly what the Speech and Debate team did before the National Forensics League Eastern Missouri districts tournament held on March 1-3 at Parkway West High School and Pattonville High School.

The Student Congress portion will be held at Hickman High School in Columbia on March 10.

Head Coach Brenda Bollinger said that "organization of time is the key to success in Speech and Debate."

"Most of our members are involved in numerous other activities, and they have to keep their schedules up-to-date," Bollinger said. "Some members would say that having a passion for arguing would help, while others would claim a need for a love of literature. Students are encouraged to test their talents in a number of different debates/events in order to find their niche."

Some of the students that participated in districts are: Tian Qiu, Yue Pang, Whitt Downey, Claire Wong, Michal Hyrc, Ka-Chuan Suen, Sara Rangwala, Dylan Cockson, Mariah Smith, Jessica Shen, Blair Klostermeier, Jeremy Bleeke, Mack Su, Ting Lu, Sneha Viswanathan, and Yiliu Zhang.

Many different events are available to someone participating in Speech and Debate, including: Policy

(Cross-Ex), Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum, Original Oratory, International Extemporaneous Speaking, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, and Duo Interpretation.

On a separate Saturday, competition will be held to determine qualifiers in Student Congress.

"While Clayton is not a powerhouse in the number of competitors and qualifiers, we are nearly always on the list of qualifiers," Bollinger said. "This year, [junior] Tian Qiu finished in 3rd place in Dramatic Interpretation. Unfortunately, this event qualifies only two people. Tian is the first-alternate, meaning that she will compete at Nationals if either the 1st or 2nd place qualifier is unable to attend."

The Public Forum debate team of senior Yue Pang and junior Whitt Downey placed 2nd in the Regionals and will compete at Nationals.

Pang qualified in this event last year, and she and her partner, Britney Dennison (class of '06) competed in Dallas, Texas, and finished in the top 15 Public Forum teams in the nation.

"Season-long competition is the best preparation for the district tournament," Bollinger said. "Some students change interpretation pieces, speech topics, or debate resolutions requiring them to push for

readiness. Other students simply maintain their normal practice routine.

"These students are self-motivated," Bolinger said. "yet we coaches (myself, Dr. Jonathan Smith, Mr. Dave Jenkins, and Mr. Nate Dempsey) try to make ourselves more available to them. The outcome relies so heavily on the number of entries, the pairings of competitors, and the subjectivity of the judges."

"Explaining to a student who has been winning all year that he/she does not qualify to nationals while someone who is competing for the first time does qualify is not easy. However, most of us have had to have that conversation more than once."

Bollinger said the tournament was fueled with emotion.

"At this tournament more than any throughout the year, I, as is the case with most of the coaches, feel more stress, excitement, and helplessness," Bollinger said.

While Bollinger felt a lot of emotions, the competitors were also quite agitated.

Sophomore Mack Su felt excited entering the competition but disappointed as he left.

"I felt that the format of the debate was unique but there was way too much down-time in between," Su said. "We had to miss school on Friday, it was incon-

venient. It was a very competitive atmosphere and it was a good experience. I felt that the judging on round four was outrageously unfair and I thought my team definitely won."

Su participated in Public Forum and Duo Interp.

Pang felt slightly nervous as she entered and happy as she left because she had qualified for nationals.

"In general it was fun, and I got to see most of my friends," Pang said. "Some of the judges from other schools weren't exactly fair. I did Public Form Debate which is where you work with a partner and debate a topic against two other people that's fairly controversial."

"I also did Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, which is when you get a topic about U.S. affairs and you have 30 minutes to prepare. It was long and tiring but the end results were good, so I'm happy."

Junior Whitt Downey was happy to get exactly what he went for: a national qualification.

"There was a lot of controversy about bad judging but we weren't part of that," Downey said. "We had a really tough schedule [in which] we debated every team in the top five except ourselves and one other team from the top seven."

"The scheduling is supposed to be random. I guess we were unlucky, but we did well anyway. I thought the competition was well run for being so huge, but it was a little drawn out at times."

Downey hopes to qualify for national competition in speech and debate next year because the meet will take place in Las Vegas. Only practice will tell if his dream will come true. ☺

**“At this tournament more than any throughout the year, I, as is the case with most of the coaches, feel more stress, excitement, and helplessness.”**

**Brenda Bollinger**  
English Teacher

# Book club celebrates literature outside of the confines of school

**Anya Veremakis**  
Staff Reporter

While students are often very busy with schoolwork and extracurricular activities, some CHS students have found time to join a newly formed club.

The CHS Book Club was just formed in January by senior Kyle Mulle and teacher Mark Crowell.

"Mr. Crowell told me that he would love to teach a class where everyone would sit around in a circle and talk about books," senior Kyle Mulle said. "I enjoy reading, but have trouble finding time for it. I thought book club would be a good way to motivate people to read and also a way that we could enjoy it together, a way to relate with others."

The club initially gained a great amount of interest.

"I joined Book Club because I was interested to read books suggested by other people and to maintain steady reading in my life," senior member Rob Reed said. "Only about five people attend each week out of the nearly 30 who came to the initial meeting and are

in the Facebook club. I think people more want to be associated with the idea of voluntarily joining a book club than actually joining and going to meetings and reading the books. It would be awesome if more people came."

Despite the lack of attendance the club had hoped for, through their vision, the club has successfully read three books including: "Everything is Illuminated" by Jonathan Safran Foer, "The Children of Men" by P.D. James, and "Sometimes a Great Notion" by Ken Kesey.

"I think the most valuable aspect of the club is reading books that you might not pick out otherwise and getting to hear and discuss other people's opinions about a particular book," senior Carrie Rosenzweig said.

The club consists of about five consistent members who typically meet every Wednesday at one member's house, where the host provides tea and snacks.

"The initial turnout was about 20 students," sponsor Mark Crowell said. "I was happy but as it turned

out we only have about five consistent members. I think that is a real positive though, sometimes the smaller the group, the better the discussion."

The discussions seem to have become one of the most beneficial aspects of the club.

"I always have fun at the meetings and it's a good group of kids," Mulle said. "These books bring up questions about life, society, religion and love, a lot of it is really meaningful. They are great topics to talk about with other people."

Despite the value of the discussions, though, on top of regular homework, the club naturally gives the members additional reading. The club reads anywhere between 100-150 pages a week.

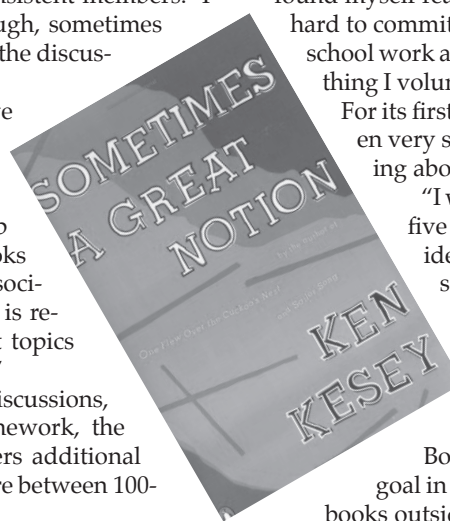
"Generally I haven't found it difficult to read the books because they have been interesting and often I've

found myself reading ahead," Reed said. "It's kind of hard to commit to the additional reading because of school work and other activities, but since its something I voluntarily do, I manage to find the time."

For its first couple of months, the club has proven very successful and has even started thinking about changes to the club for next year.

"I would change the club so that we read five to seven books dealing with specific ideas in the same semester," Crowell said. "This year there has been no coherent sequence so next year I am hoping we can be more deliberate about a sequence."

Nevertheless, in just the first months of its existence, the CHS Book Club has achieved its ultimate goal in promoting reading and discussion of books outside the literature curriculum. Perhaps the next years will provide even more success in establishing this extracurricular reading club. ☺



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# City museum provides amusement for visitors of all ages

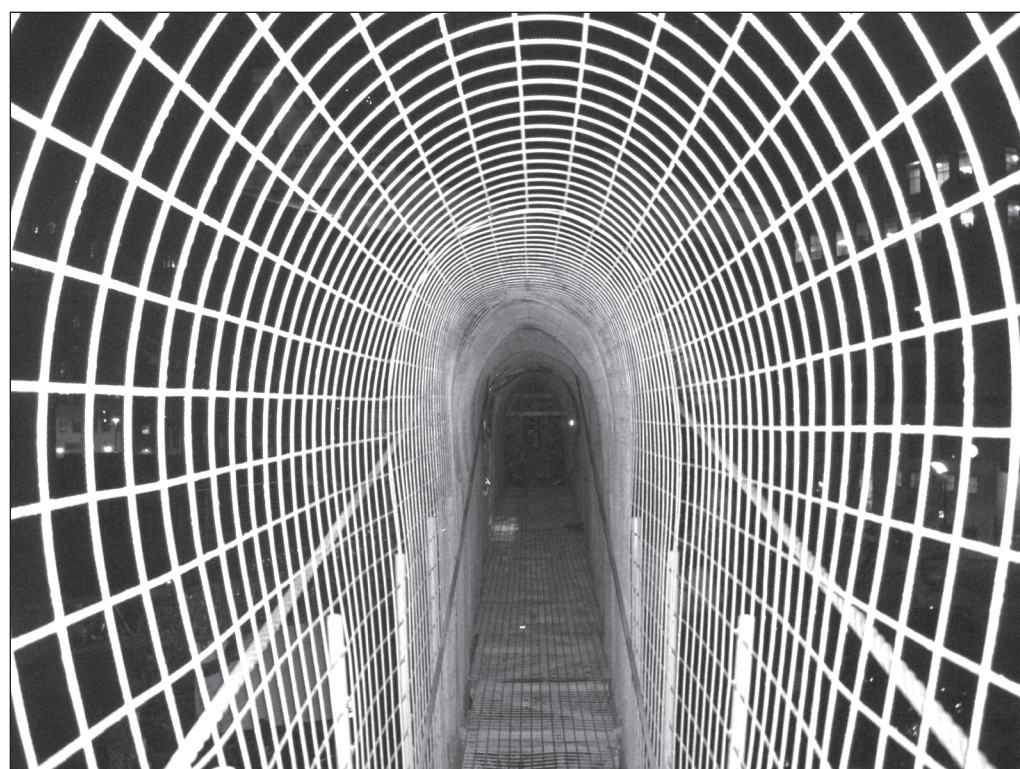
**Carol Iskiwitch**  
Staff Reporter

There is only one place in St. Louis where you can climb on an enormous outdoor jungle gym, slide down a "Monster" slide and go inside an airplane, all made out of objects salvaged from within the city. An eclectic experiment in urban recycling, the City Museum is one of St. Louis' most beloved possessions.

The City Museum is housed in the former International Shoe Company building in the heart of downtown St. Louis' Loft District. This popular institution saw over 600,000 visitors through its doors last year. Although the focal points of the museum include a school bus leaning off the edge of the roof and some large slides, since its opening in October 1997, the City Museum has attracted people of all ages.

Toddlers, children, teenagers and adults can all find things to enjoy at the City Museum. From Mini City, a toddler's paradise, to MonstroCity, "the most monumental, monolithic, monstrous montage of monkey bars in the world," ([www.citymuseum.org](http://www.citymuseum.org)) to a working shoelace factory, the City Museum has attractions for people of all ages and interests.

"I like climbing through the tall structures because it's a rush to be up so high," sophomore Taylor Obata said. "I don't know of any other place in St. Louis where you can crawl in structures and be that high up."



The City Museum, which is made of all recycled materials, is the home to attractions for all ages. Exhibits include MonstroCity, a working shoelace factory, an aquarium and the Baby Bob Ball Pit.

In any given week, a diverse cross-section of St. Louis visits the museum. However, some teenagers hold the idea that the City Museum is not intended for their age group.

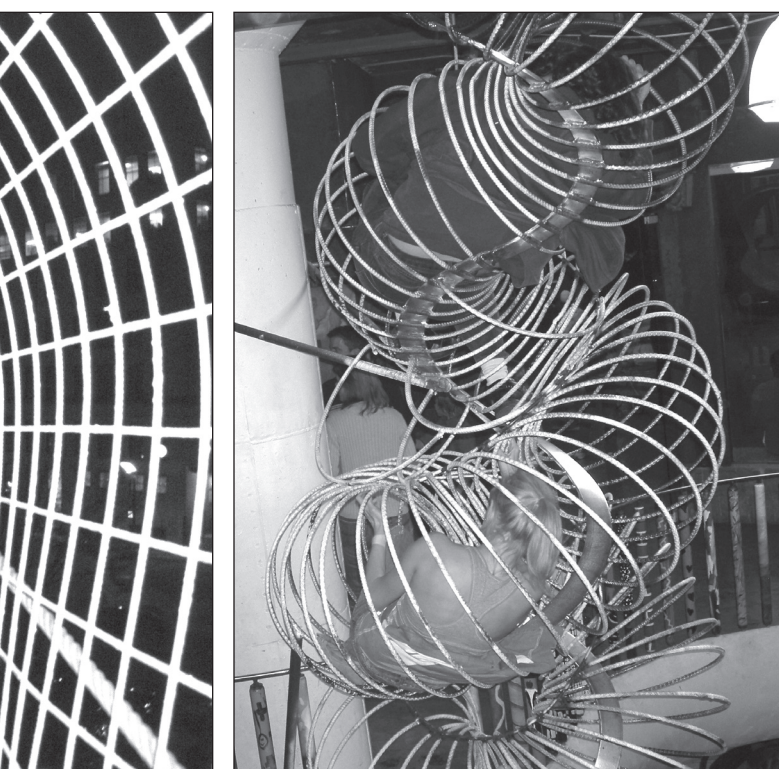
"Sometimes I feel like the City Museum is for little kids," sophomore Jenna Wonish said.

Obata feels differently. "I think the City Museum attracts kids and their parents, but it's also a very nice place for teens because there are concerts there and it's also a nice hang out," Obata said.

"[Teenagers] can be dare-devils, climb to great heights, go to the skate-less skate park and be a beatnik at Beatnik Bob's."

On a weekend night, a large portion of the visitors at the City Museum is teenagers. Some draws include occasional musical concerts and outdoor movies on summer nights.

One recent change in the rules is beneficial to teens. An admission rule used to be that if a teen did not drive his or herself there, he or she



Carol Iskiwitch

could not enter without a chaperone 18 years of age or older. Now teens just have to have proof that they are at least 16 years old in order to enter without an adult.

The reason for this rule, as City Museum Supervisor Melissa Pashia explained, is mainly for everyone's safety. Also, City Museum employees are not allowed by law to administer aid to anyone under 16 without parental consent.

But it is worth it for high schoolers under the age of 16 to find a

chaperone to accompany them. For an admission price of 12 or 8 dollars after 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, one can enjoy hours of entertainment exploring and taking in all there is to see.

One of the most interesting places within the museum is the World Aquarium. "I enjoy the aquarium because I enjoy looking at the fish, the birds and the kuwati," Obata said. "I like petting the ferrets and crawling through the structures that give you an interesting angle

to look at the fish. The only drawback for me is that you have to pay a separate admission price. I find the price worth it a few times but I would not pay it every time I go there because it is just too costly."

There is always something new to see or do at the City Museum.

"Nothing's ever finished," Pashia said. "Something is always under construction. You can always see yellow tape."

Some of the newest changes are a new third floor circus ring and stage, a concession stand for the circus area, additions to the skate-less park, a new dragon slide outside, and a new goldfish pond on the first floor.

"The City Museum has something for everyone," Pashia said. "In fact, I did a tour for blind adults. It was a three-hour, complete tour. Being able to touch your way through the City Museum is incredible."

In addition to being accessible, the City Museum is also safe.

"The City Museum is one of the safest places you can bring kids to have fun," Contract Security Worker Officer Jones said. "Everyone who works here is first responder certified. Everyone from high school students to 30 or 40 year olds will have a good time."

Pashia agrees. "The City Museum is fun for people of all ages, shapes, and sizes, because everyone can imagine."

The City Museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays until May 1. During the summer it is open seven days a week. ☺

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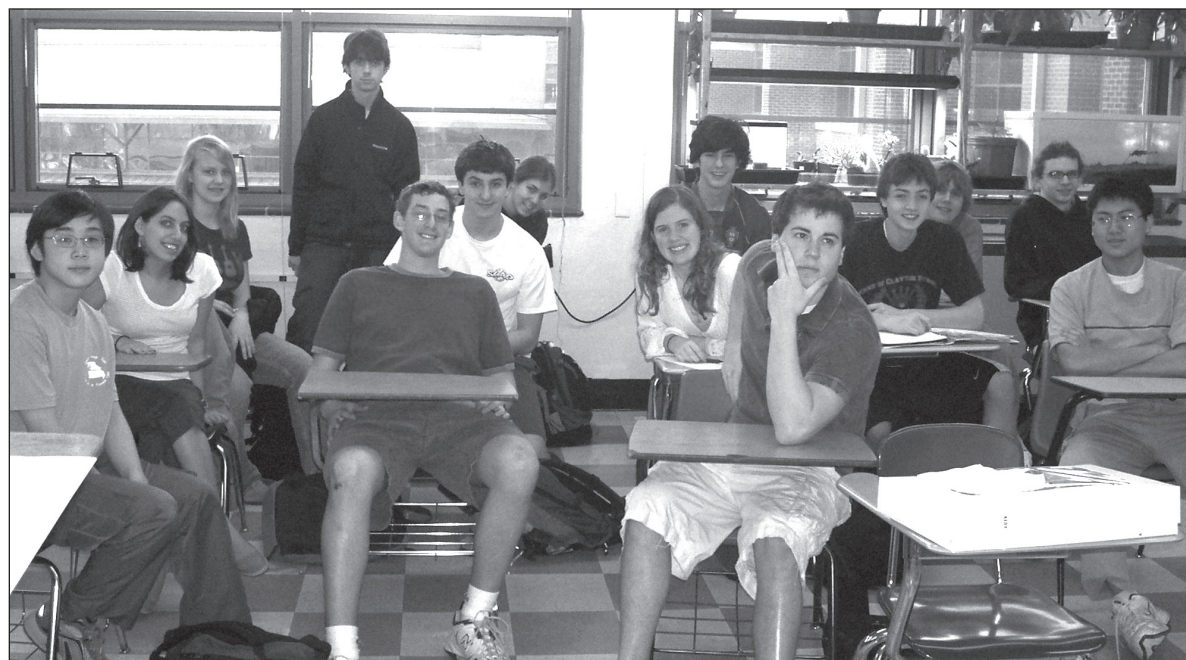
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Students participating in the WYSE competition prepare for the regional competition. The WYSE competition is new to Missouri this year and includes tests in seven different areas, including English, biology and math.

## WYSE competition offers students a scientific challenge

**Preeti Viswanathan**  
Staff Reporter

This year, for the first time, students in Rex Rice's AP Physics classes and students who were part of TEAMS competed in an academic challenge known as WYSE, which is new to Missouri. WYSE is an acronym for Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering. The contest was first started in Illinois, but is now open to high school students in Missouri as well. In WYSE, students can compete as a team or individually by testing their skills and taking tests on any of seven subject areas. The tests are multiple-choice and students have 40 minutes to complete them. The WYSE tests consist of three required subject areas, which are math, chemistry and English, and four optional areas which are biology, physics, engineering graphics and computer science.

"Each student on the fourteen-person team takes two tests, and your team score is based on your top two scores in each of the three required areas, plus your top two scores in an optional area that gives you your highest score," said physics teacher and WYSE coach Rex Rice. "So if students competed in all four optional areas, and they did really well in physics and biology and not so well in engineering graphics and computer science, they would count the ones that contributed the most to their score."

Rice said a large majority of students who participate in WYSE have also participated in TEAMS, which is another science competition, because they already have several of the skills required for WYSE, however, WYSE and TEAMS are different types of competitions.

"They're both about applying skills you've learned in school to an engineering situation, but in

TEAMS you work together as a team of eight people to finish whatever the task is. In WYSE your team is 14 people, but each person is taking individual tests and your team score is based on your best two scores in each subject area. My take is that TEAMS is harder because it's not focused the same way on a particular subject area," Rice said.

WYSE has a regional level, sectional level and state level. This year, the Clayton High School team of fourteen students advanced to the sectional level. Additionally, several students from CHS who participated individually also qualified for the next level. Two students in Physics tied for first place and one placed third. In Chemistry, one student took first place, while two students tied for second and third place. In Biology and Engineering Graphics, students took second place. CHS students also won first place overall in English and Computer Science.

Junior Ka Suen, who participated in the regional WYSE competition this year, said that the tests from TEAMS were harder than the tests in this competition.

"These tests are easier," Suen said. "They're a different kind of problems - these are more statements about what you know. It's a different competition style."

Suen said he doesn't have a preference over the WYSE format over the TEAMS format.

Senior Jesse Calvert said he likes the aspect of working in a group better than competing individually, however he agrees that TEAMS is overall a harder competition than WYSE.

"WYSE is easier to do than TEAMS. It's about stuff we've taken classes over, so we know the material better," Calvert said.

Senior Lizzie Boulton said her favorite part about WYSE is using

old skills and competing against others.

"The chance to brush up on skills that you haven't used for a while, that's really nice, and it's nice to compete and see how you compare to everyone else," Boulton said.

She added that TEAMS and WYSE are both quite challenging competitions, but she enjoys them equally.

"I like TEAMS a little bit better because you get to work in a group and so it's not all on the individual, but the problems for WYSE are easier than the problems for TEAMS, there are just more of them," Boulton said.

This year, students will not be going to the actual sectional competition on March 23 because of spring break. Clayton High School will be opting for the virtual sectional competition on March 14, in which students take the tests at school.

"The schools that advanced that can't attend the sectional competition at Florissant Valley on March 23 have a person at their school who's designated as the proctor for the competition," Rice said. "They'll send the tests to Rolla from that person. That person will administer the tests under the same conditions as if they were a bunch of teams together and then send them back to the person at Rolla. We're opting for the virtual sectional because we're not going to be here for spring break."

"It's been fun, though," Ricesaid. "I think some students really like the individual competition element of this and the possibility that they can do really well on a particular subject area. It was totally a student-driven thing; I've been impressed with how hard the students here have worked. I think they're going to do well in sectionals." ☺

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# Memories from third grade teach importance of speaking mind

What cool word starts with the letter 'K'? No answer? Me neither. This problem has plagued me ever since the grade school project in which we were supposed to make effervescent epithets to describe ourselves.

My classes in elementary school were filled with Ambidextrous Alexs and Pallid Paulas. Well, maybe the names weren't that advanced during my earlier years but, nevertheless, I constantly felt left out in every getting-to-know-you activity, nametag opportunity, and "really super cool poem" that revolved around my name.

Are the words Kangaroo or Koala the best I could look for to spice up my name? I never really liked Koalas; they looked a little bit malevolent to me with those beady eyes and snub noses. Kangaroos were just weird. Who would want to carry a baby around on their stomach all those years?

In other words, I never really connected with a meaningful sobriquet that didn't strike fear into the heart of elementary sensitivity.

Now that I am older and, perhaps, a bit more loquacious than your average second grader, I have decided to take it upon myself and on behalf of all Kellys everywhere who were left in nickname predicaments through the course of their lives by finding interesting words that start with the regal letter "K."

The first word, ironically, my eyes settle upon in the American Heritage Dictionary is "kleptomaniac: An obsessive impulse to steal regardless of economic need."

Kleptomaniac Kelly. Now that is a match made in heaven- and there's a nice ring to it.

Don't get me wrong, I am not a compulsive thief, and I most definitely never have been (with the exception of three gelly-roll pens I 'borrowed' from my next door neighbor in 1995 and have since misplaced). However, the word kleptomaniac does hold a special place in my heart and perhaps it describes a part of me that I hardly ever think about anymore.

During third grade year at Meraec Elementary School, we learned many important things: cursive, multiplication, major cities in the world. However, the most important subject we studied was the one entitled "big words that practically no third grader will ever learn and remember for further use." The idea was to get us interested in the wide world of vocabulary.

So, our teachers read my very attentive class a lovely story about a budding klepto. For some reason the word stuck with me. Or maybe it was just the circumstances surrounding that class that make me think about the meaning.

That year, I did not like my teacher. No, my dislike reached far

beyond the normal bounds of animosity and was slowly accelerated towards a constant source of anger that my irrational third-grade mind had not yet witnessed.

I thought she played favorites, giving cutesy nicknames to the popular kids and treating me with what seemed to me, a rude air of indifference. I feared having to talk to her or ask questions.

Eventually this unexplainable fear became so large that I became silent in her classes. One day I remember in particular was when she called each of us over to go over our multiplication tables

with her individually. For me, a person who struggled with math, it appeared that she spent the least time with the kids who needed it the most. This realization sent me over the edge.

Even in my naivete I knew that the point of school was not to send children into reclusiveness and fear. I wanted the most out of my education, and I was going to make sure that my teacher became aware of what I thought her wrongs were.

I wrote her a letter. It was a long letter for a girl of my years, prob-

**“I've got to regain that part of me I've lost. I have to learn to talk when I speak; to lay it all out on the line, take it or leave it.”**

ably partially incoherent too, but it said exactly what I felt. It was written in my own sloppy cursive and I wrote it with little revision help from my parents. I got my best friend, who agreed with me on all points of the letter, to sign it as well.

I'll never forget the day I gave my teacher that fateful note- the same day we read the story of the kleptomaniac.

We stood in a line, getting ready to head home to the loving arm of our parents, I was nervous and apprehensive but somehow I shoved the letter in her hand before walking out the doors. Her face looked pleased.

The next day, I hoped for the best. Maybe something would change.

Nothing did. She pulled my friend into the little, windowless "conference" room first. Judging from her tears, things did not go well. I stalked in there like a criminal going to her death sentence. My teacher looked down her nose at me with her condescending eyes and told me how I was bully to force my friend to sign that horrible letter- the ultimate betrayal. She told me I was wrong.

Being young and impressionable I took everything she said

to heart. I believed I was horrible person and that my actions were unjustifiable. Somehow, she got to act like the merciful one, forgiving me for my sins, while I stood crying in a corner, the object of the other children's stares.

Needless to say, my parents were livid with her. They assured me I had done right in writing that letter to her and that I should always say what I feel, no matter the consequences. Even more, they believed in my cause and that is probably why I did not lose most of my ability to speak up on my beliefs that day when my teacher tried so hard to make me conform to hers.

I don't regret any part of that letter I wrote.

Still, though, I feel a pang of loss every time I look back on that year. Sometimes I find myself talking to others so softly I can't even hear myself. That hurts.

A part of me left that third grade year, a part of me that I sorely miss today. It makes me ponder: what happened to that girl? What happened to that geeky, glasses-wearing, frilly sock-donning, bookworm of a girl who told people exactly what she thought?

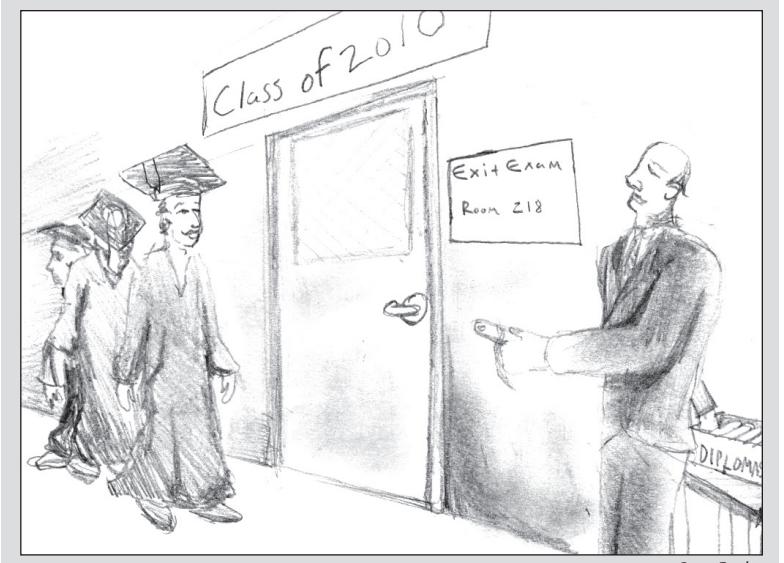
I'm sure that ever since that meeting with my teacher, who abused the power to sway my budding mind, I tried harder and harder to be perfect, to conform. Even though I speak my opinions, part of me knows that to really be true to what I feel, I need to do more than I am.

Through the course of growing up, the childhood attribute that allows us to say what we feel somehow got lost in the increasing pile of Spanish verb conjugations, Huck Finn reading assignments, and algebra problems that sometimes make me more worried about my GPA than saying what I really think.

I miss not caring about being a good student. I miss righting wrongs despite the consequences. I miss telling people what I think of them without worrying about having to still put up with them later.

But, like they say, hindsight is always 20/20. I can only work to express my opinions in a more meaningful way, a way that would actually change someone's mind rather than just aggravating them.

I'm not saying I'll write letters to all my teachers who annoy me. I'm not saying I'll become a kleptomaniac to prove my point. I'm saying I've got to regain that part of me I've lost. I have to learn to talk when I speak; to lay it all out on the line, take it or leave it. ☺



Sam Bader

## Exit tests bad for students

Let's be frank: for sophomore and junior students at CHS, the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests have only one real importance and that is missing out on real classes in order to take them.

This lack of motivation to do well on the statewide tests seems to afflict most students in the state of Missouri and appears to be one of the key motivators to Missouri's recently approved plan to change the MAP testing to a required "end-of-course" exams which will include mandatory coverage of math, science and communication arts.

### StaffEditorial

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is spearheading this plan. Even though the details have not been fully hashed out by the State Board of Education, DESE has already started work on exams over Algebra I, English II and Biology. The first year of enactment for these statewide final exams will be the 2008-2009 school year.

Obviously, Missouri is still reacting to the results of the ill-effect No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, requiring all states to make "adequate yearly progress" (AYP) in schools test scores. If the states don't make AYP there are "consequences" which relate to the amount of federal and state funding for education.

After the first year of NCLB results showed more than half of Missouri schools found lacking, many angry (and less compensated) educators pointed fingers towards the MAP tests for their inadequacy.

So Missouri State Board of Education decided to take circumstances into their own hands to please NCLB standards.

Though the idea behind changing the MAP testing is sound, year-end exams are not the best solution, especially for innovative schools like Clayton where a creative curriculum is favored.

As well, state officials want to figure the students' results into their final grade and also their GPA as an incentive to do well.

Maybe they haven't read any newspapers lately: teen stress is at an all-time high. Adding another three exams with the possibility of future additions would just add to the already mile-high load of work students already are facing.

A state regulated exam would force teachers to teach toward an exam, only using a curriculum

that could lead to better scores and thereby more money for the school district.

All of leeway that allows students to have conferred English or read untraditional novels would be taken away in a need to study the banal grammar and required reading that most assuredly would be placed in high standing on an indifferent state exam that doesn't know how things are done at Clayton High.

In earlier years, MAP testing did not require students to take an exam in science.

Now, the end-of-course exams will include Biology.

Since Clayton is innovative in its strategy to teach Biology during junior year, would the state require the curriculum be changed to fit their test time schedule?

Even the different levels of classes at Clayton will prove problematic for taking these exams.

Some students at CHS never even take Algebra I during high school. How will they prepare for the exams? Are they to study on their own?

That opens up an entirely new set of problems for the state to deal with that include parents, students and teachers wanting a loophole out of the tests.

Clayton, once prized for its innovation in the field of academia, will be forced to change to fit a predetermined set of standards. There is no possible way that the state of Missouri

can make an exam that encompasses every teacher's curriculum in the state.

For a school, like Clayton, that emphasizes the need to break the mold of learning, these end-of-course exams eliminate that chance. They represent a state, and perhaps a nation, that only wants students to fit inside of the box.

Instead of one statewide end-of-course exam, Missouri should work in conjunction with schools to create exams that work with different styles of curriculum.

Problematic for student who will take the exams, teachers who will have to teach toward the exams, administrators who have to deal with the results of the exams and school districts who will be forced to deal with the repercussion of either meeting the NCLB standards or not, the idea of state regulated final exams cannot be tolerated if any spec of academic diversity is to be left in the State of Missouri. ☹



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<p><b>Thumbs Up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4th Quarter</li> <li>- Quad sunbathing</li> <li>- Spring break tans</li> <li>- Wearing shorts</li> <li>- Flip flops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poetry</li> <li>- AP tests</li> <li>- Exit exams</li> <li>- The right hand rule</li> <li>- Spring break too short</li> </ul> <p><b>Thumbs Down</b></p>
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# Blind trust leads to possibly dangerous, amusing situations

My parents are trusting people, especially my dad. Many times, when my dad makes a purchase, big or small, he asks the salesperson to tell him about the products and make a recommendation on which he should buy.

And when the salesperson recommends a product that's either of better quality in his or her opinion, or just plain more expensive with a better-groomed wrapper, "I trust you!" My dad says with a wink and a big smile, at the same time poking the salesperson with his index finger on the shoulder (which is probably where I got my occasional urges to poke my friends) or pat the salesperson like a long lost friend.

Sometimes, however, my dad's trust in basically the entire population on earth does bring in some problems. Just small problems, like the time he brought a drug dealer home.

When my family was about to move to St. Louis, my dad wanted to ship a desk to our family friends

who lived about a mile away. But since he didn't have a truck to load the desk and didn't want to pay for delivery service just to ship such a short distance, my dad decided to ask a stranger in the neighborhood to help him deliver the desk after seeing him hopping into a truck.

The stranger, who was in his early 20's, agreed, and my dad praised him for being such a nice young man and was happy that he had met another trustworthy gentleman in society.

After they delivered the desk, my dad invited the stranger to our house to have dinner with us, despite seeing my mom's angry glower.

The dinner was all right. My dad had a nice conversation with him, though it was awkward for me and my mom.

After dinner, I went to my room, and my mom did the dishes while

my dad and the stranger continued their conversation a little longer before they finally said their good-byes.

After my mom finished the dishes and I came back to the living room, dad said to us in a low and somewhat scared voice: "He wanted to sell me drugs!"

It turns out that while dad and the stranger continued their conversation, the stranger took out a bag of weed and asked my dad if he was interested. After figuring it out what it is, dad panicked a little and pretended like he didn't know what it was and said to the stranger: "What's that? Oh is it tealeaves? No, we have enough of that in our house."

Of course, my mom and I basically screamed at my dad for bringing a drug dealer home, but our

anger eventually faded until a few days later.

It was 10:30 p.m. on the night before we were moving. My family was about to turn off the lights and go to sleep when someone knocked on our doors. After my dad went to see who it was through the peephole, he panicked as he whispered to us that it was the same drug dealer waiting for him to let him in.

Well, that threw my mom and me into chaos as all of our fatigue dispelled. While my mom ran to her room and closed the door, I ran to hide in the bathroom, carrying a kitchen knife.

I had never encountered anything like it before, and I thought the drug dealer was going to harm my family to keep our mouths shut about his stash. I was afraid for our lives. After I held my breath behind the bathroom door and listened to the unintelligible conversation between my dad and the drug dealer, I was relieved when the door finally closed and my dad told us that it

was okay to come out.

I was even more relieved to find myself and my parents all well and in one piece. It turns out that the drug dealer wanted money from my dad to restock his stash. My dad, though scared, could only find \$2 in his pocket to give to him. Fortunately, the drug dealer didn't want to cause trouble, so he took the money, and drove off in his truck.

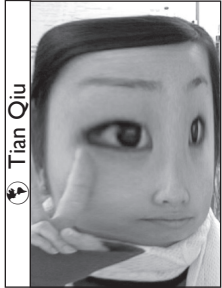
Of course, my mom and I scolded my dad again for bringing the drug dealer to our house in the first place. My mom was especially angry, even though she is a very trusting person herself.

My dad still doesn't respond whenever we bring up the incident with the drug dealer. He simply looks down and frowns.

I just hope that the next time my parents warn me to be careful about leaving my things with friends or taking a "sketchy" cookie from an acquaintance, they have a deep reflection first. ☺



Kelly Moffitt



Tian Qiu



# Procrastination makes project miserable

The dreaded junior year Honors American Literature author project was exhausting and trying, but could have been less painful if started earlier. Instead, the books laid untouched for month.

As a junior in Honors American Literature I have recently completed my rough draft for the dreaded "Author Project". As I have embarked on this project, choosing the very mediocre author O. Henry, I have grown mentally, but more importantly my confidence has increased as I have dutifully fulfilled each step required.



Hyrum Shumway

As any junior enrolled in American literature I soon memorized the steps to the author paper they were: reading a biography and taking notes on forty or more note cards, annotating three critical reviews of your author, then attempting to read three or more works taking double column notes for one work then annotating the remainder of the authors works.

Next, we had to create an outline on what you "plan to write about", then the last and final stage writing an in-depth paper about your authors status in American literature, how his life affected their fiction, and answering the question of what distinguishes your author and characterizes him from others.

As you read the previous sentence you assuredly noticed that the "syntax" (author project jargon meaning sentence structure) of the sentence was very long. This is analogous to the long, torturous journey that has come to partially define my author project experience.

While my sisters worked on their projects periodically I procrastinated and barely met each deadline.

Unlike my sister Sarah, I got my books the day before Halloween and they sat in my room on a shelf for a whole month before I could muster the courage to crack their pages.

As I opened up the imposing books and started to read a month later, I realized how slow I was going—instead of making a goal to read everyday, I choose the alternate route to not look at my books until I had to. Over Thanksgiving break I realized my predicament and got through half of my biography.

The author project has come to be like a looming dark cloud constantly covering my otherwise content life.

As a typical high school student it is difficult to think so far ahead, when you are so intensely concentrated on the present. However, my author project took over my life on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December, and from that time on I finished my biography, took sixty note cards, read 78 pages of critical reviews, as well as taking 14 pages of double-column notes.

However, the anthology of his work proved much harder to read. It was simple to understand but I felt like Phil Connors in "Groundhog Day".

Instead of reliving a day, I felt like I was re-reading the last story I had finished. Like Phil I couldn't quit, because the project was worth hundreds of points. I even carried around O. Henry to restaurants and read to and from church.

The author project was due no exceptions midnight the Friday after

Winter Break. That Friday after my tennis clinic at 9:00 pm I started to read, and had another two hundred pages to go.

By 11:45 I had read 150 pages. At CHS fifteen minutes later, I was confronted with many other slackers who were also trying to get in the school. I was so grateful, that the school wasn't open because I finished reading that Saturday.

When I got my books back I was surprised how well I had done,

through-out the project although stressful at times I pulled through. I felt while working that I do better when under the gun maybe stress was a positive influence on me.

My theory about myself was to be tested shortly as the outline for my paper was needed. Again a midnight deadline was given, again school willingly wanted to ruin my life—this time over President's day week-end.

While other student's minds were far from school, mine was a frantically searching through my papers as I looked for quotes, important passages, and raked my brains trying to get Microsoft word to conform to the outline format that I had been given.

At 2:22 A.M I finished—this time I didn't even think of driving over to the school—it was turned in on teacher work-day by ten. Two weeks later on the first minute of March 5 the Rough draft for the paper was due, yes a midnight deadline was given—I decided to end my pain early. On Thursday night I started and wrote a fabulous introduction.

The next two days were quite possibly some of the worst two and a half days I have ever spent.

Over the course of the two days

most of my time I sat in my house staring at an ever-increasing word document with note cards, critical reviews and books all around.

I had a job, a desire, a goal and I was going to get it done no matter what. In between spouts of intense writing,

I would stand up stretch, and if I really wanted to treat myself I would walk around my neighborhood.

My afternoon walks around 91 Lake Forest Drive was the most enjoyable thing I did. At Sunday night at 8:34 twenty-two pages later I finished a full 28 hours ahead of schedule.

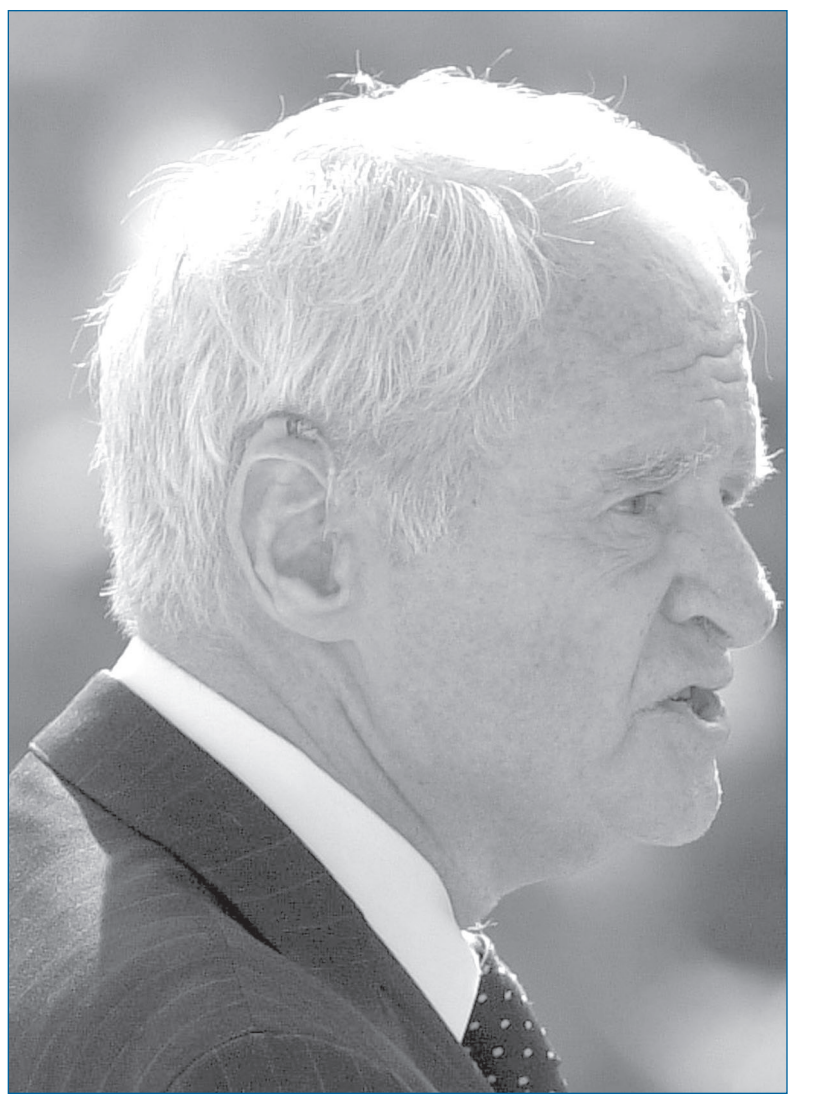
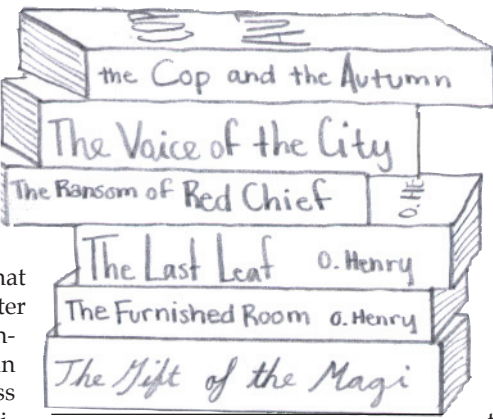
In my rough draft conference I was told that my paper was great. I had done so much work for my rough draft that the final draft should be a piece of cake—I hope my teacher is right I can't imagine what how I would react if she tells me that the second half is horrible.

I might be like Phil Connors and ponder suicide for a second, then being the man that I am accomplish the task. For after completing what I have done, I feel like I can do anything—except rewrite my paper with a new thesis.

Don't get me wrong new juniors the author project is interesting and I really enjoyed O. Henry's work and learning about his life, just not in such bulk in short time periods.

However, one could make the author project very simple, and start on it when it is actually assigned in September instead of waiting until early December, and start writing in early January opposed to late February.

Next year, in AP Literature I will get another chance to prove myself intellectually, physically, mentally, and most of all emotionally to learn from my mistakes—more probably however, nothing will change.



Former senator Tom Eagleton was first elected in 1957 as the St. Louis circuit attorney, later going on to become Missouri's attorney general and lieutenant governor.

# Eagleton's death highlights lost art of diplomacy

The articles began to appear on my already cramped and cluttered desk, on my bed and on my dresser the week of March 5. My dad was amassing every article he found on the late former US Senator Thomas Eagleton. When I asked my dad why he kept bestowing the Eagleton articles upon me, he replied: "Read them. How often do you hear a politician applauded for his civility?"

My dad is not the only one who feels that the passing of the native St. Louisan deserves attention: his death made the front page in several major newspapers, over 1,200 people attended his memorial mass and both Gov. Matt Blunt and Mayor Francis Slay ordered flags to be lowered to half-mast.

After reading all the articles, I discovered that Eagleton was a massive force in U.S. and Missouri politics. An early opponent of the Vietnam War (and a recent vehement challenger of the Iraq War), Eagleton was the author of the federal War Powers Act, which limited the ability of the President to go to war without Congressional support. He was also a key player in the passage of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

First elected in 1957 as the St. Louis circuit attorney, Eagleton went on to become Missouri attorney general and lieutenant governor. He served three terms in the U.S. Senate, retiring in 1987. In response to questions about his decision to retire at the early age of 57, Eagleton responded: "I'm tired of going around with my tin cup [seeking financial contributions to my campaigns] and I'm tired of laughing at things that aren't funny."

But what struck me about Eagleton was not his high profile career as a politician, although his accomplishments are certainly impressive. I was moved by the seemingly endless praise of Eagleton's good character. The March 5 Post-Dispatch article "Loss of a Statesman" quotes Mayor Slay as praising Eagleton's "unofficial roles as local ambassador, cheerleader, sports fan, conciliator, mediator, humorist and wise counselor." In a March 11 article in the same pa-

per, former Vice President Walter Mondale said that "Tom was one of the most magical people I've ever worked with. He was an enlightened, decent man, always honest... he was one of the great public servants of the last half century."

Excuse me, but had I just read the word 'decent' written in glowing reference to a POLITICIAN? The more I read, the more intrigued I grew. Apparently, Eagleton was known for his frequently humorous correspondence via handwritten notes and letters with people ranging from politicians to average citizens to the students he taught at Washington University.

Every article I read about Eagleton was bursting with quotes from people both famed and unknown about how Eagleton had personally and extensively influenced the course of their lives.

The late senator loved Missouri and especially his home town of St. Louis. He led the 1995 effort to bring the Rams football team to St. Louis from the West, celebrating when the team went on to win the Superbowl five years later.

The articles about Eagleton painted him as my ideal politician. Staunch Democrat Eagleton exemplified civility in politics, forging a strong bipartisan relationship with Republican John Danforth, himself also widely respected for his character. He had both a perceptive world view and immense pride in representing his home state in Congress. He was effective in the Senate, but still carved out time

to hand-write letters to the people he represented.

My question is: why don't we have politicians like Tom Eagleton anymore? My generation has been denied the chance of really experiencing Eagleton as a senator. Webster's dictionary defines a politician as one "active in politics... sometimes only for selfish reasons." A statesman, however, is "a person who is wise and skillful in the business of government." Eagleton was a statesman.

Knowing his health was failing, Eagleton took the time to write a farewell letter. He left us with the following: "So go forth in love and peace — be kind to dogs — and vote Democratic." ☺



Nava Kantor

# Boredom is a necessity

Do you ever get really, really, really bored? I do. I have always thought that being bored is one of the most frustrating feelings I ever experience. Boredom seems to be the ultimate lack of control and power because no matter how hard I try, I cannot escape my boredom.

It begins slowly, creeping along the floor, approaching me and then sluggishly moving up my legs, capturing my entire body. Then, I am bored.

I was planning to watch a movie, but the idea did not sound too appealing. Then I thought about having friends over to play some

Halo, but once again I was not enticed.

I considered playing computer games, doing homework or going to get some food,

but none of those options seemed interesting. Instead, I decided to sit down in my room and do absolutely nothing. I just was not in the mood to do anything whatsoever.

My friend called me and asked if I wanted to go bowling, but once again I felt a complete apathy as if I had no desire to stand up from chair.

That is when I realized that as miserable as I thought I was being bored, it really is not so bad.

Instead of continuing along with my fast paced life moving from activity to activity and never getting a chance to inhale, I can feel like time is infinite.

Instead of rushing and filling my day with as many things as possible, I can relax in the comfort of my room listening to some soothing music and just enjoy something simple.

We spend so much of our lives trying to avoid gaps and spaces in which nothing is there to enter-

tain us. I have always worked hard to make sure that I was occupied and that I did not fall into the trap of boredom. However, now it does not seem to be bad at all, but rather alleviation from my hectic everyday life.

I have always viewed boredom as a negative, something that drags me down and takes away passion, but perhaps it is more like a period of time where you allow yourself to recapture some of your passion. Maybe one cannot just keep running on and on, without a little recharging.

I now think that boredom and free time are not only all right, but also necessary. It allows me to reflect after working and working endlessly.

We should take a little time off and not follow the pressure to live a full packed schedule.

It feels really refreshing to sit in a chair and know that you are completely free of commitment, obligation, duty or anything else in the world.

You can just sit there and ap-



Rachel Harris

preciate the fact that you are there, regardless of all the other stresses that may be going on in your life.

I recommend that everyone try to keep a little bit of time to do nothing. Everybody needs some time to just exist free of anything else, to be just for the sake of being.

Sure, it is great to do lots of things and to experience lots of facets of life,

but it is just as important to reserve some down time.

From now on I am going to

**“We should take time off and not follow the pressure to live a full packed schedule.”**

**“But what struck me about Eagleton was not his high profile career as a politician, although his accomplishments are certainly impressive.”**

•Wasted•Smashed•Hammered•Slammed•Plastered•Tanked•Sloshed•Juiced•Sauced•

# Keeping up with the boys

Binge drinking used to be a male-dominated activity, but recently girls have gotten in on the game, a trend that experts say can have even more dangerous consequences than those for males.

**Rachel Harris**  
Co-Editor in Chief

Senior Dana Lewis\* has had her fair share of crazy nights. "Nothing beats this one night after hard core partying when I woke up half naked, nauseous, and without a clue to where I was," Lewis said.

Lewis, a second semester senior, is no newcomer to partying at Clayton High School, but she has still found herself in many precarious situations due to the intoxicating effects of alcohol.

But the minor setback has not deterred Lewis. On a recent St. Louis spring night, she and a few friends from work, still donned in their uniforms, downed vodka pineapples and "cosmos;" a cocktail made from vodka, orange liquor, cranberry juice, and lime, at a local bar.

Many students who drink heavily, as Lewis has in the past, become ill due to alcohol poisoning.

"I've had to take care of so many people, friends or not, that have had too much to drink," senior Beth Smith\* said. "I've held each of my best friend's hair while they were puking over the years. I really don't mind helping them because I know they would do the same for me. I've checked on passed out friends multiple times throughout the night, making sure nothing bad happens to them, but it's always a really scary situation because I don't know whether or not they're bad enough to actually be at risk of death, and should be in the hospital or not."

Throughout the early '90s, it was mostly frat brothers who generated stories of their drunken antics. In recent years, however, the number of women drinking as dangerously as men is rapidly increasing.

"The general rule of thumb is about one milliliter per kilogram of body weight, so we are talking maybe an ounce and a half or two of pure alcohol will give you a toxic blood alcohol level," Medical Toxicologist, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Doctor, and Pediatrician at Saint Louis University School of Medicine Anthony Scalzo said. "So if we are talking about vodka, which is maybe 40 to 50 percent alcohol, it is no more than three ounces before you are drunk and that goes pretty quick since [students] aren't measuring out shots meticulously like a bar does."

The initial effects of alcohol can give an impression of freedom. The loss of inhibitions, relaxed social interaction, pleasant dizziness, and talkativeness are all part of the package, but are not the only aspects that come with alcohol consumption.

Senior Stacey Billings\* chooses to drink because she thinks it is fun. Billings has been drinking alcohol since she was 14 years old with her friends and sometimes by herself when she is bored.

"I really enjoy being drunk," Smith said. "It's a fun, carefree feeling, but it's exhausting, and I don't like feeling like I'm 100 percent in control of my own body. I also don't like some of the choices I've made while I was intoxicated."

Drinking heavily as Smith has in the past comes at a costly price for both males and females. While cardiologist David Dohmeyer says that some consumption may be good, particularly of red wine, more than one glass is overdoing it. More alcohol, Dohmeyer says, would be considered binge drinking. Binge drinking is when a large amount of alcohol is consumed over a very short period of time. For males, this means five drinks at one occasion or sitting and for females, this means four drinks consumed in one sitting. This type of drinking can lead to alcohol poisoning, which can lead to death.

"What happens with binge drinking is that the alcohol is consumed quickly, and then the effects of the alcohol come on very quickly," science teacher Heather Jacus said. "You are fine one minute and the next you can't walk; you are throwing up and then passed out. Alcohol is a depressant, meaning that it slows the heart and respiration rates. If too much alcohol is consumed the heart and respiration rates get dangerously low."

Division Director of Adolescent Medicine and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at St. Louis University School of Medicine Chris L. Ohlemeyer says that students who binge drink are three times more likely to experience forced sex. Binge drinking is also associated with suicide attempts. There is some evidence that alcohol used in teens with post traumatic stress disorder may be toxic to certain parts of the brain.

"Some of the signs of alcohol poisoning are vomiting, passing out, if the person is difficult to awaken and if they have slow, shallow breathing," Jacus said. "Long-term problems associated with alcohol are the same for both binge drinking and other drinking that is in excess. Loss of liver function is the main physical problem, but the other

problems of drinking in excess are related to being able to perform at your job or in school and relationships with friends and family are also affected."

Most physical results of drinking occur because people shed their inhibitions under the influence of alcohol. Motor vehicle accidents, sexual behaviors, physical fights and violence, drug use, and problems with the law are all possible outcomes of drinking heavily.

For administrators, this trend is troubling. Principal Louise Losos has noticed that more females have been caught drunk at dances and tend to be more intoxicated than their male counterparts. Only two students have physically thrown up at the dances with a teacher present, and Losos noted that both were females.

Binge drinking is not just a boy's game anymore. In a study done by the national Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse in 1991, researchers found that around 20 percent of tenth grade females as compared to 30 percent of tenth grade boys reported binge drinking. In 1999, girls had closed gap significantly to within two percent of their male classmates.

There is a genetic difference in how women and men handle alcohol. Women do not get the initial break down of the alcohol in the stomach that then limits the amount of pure alcohol that gets into the body through absorption from the stomach.

"Most times, the weight of an average young woman is going to be less than an averaged sized guy that same age, but it's not just that," Scalzo said. "Males and females have different enzymes that help to metabolize the alcohol. One of the first enzymes that helps metabolize alcohol is in your stomach called gastric alcohol dehydrogenase. Women have much, much lower levels of that than men. That first metabolizing of the alcohol can make a significant difference. Given the same amount of alcohol, a female may get intoxicated quicker."

In addition, women's bodies have a higher ratio of fat to water, so alcohol is less diluted when it enters the bloodstream. This, coupled with the low level of alcohol-metabolizing enzyme, can cause devastating effects on teenage females.

Recently, after a long night of intense partying, Smith woke up at her friends house with a massive hangover.

"I woke up the next morning and I was so hungover, it was miserable," Smith said. "I think it took a day or two to recover. Somehow I was able to convince my parents that I just wasn't feeling well without getting in trouble or caught."

With all the information readily available in school

health classes, the question still remains: why are women drinking as much as men when they physically cannot? There is no conclusive study answering this puzzling question, but many physicians and experts have speculated possible reasons for the increase.

"[Women] want the same things men do - to fit in, to let go of the stereotypical 'good girl,'" Ohlemeyer said. "They may think, 'its okay, I was just drunk.'

Girls are more aggressive these days than before - perhaps drinking, [in a way] gives them permission to be aggressive."

While Ohlemeyer thinks that drinking is a result of trying to fit in, Jacus thinks that women are already fitting into all aspects of society which is what is causing this problem to arise.

"I think this is because women now have lives with more demands and stresses," Jacus said. "A couple of generations ago women did not have the kind of pressures from balancing careers and families that they do today."

Women are in upper-level positions in all fields; business, medicine, research and politics. I don't think women are trying to keep up with men, they are keeping up with men, and there are pressures and stress associated with this."

Senior Matthew Hayes\* has noticed his female friends drinking a lot in a short period of time.

"I have tried to get them to slow down," Hayes said. "A lot of my girl friends are small, and clearly it isn't healthy for them to drink a lot in a short amount of time."

The female students who are aware of their limits regarding alcoholic beverages try to curtail their drinking habit to accommodate for their bodies ability to break down the alcohol.

"There is no way I would try to keep up with my guy friends that are drinking," Smith said. "I know I have a really low tolerance and they, well, don't. I am tipsy after a shot and absolutely drunk after four. Some of my guy friends are just starting to feel it after four shots. I know I can't keep up, so I don't try to."

After waking up and not remembering many of her sophomore and junior-year weekends, Smith has chosen to scale back her drinking habit to no more than four shots in a single night and feels her choice is a good one.

"I've started to tone it down," Smith said. "I drink on average like once a month this year. I've kind of gotten over the whole [drinking] thing."

\*Names have been changed for anonymity. ☺

“**Being drunk is a fun, carefree feeling, but it's exhausting and I don't like feeling like I'm not 100 percent in control of my own body**”

Beth Smith  
Senior



Kerri Blumer

“We don’t fight with fists, but with secrecy and words. In my opinion our way of getting back is worse than guys. Sometimes I feel as if I’d rather be punched than have rumors spread [about me].”

-- Sophomore Jane Smith\*, page 14

NEWS BRIEFS:

JOURNALISTIC SUCCESS

For the CLAMO yearbook, Seniors Rebecca Blackwell, Avital Ludomirsky and Ann Selvaduri received an Honorable Mention in YearbookSportsDesign. Junior Jackie Wilcher received Excellent in Yearbook Photography. The 2005-2006 CLAMO received an Excellent rating overall.

For the Greyhound News Network, Sophomore Sean Barber, and seniors Gus Cotten, China Thomas and JR Scott received Best of Show in Sports Broadcast News. Junior Steven Glynias and senior Ali Sandler received Excellent in Broadcast news.

For the Globe, sophomore Sarah Horn and seniors Rachel Harris and Amy Brooks received Excellent in Newspaper Features Writing. Senior Rebecca Wall received an Honorable Mention in Newspaper Opinions Writing. The 2006-2007 Globe received a Superior rating overall.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Don't forget that Wednesday, March 28 is a **late-start day** for students.

Check out the **4A's Talent Show** Friday, March 30, from 7-9 p.m. in the CHS Auditorium.

If you've signed up to be a buddy at this year's **Arts Fair**, don't forget to attend Buddy Training on Tuesday, April 3. The Arts Fair is on Thursday, April 5.

**MAP Testing** for freshman, sophomores and juniors will take place on Wednesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 12.

Don't forget to check out the **Night of Percussion** concert on Tuesday, April 10.

Get ready to dance the night away at the **Junior/Senior Prom and After Prom Party** on Saturday, April 14. Prom will be held at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton. This year's theme is Die Another Day in honor of the graduating class of 007!

The **Student-Run Musical** will be performed on April 17-22. This year's musical, co-written by Percy Olsen and David Redick, is called "The Adventures of Normal Man and Average Boy."

## Boys' golf hopes to build upon past success for ticket to state competition



Senior Kevin Smith swings during practice at Gateway National course. Calla Dobbmeyer

**Michael Root**  
Staff Reporter

Golf is arguably one of the most frustrating sports, requiring hours upon hours of practice to perfect a swing for numerous different clubs in various situations, and trying to get the lowest score possible.

Yet for some people, golf is fun, and usually, these people are the ones who are successful at it.

At CHS, there is a long tradition of successful golfers and this year seems to be no exception as the varsity team heads into the season.

Last year, Clayton was represented at the state competition by junior Peter Glik and Dan Limbert who graduated last year, however this year the players are set on achieving more than last year.

"We had a good season last year with Dan and Peter going to state but we should be better this year because the kids on the team have are older with more experience and have worked really hard over the summer," senior Kevin Smith said.

This year's current varsity roster has 12 players, consisting of three freshmen: Corbin Holtzman, Eitan Kantor and Jacob Torchin, four sophomores: Ben Peipert, Sam Ryan, Tim Smith and Colton Smith,

two juniors: Glik and Kyle Owings, and three seniors: Smith, Zach Warner and Jacob Fish.

With seven of the 12 players on the team being underclassman, the future of CHS golf looks promising.

"It's great for the freshman and younger players to practice and play with varsity as much as possible," Glik said. "It will give them the confidence and experience they will need in the next couple of years when it's their turn to compete as they get older."

In addition to the new freshmen, the team this year added Scott Arnold as a new varsity coach, enhancing the already solid coaching staff.

"We really have a quality coaching squad this year with the same staff we've had for a number of years which builds continuity throughout the program," coach Joe Gamlin said.

Gamlin and Arnold are accompanied by Varsity coach Dan Hegger and junior Varsity coach Chris Moody, rounding out the coaching staff.

Arnold, who graduated from CHS in 1999, was a four-year varsity golfer and a medalist as a freshman, bringing vital experience for

the team.

"Having someone really close to our age like Scott who actually played at Clayton really helps us relate to him on and off the golf course," Glik said.

As usual, the team practices at the Gateway National course everyday after school, with the regular season starting just after spring break.

"We practice everyday on our home course which is a really nice hard course which allows us to prepare for the regular season and beyond starting in full swing right when we get back with a couple of matches a week," Smith said.

In tournament play, Clayton fairs very well, usually winning a couple but competing very well in every single match.

"In tournaments it's a very competitive 18-hole game where we send our five or six best players to compete against the very good larger schools that have a lot more kids to choose from," Gamlin said.

So, as spring break approaches, so does the regular season for the CHS golfers as they look to continue their past success throughout the spring and hopefully find their way into the state competition once again this year. ☺

## JV baseball becomes coed as softball stars contribute

**Ben Weixlmann**  
Section Editor

Only two athletes at Clayton High can say they have played in the triple crown: softball, basketball, baseball.

Sophomores Mary Barber and Shannon Harms decided that they couldn't get enough of the diamond during the fall.

"I didn't like any of the other sports during the spring," Barber said. "I wanted to stay in shape for softball next year as well as getting better."

Harms agreed with Barber's reasoning. Harms and Barber were both quality players on the Lady Hounds softball team this fall, and wanted to get a chance to touch the ball again.

"My favorite sport all my life has been baseball," Harms said. "I've played softball since I could walk, and baseball is a very big part of my family. I have three brothers that played and two sisters that also played softball at some point in their high school or college years."

Although the girls claim the transition has been easy, getting playing time might be the most difficult part. Barber and Harms must find their niche, and take advantage of the playing time they receive.

"I don't expect to start," Barber said. "I'm trying out for outfield, and there are a lot of pitchers in the outfield too. Hopefully, when they are pitching I will get into the rotation in the outfield."

Many outsiders believe that these two are playing baseball merely as a publicity stunt. Although on the surface it may seem that way, Barber and Harms believe something drastically different.

"I know that some people consider this as some sort of act, like we're trying to make a statement or something, but I'm doing this because I want to play baseball," Harms said. "I really don't have any other reason besides the fact that I just want to have a good time in the spring playing my favorite sport."

Harms faces perhaps the stiffer competition out of the two. She is playing third base, a position that several quality players are also interested in.

"There are a lot of very talented guys interested in third base, and I know they played that position last year as well," Harms said. "I'm just trying to find a place on the team so that I can be a good teammate to others."

With the spring practices finishing up, the two girls assess the situation so far.

ation so far.

"The guys on the team are being a lot more accepting than I was expecting," Harms said. "The coaching staff has treated us as fairly as you would expect on any other team."

Barber echoed that sentiment.

"I was worried that we would be thought of as outcasts," Barber said. "But instead we talk with all the guys and participate in all the drills. It has been a really good experience so far. Also, this being my first year in the outfield, I was worried about what it would be like but it has helped my game out so much."

Their teammates support the girls just like they would support any other player.

"I think it is a courageous act definitely. I respect them a lot for making the decision to play baseball," sophomore pitcher Steven Yamada said. "It's good for our team and I think it is fine that they came out, I have no problem with them on our team."

Other players discussed similar feelings.

"I respect what Mary and Shan-



Sophomore Mary Barber waits in line during a drill with a teammate. Barber and sophomore Shannon Harms are the only girls on the JV Boys baseball team. Rachel Harris

non are doing, most definitely," sophomore Syd Warner said. "I think it is a little inappropriate, though. There are a lot of guys that tried out this year, but they have certainly put themselves in contention for playing time."

Once softball resumes next fall, it will be interesting to see the changes in their games.

"I think this will be good for my hitting," Barber said. "The baseball bat is heavier and the pitching is a lot more difficult to hit off of."

These two girls remain happy to take it one day at a time.

"This is my favorite sport, and I enjoy playing it regardless of if I am on the field or in the dugout," Harms said. ☺

## Varsity water polo hopes to make waves despite season change

**Amy Brooks**  
Co-Editor in Chief

The CHS water polo team expects a strong season despite its switch from fall to spring.

With many strong players returning, the team is optimistic about improving on their record from last season.

"I feel optimistic about our season - we didn't really lose any field players last year and although we lost our goalie (Aaron Jay), Kevin Johnson is our goalie now and he is learning fast," senior Jack Altman said. "A lot of our guys have played club in the off season so hopefully the advances our field has made will outweigh the loss in experience in our goalie."

With the change in seasons the team has also lost senior Bohan Li to tennis, but according to Altman, Li plans to play in all the water polo games.

Coach Wally Lundt believes that the change in season may even work to Clayton's advantage.

"The change in season has had a lot of impact on some of the other schools, but we have the same ones out as if it was in the fall," Lundt said.

Lundt is also hopeful about the

season, especially the power of the starting team, packed with returning players.

"I think we've got a pretty good starting team," Lundt said. "We don't have a lot of depth, but with our schedule I think we'll do pretty well. From what I gather I think we should have a 50-50 season or better. The starting line-up is going to be two seniors, two juniors and two sophomores. The underclassmen are going to give us a lot of help because they're fast and big. They're going to contribute a lot."

Altman agrees, and adds that other younger players not on Varsity will contribute a lot on the JV team.

"I think the returning players will carry the Varsity team, but I

think a lot of the younger players will succeed on JV," Altman said. "Pretty much all of the girls on the team, and there are four of them, are faster swimmers than me, and two of them are freshman, so I am a little embarrassed actually."

The team's first test of the season was the Founder's Cup.

Lundt was one of the founding members of water polo in the area when he started coaching water polo at CHS in 1960, and the tradition still lives on today.

The tournament started on Monday, March 12 and the team played six straight games every day that week, from Monday through Saturday.

The tournament will give them a good indication of how the rest

of the season may go, according to Lundt.

The first game of the tournament started the season off on a confident note with the Hounds beating Eureka 10-7 at Ladue.

However, the second game had a less positive outcome, with the Hounds losing 7-9 to DeSmet at University City.

The next day, the Hounds faced Ladue at Ladue.

Three games into the tournament at press time, the Hounds had several games remaining in the tournament against undetermined teams, including one at home on Thursday, March 15, and two away at Ladue the two days following the game on the 15th. ☺

### Upcoming Water Polo Games:

- 3/27 vs. Oakville @ Home
- 3/30 vs. Fort Zumwalt West @ Home
- 4/4 vs. Rockwood Summit @ Rockwood
- 4/5 vs. Lafayette @ Lafayette
- 4/9 vs. Mehlville @ Mehlville
- 4/12 vs. U-City @ U-City
- 4/16 vs. Mehlville @ Home
- 4/19 vs. Parkway North @ Home
- 4/20 vs. Parkway Central @ Home



Abbie Minton

The Hockey Hounds face off in a game against Eureka earlier in the season. After a successful season, the Hounds lost in a heartbreaking shootout against St. Charles West.

# Hockey performs in playoffs

After a difficult season, the CHS hockey team made the playoffs, winning two tough games, then succumbing in a championship shootout.

☛ **Phillip Levine**  
Staff Reporter

The Clayton hockey season ended on Feb. 23 in an intense championship match against St. Charles West.

Finishing the regular season with three wins and 11 losses against other schools in their league, the Clayton hockey team entered the playoffs with the second worst record in their entire league. A complete turnaround was about to occur.

"The regular season really wasn't that good," said senior Richie Kopitsky.

Other players agree. The team's season simply didn't start off on the right foot and was not going in the positive direction.

"We had a tough regular season," said junior Patrick Rafferty. "During the beginning of the season we weren't focused."

Though the team lost a major-

ity of the games during the regular season, a few games showed that this team really had the potential for greatness.

In a huge 3-2 win against SLU High, the team showed what they were truly made of. But the team couldn't keep up its momentum and started to lose it again.

Continuing the season, Clayton stepped it up again with a big 3-2 defeat against Ladue.

As playoffs came around, the team pulled it together and began anew.

"The leaders on the team stepped up and the rest of the team followed," said Kopitsky. "We finally played up to our potential and it felt great."

Leaving behind the loosing record of their regular season, the players came together as a team. Everyone contributed to the quintessential goal: a championship win.

"We didn't find our full team

strength until the playoffs," said junior David Luten. "But that is when it really counts."

Going through two fiery shootouts during the playoffs, one against Mehlville and the other against Seckman, the hockey team pulled through making it to their goal: the championship game.

The final game versus St. Charles West was a stunning match. St. Charles West scored the first goal of the game in the first period but junior David Luten responded in the second period to tie it up. Although St. Charles West scored again in the last period, Kevin Smith scored a dramatic goal with less than a minute left to keep the score even. After neither team scored in the ten minute overtime, the ultimate shootout came. Though the Hounds put up a strong fight, they lost in the shootout overtime.

"The loss in the shootout was hard," said senior Kevin Smith. "It's definitely tough to lose your

last game. It was a great game and I was proud to have scored the goal at the end of the game. A shootout is how I would have wanted it to end, though."

Though making it to the championship game, some areas of the season had been lackluster.

"The regular season was disappointing," said Rafferty. "There wasn't much unity at the beginning and I only wish that our team would have taken the same attitude during the regular season that we had against SLU or in the playoffs. Our record would have been significantly better if we had done that."

The team is loosing five seniors this year, including the starting goalie Brent Cohen and many players that started games, played a lot, and contributed greatly to the team, including Matt Becker, Patrick Farris, Richie Kopitsky and Kevin Smith.

Many of these players have

played hockey since elementary school and it is tough ending their last season for seniors who play the sport.

"I had an awesome four years at Clayton," said Smith. "We've been through good times and bad but I'm just glad to have had the opportunity to play for Clayton all four years. I've been with some really great players and some really great guys."

These senior players have made a huge impact on the team and it will be tough playing without them next year.

"We are loosing a core group of senior starters," said Luten. "It will be very interesting to see what happens."

Although many seniors are graduating, the team is left with many experienced juniors in addition to a number of skilled underclassmen.

"We'll just see how it all shapes up next year," said Rafferty. ☺

# Athletes of the Month

☛ **Rachel Harris**  
Co-Editor in Chief

The wrestling team has struggled through this past season. The team was made up primarily of underclassmen and lacked experience, strength, and leadership. With no four-year wrestlers on the team, the guys turned to junior Kevin Johnson to take the team to the state competition on Feb. 15 in Columbia, MO.

Johnson finished the regular wrestling season with a record of 17-8, the only winning record on the team. State qualifications are based on the performance of a wrestler at the district tournament which was held one week prior to the state competition. Each weight class is organized into a 16-man bracket with double elimination. The top four wrestlers in each bracket make it to state. Johnson squeaked by, taking fourth in districts.

"I was pretty pessimistic about state before I went, but I didn't let it affect my wrestling," Johnson said.

Johnson lost his first match and proceeded to enter into the second round of wrestlebacks, the bracket created for the eight wrestlers who lost their first match. Johnson's second match went into quadruple overtime where the rules started getting extremely technical. To win, Johnson had to score a point in the fourth overtime. However, he failed to do so, eliminating him from the state competition. Johnson's opponent, senior Zach Patton

from Monett High School, ended up taking fifth place in the state tournament.

"I wasn't expecting anything from state, so I was not disappointed to lose two matches so quickly and be done," Johnson said. "I am better prepared for next year at state and my goal is to place [in the top six]."

Now that Johnson has been to the state competition, he knows what to expect and how to act. He plans to attend an off-season wrestling camp that most state wrestlers attend.

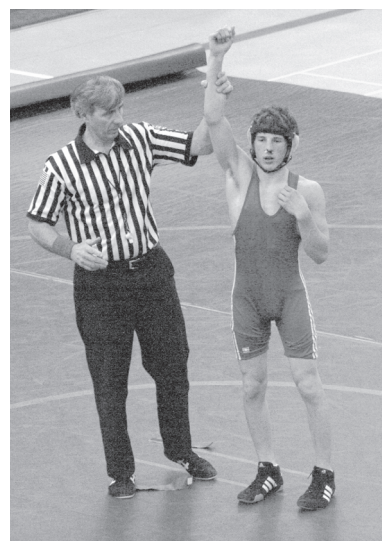
"Last year I used to psych myself out a lot before matches by looking at the other guys' records or the team they were from," Johnson said. "This year I always think about the fact that, no matter how good they are, you can pretty much guarantee that they are not perfect, and that they make mistakes. The only reason I can't profit on these mistakes is if I'm so worried that I will fail that I don't even try. I think this attitude is the reason why I almost beat the guy from Monett, even though his record was better than mine and his team was one of the strongest at state."

Johnson wishes that he could have made it to state in previous years. If he would have gone, Johnson says that he would have seen that a state placement is not as elusive as he thought it was.

"I will have to work really hard now if I want to place next year," Johnson said. ☺



**Keely Brooks**



**Kevin Johnson**

☛ **Ben Weixlmann**  
Section Editor

Clayton High has waited three years for it to happen: another state championship for the Greyhounds, this one courtesy of senior diver Keely Brooks.

"I went into the state meet expecting I would do well," Brooks said. "But I knew I would have to dive really well to get first."

Brooks, who finished in fourth place last year, knew she had a good chance with the top 3 divers in the state having graduated last year.

"I have been diving since I was eight years old," Brooks said. "I have just stuck with it and I've had some great success."

She has been diving competitively and nationally since middle school, and has developed an affinity for the sport. Brooks has been able to deliver some key dives, by using her practice sessions to work on reliable dives for competition.

"My favorite dive is the reverse 1 1/2 tuck," Brooks said. "I nail it every time, so I tend to use it a lot."

Dives such as the reverse tuck require immense concentration and balance for pure execution. In diving, one slip on can cause a major accident.

Along with years of intense training, Brooks credits her family for their support. She has developed her talents with the help of her siblings and parents.

"My family has been so amazing during my diving career. My mom comes to every single one of my meets, and my dad flew in from California just to see my state meet," Brooks said. "It means a lot to me to have such a supportive family which believes in what you can do."

Brooks has been an absolutely integral part of the Lady Greyhounds swimming and diving team since she was a freshman. During her four years at CHS, Brooks has qualified for state in several events in both swimming and diving. As a versatile swimmer, Brooks has appeared in many events for the Hounds, usually taking a high place. As a diver, she is the best CHS has ever seen. Quality divers come around CHS every so often, and Brooks has gone above and beyond that title. As a little kid she always wanted to push herself to be the best she could be.

"My inspiration ever since I was in middle school was to help pay for college," Brooks said. "It's an incredible opportunity to do something you love and go to school at the same time."

Brooks' father, one of her biggest supporters, moved to California, and Brooks would be elated if she could dive closer to her father.

"I have been approached by San Diego State University about diving on scholarship," Brooks said. "It would be amazing to be closer to my dad, and my brother also goes to college out in California." ☺

# Hounds make districts, then fall

☛ **Evan Green**  
Staff Reporter

The Clayton High boy's basketball team entered the district final match up with the Westminster Wildcats after an exciting hot streak, only to be silenced.

Entering the finals, the Hounds had won four of their last five games. That included wins over Summit, Wellston, and Ladue twice. To make the finals, the Hounds had to beat rival Ladue in the semifinals, and they did. The team won 58-53 with 19 points and 8 rebounds from senior Dan Stamborski, as well as 16 points from senior Gus Cotten and 13 points from freshman Devonte Bell. The team reached the final without senior leading scorer and rebounder Zack Warner.

In the first half, the Hounds dominated Ladue, and entering the half, they led 26-17.

"We played really well in the first half against Ladue because we maintained the tempo and shot well," senior forward Zack Warner said.

The Hounds struggled in the second half, but managed to hold on at the end of the game to get the victory.

In the district finals, the Hounds took on the hosting Westminster Wildcats. In the first quarter, the Hounds struggled to find any offense, scoring just four points and just 14 for the half. The Hounds shot better in the second half and added 22 points, but it was just Westminster's night as they scored 62 points including 22 in the fourth quarter. In the game, Westminster shot a whopping 50 percent from the field, to Clayton's 25 percent from the field. The final score was Westminster 62, Clayton 36. It was a sudden end to the roller coaster of a season that contained two winning streaks of four games and one losing streak of six games.

"It was just a shock once I realized the season was over because we had such a good team this year," Zack Warner said.

In the postseason, Warner was really sick, but did come off the bench in the Westminster game for five points and two blocks in limited minutes.

"I was disappointed that we didn't win, but I am really looking forward to next season because I think we can win the district," freshman guard Devonte Bell said.

As the season wound up, the final record for the Hounds was 13 wins and 12 losses. The leading scorer was Zack Warner who averaged 15.2 points per game; second on the team was Dan Stamborski with 12 points per game.

The leading rebounder was also Zack Warner who averaged 8.2 rebounds per game; he also led the team in blocks per game with 2.73 per game. Senior Bo Lanter led the team in assists per game with 4.08; Lanter also led the team in steals per game with 1.75.

The Hounds will need new leadership in the coming season, as there were 10 seniors on this year's team who will be graduating.

"Next season I hope to become a leader for the team," Bell said.

As well, Syd Warner will return for the Hounds as a junior next season. Clayton will definitely be looking to him for scoring help.

"Next season I just want to help the team any way I can, and I need to step up for the team," sophomore guard Syd Warner said.

With just three returning varsity players next season, and only one starter (Bell), the journey will be tough for the Hounds, but with a talented freshman class and a little nurturing, the Clayton high basketball future is bright. ☺

# Young Love: Despite the statistics and reputation that young love doesn't last, some students and teachers prove differently

**Nathan Crall**  
Staff Reporter

Relationships between students seem to have become more prominent throughout CHS. Public affection has become more noticeable and more couples are seen all through the school. Although a lot of these relationships don't last very long, there are quite a few exceptions within the students.

Although new ties become formed in short periods of time, the more prominent ones are actually the many longstanding relationships throughout the school. This is especially true with a few student pairs that have lasted long after a year. This is much longer than what most people would expect.

Sophomores Kathryn Wheelock and Jacob Waldman have dated for 34 months, after meeting in the third grade.

"I remember Kate being the girl who was always cart-wheeling," Waldman said, laughing. "At the time I thought she was a loser."

Wheelock, also finding this humorous, recalls her first impression of Waldman.

"I remember him as the kid who was always in the corner," Wheelock said. "I also thought he was a loser (laughs)."

The two spend time together in and out of school, as with many other relationships.

"We spend about a day together, in school," Waldman said. "We spend about five hours out of school added up or something like that."

Another long-term relationship in the school is between Sophomores Paige Meneses and Brian Fleischer. The two have been together for 17 months.

"We met at a football game," Meneses said. "I was actually supposed to ask out someone else."

Yet another example of a successful student couple is between seniors Alex Hutchinson and Chelsea Fischer. The two have been with one another for 15 months.

"We were in every class together through freshmen year," Hutchinson said. "We were friends for a while."

The two share their time with each other throughout the school week and weekends.

"We spend a long time with each other," Hutchinson said. "We see each other in school a lot, over the weekend, talk on the phone, basically a whole lot."

Fischer agreed when recalling the time they spend together in a week.

"We see

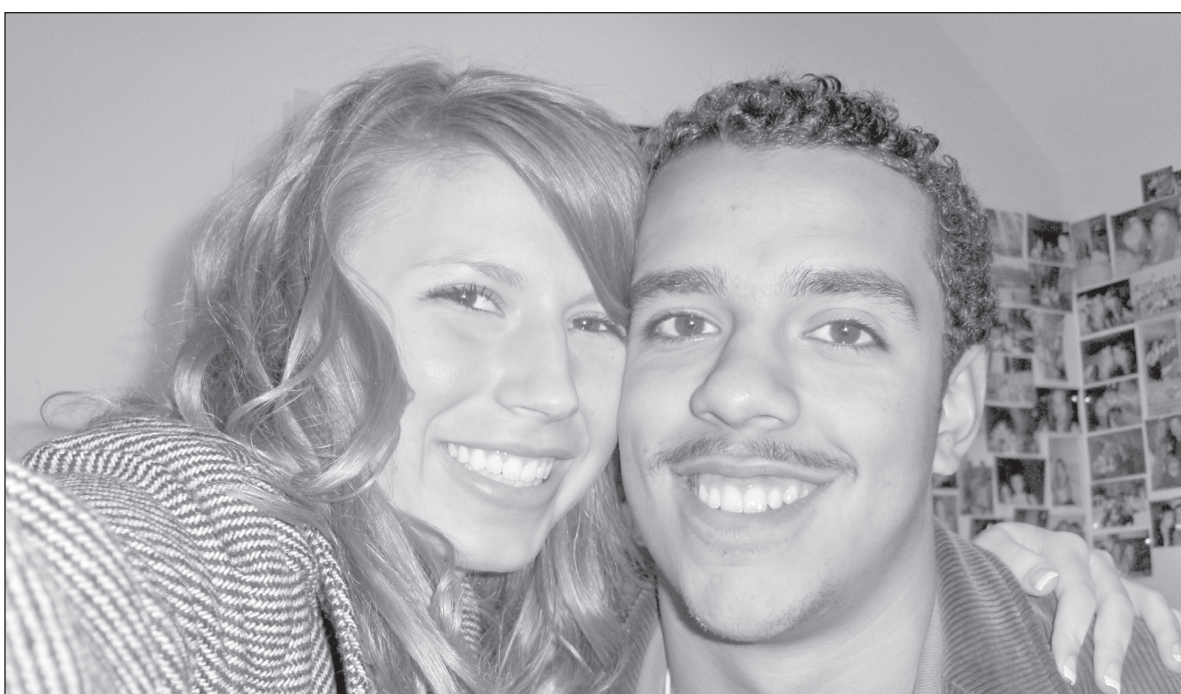


photo courtesy of Chelsea Fischer

After dating each other for 15 months, seniors Chelsea Fischer and Alex Hutchinson don't see any reason to break up any time soon.

each other about five times a week," Fischer said. "We also spend weekend nights together."

For success in school relationships, certain qualities must be present, though they vary from couple to couple. When asked what a couple should have for a successful relationship, the answers were varied.

"Fun, it should be fun and exciting," Meneses said. "You need trust and you've really got to like each other."

Wheelock also shared her opinion of the things needed for a relationship to be successful.

"Patience and fun," Wheelock said. "Like, not doing the same thing too often."

Meneses shares her opinion.

"You also need different personalities so you can learn new things about each other," Meneses said.

Waldman also shares his thoughts on relationship builders.

"Communication, that sounds pretty good," Waldman said.

Hutchinson also shares the same views as Waldman.

"Communication, it's really the only way to make it work," Hutchinson said. "You need to talk to each other or you may be doing the wrong things."

Fischer commented on what makes a school relationship successful as well.

"You need a lot of understanding," Fischer said. "You need to listen to your boyfriend or girlfriend, not be selfish and be ready to make sacrifices."

Sometimes it is also hard to keep a steady relationship between students, especially since there are relationships that never get off the ground. The students made this clear.

"You have to like each other," Hutchinson said. "Though there are some days when you are annoyed by everyone."

Fischer also named a few hardships in maintaining good relations.

"When you spend too much time together, you can become snippy or crabby," Fischer said. "It gets pretty hard at some points."

These relationships, as well as many others, take place in school can lead to a bit of controversy as well. With the rule that restricted the show of public display of affection, some relationships may be held back, though this rule isn't heavily enforced.

As it turns out, some couples don't like showing off their status as a pair too much.

"I really don't like PDA, but hugging is fine," Meneses said.

Wheelock also expressed her concerns with public affection.

"You shouldn't show a lot [of public affection] because it's nasty," Wheelock said. "Too much of a good thing is not good."

Waldman shares the same view as Wheelock.

"I really think PDA is weird and gross," Waldman said.

Both Fischer and Hutchinson are indifferent towards public display of affection.

These three couples are some of the many successful relationships in CHS. However, many never get off the ground. Although many relationships fall in high school, teachers can be models of successful couples.

"My wife and I met during middle school and started dating during sophomore year," said Learning Center teacher Mark Crowell. "We just got married this June."

Many other teachers spoke out about when they met their spouses.

"I married my high school sweet heart and have been married almost 39 years," Joe Gamlin said. "Ooh La La!"

Another teacher that married their high school sweetheart is math teacher, Stacy Felps. The two had also gone to different schools.

"I started dating my husband, Jeff, when I was a junior in high school and he was a senior at a different school," Felps said. "We worked together at Zantigo (somewhat like Taco Bell). At the same time, there were TV commercials for Zantigo starring Ricardo Montalban who said 'You're gonna fall in love at Zantigo.' So I'm a freak too!"

Other teachers also commented on their high school relationships.

"My wife and I were very good friends throughout high school, but didn't start dating until college," Joshua Meyers said. "We both went to Mizzou, though two years apart."

Some teachers have been with their spouses for many more years than others. One example of this is the relationship between health teacher Doris Smith and her husband.

"I began dating my husband the summer in between my junior and senior years in high school; summer of '72," said Smith. "We will be married 30 years next September."

Whether the relationships are between students or teachers, it is undeniable that relationships are becoming more prominent at CHS. Many more will likely form as well as crumble, but there are always ones that are successful nearby. ☺



## Interschool dating offers ups, downs



photo courtesy of Jessica Morse

Despite the distance between them, Sophomore Jessica Morse and her boyfriend Alex have a great relationship and are happy to see each other as they pose for picture.

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**Underclassman**  
Staff Reporter

Dating in high school is, if anything, amusing. Right now, it seems to be the most important thing in the world to millions of teenage girls and boys around the globe. One cannot go to college without having found a high school sweetheart, having maybe one serious relationship, and a couple of flings to laugh about. Dating is considered to be a defining experience for many high school students. Dating is controversial, for some students who believe it is immoral to date during high school while others find it to be of absolute importance.

But if there is one thing that everyone agrees about it is that a relationship can only succeed with effort from both sides. Maintaining a relationship on top of all the duties that high school students have, is difficult, when both students attend the same school. However, when one student goes to Clayton and the other to a different school, it adds a twist to the old challenge. Students are willing to put in a little extra work to stay together with a student from a different school.

Sophomore Jessica Morse is the epitome of an average high school student in terms of dating. Before meeting her current boyfriend, Morse dated two guys briefly. However, it was 11 months ago that Morse met her present boyfriend, a sophomore named Alex Maldonado who goes to Webster Groves High School.

"I met him through a friend that goes to Webster," Morse said. "We had known each other for a long time and she really wanted me to meet him."

Since then Morse has had a successful and serious relationship with Maldonado. Nevertheless, like every relationship, there are ups and downs.

"It gets hard not being able to see them whenever you would like, or talk to them, but we work through it because we know that it's worth all the trouble," Morse said about the cons of dating someone from a different school.

Junior Yang Zhou, who is currently dating a junior at Parkway Central High named Lucy Wang, concurs with Morse.

"Of course the largest con is that I can't see her as much as I'd like," Zhou said.

On the other hand Morse says there are many benefits to their situation which include going to each others dances and meeting other people. Morse also declares that a bit of separation keeps the couple's relationship stronger.

"We never seem to get into many fights," Morse said. "Also, there's that spark of seeing that person for the first time after a while apart."

Zhou agrees with Morse when it comes to not seeing one another every single day.

"The benefit is that you won't know everything there is to know about her day so that gives us something to talk about everyday and it helps to keep the relationship fresh," Zhou said.

Sophomore Andrew Dowd, who is dating Shannon Fuller, a senior at Parkway West, agrees there are benefits of dating a girl from a different school.

"There are lots of benefits like not caring what I wear to school, not having to hassle with holding hands in the hallway, and getting do my own thing," Dowd said. "It's much better this way."

While Morse met her boyfriend through another friend, Dowd met Fuller during a mission trip in Nicaragua and they have been going out for six months.

Even though seeing each other less during the school week can be a blessing in disguise, it makes seeing each other during the weekends of utter importance. For Dowd, since Fuller lives in Chesterfield, the weekends are the only time they get to see one another. The same goes for Morse, since Maldonado lives in Webster. While the solution appears simple at first, it presents a whole other issue: balancing your friends and your boyfriend or girlfriend. The balancing act is an issue for all daters, but it becomes even more difficult when put under pressure. Morse says though that while it is difficult, its not impossible and worth the trouble.

"I make sure to balance out my friends and boyfriend during the weekends," Morse said. "For example, I would see him on Saturday day and then a friend on Saturday night. I also invite him to our friends' parties, which are always a blast!"

Dowd says that this really isn't an issue in his relationship with Fuller.

"Well I really like her friends, and she likes my friends, so there's not too much problem with balancing," Dowd said.

Zhou's solution runs along the same lines.

"I bring my girlfriend to my friend's house or social occasions so I can be with my friends and her at the same time," Zhou said.

The overall message is basically the point of dating in itself: don't be afraid to get out there, meet new people and have some fun. Dating is hard, but worthwhile, and students should have an open mind, which means considering a student from another school. As Morse puts it

"You can't be afraid of what situations bring you to," Morse said. "Bad experiences make you grow and good memories last forever. Be confident, be yourself, and have fun!" ☺

# MEAN GIRLS

With girls, dealing with anger is a whole different ball game. Instead of physically fighting as boys tend to do, girls spread rumors, cast vicious glances, and exclude close friends. Aggression is taken to a whole new level.

**Ellie Bullard**  
Staff Reporter

Anna Brown\* is a freshman at Webster Groves High School. She's a good student, has friends, and plays tennis. But when she started talking to Jake\*, a guy at her school, some aspects of her life were changed. Greta\*, Jake's ex-girlfriend, was really angry that Anna had talked to Jake and decided to do something about it.

Greta went to Anna's house, TP'ed, it, wrote "slut" with shaving cream on her sidewalk, and put honey on Anna's door. Greta also started talking about Anna at school. She started saying that Anna was a slut and a whore. Greta even went as far to say that Anna had had sex with Jake.

"It obviously does not make me feel good," Brown said afterwards. "I don't think anyone likes it."

Girls deal with anger differently than boys. They do things like casting dirty looks, excluding, ignoring, and spreading rumors about other girls. Until recently, these behaviors have been dismissed merely as what girls do. It has been considered a rite of passage, similar to the way that boys' direct fighting had been labeled a rite a passage for boys.

However, in the last few years both boys' and girls' expressions of anger have begun to be addressed. With the publishing of books like "Reviving Ophelia" and "Odd Girl Out," experts have questioned whether the ways in which girls fight is in fact only a stage in growing up.

The movie "Mean Girls" addressed this problem—and even made fun of it in some ways. When Cady Heron, the new girl in town who quickly becomes assimilated into the popular clique, decides to get revenge on Regina George, the queen bee of the school, she does not openly get mad at Regina.

Instead, Cady sneakily slips Regina a health bar that helps the eater to gain weight. Cleverly, Cady tells Regina that the bar helps one lose weight, all the while remaining friends with Regina. Regina, as a result, starts to gain a ludicrous amount of weight and does not know why.

This type of story, although this one is ridiculous and funny, is demonstrative of the ways in which girls express anger. Other stories can be quite scary in that some girls will go to any lengths to get satisfying revenge.

"Girls do not learn to express anger directly," according to Mary Pipher in "Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls". "Unlike boys, they are not permitted to fight physically with their enemies. They express anger by cattiness and teasing. They punish by calling a girl on the phone to say that there's a party and she's not invited. They punish by walking up to girls with insults about their clothes or bodies. They punish by nicknames and derogatory labels. They punish by picking a certain girl, usually one who is relatively happy, and making her life miserable."

The anger of most girls is not, thankfully, expressed to quite this extent. However, their anger is expressed in similar ways.

**WHAT IS IT?**

Sally Jones\*, a student at Clayton High School, experienced the

ferocity of girls' anger first hand earlier this year. A close friend of hers, Elise\*, was angry at her because of something she had done. Before Sally had a chance to apologize, Elise told several people that she wanted to beat up Sally. Sally, who had been scared for her safety, called her mom for advice, who then told her to tell someone at the school. Sally told a close teacher what had happened. The teacher then alerted the principal and called Elise into the office.

"From that point on, the girl hated me for getting her in trouble," Jones said. "She ended up turning my best friend on me as well as several other people. Those two girls, as least from what I was told, started rumors and were saying negative things about me in public. I also received rude calls and text messages."

Girl's aggression is not usually a physical affair. For example, in Jones's case, it was a matter of indirect threats and rumors. It's more of a psychological bullying that goes on in cliques, between girls and their friends and enemies.

"Girls have been cliquey and in-crowd, out-crowd, that level, for all of mankind," family life counselor Peggy North said. "And I think there's a fine line between 'let's not invite her to my birthday party, I don't want her to come, she's weird' and then going from there to then making fun in the halls to doing pranks, doing whatever."

Jane Smith\*, a sophomore at CHS, recognizes the ways in which girls punish other girls.

"We don't fight with fists, but with secrecy and words," Smith said. "In my opinion our way of getting back is worse than guys. Sometimes I feel as if I'd rather be punched than have rumors spread [about me]."

Jones, sadly, also realizes that this type of fighting is a large part of girl culture.

"I had rumors spread about me, things said to me, I had people tell me that other girls had been saying rude things about me, and I was indirectly threatened."

**WHEN DOES IT START?**

Every girl's experience is different with bullying. Some are not ever really bullied, and some are victimized throughout their school years. However, the specific behaviors of rumor-spreading, exclusion and dirty facial expressions are often picked up as early as elementary school.

"A classmate in my grade school was constantly made fun of by some other girls because of being overweight," sophomore Shannon Harms said. "Most girls don't physically harm other girls, it's more of a verbal/ mental abuse."

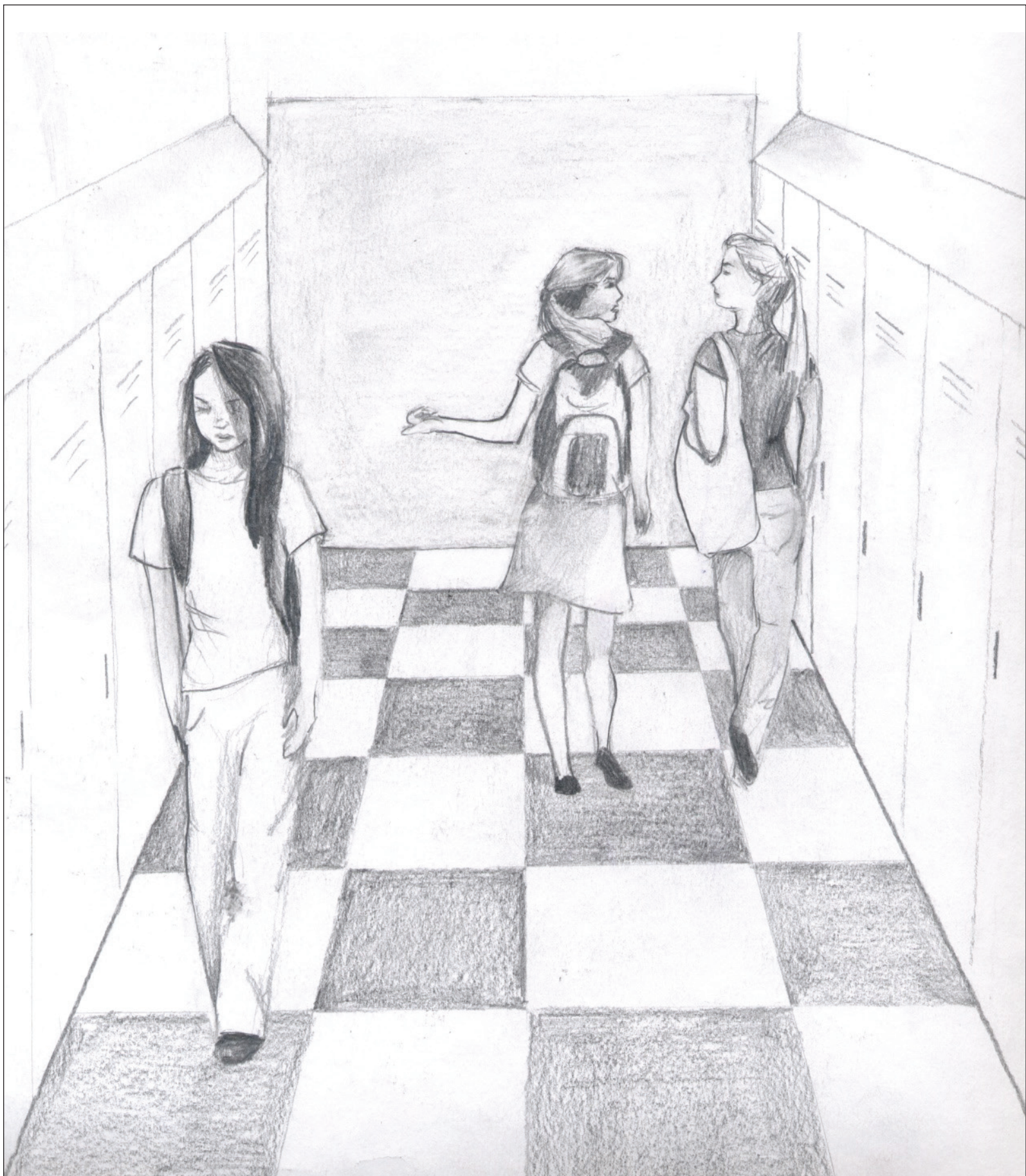
Some memories of the behaviors even begin as far back as kindergarten.

"My memories of girls being mean go back as far as I can remember," Brown said. "Even in kindergarten I can remember girls, including myself, telling other girls they weren't allowed to play with us, or vice versa."

**WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?**

No one is completely sure why girls punish each other by teasing, excluding and other such behaviors. However, people do have a good idea that it has to do with American culture and how it is expressed to girls.

"This generation watches a ton



Calla Dobmeyer

of movies and TV that show things that I never saw as kid," North said. "If you hear that these girls are getting together and doing X, Y and Z in Virginia and you're in California and you think it sounds cool, you'll do the same thing."

North believes that the anger that starts the problems is indeed very real.

"I think there's much more anger today, and personally, as a professional, I feel that there's more trouble with anger control," North said. "I don't think that we teach anger management."

In addition to lack of anger control, there may be many other sources of the anger that many girls have.

"Anger in girls can come from a lot of places," Jones said. "In my opinion, I feel like it comes from everywhere. It comes from stress, it could be influenced by others girls anger, by how they were raised and most importantly, hormones."

The source of anger could even come from the girls themselves.

"I think the source of girls' anger is each other so you could say it's just one big cycle..." Brown said.

**HOW DO GIRLS FEEL**

**ABOUT IT?**

Girls who have been bullied by other girls are devastated by the treatment.

"It makes me feel horrible," Jones said. "Especially when it was my close friends, I felt betrayed and confused."

Often once the damage has been done, victims have a hard time escaping its effects.

"I swear I feel victimized by another girl almost every day in some way or another," said Jane Smith. "There are so many rumors out there. Some times when it's just a minor thing, some really dumb rumor, I laugh it off. But when a person you thought was your friend betrays you, or talks about you, it's horrible. I cannot even explain how much it hurts when you get wind of it."

At the same time, though, girls do like to get their revenge. Girls like for other girls to know how it feels to be victimized, to make them feel the way they felt.

"I would say that because I'm normally mad at the girl [who she's

talking about] I do get some form of sick satisfaction, but a few minutes later I am disgusted with myself and I feel worse than I did before for being such a bad friend or for stooping to her level." Smith said.

Jones agrees that revenge does give some satisfaction to the person getting the revenge.

"It depends on what the revenge is, but generally, it does feel pretty good," Jones said. "Especially if they get something they deserve."

Girls, therefore, although hating these specialized behaviors when they are used against them, somehow still keep a strict eye for an eye regimen.

The ideology is that if you are insulted or hurt, the girl in question can make those who made her feel that way feel the way she did.

"It feels good," Brown said. "Who doesn't like to get revenge?"

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO**

**HELP?**

The ideology of American culture is not going to change any time soon. However, there are other ways in which the communities

in America can help to solve this problem.

"I kind of try to stay away from most drama that occurs in high school, which can be difficult at times," sophomore Shannon Harms said.

Perhaps if more girls steered clear of most drama between girls, there would be less fighting. The most important thing, though, is for girls to communicate with each other directly, so that there is no room for misinterpretation.

In addition to this, communities surrounding these girls should also take steps to change the way they bring up children.

"It's going to take a while," North said. "It's going to take, I think, going back to preschool and kindergarten. The start of it is being aware."

One of the saddest effects of girls' anger is that it has become a staple part of society.

When asked about the effects of girls' anger on her life, Brown replied, "I don't know how it has affected me, it's just a part of life. I guess I never really thought about it." ☹



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# Challenge of half marathon inspires runners

Cross Country runners spend their time during the off season training for St. Louis' annual marathon

**Gila Hoffman**  
Section Editor

As the sun starts to rise on April 15, downtown St. Louis will be crowded with runners preparing to start the half or full marathon. Among the thousands running will be several CHS students, who have been diligently training for the past several months to run the half marathon.

Senior John Acker plans on running the half, but hopes to run the full marathon sometime in the future.

"Running [the full marathon] involves a lot of work," Acker said. "Training for a full marathon involves a huge amount of time, dedication and specialized training. If I had more time and maybe a little more self-discipline I would run the full marathon."

Sophomore Jessica Shen also hopes to run a full marathon sometime in her life. Junior Abbie Minton's hopes for running the full marathon may come to fruition in the near future. She is planning on running the Chicago marathon next year.

Those who plan to run the half marathon were members of the cross country team and are using the half marathon as a way to try to keep in shape for the next season.

"I wanted a goal to work toward during the off season of cross country and so I would have something to be working towards," Minton said.

Acker also continued to run during the off-season to stay healthy and in shape, but also hopes to follow in his father's running footsteps.

"I idolize my father," Acker said. "He ran cross country in high school and went on to run in the military, participating in several marathons. I hope this will be a stepping stone to the full marathon."

Shen decided to run the half marathon because of her involvement in the Winter Running Club. Last year, science teacher Chuck Collis organized the Winter Running Club with the intention of running a half marathon in Florida. After none of the members ended up running in Florida, the club began thinking about trying again in 2007 to run it, however, this time in St. Louis.

Training for the half marathon can be as intense as a runner would like. The CHS runners have been training without the help of any professional coaches for the past several months.

"I do not have a coach or any specialized training



Left to right: Sophomore Jessica Shen and junior Abbie Minton race during a cross country meet. Both runners have been members of the cross country team since their freshman year and find running in the St. Louis marathon to be a great way to stay in shape during the off season.



Abbie Minton

for the run," Acker said. "I think that's what's so great about running competitively; anyone can do it, no matter what their background is. I usually run five times a week and the other days I cross train by lifting weights and doing a core workout. I also try to limit my fat intake and increase my carbohydrate intake to better supply my muscles with glycogen."

Minton has a similar training plan. She hopes to begin increasing the length of her runs to 10 or 11 miles within the next few weeks.

Shen tends to run with other people because it helps her to stay running regularly.

With the race being relatively fast paced, Acker and Minton's running time goals aren't important; their goals are to finish the race. Shen, on the other hand, hopes to finish in two hours.

For these students, running is an enjoyable activity, something that they can't live without.

"I think it's a great stress reliever," Acker said. "If I have a lot on my mind, I go out and run. When I come back from the run, I can think clearly."

For Minton, this race is key to her success at the Chicago Marathon next year.

"I just hope this race doesn't turn me off from run-

ning the full marathon next year," Minton said. "I think it's a really cool goal to want to run a marathon. It shows that you have great discipline and that you're willing to work hard. I guess you could say this is the start of my running future."

Marathon training requires intense, dedicated and self-disciplined individuals.

"To me, running a marathon or half marathon is a great accomplishment," Acker said. "It's something that not everyone can or wants to do. If you can run a marathon, you know you are one dedicated individual." ☺

## Vegetarians search for alternative food choices

**Maddie Harned**  
Staff Reporter

Living in the fast-food nation where Big Macs, quarter pound Angus burgers and gallon-sized buckets of popcorn chicken are some of the nation's most popular meals, the minority of Americans who are vegetarians oftentimes are left hungry for a non-meat on the menu. For the majority of people, finding something to eat at mealtimes is a breeze, however the quest for food can be more of a challenge for the four percent of Americans who are vegetarians.

Nevertheless, CHS vegetarians' convictions are strong enough to avoid meat.

"I decided to become a vegetarian because I do not support the killing of animals for food and the way we raise and kill animals meant to be eaten in today's world," Sophomore Natalia Birgison said. "On average, you save 100 animal lives per year. Animals, especially chickens are treated very badly. Because of bird flu, chickens are kept in dark rooms where they have almost no contact with the outside world and are killed at six weeks because the steroids they have been given make them fat enough by then. The super fast growth makes it so that they can't support themselves with their legs. Also I don't really like meat anyway."

"I became a vegetarian for several reasons," Sophomore Nichole Burton said. "While CHS vegetarians can easily find something to eat at the school cafeteria, most say mealtimes become a challenge at restaurants. A couple times my family has gone out to Red Lobster or Long-

horn Steakhouse and that's just no fun," Bladt said. "It's kind of sadistic really. Some places do have surprisingly little for vegetarians. Like I just went to Houlihan's this weekend and they didn't have a single vegetarian thing on their menu and didn't even offer dinner salads or anything."

However, with many restaurants offering little to nothing for vegetarians, a dinner out can oftentimes leave vegetarians hungry. Many students credit the CHS cafeteria as one of the simplest places to chow.

"Surprisingly, the school cafeteria is one of the easiest places to find food since there is a high percentage of

vegetarians face the desire to give in and eat meat.

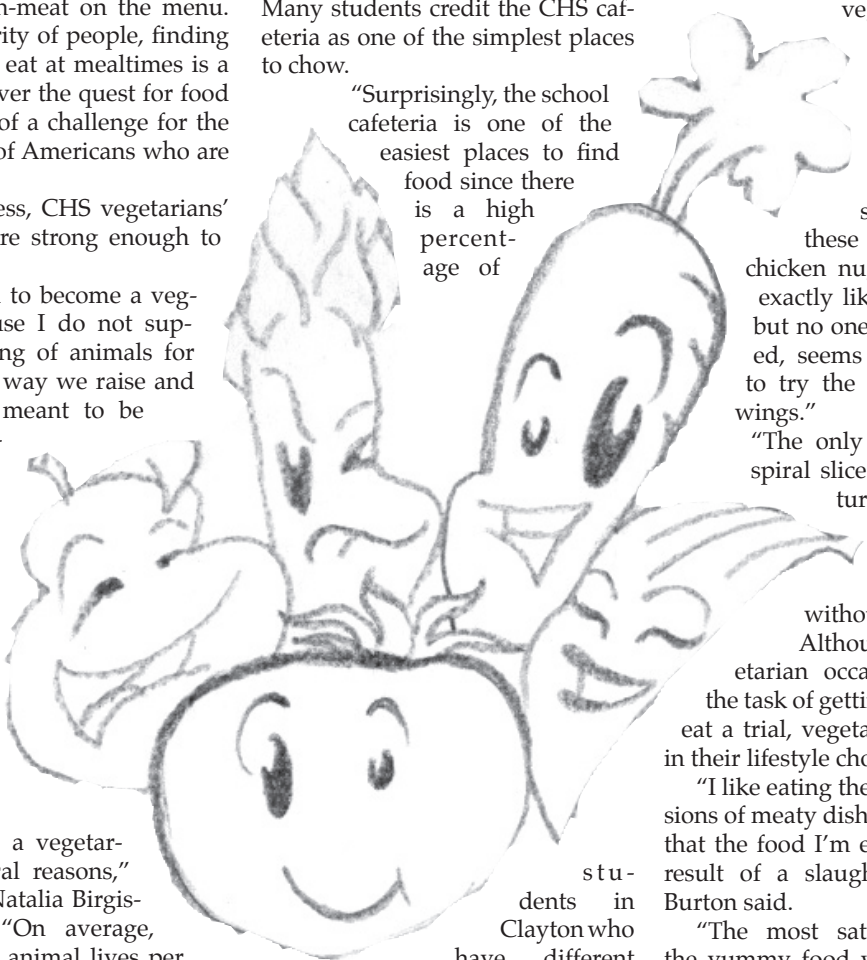
"I miss buffalo chicken wings," Bladt said. "I have these fake spicy chicken nuggets that taste exactly like the real ones, but no one, myself included, seems daring enough to try the buffalo chicken wings."

"The only food I miss is spiral sliced honey glazed turkey," Obata said. "It's majorly delish, but I can live without it."

Although being a vegetarian occasionally makes the task of getting something to eat a trial, vegetarians feel pride in their lifestyle choice. "I like eating the vegetarian versions of meaty dishes and knowing that the food I'm eating is not the result of a slaughtered animal," Burton said.

"The most satisfying part is the yummy food which I've been opened up to, the feeling I get when I think about how many animals I haven't eaten, and being a lot healthier than most Americans who eat lots of fatty meats and will probably die of heart failure or type 2 diabetes," Obata said.

Despite having fewer meal options, vegetarians opt to have it their way by skipping Burger King for vegetarian versions of meat items and overall feel like they have contributed to helping the environment, animals and their health. ☺





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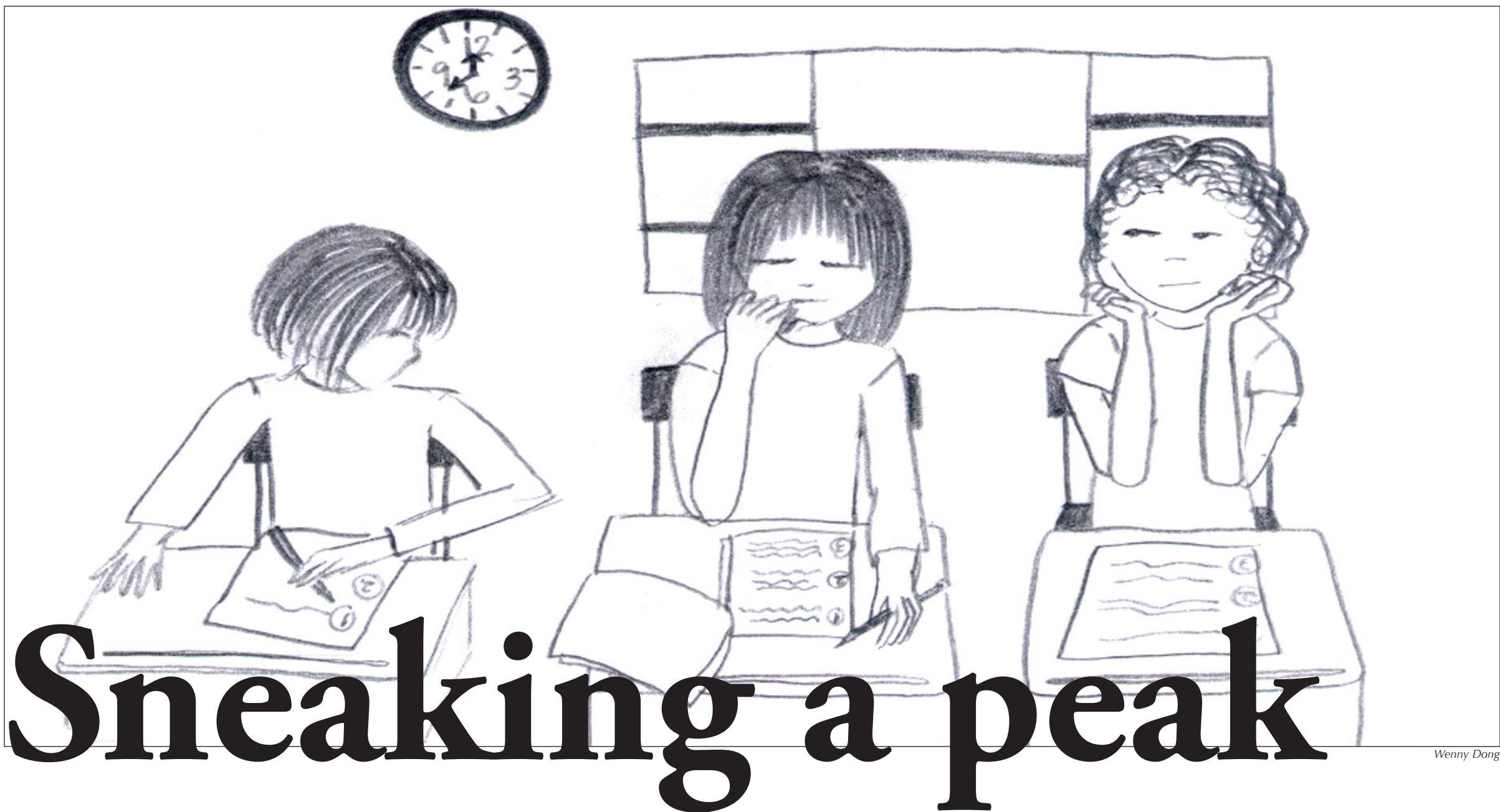


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# Sneaking a peak

Wenny Dong

Students all across CHS participate in cheating. Although usually that just means copying homework, sometimes it involves cheating on tests. Teachers are aware of the problems and believe it occurs mostly in students who care about their grades more than learning.

✪ **Katharine Weiss**  
Section Editor

Classroom ethics are no longer black and white; say many CHS students and teachers.

With the competition growing to gain admission to prestigious colleges and, perhaps, a successful career at stake, 15 students responding to a questionnaire said they believe cheating is acceptable under certain circumstances. Nearly every respondent said they had cheated at some point during their high school careers.

Many teachers who were interviewed say they find cheating among their students to be a growing problem at CHS. But some do not take a particularly hard line against the practice, saying they try to distinguish between various forms of cheating before meting out a punishment.

The questionnaire was given to 15 students and completed in March 2007. Among the responses:

- 12 of 15 students said that they have cheated before but still consider themselves good students
- 10 of 15 students believe that over 65 percent of the students in their classes have cheated before
- 6 of 15 students believe that students who cheat should get points taken off of the assignment or receive a zero
- 5 of 15 students said that they usually end up cheating because they forgot about the assignment
- 7 of 15 students find cheating to be most common in math classes

While almost all of the students questioned agreed that cheating is wrong, many of the students disagreed on what qualifies as cheating. For some students cheating meant copying answers from a test while others thought that cheating included everything from letting someone copy their math homework to reading Spark Notes in place of a book.

"Everyone wants to get a good grade," junior Elizabeth Johnson\* said. "Things that other people might

consider cheating I might not consider cheating."

However, while students had a hard time differentiating between what is right and what is wrong, all the teachers questioned took the same stance on the different forms of cheating, leaving little room for interpretation.

Almost all the teachers questioned believed that everything from copying homework to sharing answers on a test is a severe form of cheating and should be dealt with in the same manner.

While many of the students interviewed, admitted to having cheated; only three students said that they had ever been caught.

"I do believe that cheating is a big problem at CHS," Collis said. "But I also think that what is caught is just the tip of the iceberg. There is no doubt in my mind that it goes on, but unless you have proof that cannot be doubted, you aren't always able to give out consequences."

Johnson believes that cheating is a problem; however, because of the constant evolution of technology, she believes that it is a problem with no clear solution.

"Cheating keeps on evolving,"

Johnson said. "Everyday students are thinking of new ways to cheat, ways that I am even surprised by. I didn't even know it was possible to cheat on an essay test until I saw two people passing notes with essay topics on it, under their desks."

Spanish teachers Stephanie Martin agrees that it is impossible to catch every person who cheats.

"I walk around during my tests to make sure no one is sharing answers," Martin said. "But I am sure that students end up getting an answer here and there."

Math teacher Barbara Dobbert also takes steps to

help discriminate against cheating.

"A lot of cheating goes on in math, more than I would hope," Dobbert said. "If I catch a student cheating, I will warn them, but if it happens again, the student will receive a zero."

But while teachers agree that cheating is unacceptable, most teachers also agree that they have more respect for students who admit to their faults than those who try to cover it up.

"My opinion of a student would not be based off of whether they cheat or not, but how they handle the situation once they have been caught," Dobbert said. "We all make mistakes but if the student owns up to what they did, that I can respect."

Students and teachers agree that the students who are most likely to cheat are those who put most of their emphasis on grades.

"I think that students who are most likely to cheat are the ones whose main motivation for attending school is grades," Collis said. "Student who put more emphasis on the mark than the knowledge that they are gaining are the students who are going to let themselves cheat."

Junior Marta Toczyłowski agrees; however, she also believes a student who cheats isn't necessarily a bad student.

"Most good students do cheat; everyone from AP classes to regular classes," Toczyłowski said. "There are people who copy each other's labs, but that doesn't mean that they're bad students. A lot of the work students get is busy work, and so a lot of people cheat"

"I don't find cheating to be necessarily a larger problem in my honors classes," Martin said. "But I do think

that honors and AP students are usually under more pressure to keep their grades high, which can lead to cheating. Students who are used to getting all A's tend to have higher standards."

Junior Katie Murray\* admits to cheating on a regular basis, but still considers herself a good student.

"I cheat on homework a lot but not as much on tests anymore," Murray said. "I think that I am a good student because I work hard and push myself to get good grades and mostly do the work by myself."

However, while Murray does believe that cheating doesn't make her a bad student, she admits that by cheating on some assignments, she puts herself at a disadvantage in the class.

"By cheating, you are not learning the material yourself," Murray said. "When you are copying down someone else's answers. You are usually not even reading what they have written."

Johnson believes that cheating is harmful to more than just the cheater, but the entire class.

"I think that it's unfair to the people who don't cheat," Johnson said. "When someone who cheats gets a higher grade than you and you actually work hard at what you do, it makes you wonder."

However, while most students and teachers agree that cheating will always remain a problem at CHS, they also believe that high school is the time to teach students about the dangers of cheating.

"High school is a safer place to cheat than college," Dobbert said. "If you get caught cheating in college, it can lead to expulsion."

Martin believes that students and teachers can help reduce the gap between what is considered right and wrong when it comes to cheating by creating a program that lets students and teachers talk about the subject.

"I think it would be really neat to have forums where teachers and students can talk about the issues revolved around cheating," Martin said. "I think students and teachers can learn a lot from each other." ☺

“There are people who copy each other’s labs, but that doesn’t mean they are bad students.”

Marta Toczyłowski  
Junior

## 40 days and 40 nights

Lent is an opportunity for Catholic and some other Christian students to sacrifice something they often indulge in for 40 days. It is also a time for people to contribute positively in the community.

✪ **Meredith Redick**  
Staff Reporter

Soda, potato chips, cookies and chocolate: sounds like a list of teenagers' favorite foods. When February rolls around each year, however, these treats and others become religious symbols.

Lent is observed by many students at CHS and around the world. A period of 40 days between Mardi Gras (this year, February 20) and Easter (this year, April 8).

Lent represents the time during which Jesus was forced to overcome his temptations. The story goes that Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert.

During this time, the devil came along and tempted Jesus in various ways.

Jesus refused each enticement because he didn't want to commit sins like gluttony and hubris, even if they could bring him comfort.

Because Jesus refused to commit sins, angels came down and helped him escape his situation.

In some places, observers of Lent give up a vice or indulgence to symbolize Jesus' suffering during this time.

Giving up a favorite food, for example, allows the observer to appreciate Jesus more.

Mardi Gras is an important celebration before Lent. It is a time to binge on unhealthy or indulgent foods or behaviors.

"Me and my family go down to the Mardi Gras Parade, and then we usually go back home and make food," freshman Melissa Kopp said. "I drink Coke every day, so I decided to give up soda because I knew it would be really hard."

Freshman Caroline Stamp agreed. "I picked [soda] because it isn't that healthy and I drink a lot more than I should."

Other common sacrifices include chocolate, TV-viewing, and leisure time. Stamp has given up ice cream, chocolate, potato chips, and cake in the past.

When observers are tempted, however, it can be difficult to con-

trol oneself. While Kopp typically sticks to her promise, many students find themselves "cheating."

"A couple of times in past years I have slipped and eaten ice cream or had some potato chips but I try my best," Stamp said.

CHS librarian Eileen Kincade took a different approach to Lent.

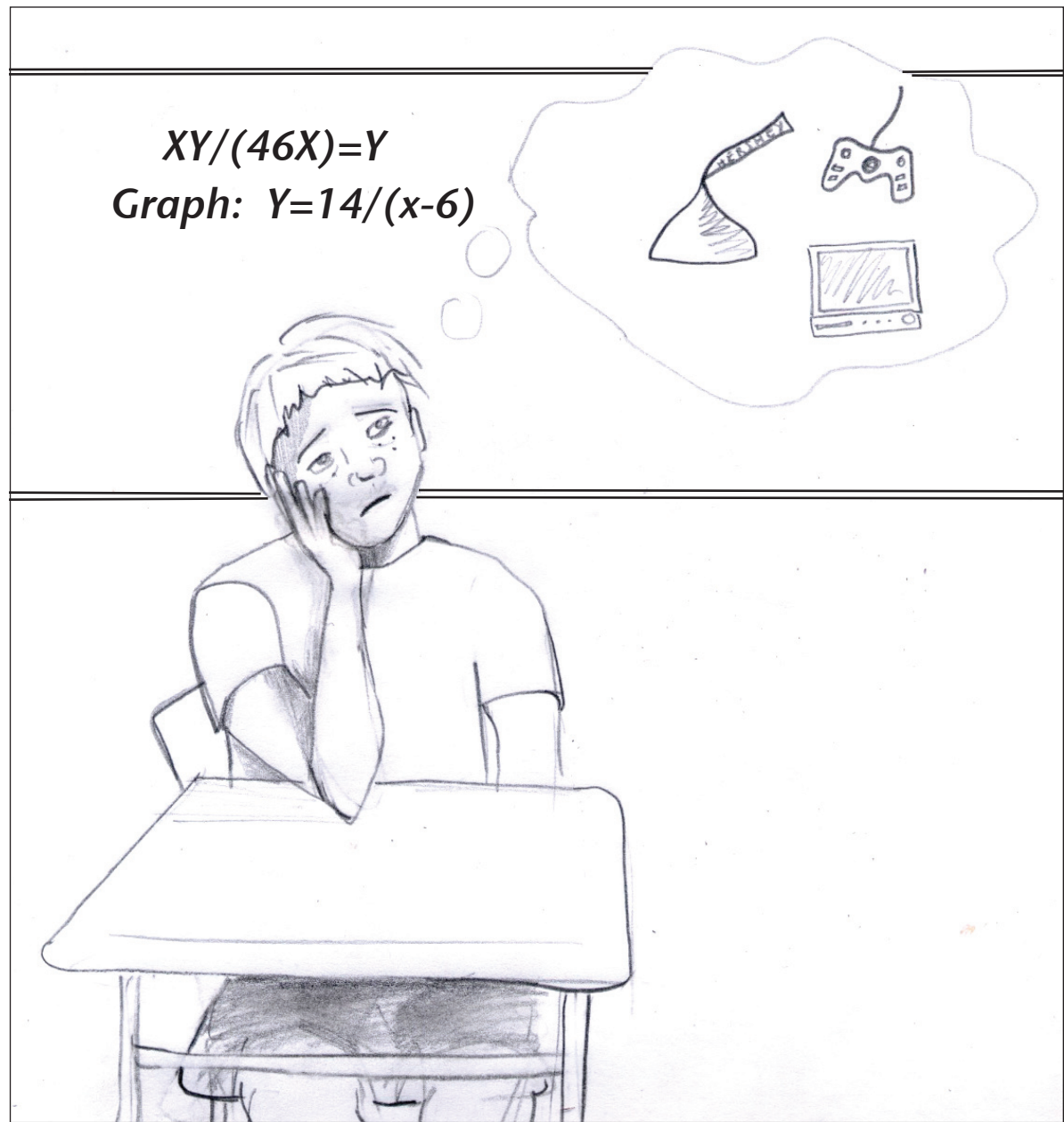
"I try to do more positive things instead of giving up something physical," Kincade said. "I wanted to do something for myself, my faith, and my community."

Kincade chose to attend church "at least two or three times a week" as part of her observance, instead of going just once a week. "In past years, I've done volunteer work or other positive things," Kincade said.

Although Lent is a religious observance, it can also teach powerful ideas to those who participate.

"It's taught me to stick to what I start," Kopp said. Stamp agreed.

"It's not just about the food. You learn a lot from giving something up." ☺



Calla Dohmeyer



**Kelly Moffitt**  
Section Editor

When I was in the sixth grade, I wrote a paper on a subject all too mature for me at the time: the slave revolt and court proceedings involving the ship *La Amistad*. I asked my dad if I could watch the movie "Amistad" because I had always seen it sitting on the uppermost shelf of videotapes in our living room and I thought it would help me with my project. He decidedly told me I needed to wait until I was older. I resented his decision, but when I finally saw the film in my eighth grade year, I was glad I hadn't been allowed to see it: the film was far too meaningful and realistic for any sixth grader.

To this day, I hold "Amistad" as my favorite film of all time. I have seen the movie countless times and with each viewing I become more enthralled with the superb acting, production, and historical accuracy.

Released in 1997, "Amistad" hails David Franzoni (Gladiator) responsible for the moving script and Steven Spielberg for directing.

Though Spielberg had already had many heart-wrenching epics under his belt at this time (Schindler's List, The Color Purple) "Amistad" is truly his greatest work.

One has to give props to a man who takes on not one, but two of the most avoided topics in American cinema: the slave trade and the injustice of the American justice system.

Whereas any other director would have taken this already exemplary story and drained it of its sparkling originality by making it cheesy and overdone, Spielberg draws on the captivating story of the revolution onboard the slave ship *La Amistad* in the year 1839 as well as the journey the slaves take through the American court system to find their freedom and makes it luminescent and interesting to viewers.

The film begins with a view into the revolution aboard the *La Amistad*, in which the captives on board massacre every Spanish sailor except Captains Ruiz and Montez who manage to fool the slaves into thinking they are sailing towards Africa when, in reality, they are sailing towards the coast of North America.

When the slaves on the ship are invariably apprehended, an endless court entanglement begins.

Everyone lays claim on these slaves: the Queen of Spain, Isabella II, Captains Ruiz and Montez, those who captured the slaves, and others. Even the abolitionists lay claim on them in another way: they want the slaves freed no matter the cost.

The question lingers: were these slaves taken from Africa illegally? If not, to whom do they belong?

Spielberg does a wonderful job of tying together the needs of these various parties along with the political



A reproduction of the schooner *Amistad* was docked in Washington in 2002 as part of its mission to teach the story of the ship and its message of freedom. The original *Amistad* was a 19th century trading vessel on which 53 Africans revolted off the coast of Cuba, setting off a legal and political debate over slavery in the United States.

## 'Amistad' explores cruelty of slave trade, American hypocrisy

corruption of the time, centering on the shrewd President Martin Van Buren who would do anything to not have the south rebel under his presidency over these few misplaced slaves.

Allusions to the hypocrisy of Puritans waving their Bibles at the chained Africans and of racial superiority also add to the film's accuracy.

However, the all-star cast of characters is truly what makes this film a marvel.

Morgan Freeman, who plays Theodore Joadson, an abolitionist who can't escape his slavery-tainted past while he tries to help the *Amistad* case off the ground, is superb in this role. His ability show a character that evolves from naive to full understanding about what it means to be a true abolitionist is awe-inspiring.

Of course, the illustrious Anthony Hopkins turns out one of his most meaningful and moving roles as the conflicted President John Quincy Adams, the

president proclaimed "abolitionist at heart but not in word," who reluctantly takes on the case of the *Amistad* Africans.

Hopkins' delivery and ability to captivate the audience with his old-world approach to acting works makes this role perfect for him. He also adds fire to his words that one would have imagined the real President Adams would say: "Well, gentlemen, I must say I differ with the keen minds of the South and with our President, who apparently shares their views, offering that the natural state of mankind is instead - and I know this is a controversial idea - is freedom. Is freedom! And the proof is the length to which a man, woman or child will go to regain it once taken. He will break loose his chains. He will decimate his enemies. He will try and try and try, against all odds, against all prejudices, to get home."

Along with these two amazing actors, another actor got his start in this film as Cinque, the controversial

leader of the slave revolt who can't understand, "What kind of a land is this where you almost mean what you say? Where laws almost work?"

This mighty role is played by the admirable Djimon Hounsou, who has been recently nominated for an Oscar as best supporting actor in *Blood Diamond* (another amazing film). He was born in Cotonou, Benin, lived on the streets of Paris at age 13, and was finally discovered by a French designer who made him become a model. After his role in "Amistad," Hounsou went on to portray other amazing roles in movies such as *Gladiator*, *In America*, *The Four Feathers*, and *Blood Diamond*.

Hounsou is an actor that I hold in my highest esteem and he does an amazing job in this movie where he wonderfully portrays a character who has both a foreign language and country inhibit his ability to understand the cruel and unfair punishment being dealt to him for simply being unlawfully taken from his home.

Matthew McConaughey surprisingly acts in this movie and does a good job at it too. Maybe if he stopped flaunting his body for all to see, he would learn to take on such meaty roles as this instead of dim-witted adventurers who blunder around in the Sahara.

The soundtrack to this film is also unbelievable, with haunting compositions by the musical powerhouse John Williams.

Using choral touches hinting of African rhythm and style and colorful orchestrations that seem to reflect the film's varying emotions, "Dry Your Tears, Afrika," the triumphant orchestral and choral finale, is sheer power and makes a lasting impression long after the film has finished.

Though much of this movie takes place in United States courtrooms, the movie does not lack in changes in scenery. Visages of the slave fortress at Lomboko, Sierra Leone, slave ships, American and Caribbean ports, and pre-civil war America are poignant.

This movie realistically portrays the horrors of the slave trade and it is this realism that gives the movie the rating of "R."

However, the horror is not overdone and the suffering that people inflict on one another to simply produce a lucrative trade is branded into the minds of the viewers of these saddening and daunting images of the slave trade shown in this film.

Spielberg ingeniously weaves together the amazing details of this long-abandoned piece of American history and also manages to tug on the validity our fundamental beliefs as Americans.

"Amistad" is a film that every American should see. As it is not such, I recommend this film with my power. It will change your life, your perspective, the very core of your humanity- and you can't go back. ☺



Staff Photo

## Pei Wei offers quick, casual Asian cuisine

**Rachel Harris**  
Co-Editor in Chief

Pei Wei was brought to the Clayton-Ladue area, opened on Feb. 26, by the same people who created P.F. Chang's. Actually, many of the dishes are similar, but everything is more casual and much quicker and inexpensive at this new eatery on Ladue Road in the Ladue Crossing shopping mall.

When you enter the restaurant, large menus are visible on the wall and you place your order with a cashier before sitting down. You pay in advance and are given the number for your order and glasses. You get your own drinks, silverware, napkins and condiments, choose a table, and wait for your order to be delivered.

The atmosphere is crisp and sleek with the shiny black chairs and shutters contrasted with deep red details. The music is a little too loud, preventing some conversation, but the relaxed tone quickly makes up for it. The food itself is prepared in an open kitchen to the back of the restaurant, where a full line of chefs can be seen working behind the counter, with a wide array of woks, strainers and utensils hanging within their reach. The rest of the staff is available at any time to assist with any special requests, like more special sauce for the spring rolls, or take out containers.

The pared-down menu samples flavors from Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, and China. I especially appreciated the low prices and abundance of vegetar-

ian options. Dishes are individually prepared and made to order using Mandarin-style woks resulting in great tasting food served fresh and hot to the table.

Diners have their choice between eight appetizers, over half a dozen noodle and rice bowls and nearly a dozen signature dishes which can be prepared with your choice of meat or vegetables and tofu. I ordered the Pei Wei spring rolls served with sweet and sour sauce and the Japanese Udon Noodle Bowl with vegetables and tofu. The spring rolls were hot and crispy, but not overdone and the main course came to the table in a bowl heaped with fresh vegetables and steaming noodles. The tofu, typically cooked wrong, was fried to perfection and glazed with a thick soy mirin sauce. All parts of the meal were delicious and incredibly fresh.

For children under the age of 12, Pei Wei offers a choice of three types of chicken with rice or noodles and a drink for less than four dollars. For those well past their elementary school years, beer and wine is available when ordering. The portions are huge, yet not one thing on the menu exceeds nine dollars even when ordering seafood, which is normally more expensive.

For quick and casual, Pei Wei is a new and welcome addition to the Clayton-Ladue restaurant scene. Whether dining out or looking for a new takeout option, Pei Wei is another great option for delicious Asian dining. The food is fresh and flavorful while still reasonably priced. ☺

**Sophia Agapova**  
Senior Managing Editor

One Saturday night my friends and I decided to be adventurous in our choice of a restaurant. After considering many different ethnic restaurants, we decided on Peruvian cuisine at Mango, located on 7307 Watson Road in Shrewsbury. As we later found out, the restaurant is owned and run by the Calvo family, who immigrated to the U.S. from Peru in 1989. The ownership of the restaurant assures an authentic Peruvian dining experience.

Although the restaurant is located in a strip mall, we were pleasantly surprised by the soothing mango-colored walls and wrought iron accents. The sparse decorations, crisp white tablecloths and barely audible music assured that there were no distractions from the food. This was a welcome change

### The ownership of the restaurant assures an authentic Peruvian dining experience.

options, which were each described in detail. There were a great variety of dishes, including Piqueos (samplers) and a number of vegetarian options.

For an appetizer we shared the papa rellena, fried potato puree stuffed with beef, peppers and, interestingly enough, raisins. This interesting combination of ingredi-

ents proved delicious. I ordered the saltado de vegetables, a simple dish of vegetables sautéed in olive oil and served over pasta. The lack of an overpowering sauce allowed the flavors of the vegetables shine through. The vegetables were sautéed to perfection, retaining some of their original crunch.

One of my friends ordered the anticucho de pollo, chicken kebobs served with corn and sweet potato. We immediately noticed the corn, which was a cute slice from the cob with giant kernels. My other friend, who had spent time in Peru, explained that this type of corn is typical of what is found in Peru. The tender chicken kebobs came with a tangy orange sauce and sweet potatoes, a Peruvian staple.

My other friend ordered ajide



gallina, a dish of shredded chicken breast in aji (a Peruvian hot pepper) and walnut sauce served with white rice and sliced potato parmesan. The delightfully creamy sauce had a kick of spice provided by the aji, which complimented its nutty taste.

My only regret about eating at Mango was that I didn't get to sample more Peruvian foods, especially the desserts, which included flan and mango sorbet. Although entrees were a bit pricier than we are used to (ranging from \$9 to around \$20), both the atmosphere and incredible food made our visit to Mango well worth it. More important than the soothing atmosphere of the restaurant and even the dishes themselves was the window into Peruvian culture that Mango provided. ☺

When Jackson went on trial for misconduct the second time, it seemed that the patience on most Americans had dwindled. It was a dark time; people no longer expressed their love for Jackson. However, one stalwart group didn't waver in their devotion. I'm talking about the Japanese. Nowhere is Jackson more loved than in Japan. His fan base there is as rock-solid as Mt. Fuji, apt to erupt, like the storied volcano, only instead of lava in applause for Jackson. He has enjoyed continued popularity in Japan whilst his fan base in Western nations, albeit still considerable, has dwindled.

Initially, the phenomenon of Michael Jackson seemed completely random to me. Why Japan? What do the Japanese see in Jackson that we Americans do not? What does the somewhat androgynous, very musical, colorfully dressed man with his hair artfully styled offer?

Then, it hit me. As I was falling asleep one night pondering that very question, I realized that Jackson follows a clear Japanese trend. What is extremely popular in Ja-

## Japanese obsession with Jackson justified

Perhaps no American musician is more lampoonable than Michael Jackson.

Despite his promising start as the adorable youngest Jackson of the Jackson Five, he, in more recent times, morphed into something less cute than garish. He is easy to satirize in so many ways.

Jackson has lived for years at a compound called the Neverland Ranch. With an allusion to "Peter Pan" in its name, the ranch seems fittingly dubbed given Jackson's penchant for inviting guests who seem to have the requirement of being born a decade after "Thriller."

I will admit, it does seem cool to have a zoo AND an amusement park at your house. I would have dreamed about such a lifestyle at age six, had I had the audacity and imagination to do so. But, let me reiterate: it would have been a six-year-old Rebecca Wall wish.

Jackson is not helped by the fact that his recent musical output has been less than exemplary. Most people, I think, would agree that "Thriller" is one of the greatest post-1960s records there is. Perhaps he is not helped by the fact he set the bar so high, but whatever the case, albums like "Invincible" do not seem to live up to expectations.

No mention of Michael Jackson would be complete without an acknowledgement of his physical transformation. Perhaps too much

has been made of this; at any rate, it is difficult to explore the topic without descending into cruel-spirited mocking, less satirical than sadistic.

However, I will lower myself to point out his almost outlandish appearance. It seems like all the time Jackson starts to look more like ex-wife Lisa Marie Presley.

If that is not mean enough, I would continue to point out that Jackson's behavior keeps pace with his bizarre appearance. Can anyone forget the image of Jackson hanging his child out the window with a blanket covering the youth? I think that picture is probably etched on the popular consciousness by now; certainly the devotion of an entire "South Park" episode to Jackson's exploits cannot help Jackson's image of a human encompassment of all things weird.

It would no doubt be easy to devote this entire column to chronicling Jackson's eccentricities. However mean I might be, that really is not my aim. I only bring all this things up in order to explain another aspect of the Jackson phenomenon.

pan? Anime!

Anime. To most Americans like me who do not actually know anything about the cartoon style beyond what we see on the Cartoon Network (before we change the channel because those cartoons are quite scary!) Anime seems odd.

Its essence, from what I can discern is that:

- 1) Sexually ambiguous characters populate a dream-like world, often either medieval or futuristic (or like Neverland?).
- 2) Said characters wear outrageous costumes that often feature sparkly accessories and incomprehensible designs.
- 3) Aforementioned characters have remarkable hair styles.
- 4) Anime seems to require the accompaniment of sub-par pop music, especially pop music sung in Japanese (which only makes sense). I would suggest that were Michael Jackson Japanese, he probably would have made a career writing Anime theme songs.

All the above attest to the strong similarities between Jackson and the popular Anime. So, my thesis is that Jackson's popularity in Japan is best explained by his similarities to Anime characters. More than likely, he is more cartoon than human being to those who love him. In that regard, Japanese and Americans have little difference in how they treat celebrities. ☺

### Sounding Off



Rebecca Wall



A wounded Leonidas, played by Gerard Butler roars his defiance at the Persian invaders in Warner Bros. Pictures' action drama, "300".

## Movie '300' awes, impresses audiences

By Percy Olsen  
Staff Reporter

Spears skewer. Blood spews. The only thing flying higher than the enemy's limbs is a blanket of arrows, which blots out the sun. As the last Persian falls, countless mercenaries rumble closer, just beyond the horizon. Life is short, sweet, and merciless. Such is the path of a Spartan.

Frank Miller's "300" comes to life on the big screen in the most glorious of forms. Green screen filming lets battles blossom into epic struggles, done without the massive and, ultimately, hokey looking sets. The soldiers are saturated, but the blood remains crimson. I cannot forget the red, the split life force that is tossed around oh, so freely. I pity the Spartans, I watch on as the slow-motion accentuates their positive progress, all the while knowing their fate is sealed. Their deaths will say more than any number of slaughtered Persians can.

Zach Snyder, revivalist of "Dawn of the Dead," wisely follows Robert Rodriguez's "Sin City" model when tackling Frank Miller's original work. No action scene is elevated above the other, a grand task since the sweeping cinematography sets the bar dangerously

high with the first clash.

That's not to say that the beautifully choreographed fights grow tedious over time. Sparta is facing the Persian Empire, after all, a vast, multi-faceted land with an innumerable amount of soldiers. After the Persians send the front line infantry to their dooms, the Immortals follow, tailed by livid rhinos, ogre-sized humans, and clumsy elephants. The three-ring circus is countered by superior Spartan tactics, all of which are accentuated by bullet time.

Back in Sparta, a subplot involving the Queen rages on, brimming with corruptive forces and infidelity. The Spartan politicians are nearly as intriguing as the Spartan warriors are, and the Queen's eventual course of action will evoke more jubilation than any number of Persian corpses.

The fighting, although spectacular, will not win the war for the Spartans. King Leonidas, played with a skip in his step and grunt in his beat downs by Gerard Butler, knows there is no light at the end of the tunnel; in its place is just another wave of Persians. The fighting takes center stage, but so do the Spartan deaths, spread out over the course of the movie until the final massacre. Snyder wisely creates a double-edged slow-motion effect that embellishes all deaths, Persian

and Spartan.

The real story lies hidden, underneath the flying spears and magic bombs. The story is about courage, faith, and loyalty. The Spartan warriors know their final duty is not to defeat the Persians, but to battle the feelings of anti-patriotism that drift through the minds of the general public.

Although the tale of King Leonidas and his 300 lives on in Spartan lore, the movie's focus is on the moment, in the core of the calculated, perfect Spartan maneuvers that revert the Persian "soldiers" back into skittish Average Joes. I appreciate that the filmmakers decided to hold off on the emotionally empowered bits until the end, for they make the finale that much more bitter sweet.

Wars should be fought for the country, without lurking secrets. Persia, as portrayed in "300," does not understand this, but Sparta does, and each Spartan warrior's spirit will rise with every fallen comrade.

"This is madness!" A Persian exclaims after King Leonidas spins his patriotic spiel. Leonidas calmly lowers his sword and looks the beast in the eyes. The Persian only hears four more words before Leonidas' kick sends him to his tumbling death:

"Madness? This is Sparta!"

## 'Music and Lyrics' entertains, showcases quality soundtrack

By Mary Blackwell  
Staff Reporter

"Music and Lyrics" opens with a hilarious music video of a stereotypical '80s rock band. From that very first scene, the movie's songs and humor keep you entertained.

The movie features characters Sophie Fisher played by Drew Barrymore and Alex Fletcher played by Hugh Grant. At first the spontaneous, quirky, girl working in Fletcher's apartment seems an unlikely match for the ex-pop sensation. Soon Fisher is pulled into Fletcher's struggle of making a comeback into pop culture when she adds her own words to a song Fletcher is composing for spiritual superstar Cora (Haley Bennett), whose past songs include "Slam" and "Entering Bootytown." Fisher's hidden talent of wordplay is brought to light and together Alex and Sophie write "Way Back Into Love." Working together around the clock brings Sophie and Alex together. Their romance is sweet and appropriate to the PG-13 rating.

Hugh Grant surprises audiences with some booty shaking, something you might not have thought him capable of. Grant's teasing wit and Barrymore's quirky, lovable character mesh together in a pleasing and entertaining way. Both play roles they're accustomed to exceptionally well, but no one could predict the chemistry and balance they have together on screen. Their dialogue is both witty and smooth, which is a good thing considering there is so much of it.

In a movie all about music, it's almost impossible not to buy the



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Collaborating on music draws Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore together in "Music and Lyrics."

soundtrack. The songs, some slow, some upbeat, and all funny, will keep running through your head. The main song is the one Sophie and Alex write together "A Way Back Into Love." This song grows on you as you hear it over and over, first being written, then performed. Other standouts include songs from Alex's old band like "Pop! Goes My Heart" and "Meaningless Kiss," which Alex's aging fans enjoy. Also, Haley Bennett has a few songs mimicking silly Britney Spears-ish type songs.

My favorite parts were when Sophie is really nervous recording the demo of "A Way Back Into Love" and when Sophie and Alex have

dinner at Sophie's sister's house. Fletcher's comical sister played by Kristen Johnson is the owner of a weight loss center and is a huge fan of Fletcher, especially after he eats her healthy mashed potatoes.

The plot doesn't stray too far from the classic romantic comedy mold, but the small surprises keep it going. "Music and Lyrics" is on the shallow end, and probably would appeal only to those who enjoy the romantic comedy genre, but it's hard to deny its entertainment quality and the many sweet and laughable parts to it. Music and Lyrics has many good elements including romance, humor, and satire of pop culture.



Chris Cooper as renowned operative and suspected spy Robert Hanssen in movie, "Breach."

## 'Breach' a frightening success

By Qing Zhang  
Section Editor

As the film "Breach" opens, a news conference statement by John Ashcroft testifies to the case of Robert Hanssen, a FBI agent convicted of treason. Over two decades, Hanssen allegedly sold U.S. secrets to the Soviet Union throughout in return for a cash sum of about \$1.4 million, an act which the attorney general described as possibly the most "serious breach in the security of the United States."

Under the Soviet Union and Hanssen's orchestration, more than 6,000 pages of documents and 20 computer disks were transferred, alongside disclosures of the identities of KGB double agents to the Soviet intelligence. Most of these agents, whose lives have been jeopardized by Hanssen's deed, were never heard from again.

Despite the rather fictional qualities of the original story, the movie successfully transforms the stunning circumstances surrounding Robert Hanssen into a psychological thriller. Director Billy Ray, whose previous film "Shattered Glass" delivered a scathingly crisp biopic of the deceptive journalist Stephen Glass, succeeds on a more or less equal scale with "Breach" in respect to the realistic recreation of the material.

As FBI authorities became suspicious of the 25-year veteran of the agency Hanssen (Chris Cooper), they placed a young and ambitious surveillance specialist, Erin O'Neill (Ryan Phillippe), at Hanssen's side. Under the title of assistant, O'Neill was instructed to make detailed notes of all Hanssen's activities.

During the course of the investigation, the character of Hanssen grew at once puzzling and fascinating: he was a devout Catholic and a member of the ultra-conservative faction of Opus Dei, and who, under his patriotic mask of moral righteousness, turns out to be a perverse sexual deviant who at the same time traded

classified information for financial profit.

At times energy-deprived due to lack of suspense, "Breach" owes much of its success to Oscar-winning actor Chris Cooper in the lead role as Robert Hanssen. His interpretation of the agent and his ultimate acts of betrayal is a rare mixture of intrigue and awe that terrifies. Cooper seemed to be wholly immersed in the personality of Hanssen with his brooding eyes and stolid expression that suggests not only superior intelligence, but also an eerily bizarre temperament.

With Cooper's performance, Hanssen develops into the uncommon villain who demands singular pity while inviting equal despise for his dangerous contempt for his country.

While Cooper brings much needed vigor to the movie, the other character, O'Neill, played by Phillippe, dims in comparison. Phillippe's performance, though quite honest and fitting, is two-dimensional at best. The lack of experience somehow finds its way in the slightly wooden composure of Phillippe's expression and figure; the believability in his character's ability to outwit Hanssen, thus, is compromised.

Aside from the characters' portrayals, the movie gains an advantage with its director and writers. Throughout the course of "Breach," Ray and his team, Adam Mazer and William Rotko, do not slip into the flashy wilderness of over-dramatization. Possibly frustrating to its audiences with the incomplete story line in that the true motives behind Hanssen's treason are not revealed (mostly because the information regarding the Hanssen case is still classified), "Breach" nevertheless convey the dynamics of deception quite regularly and quite powerfully.

In addition to its many virtues, the photography directed by Tak Fujimoto presents a dark and even terrifying picture infused in colors similar to a kind of industrial blue and gray.

Essentially, the movie haunts, in a sobering way.

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Two of the stars of Reno 911!: Miami with a beached whale they are forced to deal with in the movie. The movie is based on a popular TV show, yet our reviewer thought the movie seemed "like a glorified episode."

## 'Reno 911!: Miami' brings hilarious TV show to big screen

**Jon Igielnik**  
Staff Reporter

Every once in a while, some television comedy decides to take all their marbles, and take the big step up to the big screen. Some examples of these films are "South Park," "Jackass" and the upcoming "Simpsons" movie. These films are often hit or miss, like with some "Saturday Night Live" sketch based movies like "Superstar" or "Night at the Roxbury." However, some can be very good, like "South Park" and almost everyone has high hopes for "The Simpsons." "Reno 911!: Miami" is unlike most, it wasn't a hit or a miss, it landed in a rare middle ground for these types of films, its combination of

hilarious characters already established from the "Reno 911!" show on Comedy Central, and a truly mediocre story made it seem more like a glorified episode than a full blown movie.

"Reno 911!: Miami" follows the hilarious gang from the Reno, Nevada Sheriffs Department as they are invited to the national police convention in Miami, where upon arrival, they discover that they weren't on any of the lists to get into the convention. With this news, they decide to take the night on the town, then come back tomorrow to figure out what to do. After a hilarious night, the team comes back to the convention center to find in quarantine. There was a disease put into the air in the center, which has rendered the entire Miami

Beach police department incapacitated. With our friends from Reno being only cops not inside, they are reluctantly asked to take on the Miami police duties. While there is a loose plot of trying to find out who poisoned the cops in the convention, what truly makes the movie funny at all is the random, unrelated series of calls that different members of the team are called to attend to, these differ-

ent events take up most of the film, and provide for most of the laughs, however, if you were hoping for at least a decent plot, this ones not for you, because you would need a magnifying glass to see the any sort of solid story.

Every random call that the "Reno 911!" team attends to, from going to a rappers party to respond to a noise complaint, to finding an alligator in someone's

pool is done by two or more of the Reno Sheriffs. First there is the hilarious leader of the team Lieutenant Jim Dangle (played by Thomas Lennon), then there the whole rest of the team, each with their own hilarious stories and quirks.

There is Deputy James Garcia (Carlos Alazraqui,) Deputy Cheri-sha Kimball (Mary Birdsong,) Deputy Travs Junior (Ben Garant,) Deputy Trudy Wiegel (Kerri Kenney,) Deputy Clementine Johnson (Wendi McLendon-Covey,) Deputy Raineesha Williams (Niecy Nash,) and Deputy S. Jones (Cedric Yarbrough.) Together, along with some great cameos by Danny DeVito, Paul Rudd (from "40 Year Old Virgin" and "Anchorman"), Oscar Nuñez (Oscar from "The Office") and The Rock.

Overall, "Reno 911!: Miami" is just a plain decent comedy. It's not great, but it will have you laughing on occasion, and laughing pretty hard at those times.

However, the movie fails to shine as a whole, with a tremendously weak story, even with the leeway given for TV comedies made into movies, it's still weak.

If you really love the show, this movie is probably worth going out right now to see, because there are some great scenes, and all the characters are laugh out loud funny alone.

However, if you don't love the show that much, and maybe just watch it occasionally, like me, "Reno 911!: Miami" is probably better of being rented from blockbuster on some rainy night. ☹

**"Reno 911!: Miami" is just a plain decent comedy. It's not great, but it will have you laughing...**

## New MTV show reveals dark side of marital bliss

**Fontasha Powell**  
Staff Reporter

Marriage is supposedly the happiest day of one's life, however, can love overcome all obstacles?

MTV is back with a brand-new Tuesday night line-up of reality shows.

Old favorites such as "The Hills" are back, while a stream of new shows such as "Dancelife" and "Juvies" has arrived as well.

One particular new show, "Engaged & Underage," has been the talk of teens everywhere.

Viewers can see the drama that accompanies young couples ages 18-22 as they decide to make the life-changing decision of holy matrimony.

Although each couple's situation is unique, they all have one thing in common: their youth.

From best friends to wedding dress fitters, they hear the usual comments—"But you're only 19," and "Are you sure you're ready for this?"

This seemingly discriminatory paradigm leads the couples to not only question their maturity, but also their commitment to each other.

Besides the obvious issue of age, the spotlighted couples find themselves arguing over issues such as money, religion, family and sex.

For example, Bre and Josh, a handsome engaged couple from a small town in Missouri, find themselves struggling financially.

MTV focuses solely on these struggles rather than portraying other elements of their relation-

ship. By the end of the episode, viewers find themselves feeling sad and hopeless because it seems as if this young couple cannot get over their massive battle with money.

The story of Ashley and Bryon is almost completely opposite from that of Bre and Josh.

Ashley comes from an extremely traditional Mexican-American family while Bryon comes from a black family firmly rooted in the South.

Not only does the couple face racial tension, but religion ones as well.

During this particular episode, MTV doesn't use attempt to illustrate how much the couple loves each other, but rather pinpoints every little argument that Ashley and Bryon have.

Before the story is complete, viewers find themselves so bored of watching the couple fight over napkin colors, that they change the channel in annoyance.

In addition, viewers are able to carry out their own senseless arguments with friends, therefore they don't need to watch other people have them.

Lauren and David, two 21-year-old virgins, formed a strong bond at a Christian college in beginning of their relationship, and hope to continue it in marriage.

Though they have religion on their side, the two can't overcome

issues amongst their family.

However, instead of emphasizing the emotional union that the couple will undergo, MTV concentrates only on the physical aspect of the couple's relationship.

From lingerie shopping to bachelor parties, MTV thrives on the fact that these young adults are virgins, and the network uses this personal fact to build a façade of sexual tension surrounding the pair.

This not only appalls some viewers, but it also disappoints, because it is as though MTV is mocking the young couple's innocence rather than celebrating it.

Although "Engaged & Underage" maintains a unique plot-line of young love, the show ultimately leaves viewers with a feeling of melancholy rather than happiness.

"Engaged & Underage" doesn't portray the joy accompanied with marriage, but rather makes light of the couples' unfortunate situations.

The 25 minutes of illustrated struggle outshines the last three minutes of actual wedding footage.

It seems as if MTV is simply attempting to recreate another monotonous reality show, with the diminutive addition of vows. ☹

**"The 25 minutes of illustrated struggle outshine the last three minutes of actual wedding footage."**



MCT/Handout

Robert Downey Jr. and Jake Gyllenhaal star in "Zodiac," a thriller based on a true story.

## 'Zodiac' delivers enjoyable horror

**Wenny Dong**  
Graphics Editor

"Zodiac," directed by David Fincher and based off of James Vanderbilt's screenplay, focuses on a series of connected and unsolved murders, almost 40-years-old, taking place around the San Francisco Bay. Beginning with the murder of a young suburban couple, the plot quickly follows up with the murderer, Zodiac, sending cryptograms to the three major San Francisco newspaper offices, demanding publication of his letters. Through chilling and puzzling messages, at times containing gruesome details or evidence from the crime scene, a conflict develops between the Californian police, Zodiac, and two newspaper staff members in a competition to discover Zodiac's identity. Paul Avery, played by Robert Downey Jr., and Robert Graysmith, played by Jake Gyllenhaal, are respectively the San Francisco Chronicle's star crime reporter and beginning cartoonist. However, as the movie progresses with increasing murders and a still unsolved case, these newspapermen become more entrenched in their obsessions with the case as police interest gradually diminishes. As Downey's character, Avery, rapidly descends to an ultimate low, through alcoholism and drug use, Gyllenhaal's character,

Graysmith, conversely maintains his Boy Scout ideals albeit with a growing fanaticism. More about the toll the case takes on individual lives while thwarting Zodiac than capturing Zodiac, the movie tracks Gyllenhaal's character through a second marriage to a blind date, played by Chloe Sevigny, which is greatly threatened by his obsession with the case. In fact, as he covertly gains more access to police records, Graysmith puts himself and his family repeatedly in dangerous situations as well as the public eye. Ultimately, however, after a somewhat lengthy film, the case remains unsolved with the prime suspect dying prior to his trial.

Like other murder and suspense movies, "Zodiac" is innately fueled by sensationalism or a shock factor at the innocence and misfortune of the victims. However, the movie is not overly graphic, with more of a psychological, though at times predictable, horror. While the first half of "Zodiac" was spent cowering in terror and squealing, as Zodiac seemingly fades into obscurity in part two, I found myself growing inevitably impatient and bored. One in a while, I despaired at the mystery ever being solved or that my stomach would growl in a particularly critical scene. Albeit as bored as can be while still watching

some parts through my hands or as our row instantaneously hugged our knees. Thankfully, there was also the relief of moments of dark humor and dramatic irony from hunger and fear. Plus, there was Gyllenhaal's transformation from good scruffy to disheveled and unkempt. In addition, the actors in the movie were generally convincing with Downey's growing paranoia and nihilism paired with Gyllenhaal's persistent determination.

What was not predictable, were the codes and cryptic letters Zodiac sent to the newspaper offices. In fact, his actions and messages were as confusing to the characters in the movie as to the audience. Equally well-done were the loose ends as well as the calmness of the undeniably creepy prime suspect, as if entirely detached from his other murdering persona when questioned by the police. While there are the given elements of the movie, like the scary suspect with an odd choice of pets and a creepy basement scene, "Zodiac" counterbalances some of the stereotypical elements with unexpected twists and has a somewhat lasting mental effect. While not necessarily warned off from California, the movie did successfully make me wary of cartoonists pursuing murder cases, not to mention suspicious cars. ☹

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# WIND BENEATH THEIR WINGS

Area charity organization "Wings of Hope" has been in operation for over 40 years, delivered 151 airplanes to over 39 different countries, and is still soaring strong.

**Kelly Moffitt**  
Section Editor

Standing on the caked-mud of the outskirts of the Spirit of Saint Louis Airport, one can see a new airplane hangar springing up from the ground. Right now, it is only building of concrete, metal bits, and drywall. However, it stands as a burgeoning symbol of something a little more airborne, something a little bit harder to contain inside four solid walls: Wings of Hope.

## THE BEGINNING

Started over 40 years ago, at a cocktail party in 1962, four men began a legacy that would continue on growing strong up through today.

"A few St. Louis businessmen who were attending the party were talking about flying with one of the guests who was a bishop from Africa," Wings of Hope pilot and mechanic Jay Richmeyer said. "The bishop was laughing, and he says 'I've got this one outstanding nun down there in Africa who is a doctor-pilot and she had this fabric-covered plane that she flew around to remote villages to provide aid. But a couple of weeks ago she got weathered in at a remote village and overnight the hyenas ate the cover off of the plane. So she is out of luck.'"

So these business men said, 'Well bishop we can do something about that.'

And do something they did.

They sent an airplane over to Africa for the nun to continue her work in remote villages.

Little did they know, this benevolent action would completely change their lives.

When word got out that someone had received a free airplane for medical purposes, the men got deluged with requests for similar work.

Wings of Hope branched out from there.

## WHAT THEY DO

Now, the organization is just a handful bigger. From five kind men the organization has grown to over 500 willing volunteers, Wings of Hope has expanded their non-sectarian, non-political, and non-profit service of refurbishment of airplanes all over the globe. Right now, 151 airplanes that Wings of Hope salvaged and refurbished are out in field-work.

"Wings of Hope takes donated airplanes and rebuild them for use in field service with charitable organizations," Wings of Hope mechanic, Dick Moffitt said. "We try to do good in the world, eliminate poverty, deliver health care wherever possible."

But Wings of Hope is so much more than a simple repair company for airplanes.

Office staff, an accounting department, a procurement of parts department, a membership department, general office work (answering phones, typing), special project departments, ambassadors, mechanics, electricians, pilots, nurses, and doctors make up the organization that is made of all volunteers except for eight paid staff members.

Their honorary council includes such illustrious personages as Stan Musial, Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Harrison Ford, the president U.N. World Council of People, and former President Gerald R. Ford, to name a few of the people who believe in their cause.

Many of the volunteers in the organization are retired mechanics, electricians, and pilots like Moffitt, who is a retired United States Air Force pilot and former head of wind tunnel operations at MacDonnell Douglas. Moffitt has worked at Wings of Hope for the past ten years.

"Wings of Hope drew primarily from companies like MacDonnell aircraft who had retirees who qualified to do the mechanical and electrical work on the aircraft," Moffitt said. "People like myself who retired were looking for something to do and wanted to find people to associate with and talk the language."

Most retirees who come to work as volunteers have thousands of hours of experience in the aircraft world, both military and civilian. They do, of course, have to go through training at Wings of Hope too.

The organization started out refurbishing airplanes. Although they bought the planes at first, prices escalated so much that they now rely on plane donations and regular donations in order to afford planes to send out to help in the world.

"An important thing to realize is that most of the money that we get from donations goes back into services," Office Administrator Marlene Mastandrea

said. "The eight paid staff members are only paid a small stipend to work here. This is not Corporate America; it's a charity."

## THE AIRPLANES

The Cessna 206 is a favorite airplane donation at Wings of Hope for its short take off and landing as well as double door that makes stretcher-carrying a little bit easier.

Once a plane comes into the hands of Wings of Hope, it is a long process until the plane is done.

"When we first receive planes we decide if the airplane is a good financial decision for us," Moffitt said. "Then we tear the airplane apart and put it on a trailer and truck it to the hangar. We currently have 21 airplanes needing work done. So then, professional mechanics go over the plane, every bit, to make sure that it is safe for flying. Then our mechanics go and fix the plane bit by bit. Engines go out for overhaul. You hit problems when you've got a plane that is 50 years old because you can't find parts for it."

The airplane has to be medically equipped and up-to-date.

They average a completion

"new"

planes for field use a year, which have met all Federal Aviation Administration requirements. They require very expensive new equipment to be installed in the planes. Electronic equipment alone for each aircraft can total at over 25,000 dollars because radio is such a necessary tool when a plane is going to remote areas.

## GLOBAL REACH

However, the planes that are produced are worth every cent. Planes have been shipped to 39 countries in the world, not including the United States.

"We go places by invitation only," Mastandrea said. "That's how the process starts: we get an e-mail from a government or an organization who has heard of us, they tell us what the problem is and we assess if we can help them or not. It's not just responding to the person who sent the e-mail, it's responding to the government officials because they have to be happy with what Wings of Hope is doing there, otherwise nothing is going work."

After many months of negotiations, Wings of Hope sends planes by boat to the region of need and from the coast, volunteers fly supplies inland to many unreachable areas.

"We go to Central and South America a lot and we're really branching out to Africa," Moffitt said. "Right now, we have a plane being shipped out over to Africa. It's going to Zambia. There is a Catholic priest who needs this airplane for medical things. They do a lot of construction work too. It is not unusual to take grain one way and a sick person the other way."

Anyone can get help from Wings of Hope free of charge.

"A lot of people don't understand that when you say 'medical missions' those are missions that maybe are related to some church, and we don't care what church it is, or it may be completely independent, some benevolent people working on their own," Richmeyer said.

Once they get to their destination, Wings of Hope volunteers get involved in the world around them.

"We have volunteer participation at foreign air bases, some are actually Wings of Hope bases where we have pilots there for two or three years whereas other we just lend support to," Mastandrea said.

Hospitals, both rural and urban, need varying degrees of aid.

"The medical supplies are carried to the bases that we set up where the planes are flying to," Moffitt said. "We go to the hospitals in the St. Louis area and ask for the medicine that they don't want and then we take it to these countries because they need all the medicine they can get."

While helping hospitals, Wings of Hope volunteers help transport rural people to hospitals where they

can get help.

"The people we deal with in a lot of cases don't even know what medical service is and if they do they walk fifty miles to get to an airport and then wait to get transportation from us or someone else to get to a good hospital," Moffitt said.

## PHILOSOPHY

Wings of Hope maintains a unique policy..

"We are a non-political, non-sectarian program and that is part of the reason why we get invited to help in a lot of different places," Mastandrea said. "A lot of other sectarian charities do great work, but while unloading the plane they are also handing out bibles. We don't do that. We don't go in with any incentive at all because we just want to help the people who are there with what they feel they need help with."

Another Wings of Hope policy rings true to the old adage of "give a man a fish and satisfy his hunger for a day; teach him to fish, satisfy him forever."

"Wings of Hope philosophy is not to go in and 'fix' things for people or to provide things for people, our philosophy is to help people help themselves," Mastandrea said. "We are not there to tell people what they need out of the United States, we help them with what-

further treatment."

What Richmeyer did next began a new tradition for the program.

"Larry Lemke [the chairman of Wings of Hope] and I were working in the hangar at the time, so we took the plane up there and brought this boy back to St. Louis," Richmeyer said. "And that was our first mission around Saint Louis. Then word got out about that and it spiraled from there. We got so many requests for help that we established the Medical Air Transport program, which has helped up to 100 people a month."

This service is free. Last year, approximately 600 patients were given assistance by Wings of Hope's air ambulance system.

The change that Wings of Hope makes in American's lives is visible to Richmeyer who has seen children who could not walk before Wings of Hope took them to get care and after were running around the hangar.

## RECOGNITION

This work has brought the attention of many both locally and nationally.

Representatives from the U.N. have recognized Wings of Hope as a charity that does good work and has started calling their organization with needs.

Wings of Hope have also spoken at the U.N.

As well, many awards have been received from St. Louis in the past year.

This attention has allowed the operation to begin to expand to a brand new hangar at the Spirit of Saint Louis Airport to provide more service.

The hangar, which cost \$2.2 million, will be ready for use this summer and the benefits are enormous.

"The new hangar will be a much bigger facility where Wings of Hope will have room to grow," Mastandrea said. "We'll be able to do

more special projects. If anything has stymied Wings of Hope it's that we have such to work the new we will have in the hangar, we will be able to work on more and accomplish more special projects."

of Hope it's that we have a small area in but with area

## HUMANITY

The new hangar, however, is only a symbol for the entity that is Wings of Hope.

"To me, Wings of Hope is like a big family," Mastandrea said. "Because we are made up of all volunteers, its so much different than working in a big, paid organization where people have their own lives and they come to work to make their money and go home. Everyone that volunteers here could be doing something else- like spending time vacationing. Instead they come here to help."

Mastandrea is constantly in awe of the work that gets done at Wings of Hope.

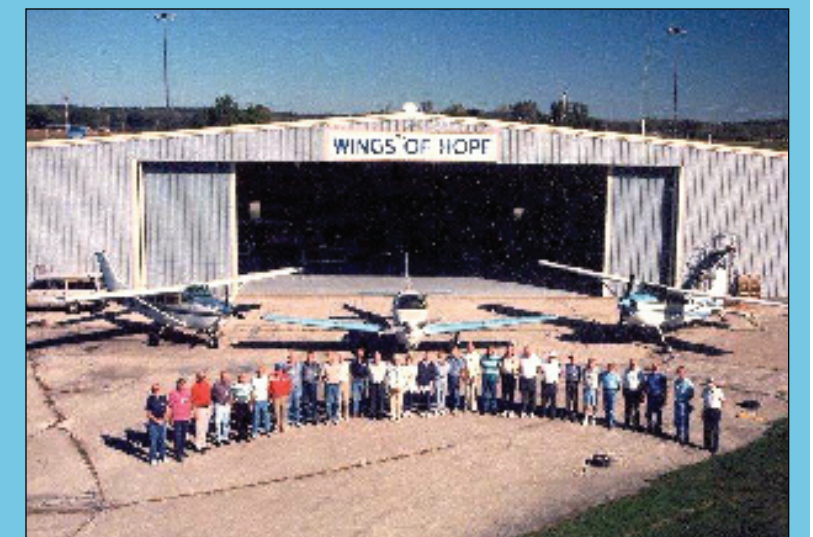
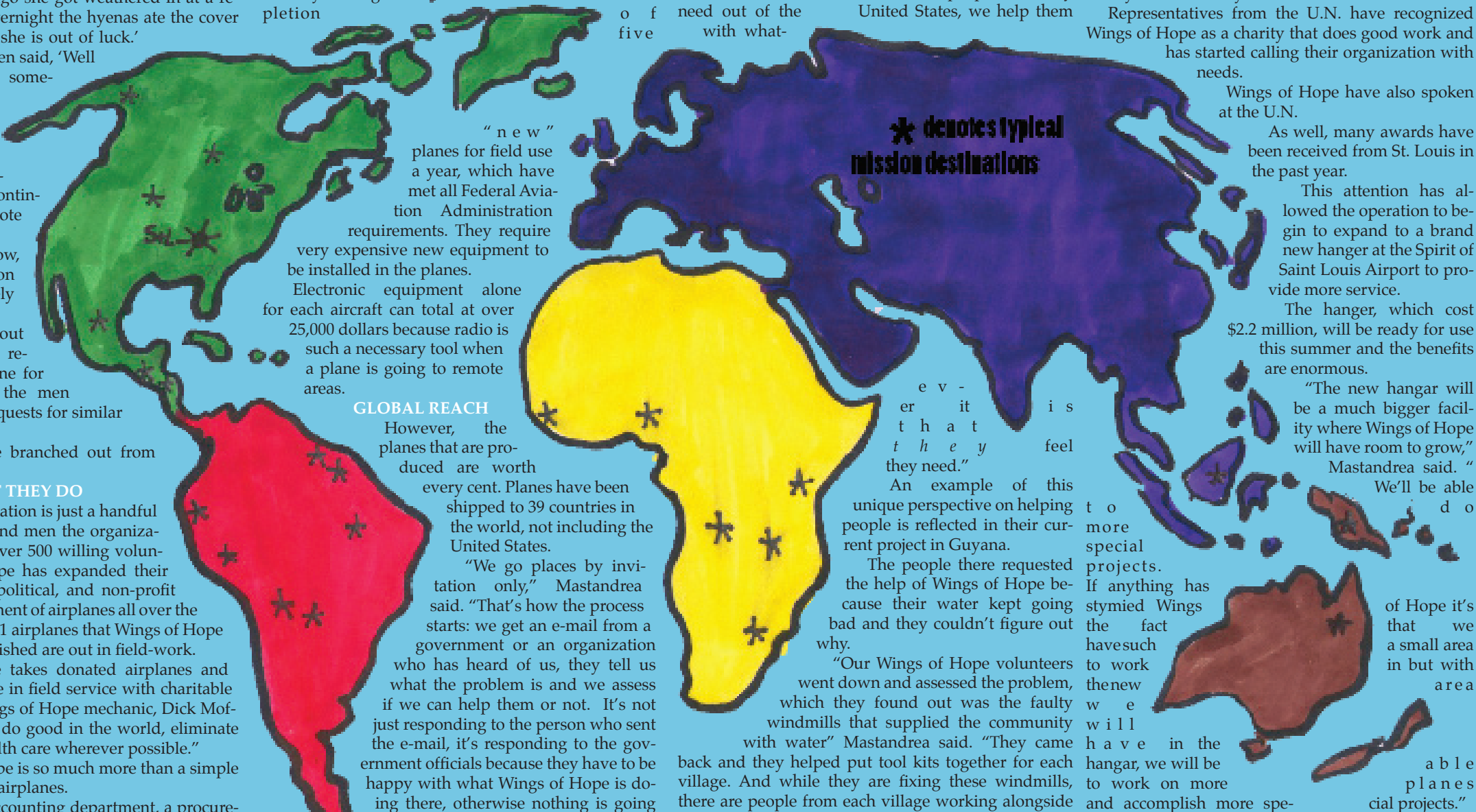
"We have people who come out five days a week," Mastandrea said. "They love to come out here and be part of the process. They love the idea that whatever they do matters- whether it be emptying the trash, making copies, answering the phones, making a speech, repairing a plane- it doesn't matter what you are doing, ultimately you are working to help somebody. It is just amazing to me how there are so many generous people who spend their time and come out here and give so much of themselves for the cause."

From Kenya to Ecuador to North Dakota to Indonesia and back again, Wings of Hope is an organization that St. Louis can and should be proud.

They do for others what many only think about doing.

And on top of it all, they do it with little recognition and a humility that should serve as an example to every human being.

"Wings of Hope is about helping the poorest of the poor, those that are unreachable by regular means," Mastandrea said. "We give them hope to have a better future. Whether through medical care, education, or opportunities to make their life a little bit easier."



Wings of Hope volunteers help transport a sick man for medical care.

Wings of Hope airplane flying on a regular mission to help in Missouri.

Wings of Hope volunteers pose before some of their finished products.

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