



# clayton high school theglobe

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[snapshots]

**End of Third Quarter**

Friday, March 14 will mark the end of third quarter. March 14 is a teacher grading day, so there is no school for students.

**Students advance to Debate Nationals**

Congratulations to Dylan Cockson and Jessica Shen who placed second in the district finals in Duo Interpretation and will be going to the NFL National Competition. Michal Hyc and Ka Suen placed first in the East Missouri District for policy debate and will also head to nationals in June.

**Clayton Summer Academy**

Registration for this summer's Clayton Summer Academy will begin on March 15. The Academy is for middle and high school students. This summer's sessions begin on June 9 and end on July 3.

**DECA students qualify for state**

Of the 28 CHS DECA students who attended districts, 17 qualified for state. Congratulations to: Jennifer Golden, Lisa Tang, Vikram Chakravarthy, Max Jewett, Dylan Cockson, Josh Oberman, Yiran Mack Su, Sam Jewett, Ji Yoon Yang, Ben Stamp, Alli Holt, Maggie Renshaw, Kellie Jones, Scott Shapiro, Mike Bollinger, Yiliu Zhang, Yiran Mack Su

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Courtesy of Paul Wojciechowski

Clayton recently leased five hybrid cars for city employees of public works to drive in order to reduce gas consumption. By next year, they hope to have converted all city vehicles.

## Eco-friendly programs aim to educate citizens

[Kelly Moffitt]

Co-Editor in Chief

In City Hall—every staff member knows something about Clayton's environmental policies (even the security guards), CFLS light the hallways...even the hand wash in the bathrooms is biodegradable. On the streets—bike racks, flower pots, tree-lined sidewalks, and city-staff's hybrid cars. Even in Clayton's backyards—new co-mingle recycling bins and rain gardens proliferate.

Even without the numerous awards, certifications and general talk about town, it is obvious that Clayton is a leader in "being green"—and has been for some time. In 2007, Clayton was labeled one of nine of Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" in Missouri, has been named a "Tree City USA" every year since 1992, and has signed on to implement the 12 Kyoto Protocol.

"Clayton has always taken a leadership role in the environment," Director of Planning and Development Catherine Powers said. "This has included providing recycling for all residential properties, streetscape in the central business district to be pedestrian friendly, park programs which emphasize walking instead of motor transportation. Also, the city instituted a caliper-per-caliper replacement program for trees in the early 90s, which was cutting edge for most communities. As the world becomes more familiar with the needs of the environment, Clayton will continue to look for more

ways to be environmentally friendly."

Spearheaded by the Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee (EEAC) which originally started as a recycling group in 1997, the group advises the Board of Aldermen based on research, planning and careful consideration on how to make the City of Clayton more environmentally friendly.

Staff liaison to the EEAC and Department of Public Works Director Paul Wojciechowski (P.E., AICP) is critical in helping these decisions be made and implemented.

"We have a meeting and discuss issues that come up and then I, as the staff liaison, present their ideas to the board of aldermen and the board decides if the environmental plans can be implemented," Wojciechowski said. "The Board has been very supportive of most of our efforts. Everyone involved with the EEAC is very concerned with environmental issues—our chair, Punit Jain, is the President of the Green Building Council in St. Louis, our Board liaison, is Mayor Goldstein. Anyone can be a member—just ask to be appointed by your alderman."

The EEAC consists of anywhere from five to 15 members who meet once a month to determine important environmental issues that need to be remedied.

Their current statement of action, established in Jan. 2003, includes: incorporating "green building" in City of Clayton facilities, promoting the City of Clayton's *Environment*, 7

## Vashon coach caught cheating

[Katharine Weiss]  
Senior Managing Editor

How much is a state championship worth? To Vashon High School basketball coach Floyd Irons, it was worth between \$25,000 and \$30,000. At least that is how much he paid to house two high school basketball players for a five-year period. Two state championships and two college scholarships later, Irons' admissions to the leaders of the Missouri State High School Activities Association is about to put a damper on all of it.

In September, Irons pleaded guilty to federal charges of mail and wire fraud in a real estate scheme.

As part of his plea agreement, Irons was required to tell the state athletic association everything he knew about eligibility and recruiting violations during his years as basketball coach at Vashon High School.

In 2002, Irons was introduced to brothers Bobby and Johnny Hill by his confidant Mike Noll who had met the boys through an AAU basketball program. After visiting their home in Alton, Ill., Irons made a deal with the boys' father to move the brothers into the Vashon School District to play for the school's basketball team. The deal included the boys moving into the school district as long as Irons could find the father a job.

While Irons said that he found the father a job at Bartolino's Restaurant in St. Louis, the father reneged on the agreement and did not take the job or move into the apartment. Irons, however, held up his end of the deal, admitting to paying for the boys' rent, food and maid service.

Teachers and others who were

aware of the situation were also reported to have contributed spending money for the boys. Irons said that the assistant coach and the former principal, Dorothy Ludgood, were both aware that Irons had been helping out the boys.

Even though both of the brothers have already graduated, questions about their amateur status have begun to arise and debates over whether the school should be stripped of their 2004 and 2006 state titles are taking place.

CHS Athletic Director Bob Bone

was a former coach in Alton, Ill. and was dismayed by the school's actions.

"Coaching in Illinois I didn't have direct contact with Vashon [high school]," Bone said. "We never had to play them, but you heard a lot of things. They were a school in my conference and I trusted them and their athletic director and when he got into that stuff, it

*From what I read, [the boys] did have a good understanding about what they were doing...and I do think that there should be ramifications for them also.*

[Bob Bone]  
Athletic Director

was a tipping point for me." Bone believes that there should be punishments, not just for Irons but also for the Hill brothers.

"Based on what happened here a couple years ago when we used an ineligible player, a player living outside of the district, we had to forfeit all of the games and so I think that there should at least be some kind of consistency," Bone said. "In terms of the kids involved, that is a little more difficult. You wonder how much they actually knew and whether they knew what they were doing was wrong. From what I read, they did have a good understanding about what they were doing, and they knew that they were going there to play basketball, and I do think that there should be ramifications for them also."

Football coach Sam Horrell believes that there should be certain *Vashon*, 5

## District discusses long-range facilities' plans, needs

[Fontasha Powell]

Editor

Although still in its planning stages, the Clayton School District, in conjunction with a steering committee composed of parents, teachers, school board members and administrative staff has devised a "Clayton Blueprint 4 Tomorrow." The design, which is a 5-year strategic plan, essentially plans to revamp virtually all components of the Clayton School District's facilities. The last major construction done in the District was adding the Center of Clayton, the Commons, the black box theater, the math and music wings in 2000, and many feel that an overhaul is much needed.

Improvements discussed have been as miniscule as better heat ventilation at the elementary level to as noteworthy as a Greenhouse and new science labs installed at CHS.

Jan Abrams, Steering Committee Co-Chair, who works with Marc Lopata, said that one of the main goals of the plan is to provide teachers and students with proper conditions to learn.

"At Clayton we believe that the best learning environments produce the best students," Abrams said. "We have always believed that when we give our kids the best, we turn out the best students. This plan

is all about teaching and learning. Every kid that walks through the doors of Clayton schools deserves the best education possible."

School Board Member Susan Buse agrees with Abrams.

"I would like our schools to be have the leading educational buildings in the area," Buse said. "We have outstanding teachers and I hope that we can provide them with adequate facilities to support them in what they do best—teach our children."

To Glenridge Elementary School Principal Laura DuPont, the 5-year renovation means the addition of some much-needed space.

"Our building was built in 1929," DuPont said. "The last major work done to Glenridge was adding 3 classrooms in 1995, so improvements are long-overdue. We are the largest elementary school — we have 365 students. The Blueprint will mean increased facilities for students and teachers."

Director of Facilities Services Tim Wonish agreed with Dupont concerning the spatial issues. He also thinks that with this plan, the District can maximize student options.

"Clayton offers a lot of opportunities for students," Wonish said. "But sometimes we don't have enough space. For example, at the high school, students are offered



Carol Iskwitich

Clayton High School is one of the many facilities in the Clayton School District that will receive improvements with the "Clayton Blueprint 4 Tomorrow." The last major construction done to the high school was the Commons, math and music wings in 2000.

lots of classes that other schools don't. That's why Clayton has such a great education system.

We simply want to enhance all the opportunities available and the learning environments available to students."

As Director of Facilities Services, Wonish helps the architects gather

information and gives feedback on the various buildings and repairs to the architects.

Wonish said that some of the areas of concern for the architects include ventilation of several schools.

"The electrical systems need to *Blueprint*, 6

# Third parties contribute to, confuse political scene

While they tend to get little support in the elections, third parties still play a critical role in the government and serve as outlets for those dissatisfied with the mainstream political parties.

[Abby Eisenberg]

Editor

Parties other than the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are known as third parties in the United States. The United States has typically had a two party system in its past. Many laws keep this practice in place.

The United States practices a winner-takes-all system of awarding electors to candidates in the Electoral College. In the presidential election, the candidate with the most votes in a state gets all of the electors in that state. Some countries throughout Europe practice proportional representation, which appoints legislative seats to candidates based on the amount of votes they get.

This system allows for more representation of minor parties. It allows the smaller party candidates, if they get 15 percent or more of the vote, to have a voice in parliament, and if they stand up strongly for their beliefs, they can affect the law-making process in some way.

The winner take all system doesn't allow smaller parties to be represented here in the United States, and reinforces the two party system that has unofficially been established. The ballot access state laws in the United States also require parties to get a large amount of signatures and raise a lot of money to even appear on the ballot. Minor parties often cannot come up with that money because the Federal Election Commission, a governmental agency created as a part of the Federal Campaign Act of 1974 that regulates campaign finances, restricts the amount of federal funding that the minor parties can receive. A candidate also must come up with a 15 percent following in order to request a debate. All of these roadblocks prevent third party candidates from being very successful in the election process; these facts, however, do not prevent parties from working to effect the political world in some way.

"I believe that third parties are important because they act as a steam valve on a pressure cooker," United States Government and Politics teacher Debra Wiens said. "If it can agitate enough people, its major contribution to the system is mainly forcing two political parties to essentially steal their agenda."

There have been a few notable third party candidates with a presence in the political world in history. The two minor parties with the biggest following are the Libertarians, and the Green Party. The Libertarian is a fiscally conservative and socially liberal party that believes in the government staying out of economics, promoting strong civil liberties, and non-interventionism in foreign policy.

State congressman and former presidential nominee Ron Paul is sympathetic to Libertarian philosophy. Many conservatives believe in some Libertarian ideals, as they point back to the ideals of the founding fathers.

The Green Party is another minor party that gained a lot of media attention recently because of Ralph Nader, and the announcement of his third try in the



Emily Anderson

current presidential election. The Green party primarily promotes environmentalism, social justice, and nonviolence. The Green Party has been active since the eighties, gaining attention in the 1996, 2000 and current election, when Ralph Nader has run for president versus the mainstream Republicans and Democrats.

Many Democrats point to him as the reason that Gore narrowly lost in the election versus George Bush in the 2000 election, claiming that he drew votes away from Gore's coalition, taking 2.7 percent of the national vote as the Green Party candidate in 2000.

"In 2000 he allegedly took votes from Al Gore, giving the electoral victory to Bush," Wiens said. This year, she doubts this will happen again.

"This election year Ralph Nader, I predict, will have little impact," Wiens said.

But most still have a bad taste in their mouths from the narrow miss of Gore in the 2000 election.

"I think the world would be a much better place today if Nader hadn't run for president," Politics club member Daniel Sanders, a junior said.

Numerous other third parties in the United States, such as the United States Marijuana Party, are primarily centered on ending the "war on drugs" and legalizing marijuana. The Prohibition Party seeks to prohibit alcohol use in the United States, and the Natural Law Party is centered on the theory that all political issues can be solved through meditation. Numerous other special interest groups found these parties centered on a particular issue, and hope to gain enough media attention and support to have some sort of chance to participate in government in some way. Not many are

successful.

So, why do people spend so much time, effort, and money on these third party campaigns? What is their use if they hardly ever win office?

Most of the American public see them as pointless and throw away votes.

"Third parties just take away votes from Democrats and Republicans," Sanders said.

However the public views them, third parties, in practice, actually contribute a lot to politics. "Third parties have played a major role in politics throughout our history," Wiens said. "Even though many third party candidates are never elected to an office, they serve an important role in American government," Wiens said. "It allows people to that feel like parties won't listen or respond their concerns to participate."

Third parties come in three basic groups. The first being parties focused on certain issue, like the Marijuana Party focusing on the issue of legalizing marijuana, or an extreme ideology, such as socialism or communism. There are also "splinter parties" which are offshoots of a major party that share many characteristics of a major United States party, but break off, feeling misrepresented within the big party. Also, there are third parties that simply are a substantial following of just a single person and their personal opinions and ideologies.

Third parties contribute two major things to politics. First of all, they give an outlet to herds of people who feel dissatisfied with the mainstream political parties who, in the end, often remain remarkable close to moderate beliefs in order to appeal to the largest

## Quick Facts about Third Parties

-In 2004 election, Ralph Nader got an average of .3 votes per 100 people.

-Ron Paul's website got more hits than Mitt Romney, Rudy Guiliani or John McCain.

-In this current election, a man named Jonathon "The Impaler" Sharkey decided to run for president under the Vampire, Witches, and Pagans party. He was investigated as a potential threat by the secret service.

-The US Senate holds two third party members: Joe Lieberman, who calls himself an "Independent Democrat" and Bernie Sanders, an official Independent who describes himself as a "democratic Socialist".

-Theodore Roosevelt ran as a part of the Progressive Party and won 88 electoral votes.

numbers of people.

"Third parties form because they don't find their views expressed in the mainstream political party's platform," Sanders said.

People who join these parties often have radical feelings about certain issues, and join together around that specific issue, and rally for that.

"These issues, if they are well presented and grounded, and receive a lot of media attention can eventually be picked up by major parties, and could eventually be added to a major party's platform," Sanders said.

Wiens offers an example of this.

"You can see that with the Green Party," Wiens said. "Their work has forced both parties to deal with alternative energy sources."

This practice allows the third party to achieve their goals without even being elected to office. Third parties also can offer an alternative to the mainstream parties, contributing unique and new ideas that make a more well-rounded and objective political system by keeping the powerful parties in check by informing the public of issues that they feel are important. Third parties are a very important part of the United States government. However, in the end, a two party system proves to be the most logical regardless of the contributions that third parties make.

"I firmly support a two party system," Wiens said. "It is detrimental to split the vote up too much, then have the winner pretend to represent the whole. If the vote gets split up a lot, then they would act for the whole, in reality only representing a small percentage." ☺

# No Child Left Behind Act remains controversial topic

[Sarah Horn]

Editor

In 2002 President George W. Bush signed the most sweeping reform act concerning federal education in history: The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). And since that day this piece of legislation has been a source of controversy among teachers, administrators and students of public schools among the nation. But what exactly is the NCLB and why has it been criticized so often recently?

Principal Louise Losos describes NCLB as "legislation enacted by President Bush and Congress in 2001 mandating accountability of k-12 public education, pushing schools to examine practices in an effort to raise the overall performance of students."

History teacher Debra Wiens agrees with Losos in the intended goal of the NCLB.

"The goal is to make schools and states more accountable for student learning," Wiens said. "In order for a state to receive federal funding for education, it must conduct "standards-based assessments" which tests for knowledge and skills. The tests are not intended to compare and rank students, rather to indicate that students have mastered certain content and skills."

States, such as Utah has done, are free to ignore the NCLB, but in that case they will not get any education federal funding, which would dramatically hurt schools.

According to the press release summarizing the NCLB, the goal is to make sure that every student is living up to the standard of what they should be learning between grades 3-8. The press release states:

"[NCLB] creates strong standards in each state for what every child should know and learn in reading and math in grades 3-8. Student progress and achievement will be measured for every child, every year."

In the beginning the NCLB appeared to be a sincere attempt to improve education in the United States in terms of closing the gap between ethnic group and spending federal money more wisely.

Wiens thinks the true purpose of the NCLB "is to identify failing schools and give children and their parents the opportunity to leave and enter a school setting where students can learn."

"Many poor children are currently trapped in failing schools," Wiens said. "This is an attempt to help students of all socio-economic levels have more equal educational opportunities. This also calls attention to the achievement gap between affluent and lower-income students in highly-rated schools such as Clayton. Teachers now spend most of their time in Clayton examining data, studying student performance on assessments, contacting parents, and trying to raise the performance of the lowest achieving students."

The act was meant to provide flexibility to all 50 states and every local school district with the use of federal funds. The NCLB listed several standards in-



Heather Stone/Chicago Tribune/MCT

**President George W. Bush visits a third grade class at Horace Greeley Elementary in Chicago, Illinois on Jan 7, 2008, to view the effects of the NCLB act on its sixth-year anniversary. The NCLB remains one of the most controversial pieces of legislature passed during the Bush administration and it will play a key role in the upcoming presidential election.**

cluding that results from standard tests would be made into annual report cards so parents could observe school and statewide performance, the qualification of teachers and how their child is doing. In addition, schools would be held accountable for improving the performance of every student group, so that in the end every school would be performing at an proficient level in 12 years.

"In my opinion, it is a sincere attempt to improve our public schools," Wiens said. "Many, many of our public schools are in crisis. Something must be done to help the children stuck in those situations where teachers lack the skills to teach or choose not to do the very hard work that it requires. And many excellent teachers and eager-to-learn students labor in destructive environments where they are not supported and encouraged."

Losos also agrees that there are some benefits to the NCLB.

"It forced schools to look at the disaggregated data and didn't allow schools and school districts to hide behind an overall positive average if the individual

subgroups were not performing," Losos said.

However, it was not long before flaws were detected and the NCLB became a topic of controversy among many. Recent complaint include that the guidance for how the states should carry out the act has been very unclear and unhelpful. However, the largest problem is funding. The funding is far less than what was initially promised.

The NCLB mandated that federal funding for reading would increase from \$300 million to \$900 million and \$2.8 billion for teacher quality programs and giving local school districts the ability to use additional federal funds to "hire new teachers, increase teacher pay, improve teacher training and development or other uses." However, since funding has not been as high as the initial promise, schools have become frustrated with the NCLB as it is very difficult to carry out the requirements without the promised federal funding.

In addition to the issue of funding, the NCLB has brought about a negative attitude among teachers who were outraged to hear that the government credited education problems to teachers. NCLB requires that

every school improves and for schools that are already soaring high, like Clayton, this not only serves as an insult to the hardworking teachers and administrators, but is also a hard requirement to reach.

"I cannot speak for other public schools but it is demoralizing for teachers in Clayton and similarly-situated schools," Wiens said. "A teacher's work is never done. We labor at school, after school, in the evenings, and on weekends to write engaging lessons, evaluate student work, contact parents, and participate in the larger educational world. And now we are told that if we only worked harder, the bottom 10 percent would do better! Is it about the TEACHER working harder, or the STUDENT?...Sometimes a student fails because he didn't read the book...Clayton is filled with teachers who labor tirelessly to help students reach their potential, but until the students "feel the pressure", not much will change."

Losos believes that the NCLB creates too much of a focus on testing.

"It requires schools to focus very narrowly and often results in schools and school districts (not Clayton) narrowing what they teach and how they teach," Losos said. "Too often schools end up teaching to the test."

Another problem related to the NCLB is that when a state decides to not follow the NCLB, the lack of federal funding can dramatically affect the local school districts. This occurred in Utah when they decided to leave the NCLB and to suffer the consequences.

"The penalty is a loss of federal funds," Wiens said. "And that is a huge problem for those states that are heavily dependent upon federal money. States are now pushing back. Education is not a delegated power of the federal government as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. It is a power reserved for the states. We are in the current school crisis, however, because many states and school districts failed to do their jobs well. Overly-powerful unions, bloated administrative bureaucracies, and incompetent teachers have hurt all of us."

Along with harsh criticism, many have an opinion about what could help improve the NCLB. Wiens believes that with a few key steps the NCLB would be more successful.

"The very first thing I would do if I were in charge of American education is eliminate most of the bureaucracies, reduce administrative costs, and spend the money hiring competent, highly-paid teachers," Wiens said. "The teacher to student ratio would be 1 to 15. You would see amazing changes. I started a school in a high crime neighborhood of Chicago over 20 years ago. I formed this opinion then and I still hold it to be true today."

However, it probably will not be until 2008, when a new President takes over, that drastic changes will be seen in the NCLB.

"I really don't know what will happen," Wiens said. "The Election of '08 will undoubtedly play a role in how this continues to unfold." ☺



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# Health care plan needs reworking

**[Jeoma Onyema]**  
Staff Reporter

Throughout the Democratic election, health care has been a prominent topic among the candidates. Obama believes that the country should have a universal health care system immediately while Clinton supports incremental alterations that would offer federally accessed universal health care. Nonetheless, the 2000 WHO health care ranking the United States' health care system was ranked first in both receptiveness and spending; however, it was ranked 72 in overall level in health.

The United States is notorious for their thorough organization of their health care systems, yet an estimated 46 million American's wellbeing is at risk every day, hoping that they will not catch any small illnesses that could eventually cost them more than they can pay. In addition, the expense of health insurance is increasing faster than inflation or income, and high medical bills are causing many to slip into bankruptcy. Health care is now more difficult than ever to obtain.

In the United States, health care is provided by different official entities. Statistics show 84 percent of Americans have health care; 60 percent obtain it from their employers, 9 percent individually, and 11 percent from government programs.

Being the only wealthy, modern country in the world that does not have a universal health care system, the United States focuses more on internal health care; and the United States spends more on health care (both as on a per-capita basis and the amount of gross domestic product) than any other nation. Despite the precise organization of the system, the United States is still unable to provide each person with equal care and attention, in addition to many other difficult problems.

Lisa Ross has been a physician for over 20 years. Although not an expert, she does know a thing or two about healthcare. She is an internist, which is a primary care physician for adults. She was initially on the faculty at St. Louis University, then at Washington University, then in private practice, and now she works at Washington University Student Health Services. She believes that the current structure of the health care system is part of the problem, and, in some ways, reflects our culture.

"The government does not directly allocate health care, and many people strongly resist that idea, because we are an individualistic society and believe that everyone should be able to achieve (or get, or buy) whatever they want or can afford," Ross said. "I think people in this country would have a hard time accepting that as patients they could not see whatever



specialist they wanted to, or have whatever operation they wanted, or get whatever new and trendy medication they thought they needed because they saw it on TV."

Race also plays a part in health care—because of discrimination and inferiority, the health of minorities in the United States is seriously affected. The United States has one of the worst infant mortality rates in the developed world. African-Americans in the United States have almost twice the infant mortality rate of whites, and when compared to Caucasians, all minority groups have a higher occurrence of poorer health results and higher transience and chronic diseases, especially when new technology is available.

Healthcare Administrator Otuoma Onyema and her husband Isaac run OZIK Healthcare Services, a home health care agency. She says the problems span from public policy to the sedentary lifestyle of the American people.

"The government fails to look out for the public because they are persuaded by special interest groups to promote them instead," Onyema said. "This causes many concerns dealing with health insurance that's

available, including lack of accessibility and affordability."

Ross believes that The United States has a long way to go until it provides fair health care for its entire population.

"Although the United States has some of the most technologically advanced health care in the world, there are many problems with the health care system," Ross said. "I think it is criminal that in a country as wealthy as ours, millions of people are without health care. In addition, healthcare in the United States is focused on specialized and acute care, rather than on preventive care and comprehensive care of chronic illness. For example, although a severely ill 65-year-old may be able to get a kidney transplant, many impoverished pregnant women go without prenatal care, elementary school children go without dental care, and poor adults with diabetes cannot afford strips with which to monitor their blood sugar."

Because Clayton is a wealthy town, few to none have experienced life without health care. Ross uses her practice as an illustration to show how others are really affected.

"In my practice I have taken care of many patients on Medicaid insurance [the government insurance for the poor] in the past," Ross said. "Sometimes they would have problems that needed the care of a specialist or a dentist. It was extremely difficult to find specialists or dentists that would see patients on Medicaid because the reimbursement from the government for seeing those patients was so low that physicians would actually lose money seeing them, (the cost of seeing them was higher than the reimbursement). Consequently, these patients would have to go without care or be seen by physicians who were perhaps not as highly qualified, or use the emergency room as their primary place of care. Ross said that the medical insurance companies also decide what to cover, and in that way allocate care.

"For example, in general, the strips used to monitor blood sugar are not covered, and so many diabetic patients can't afford to monitor their blood sugar the way they should," Ross said. "Consequently, their diabetes is poorly controlled, and they may end up in the hospital. In addition, procedures are reimbursed much more highly than time spent talking with and examining a patient. For example, I could get \$35 for freezing off a small skin lesion, which takes 7 seconds, but only get \$35 for spending 20 minutes listening to a patient's concerns, examining them, and discussing things with them." Because of this, as a primary care physician, when Ross was in private practice, she felt

pressured to see patients every 15 to 20 minutes, in order to generate enough income to cover my costs and make a very modest income.

"This is one of the reasons I left private practice," Ross said. "It is impossible to adequately care for someone with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and depression in 20 minutes. I felt like all I could do was put a Band-Aid on the problem and write a prescription. Many of these problems are related to lifestyle, and it takes time, and a team approach (with nurses, educators, psychologists) to truly care for them. We have no model for caring for these chronic diseases, and no method for reimbursing their care." Ross says that Americans are used to having access to very expensive health care.

"What we don't realize is that at the same time, many of us, especially those who are poor, lack access to even basic preventive health care, which is much

less expensive and which provides much more value in terms of quality years of life than does expensive care for the critically or terminally ill," Ross said. "Whether we realize it or not, health care is being allocated."

When it comes to a solution, Ross says that there are no easy answers.

"As far as how to fix the problems, I really don't know," Ross said. "I think the health care system needs a major overhaul. I

think we need universal coverage and an emphasis on preventive care. I think reimbursement should reflect those priorities. In reality, in the long run, it is much less expensive to provide preventive care and foster healthy lifestyles than it is to try to fix problems once they are established."

Onyema agrees with Ross. "I believe that there are some ways to improve the system," Onyema said. "The government must be responsive by providing a universal healthcare system that will cover all basic healthcare needs. In addition, the government should improve education to the public about healthy lifestyles in order to avoid health problems. Also, I strongly suggest that the government carefully watch the private companies so that the bias will cease to exist." Though the U.S. health care system is deemed unfair and too intricate, there have been a couple improvements, such as new technology, efforts to make healthcare more affordable and accessible for the public (for example, community health centers), efforts to provide more comprehensible services for the public, and the expansion of Medicare for senior citizens.

But like Ross says, we have a long way to go. ☺

# Mexican trucks allowed in the U.S.

**[Nicholas Andriole]**  
Staff Reporter

A new pilot program has been put in place to allow Mexican-owned trucks to operate on U.S. roads.

However, trucking companies and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters oppose the program as it enables Mexican-owned and operated trucks to venture freely throughout the continental United States.

Beginning Dec. 26, 2007, a pilot program enabled approximately 54 Mexican-domiciled trucks from 15 pre-selected trucking carriers were able to move beyond the current commercial zone area of 25 miles beyond the Mexican border.

Currently, most trucks that cross the border enter the commercial zone where their cargo is transferred from Mexican and other foreign carriers onto American carriers for delivery throughout the United States.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, a major union representing approximately 1.4 million transportation workers, opposes the measure as they claim the foreign trucks do not adhere to the same maintenance and driver training standards and are, therefore, unsafe for U.S. roads.

"Congress has expressed concern that they [Mexican trucking carriers] have not met the requirements as outlined by NAFTA and DOT..."

**[Galen Munroe]**  
Press Secretary

**Congress has expressed concern that they [Mexican trucking carriers] have not met the requirements as outlined by NAFTA and DOT...**

the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. This decal represents North American standards and is only valid for 90 days. On top of the decal, every truck and every driver is checked upon crossing the border to ensure they have a license and are fluent in English language."

Up until 1982, Mexican trucks had full access to U.S. roadways; however, U.S. trucks did not have access to Mexican roadways. Under NAFTA, Mexican and US owned trucks were supposed to share access to each other's roads, beginning in 2000. However, that plan was put on hold by criticism from the Teamsters, Sierra Club environmental group, and the Public Citizen watch group.

"This program was laid out by NAFTA back in 1994 which provi-

ers such as drug testing, emissions testing, and driving restrictions will not be imposed on Mexican carriers. A major concern of teamsters is that trucks will arrive at the border with no record of the number of hours the driver has been behind the wheel.

"Exploitation of these drivers is a real concern," Munroe said. "We are concerned that Mexican trucking companies will pressure their employees to drive countless hours on end, and upon reaching the border we have no idea of how long they have been on the road in Mexico."

However, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has worked to address these issues and believes these trucks are just as safe as U.S. operated trucks.

"The trucks driving in this program are held to a higher safety standards than our U.S. truckers are held to," Melissa Mazzella DeLaney, Director of Communications for Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, said. "Every vehicle in this program must have a decal that indicates it has passed an inspection from

While access to U.S. roads by Mexican trucks is currently limited, trucks from Canada regularly cross our northern borders.

"Canadian trucks have been operating in the United States for years as they have met or exceeded the standards that American drivers have to adhere to," Munroe said. "The solution is simply that Mexico should raise their standards to meet the standards American commercial drivers are held to."

The Teamsters represents transportation workers throughout the United States and Canada, but not in Mexico.

Satellite-linked tracking devices are being installed in the trucks that are being used for the pilot program, which serve as enforcement tools for the trucking pilot program.

"This will give us the ability to monitor every vehicle from Mexico and ensure all companies are following our strict safety requirements, including those governing hours of service," said John Hill, FMCSA Administrator in a press release.

While the Teamsters claim the trucks are not safe, the FMCSA believes the trucks in the program have sufficiently met the requirements.

"Mexican trucking companies, vehicles and drivers are meeting or exceeding the tough standards in place for this program — as well

as those in place for U.S. truckers — to maintain safety on American roads," Hill said. "Under the demonstration project, companies and consumers from both countries are benefiting from new markets and more efficient trade across our shared border."

Mexican trucks can bring many benefits to drivers and consumers as they can make the transportation of foreign goods more efficient, relieve congestion, and could potentially make the shipping costs for products cheaper.

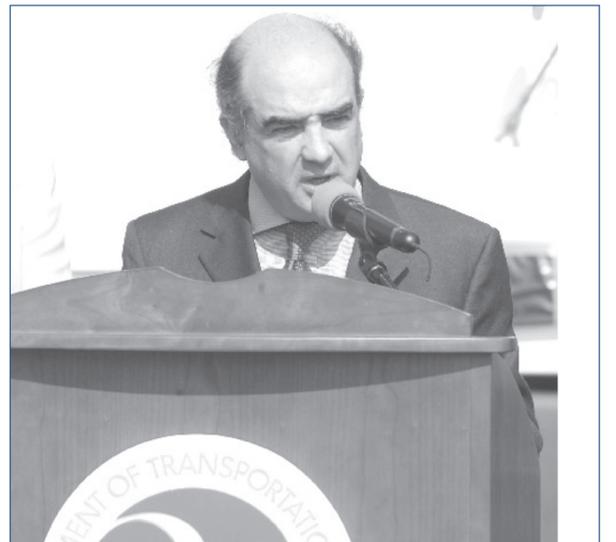
"Currently it takes up to three trucks with three drivers to take one shipment across the border," Mazzella Delaney said. "We think that by allowing long haul cross border trucking we will decrease congestion at the border, truck emissions, and consumers will see significant savings in shipping costs."

The pilot program is only for international shipping. For example, a Mexican carrier is permitted to operate from an origin in the United States or Mexico to a destination in the other country. Therefore, U.S. carriers operating in Mexico are not permitted to serve intra Mexican routes, while Mexican carriers can't operate intra American routes.

The current program is only a one-year long trial.

Results of the program will be reviewed and any further changes to international shipping will be evaluated.

"The pilot program is operating and it is a one-year demonstration project," Mazzella Delaney said. "The U.S. and Mexico have a joint team that is overseeing the program. An independent review panel will review the program and use their information in our analysis of the program." ☺



MCT Campus  
**Mexican Transportation Secretary Luis Tellez speaks during a Department of Transportation press conference to persuade Congress to stop considering a prohibition of cross-border trucking between Mexico and the United States in Washington, D.C. on October 17, 2007.**



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## Vashon coach crosses line housing students

Vashon, 1

ramifications for the school. However, Horrell believes that the students should be exempt from the punishments.

"I don't think that the students should be punished, the reason being that the young men were guided by an adult and they were doing what the adult said and advised them to do," Horrell said. "Whether they knew what they were doing was wrong, they were being guided by an adult, and ultimately they are kids, and they are going to listen to a coach or an adult in that situation."

While some have compared this situation to the disqualification of the CHS football team from the 2003 state championship, Horrell sees the Irons case as unique.

"I think this case has no relation," Horrell said. "The situation in 2003 was a family who moved in from Wisconsin whose dad's job moved him to St. Louis, where

this is obviously a blatant violation. There was definitely an agenda in this situation, whereas there was no agenda on our part to move the family from Wisconsin."

While Horrell does not condone Irons behavior, he does admit to understanding it.

"I understand how he had good intentions to try and help these kids out," Horrell said. "It was an unfortunate situation. But there are ways to go about that and the coach paying for it is not the way to handle that situation"

Horrell also admits that if any of his players were placed in a bad living situation, he would help them out in a heartbeat.

"If I had to be put in a situa-

tion in which a young man lost his family and wasn't able to be at home, my wife already knows that we would probably take them in and adopt them to try to help them get through high school and go to college," Horrell said. "It is a very touchy situation. As coaches you try and work with kids

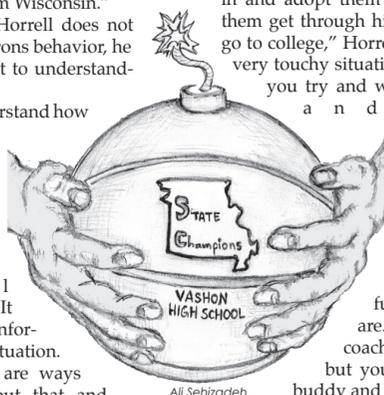
and help them and sometimes that stretches outside of the school walls. But you have to be very careful where you are. You are a coach and mentor, but you are not their buddy and friend."

Bone however, recognizes the uniqueness and difficulty of obtaining a state championship and, because of this, feels that the true victims of the Vashon case are the teams that didn't make it to state because of Irons.

"The unfortunate part is that for a lot of teams and a lot of programs getting to the state tournament is very difficult, and a once-every-so-often occurrence and because of Vashon, there were a lot of schools that did not get there that might have gotten beat along the way," Bone said. "All of this could have had a big effect on a lot of kids and what happened to them in athletics, and those are the kids that I personally feel sorry for."

While Irons has had no problem rattling off the names of other coaches who he said are likely to have committed the same sins, Bone is sure that CHS is a school that is unlikely to attract such coaches.

"At some places athletics becomes the tail that wags the dog," Bone said. "But I really think we do a good job here at keeping athletics in the proper perspective and keeping it as a very important part of the overall education process, but not the most important part." ☺



Ali Sehzadeh

## CHS students receive summer opportunities

[Nava Kantor]  
Co-Editor in Chief

And the nominees are...Nina Oberman, Alozie Onwumere, Meredith Redick, Ben Goldman, Meredith McCay and Leigh Tait!

These few of CHS's brightest minds and boldest talents will hopefully be making their way to the Missouri Scholars Academy (MSA) and the Missouri Fine Arts Academy (MFAA) this June, joining gifted students from schools all over the state in enriching their knowledge and stretching their skills.

The Scholars Academy has been in operation for nearly 25 years and utilizes the campus of the University of Missouri-Columbia. Over 300 entering juniors will be attending MSA this summer. The CHS faculty has nominated sophomores Oberman, Onwumere and Redick; they will soon find out if they have been accepted into the program.

According to www.oseda.missouri.edu, the Scholars Academy "provides unique opportunities for students to enhance their academic skills, relate to contemporary issues and deepen understanding of themselves and their unique abilities."

CHS counselor Dr. Ann Barber coordinates the MSA nominations.

"Unlike Clayton, other school districts may have gifted students who do not have opportunities for enrichment and advanced curricula," Barber said. "This program affords students a chance to be with other gifted young people, explore their interests and learn to be leaders in their school."

Selecting which students are the most qualified for the Scholars Academy is a difficult process that involves the entire faculty in careful decision-making.

"The process of nomination begins with asking all the teachers to nominate top sophomores for the program," Barber said. "The qualities considered for nomination include high academic performance, intellectual leadership in class and willingness to go above and beyond

as a student at CHS. The students who receive the most nominations are then considered by a selection committee. The three nominees are then notified and commit to attending the program if selected. As a way of assuring diversity in the group, one nominee is always African American."

Oberman, Redick and Onwumere were taken by surprise with the news of their nominations and knew little of the MSA.

"I had no idea I was being nominated," Oberman said. "Dr. Barber came into my math class one day and told me to come by the counseling office after school, and last year's MSA attendees [Mack Su, Yiliu Zhang and Fontasha Powell] were all there. It was a good surprise, though. This is definitely an honor."

Redick was similarly caught off guard.

"I thought I was in trouble when I got the note saying that it was urgent for me to go to the counseling office," Redick said. "When Dr. Barber told us we were nominated for this academic camp, I didn't really realize what a huge deal it was."

Because space is limited, a stellar application is necessary. Barber assists the nominees assembling their applications.

"The application includes two essays, an IQ score, the student's GPA and PSAT scores, anecdotal information from teachers and a statement regarding the benefits for the student nominated," Barber said. "The student writes the two essays and the coordinator fills out the rest of the application."

For Oberman, the process was on the arduous side.

"I had to miss about an hour and an half of school for the IQ test, which was hard," Oberman said. "One of the essays was your response to an Albert Einstein quote and the other was about ideas turning into adventures. Overall, it was

a fairly long process."

Redick hopes to be accepted to MSA so she can have the chance to delve deeper into her favorite subjects.

"I think the program is really cool," Redick said. "You get to learn stuff that you can't get in everyday school because the subjects are really intensive. You get to choose a major and a minor. I'm thinking about taking physics and writing if I get in."

Oberman, too, believes she would enjoy three weeks of academics in the summertime.

"My grades reflect that I love to learn, and I guess that's why they thought that this would be a good program for me," Oberman said. "I hope to be able to spend time with others who are interested in academics like I am. I want to learn new things this summer."

According to Barber, while it is certainly an honor to be nominated, the final decision is made through the Office of Gifted Education Programs of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Jefferson City.

"All three have submitted outstanding applications," Barber said. "We hope they will all be chosen for the Scholars Academy."

The Fine Arts Academy is also a three-week residential program, but instead of Mizzou, it is held at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield. Between 100 and 200 artistically talented students attend each year. MFAA nominations are coordinated by CHS music coordinator Charlie Blackmore. Sophomore Ben Goldman and juniors Meredith McCay and Leigh Tait will be attending to concentrate in trumpet, harp, and dance, respectively.

McCay's reaction to her nomination was similar to those of the MSA nominees.

"A letter was sent to my house letting me know that I was nominated for MFAA," McCay said. "I knew absolutely nothing about the program, so I was pretty surprised. After I did a little online research, I got really excited."

The application for the Fine Arts Academy differs slightly from the one for MSA. Along with the two essays, McCay, for example, had to play two contrasting songs and send them in on videotape. Other components, such as monologues or portfolios, may be required depending on the discipline an applicant hopes to pursue.

McCay's acceptance has already been confirmed; she has high hopes for the summer.

"I'm hoping MFAA will help me develop as a musician," McCay said. "Since I'll be there for three weeks, I'll have lots of practice time. Devote that much time to my instrument will hopefully allow me to improve. I'm really excited to go."

Senior Vanessa Moore attended the Fine Arts Academy last summer, and the experience has left a lasting impression on her. She concentrated on dance.

"Going to MFAA was crazy fun," Moore said. "I didn't know what to expect going into it, and at the beginning it seemed overwhelming. Once we broke up into disciplines, though, we had a blast."

Moore enjoyed the social events that broke up the schedule of classes and rehearsals.

"Every Friday night we had an event all together," Moore said. "My favorite was the zombie prom dance. It was hilarious."

However, Moore's experience involved a great deal more than having a fun time and gaining new friends.

"I developed a lot more respect for other disciplines and I improved in my own," Moore said.

For this year's six nominees for the Missouri Scholars and Fine Arts Academies, Moore has the following advice.

"Go with an open mind," Moore said. "Have fun and make friends, and don't let anything bring you down." ☺



Jenna Wanish

Many wardrobe students participate in the CHS Fashion show by designing and sewing their own clothing.

## Fashion show coming

As the show draws near, students get involved by modeling and designing

[Katherine Greenberg]

Staff Reporter

The fashion show is one of the newer traditions to CHS. Two years ago the fashion show was started when Malvina Hoxha collaborated with Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Linda Williams to put on a show.

"The fashion show is a great way to showcase student work, give students the opportunity to participate in an activity, and involves a large number of students the opportunity to be a part of a successful school event," Williams said. "Malvina worked diligently throughout high school and had a dream of putting on a show that everyone would remember. We enlisted the help of Alicia, the mother of a Clayton student who ran charity fashion shows, and worked for about a year before the actual fashion show. I had two young men who were thinking of going to culinary school and we prepared for the food. It was a great deal of work the paid off in wonderful reviews."

The first year the show was called Panache, and last year's show was Remix. This year the show is "Fashionistas," and there

are many changes to the previous shows. The show is tentatively scheduled for April 12 in the CHS commons.

One person running the show this year is senior Abbie Minton.

"I have always liked making clothes, and last year I helped with the business side of things," Minton said.

This year Malvina Hoxha is graduating from Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) and is going to be helping out. "This year we are going to have some clothes from not only CHS students, but from students that have participated in the past, like Anya Fisher and Malvina Hoxha," Minton said.

Last year, sophomore Anna Copilevitz modeled in the show and this year she is making clothes.

"I think the fashion show is a great event at CHS," Copilevitz said. "Besides allowing the students to demonstrate their skills in design, students cook and bake for the show, design posters, and get to model, which is always cool. At the same time you're promoting and supporting a charity."

Part of the proceeds from this year's show will go to the Neurfbromatosis Foundation. ☺



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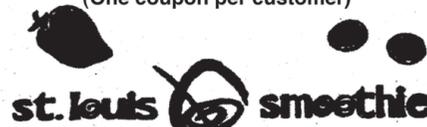
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**[Preeti Viswanathan]**  
Staff Reporter

Although last semester's finals were quite a while ago, second semester finals and AP exams are not too far away.

Once spring break comes, the rest of the school year passes by rapidly, and students who take AP classes cram for their exams, while many other students cram for finals.

Preparing well for the first and semester finals can help students know the format and level of the actual AP test because some teachers design their final exams to match the difficulty level of the test. AP Chemistry teacher Nathan Peck said his final exams are designed to test the material students have been taught, but that it does not evaluate their potential.

"[What a test evaluates] would depend on the final exam," Peck said. "Any test really just tells you only one thing, which is how well you did on that test. I don't think any of my exams are used to evaluate a student's potential, or voltage for that matter."

Peck said his tests are fairly difficult, but not unrealistically so.

"I try to design tests that evaluate what I've told students they should know," Peck said. "Making academic expectations clear to students means that you don't have a lot of kids learning a bunch of things that aren't evaluated on the tests."

Academic Director Josh Meyers said that the percent for which the final counts out of the students' total grade is up to the discretion of the teacher, and his finals are normally worth about 15 percent depending on the number of assignments over the course of the semester.

"If I had assigned more items because I went on a straight point system, sometimes it just works out

where it is 18 percent one year, but 15 percent the other year, but I always make sure its between 15 and 20 percent," Meyers said.

AP Physics teacher Rex Rice said he makes his second semester finals very similar to the content and format of the AP physics exam.

"I think [students] realize that taking a facsimile exam before the real exam helps them have a better sense of how they need to structure the time during the exam; it just gives them a better feel of what it will be like when they take the real test," Rice said.

Even though in a few classes finals are optional if the students have a high enough grade, Peck thinks everyone should take a final exam to see how well they know the material.

"Everyone should take an exam; Besides being more comprehensive than a single unit test, I like having the opportunity to ask questions that require a synthesis of knowledge from different units," Peck said.

Meyers said that though finals are a good way to assess how much content a student has learned, they are not always a reliable way to test skills.

"I think where final exams are problematic and difficult is in terms of assessing skills, especially in a history classroom, where there are lots of skill-based kinds of things – analyzing documents and political cartoons, interpreting maps and graphs, research, use of electronic databases, writing – all of those kinds of things are much more difficult to assess on a traditional final exam," Meyers said. "While I'm happy with my final exam in terms of its ability to deal

Some see them as evaluations of the year past and others see them as preparation for AP exams. However, most see them as something to cram for. Teachers see the final exam as a great way to sum up a semester's worth of work as well as demonstrate how well students and teachers are doing their jobs.

with content, I definitely think that it's problematic to really get a reflection of those skills."

Rice said he gives the second semester finals on a Saturday morning before regular finals week, and though many of his students complain about it, it does help them more than if he were to give a practice take-home test.

"It would be one thing for me to give an exam which they can do on their own, but nobody ever takes one of those with the same diligence and limits themselves time-wise the same way when they do it on their own as they would in a controlled test environment," Rice said.

According to Peck, many of the questions on the AP Chemistry final exam are more detailed, with a multiple-choice section and a challenging short answer section.

"These types of questions can't be asked on formative-types of assessment like unit tests, but they are important to ask," Peck said. "I get a much better feel for whether or not a student understands the big picture when looking at final exam responses because some of the questions are different."

Honors American Literature teacher Dave Jenkins also thinks that though many students object to the idea of having final exams and other standardized tests, they are a good way to evaluate what the students have learned.

"As a former department chair at another school who had as his job to review and approve over 20 teacher finals a semester, I am convinced that finals are necessary to see that students grasped the content and skills of a course, rather than just cram information into temporary memory for unit assessments," Jenkins said.

**I think summative evaluations are an important measure of how well students and teachers did their jobs.**

**[Dave Jenkins]**  
Teacher

## Choosing circle parking could amount to a ticket

**[Phillip Levine]**  
Editor

The number parking spots around the circle in the front of Clayton High School are extremely limited. However, they are also in high demand. There are about ten spots that are two-hour parking and can basically be parked at for the entire day. There are another three spots that are one-hour parking and another few spots that are 30-minute parking. Through correct timing and an ability to parallel park, it is possible to find a space in the circle.

The circle parking offers an easy walk into the school without having to walk all through the Stuber parking lot and commons if parked in the Stuber lot, or walking all the way up the walk and through the quad if parked by the Baseball fields and near the cottage. Although there are other lots surrounding the schools, those are designated for teachers and are not allowed for student parking. Although some lots are illegal or only specified for a certain allotted period of time, some students break the rules and park illegally. Out of convenience, some park in the teacher's lots and others in spaces extending the marked time.

Senior Tucker Szybala tries to park in the circle almost every day, though many times he must move his car throughout the day.

"I usually move my car around a lot during the day," Szybala said.

Sometimes, Szybala leaves his car in the area for too long and gets a ticket. Whether it is in the morning when he is already late for class and needs a spot quickly or when he comes back from lunch in the middle of the day at the end of the period with no spots left and class already started, Szybala is often faced with the decision of whether or not to park illegally for too long.

"I kind of just wing it and go for the gold," Szybala said. "I just hope I don't get a ticket. I have already gotten somewhere between 10 and 15 tickets since the beginning of the



Kelly Moffitt

**Students take the risk of parking in the short term parking around the circle outside of the school. Often times, the risk doesn't pay off and the students come back to find their cars with a ticket.**

year."

With City of Clayton Parking tickets at \$25 each, it becomes expensive to live on the gambling side of life.

"It does stop me for a little, but then I just get back into my regular habits until I get another ticket," Szybala said.

Junior Haley Rosenblum faces the same problems.

"I park around the circle every time there's a spot," Rosenblum said. "I park in one-hour parking in the afternoon because I only have two classes left. Other than that I try find a two-hour parking spot and if I can't, I usually just go to the Shaw Park lot."

Rosenblum is also sometimes unable to find a spot and must park in the restricted time parking zones, often risking getting a ticket.

"I have gotten somewhere between 12 and 15 tickets, but it really doesn't make me stop parking around the circle," Rosenblum said. "Since the ticket prices are so outrageous, it just makes me hate the little parking guys even more."

Although some students may blame the CHS administration, it is really not under their control to ticket parking around the circle.

"Parking around the circle is on a public street and so it is patrolled by the City of Clayton," assistant principal Dan Gutchewsky said. "The City does not patrol our lots around the school such as the teacher lots except for the Shaw Park lot by the administration building,

The School District resource officer gives tickets for parking in the lots designated just for teachers."

Although the Clayton police control the parking situation around the circle, the high school administration does have the opportunity to request certain zones around the circle.

"It is ultimately controlled by the city ordinances," Gutchewsky said. "We make requests in writing and the city council and alderman approve or deny our requests."

The idea of 30 minute parking is to have a place for visitors to park, run into the school and quickly leave."

Although the purpose of the 30 minute parking is for visitors, Gutchewsky feels that there is absolutely nothing wrong with students

who park for the allotted time period and follow the rules.

"It is the students issue with the city to follow the rules," Gutchewsky said. "It is fine if they are playing by the rules to park for the specified amount of time."

The other parking lots around the school (designated for teacher parking) are patrolled by the school resource officer to make sure students don't park there. The administration believes that the teachers need specified lots for their parking and since there are lots for students, students shouldn't be parking in the teacher's lots. Most students realize the consequences of park-

**I have gotten somewhere between 12 and 15 tickets, but it really doesn't make me stop parking around the circle.**

**[Haley Rosenblum]**  
Junior

## Planning for remodel, construction of school district underway

*Blueprint, 1*

be upgraded to keep up with technology," Wonish said.

"We need to look at some of the conditioning systems and how they operate. Basic needs for buildings include studying the heating, air-condition and ventilation systems."

According to the Blueprint website, the 2008 plan will mostly look at the district's infrastructure, major maintenance needs at each school, options for property owned but not used by the district and looking at each school to ensure that the spaces meet current and future needs in terms of enrollment, curriculum and progress.

However, Abrams said that although many meetings and discussions have taken place, these are all simply ideas, and nothing has yet been set in stone.

"We've made absolutely no decisions yet," Abrams said. "We've had our first meetings at all of the schools with the citizens who have wanted to give us their input. We're very interested in what parents, teachers and principals have to say. We're going to put all of this together and in April and have an open house at the Center, so that everyone in the community can see what the preliminary plans are. We want this to be a very open and transparent process that everyone can be a part of it."

Busé said that so far, the meetings have been positive, however, meetings are not the only steps that have been taken to ensure success.

"At this stage, the individual meetings have been great," Busé said. "We're moving forward. We are constantly reviewing curriculum and school needs. Also, an architect firm has been hired to evaluate and identify issues."

At some of the meetings, important renovations discussed included becoming more environmentally friendly, World Language kitchens at CHS, an underground parking garage at Wydown and more classrooms and better gymnasiums at the elementary school level.

However, few concerns have already arisen. Dupont said that at Glenridge, the building's old design is both a benefit and a cost.

"Maintaining the historic treasure [Glenridge] is one of the main concerns," Dupont said. "Glenridge was built and designed by William Itner and it's a historic building. One thing that our parents said was that they wanted to

keep the integrity of Glenridge's design. It's truly a beautiful building, but to keep it updated with what we need technologically is expensive."

Abrams, in contrast, believes that no major concerns have been significant this early into the developmental stages.

"So far, there's been no controversy," Abrams said. "We're just at the stage where we're gathering ideas, so I'm sure disagreements could come. As people begin to prioritize ideas, I'm sure some will think certain things should get priority over something else."

Throughout all the meetings, planning and discussion, there has been one major concern that citizens and students alike are questioning – the source of funding.

According to Abrams, the majority of funding will most likely be financial support from the Clayton community.

"If any of these developments really come to be, my guess is that we would have to go to the public for some kind of a bond issue, but that will not be decided until we really make some final decisions," Abrams said. "We will have to ask the public for their financial support. Everything will depend on what the community wants to fund."

If students or staff wish to share their ideas for the remodel, they may send an e-mail with their input to Jan Abrams at jana@ulta-color.com.

Despite the issues that may well come and all the formalities that have to be worked out, most are optimistic that Clayton's 5-year Blueprint Plan 4 Tomorrow will yield satisfying results.

"I think in the end, this is going to be a great thing for all of Clayton schools because we have awesome teachers, kids and curriculum and we need to have facilities that live up to the twenty-first century to enhance it all," DuPont said.

Busé agreed with DuPont. She believes that the 5-year plan will enable Clayton's education style to continue to be contemporary and innovative.

"I think that in the end these changes will definitely be beneficial," Busé said. "We haven't had the opportunity to update our schools for sometime and education continues to advance. Curriculum has changed with computers and along with other areas. We need to bring our schools up to date. It's time." ☺

# Schools become more energy efficient

[Sneha Viswanathan]  
Staff Reporter

In this age of global warming, many communities are focusing on making themselves more environmentally friendly. A recent trend in many towns is to reduce the environmental impact of their schools. However, this concept has extended beyond recycling and reusing. Through the EnergySmart Schools Program, many schools are rebuilding and rethinking the designs of their campuses to accommodate more energy-efficient buildings.

The EnergySmart Schools Program was created by the United States Department of Energy and designed to provide information, training, and resources to help convert schools' structure and size to more efficient designs that reduce the amount of energy consumed.

The goal of EnergySmart Schools, according to its website, [www.energysmartschools.gov](http://www.energysmartschools.gov), is to improve the energy-efficiency of older schools by 30 percent more than the energy codes set in 2001, and new schools to 50 percent more. The DOE also plans to use this program to educate students about energy-efficiency.

Schools have utilized this program in states such as California, New York, Colorado, Massachusetts, and several other states. The program manual includes design guidelines and suggestions based on the climate and location of schools, including plans for direction and orientation of school buildings that optimize the amount of solar energy that a school could receive. For the interior of schools, suggestions are made regarding ventilation and heating and cooling. The manual suggests using water-source heat pumps and heat-exchangers to balance temperature. Other aspects of the plan focus on such minor details as interior and exterior colors, and positions of windows, which also affect how much solar energy and sunlight a building could absorb.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the program not only has benefits for the environment, but for school districts and students as well. The national energy bill for schools is approximately \$6 billion a year, but the DOE estimates that with better

energy-efficient renovations suggested through their plan, schools could save \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion. The new environmentally-friendly structure of schools includes larger windows and more natural light, which leads to improved student performance, according to the DOE.

Punith Jain, an architect with Cannon Design and past president of the Clayton chapter of the United States Green Building Council, agrees that natural light is a key step to helping student performance and improving energy efficiency.

"The biggest thing you want to do is to have natural light; it is very important because most classes occur during the day time," Jain said.

"Schools can install larger windows for a more well-lit building. When more sunlight comes in, it isn't necessary to turn on as many artificial lights, so the energy consumption from lighting is reduced."

The energy-efficiency of the windows themselves is important to balancing lighting and temperature. Window and wall orientation affect the light and energy consumption inside buildings. Jain suggests installing solar control (special tinting) on windows, which would reduce glare and prevent overheating.

"It [solar control] should be located on the south side of the building for maximum sunlight in the school, because the sun is on the southern side of the sky during most of the winter," Jain said. During the summer, the sun is on the northern side, so less sunlight will enter the building and keep it cool. Windows shouldn't be installed on the west side because the sunlight there is very strong during the summer. You can also orient the building so that the north and south parts of the building have longer facades."

Jain also suggested using a green roof, which is constructed by planting grass and other vegetation on the roof. The purpose of a green roof is to collect water during rainy weather. "A green roof prevents water from going into the storm sewer system, so it reduces the amount of wastewater that needs to be treated," Jain said. The collected water also helps reduce the temperature immediately inside the building."

According to Jain, there are other everyday ways to be more environmentally friendly inside the school



Taylor Obata

Schools in states such as California, Colorado, New York and Massachusetts are working towards becoming more energy efficient by relying less on artificial lighting and emphasizing recycling.

building. These methods include switching from disposable utensils to reusable or washable cutlery, using biodegradable cleaning products without harsh chemicals for maintenance, and properly sealing doorways or windows.

For homes, useful changes include reducing the setting of hot water, using dual flushes or low-flow flush systems, and purchasing smaller homes for people who are thinking of relocating. For both school buildings and homes, Jain's advice is to "spread out the consumption of energy as much as possible."

The Clayton School District has already met with the U.S. Green Building Council and is planning to incorporate green facilities into its upcoming renovations. Many potential changes include those mentioned

above, such as a green roof, improved lighting, efficient use of water, and healthier, energy efficient ventilation. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System is a standard method designed by the U.S. Green Building Council for determining the environmental efficiency of buildings.

In early 2007, City of Clayton signed an ordinance which required all future constructions greater than an area of 5,000 square feet, to be certified by LEED's Silver level. Clayton also hosts an annual electronics recycling event every spring and encourages residents to make use of the MetroLink to reduce pollution. With support from the Clayton community and adequate funding, our school can make big changes to benefit the environment. ☺



Blair Klostermeier

Left: Mariah Smith, Dylan Cockson and Claire Wong work towards their goal of achieving another state championship for Reader's Theater. Reader's Theater is a mix of speech, debate and theater.

## Reader's Theater looks ahead to new chapter

[Maddy McMahan]  
Staff Reporter

This year's Reader's Theater group has a lot to live up to.

Last year, the group won the State Championship with *The Cat in the Hat Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are? Sneetches And Other Stories Garbled Mangled Chewed Up And Spat Out by Dr. Seuss*. The year before that, they took third place with *The Man in the Well*.

"It's hard to imagine something that will top last year's amazingness," junior Jessica Shen said. "Then again, that's the way a lot of us felt after *The Man in the Well*."

"Of course it would be amazing to finish out my Reader's Theater career with another first place finish in the state competition," senior Blair Klostermeier said. "And we all know we have a reputation to uphold."

In general, the group seems to have good feelings about this year's piece, an adapted episode from *The Twilight Zone* entitled *The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street*, although admittedly they have high ambitions.

"The group's ambition is to win first at districts," junior Dylan Cockson said. "And take first in state."

"I think the group will do really well this year because the piece sounds awesome," freshman Becca Steinberg said. "And is perfectly creepy and eerie."

Reader's Theater is a specific facet of speech and debate, where a team basically acts out a play, but with specific strictly-kept rules.

For example, "A rule of Reader's Theater is that you cannot use costumes, but there can be a group

uniform," Klostermeier said. "This year we are wearing dark jeans, white button-downs, canvas sneakers, and black ties."

Clayton High School has had a team since 2004, but the team's coach, Dr. Jonathon Smith, has been training students for the competition for longer than that.

"Dr. Smith is really good at helping everybody get the sounds to sound awesome," Steinberg said.

These sounds are the main difference between Reader's Theater and a normal play, and make it much more difficult to rehearse and practice.

"Practicing individually is difficult due to the fact that Reader's Theater is made up of so much group choral work," Cockson said.

"It is not really something you can practice too much by yourself," Klostermeier said. "I sometimes will go through and work on rhythm and picking up cues."

Therefore, rehearsals have become all the more important. The group meets every morning at 7:30 a.m. in room two. However, despite the early practice time, the group manages to have a lively, close-knit dynamic.

"We joke a lot, have nostalgic moments, laugh plenty, scream a little," Shen said. "But when it comes down to it, we can be very serious. Like any other competitive event, we want to win - but we also want to have fun. Our rehearsals can be a lot of fun actually. Traditional warm ups can seem ridiculous and silly to outsiders—we actually do scream in some scenes, and most of us are quite close. Many of us are veterans, doing this for several years, rehearsing with each other for hours and hours, and/or

sharing a State Championship just brings you together."

Although it is a close community, Reader's Theater welcomes fresh insight.

"The new members get brought into the fold," Shen said.

"There is a healthy variation of personalities and levels of experience," Klostermeier said.

The piece itself perhaps does not elaborate on the group members' friendliness.

"It's creepy," Klostermeier said. "Which one could say is our specialty." Referring also to the chilling aspects of the previous two years' pieces which set CHS in third and first place.

"This year's piece is about this perfect little neighborhood," Steinberg said. "However, one summer day, all of the lights and sounds and electronics and phone lines stop working so that it is dark and there is no sound. Unable to figure out what to do, the citizens of Maple Street become confused.

Then a young boy, Tommy, begins telling stories that he has heard and read in books about such situations. Distrust spreads through the neighbors, and they all start freaking out. Eventually, one of them is shot and killed on accident. The killing continues until there are only children left in the town. The audience then finds out that the children are the real aliens."

The team continues to work towards their over arching goal of winning the state championship. "We have a cast full of people with experience in speech and debate events and acting," Klostermeier said. "The talent is there and the drive is there, and we're on the right track." ☺

## Clayton continues eco-friendly plans

Environment, 1

green events, promoting multi-family recycling programs, establishing commercial recycling programs, reducing traffic congestion, promoting the City of Clayton as a model to citizens, promoting green purchasing, and educating citizens with season green-information updates.

To do these things, the EEAC is utilizing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards, current research, the Kyoto protocols, and Sierra Club standards.

"The city of Clayton [through Mayor Linda Goldstein at the Mayor Climate Protection Summit] has signed the Kyoto agreement in which communities of all sizes pledged to reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and minimize the city's carbon footprint," Powers said. "To accomplish this goal, the City of Clayton approved an ordinance mandating that all new public projects meet a LEED certification of silver level."

So far, nine out of the 12 protocols have been met for the Kyoto agreement.

"The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Summit was incredible," mayor Linda Goldstein said. "Former President Clinton, Former Vice President (and Nobel Prize winner) Al Gore, and New York Mayor Bloomberg were among the speakers. One of the most exciting aspects was that all these prominent people kept saying that the work gets done on the local level. Communities like Clayton really do make a difference."

LEED certification is a checklist of environmentally friendly construction practices that support the concept of green buildings. By requiring silver certification, the city is committing to using green products and services for new buildings. They are trying to encourage private developers to do the same.

In the private development area, the City has added LEED to its public benefits for Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), which will allow developers who build to the LEED certification standards to obtain more height/density for their project as well," Powers said.

Another big way the city is encouraging environmental practices, is through the new recycling program.

"The EEAC got a grant to do the green recycling bins you see around," Wojchiechowski said. "So we got the biggest cans we could

get for backyard pickup, we bought 5000 of those, and we distributed them to all the households in the city of Clayton that wanted one. Heck, we'll give you two if you want. This has really picked up our recycling implementation. Now we are getting into business recycling to get more participation of local businesses in recycling. Unfortunately, the city does not finance their recycling, but we are trying to find out what hinders their recycling and how we can help them overcome their obstacles."

In terms of emissions made by the city of Clayton and its residents, Clayton is way ahead of the game.

"Clayton has leased five hybrid cars for the city fleet to reduce gas consumption," Powers said. "Bicycle lanes have been designated on a number of city streets and racks have been strategically placed throughout the central business district."

Wojchiechowski points out that by the end of next year the city will have converted every car they can to a hybrid. He is also working on reducing the concentration of salt used on the streets.

"We also use biodiesel in our trucks - the fire trucks and maintenance trucks, and we have our own filling station next to Shaw Park."

In terms of public transportation, Clayton is coming at the situation from many directions.

"The planning commission is reviewing a 'Transit Oriented Development Ordinance,' which will treat those areas adjacent to metro-link stations differently and to encourage development which will support the use of Metro Link," Powers said. "As part of that ordinance, standards are established that mandate LEED certification for new development."

Wojchiechowski sees no reason why making a city environmentally friendly should hinder its beauty. In fact, he thinks it will produce the opposite effect.

"I'm focusing on making the city a nice place to walk around," Wojchiechowski said. "Clayton is a really good place to do this because it is a small city—it's really easy to walk in, especially in the business district. The better I can make it to walk around here, the more people stay out of their cars, and the more they'll be tempted to use public transit."

Recently, the City of Clayton has made an agreement with Great Rivers Greenway to promote biking through banners that are hanging Clayton. Biking, Wojchiechowski

thinks, is a viable option for all residents.

"Share the road signs, bike lanes...we have a whole plan to place bike lanes that go from one end of the city to the other on Wydown. This will make biking not just for recreation but for transportation too. I look out my window today and I can see bicycles, even in snowy weather, its unbelievable—people really do use bicycles and I think more will if their ride is made safer."

Upcoming events also promoting environmental awareness include an electronics recycling event in the south Shaw Park parking lot on March 21 and 22 to recycle old computers and electronics, and an Earth Day celebration on April 26 in Shaw Park for education and fun activities relating to environmental awareness.

For more updates, a new green page has been added to Clayton's official website at <http://www.ci.clayton.mo.us/Index.aspx?location=701>.

Hopefully, as a regional leader, Clayton will be able to make a difference in the future of the environment, even in the small stuff.

"With everything the city staff is doing, I think I'm beginning to actually turn green," Wojchiechowski said. "But it's good—I don't want to just talk the talk, I want to actually implement being environmentally aware into everyday routines, like it's business as usual. Every little action does make a difference and a lot of actions make a lot of difference. For Clayton, we're a leader in environmental issues, so we set an example. Maybe if just one other municipality says 'Well, Clayton's doing it...' then we'll have set a good, positive model for other regions to better the future of the environment."

Mayor Goldstein, who has been involved with environmentalism since her job at DuPont, a regional leader in environmental policies, believes change will come when everyone works together.

"I'm very pleased that both the Clayton School Board and the Clayton Board of Aldermen identify environmental initiatives as a priority," Goldstein said. "The School District recently invited our Board to learn about 'Green Schools', and I was asked to participate in a 'Sustainability in Education' conference. The School Board and Clayton government have a strong partnership...together we can do so much more than individually." ☺

# Close-up trip is small but provides exclusive experience

With only four students on the usually-crowded trip this year, the students were able to experience Washington D.C. political life even more close-up than ever before.

**[Simone Bernstein]**  
Staff Reporter

With knowledge and a "close-up" look at how our government works supposedly awaiting you in Washington DC, is the Close-up trip worth it?

Leaving on the six-day trip, abandoning school and other obligations sounds enjoyable to many, but is that how those who went on the trip this year felt?

The purpose of the Close-up trip was to experience Washington D.C. and understand how our government works.

Many students at Clayton High School usually jump for the chance to go

many students felt that it could have been helpful had they had some prior knowledge.

"If we plan earlier there is a lot better chance that the students won't be bombarded by the volume of information that is presented, because we would have the opportunity to meet and give them background knowledge," Aiello said.

"The trip is scheduled during inauguration week so things are sometimes a little crazy." With positive comments from former participants and students desire to miss school, there is going to be a squeeze for room on the trip next year.

"A lot of people want to go on the trip next year because of the Presidential Inauguration, but that shouldn't be the only reason for people to go," Stamp said. "It's a great learning experience, and a great way to learn about Washington DC, as well as our government."

With another trip planned for next year there is room for suggestions. One student expressed the desire for a curfew extension.

"The time you had to be in your rooms each night was early, and it didn't give much time to hang out with kids on other floors," Stamp added.

However, not everyone that went on the trip felt the same way about future trips. After returning from the trip considerations for next year's trip were being considered.

"Overall the trip was great although next year we plan on announcing or advertising the trip," Aiello said.

Another thing that will be changing next year, but not dramatically is the price of the trip.

The price for next year's trip is anticipated to be around \$2,000.

This price will cover about 99 percent of the trip expense. With the continued fun and learning CHS students do while on the Close-Up trip, it is sure to become an ingrained CHS tradition.

"With no offense to the American government teachers, I feel that the trip provides a better understanding of the American government because you are living and breathing history for a week," Aiello said. ☺

*I feel that the trip provides a better understanding of the American government because you are living and breathing history for a week.*

**[Dave Aiello]**  
Social Studies Teacher

how - ever it was different this year with only four students attending.

With only four students and a teacher going from CHS, they were a small, but enthusiastic group.

In D.C. they joined 150 other students from all over the United States including Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, California, and Arizona. With people coming from around the nation there were very few dull minutes.

"The trip was exciting," history teacher David Aiello said. "The kids seemed to have a great time with their newly made friends."

After returning home, sophomore Caroline Stamp felt that the trip was a real success.

"It was really intense and I learned a lot, and I also met some amazing people and had tons of fun," she said. "Close up taught me that even though I can't vote yet, there is still a way for my voice to be heard," Stamp said.

To teach students about the government they visited museums and monuments.

There they talked not only about the tie each location has to history, but also its ties to America and democracy.

"We went to Capitol Hill and got to the opportunity to speak with Congressman Russ Carnahan," Stamp said. "It was a good experience to talk to him and get his view on the types of things going on in the government right now."

After hearing about what was learned on the trip

# Regular sodas disappear from vending machines in Commons

**[Taylor Stone]**  
Staff Reporter

If you have taken a trip to the CHS vending machines to purchase a bag of M&M's or bottle of Gatorade, you may have noticed that the variety of beverages has startlingly decreased. Regular sodas have been wiped clean from the vending machines.

However, CHS Principal, Louise Losos assures that this decision was not made specifically for CHS.

"The soda companies themselves made the decision to remove non-diet sodas from public schools," Losos said.

Sure enough, the Northwestern University Newsfeed reported that "The nation's largest distributors of beverages have agreed to pull all soda from public elementary school and all but diet soda from public high schools."

Despite the fact that this decision has been in the works since 2006, it is just now directly affecting CHS, with only juices, Gatorade, water, and diet soda now available in vending machines.

CHS health teacher Doris Smith analyzes this decision.

"It's an attempt by the companies to present themselves as concerned about health (especially children's and teen's) while still being able to sell their products," Smith said. "With the increase in obesity among teens, consuming those extra calories is a concern."

There is expected controversy over this decision, especially from students. Dr. Losos acknowledges this.

"We had some concerns but as it's a corporate initiative we didn't have much say," Losos said. "The changes are made so that the machines fit more easily into the health guidelines at the District and state level."

Smith explains some truth about diet sodas.

"One definite negative is that if a person chooses a diet soda to accompany their meal rather than something with nutrients (like milk) they are losing out on those nutrients," Smith said. "There have been some studies that show dangers of the chemical sweeteners (in diet soda) and some that show no dangers."

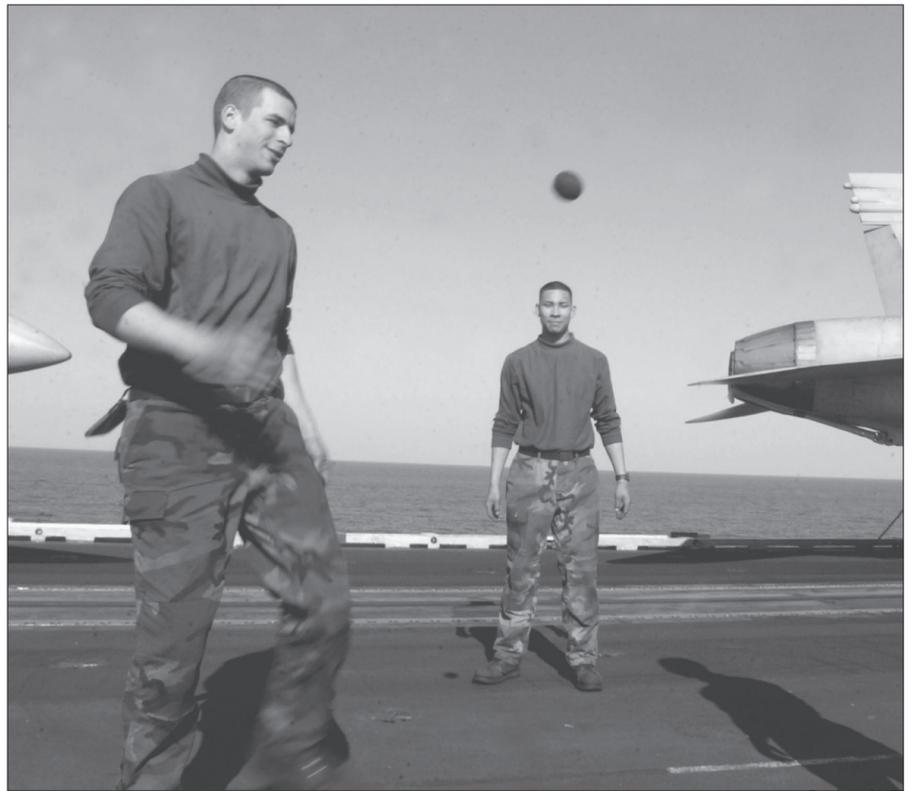
Freshman Becca Steinberg has some concerns over the decision. "I think that it is pretty dumb

that they are focusing on sodas, where there is so much worse stuff, like all of the fried foods in the cafeteria," Steinberg said.

Sophomore Chelsea Embree agrees. "Eliminating unhealthy foods is probably a better use of our time than getting rid of regular soda," Embree said. "The cafeteria serves us sweet, greasy, fattening food daily, and no matter how good it tastes, it isn't good for us. There are almost no healthy options. Soda should be left alone because there's always water and Gatorade to get instead, but there's no substitute for French fries. Unless you count the old, bruised fruit."

The CHS cafeteria is laden with Ho-Ho's, daily pizza, poparts, and french fries almost every day. However, it looks as if none of these food items are going to be leaving us anytime soon.

"Chartwells looks to ensure that they fulfill the District's healthy directives, but they do so typically by offering more healthy alternatives not eliminating the less healthy," Losos said. "With our open campus Chartwells has to work particularly hard to get students to eat in our cafeteria and are very cognizant of that reality."



U.S. Navy plane captains, based in the Mediterranean, play hackey sack for enjoyment and relaxation.

# Hackey sack pack

**[Simone Bernstein]**  
Staff Reporter

Although not listed on the CHS clubs page or given a year book picture, the hackey sack club is in full swing every Thursday, during the winter months after school. This club, unknown to most CHS students, meets near the hidden lockers and hallway next to the Commons.

Playing hackey sack is a weekly indoor activity during the winter for this interested group of students.

The teacher sponsor of the club is Micah Johnson, a Spanish teacher at both CHS and Wydown.

Johnson has fifteen years of hackey sack experience throughout his life.

Generally the club only meets during the winter since Johnson coaches boys soccer in the fall and girls soccer in the spring.

This club started about four years ago, when the founding members were at Wydown. These founding members include sophomore Ali Sehzadeh and senior Jens Petermann. Sehzadeh and Petermann thought of the idea for the club, before asking Johnson for help in sponsoring the club.

As the students graduated Wydown and moved to CHS, Johnson followed along with the students. Johnson recommends this club to everyone.

"Get a foot-bag and start kicking," Johnson said. "To play foot-bag you also need to have a desire to have fun. You also need foot and eye coordination."

Hackey sacks, often called foot bags, are about two inches in diameter, made of cloth or leather and filled with sand or beads. There are many tips and tricks to playing hackey sack.

"Through the help of this club, I have gotten much better at playing hackey sack over the years," sophomore Julian Katz said. "It is a very relaxing form of exercising. Hackey sack club is a fun time to hang out with my buddies."

Playing hackey sack requires eye and foot coordination and the patience to develop these skills. The students experiment with new tricks and try to keep the hackey sack from falling towards earth.

"There are very little rules, hardly any pressure, and the greatest form of sportsmanship out of any sport on earth," Sehzadeh said. "It's very physically stimulating and fun!"

The atmosphere of hackey sack club is very unique.

Music plays in the background as a hackey sacks fly through the air.

"We listen to reggae music and kick the bag to the beat," Sehzadeh said. "We attempt to make the 'phatest' trick of all, and try to beat our record for the number of kicks before the bag hits the ground."

Johnson's goal for the future of the hackey sack club is to promote foot-bag culture to more CHS students.

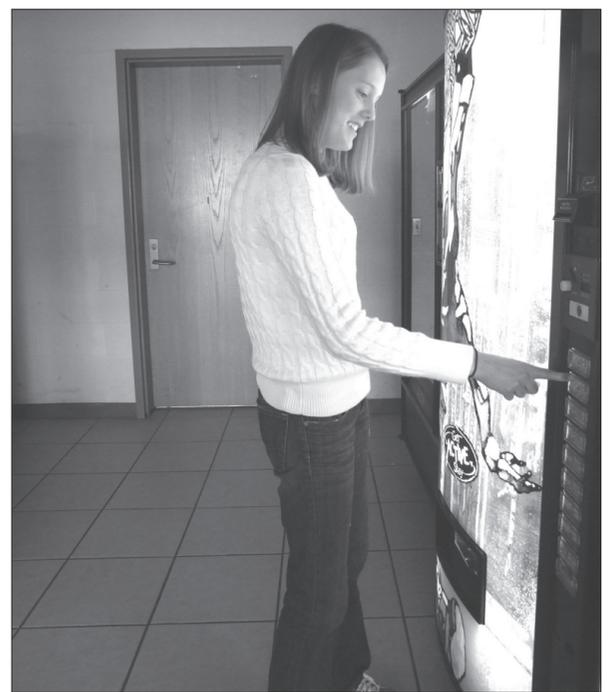
However, some students doubt they have the ability to play hackey sack.

"I never knew there was a hackey sack club," sophomore Allie Lake said. "I would not join the club because I have no foot and eye coordination."

Even though foot and eye coordination is a necessity for playing hackey sack, Johnson advises all students to come out and try the club next winter.

If interested in joining this new CHS club, contact Johnson by email for updates on the next scheduled club meeting.

"Hackey sack club is more or less the ultimate stress relieving activity in our school," Sehzadeh said. "Not only is it physically active, but it can be the greatest escape for any normal high school student." ☺



Junior Julia Hartel peruses soda choices at the vending machines

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--the Globe editors

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# Vashon basketball tainted by corruption

Vashon High School basketball coach Floyd Irons admitted to providing funds to various students in order to play basketball for the team; however, the public has not responded with the appropriate outrage earned by his unethical behavior.

Vashon High School has been a basketball stronghold for years under head coach Floyd Irons who retired last year, but the recent discovery of a recruiting scandal darkens the glory of Vashon's 10 state titles in 33 years.

Since 1998, Vashon has won five state championships, yet the state is now investigating at least 15 players who helped Vashon win the titles. The case of two students, brothers Johnny and Bobby Hill, stand out in particular. Coach Irons spent over \$25,000 to provide an apartment, a television, food, clothing, and a housekeeper for the basketball stars to live near the school and compete on the Vashon team. His "gifts" represent a clear violation of MSHSAA recruiting rules.

The brothers graduated in 2005 and 2006. Both attend college on basketball scholarships and the schools are investigating the scandal to determine if the boys have been disqualified because of losing amateur status in high school. In general, the gross violations by Vashon and Coach Irons far overstep the controversy concerning Jarius Byrd's eligibility for football a few years ago; however, the response has been seemingly mild in comparison to the outrage over the Byrd incident.

Irons claims that he was spending his money in order to ensure that the boys had a place to stay instead of their father's small, cramped house in Alton, Illinois. After further prompting he admitted in interviews that the deal included a guarantee that the boys would play basketball. Obviously, he behaved not out of charity, but rather followed what appears to be a habitual use of illicit recruiting methods. His repeated violations should be drawing far more attention than Clayton's relatively minor error attracted, yet the media and the public have remained calm in comparison to the previous uproar.

When asked if he would repeat his actions, Coach Irons voiced his lack of remorse and a firm belief that he simply supported his players' ability to reach college, instead of ending up on the streets according to the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch. His response shows a clear misunderstanding of the issue: the Hills and potentially a dozen other players for Vashon should never have been 'his players.' If he were to donate money to the players who actually lived in the district and faced difficult home lives, it would be not only acceptable, but also admirable.

Of course, the coach's plea is nothing more than a false excuse. He chose to support the Hills and not legitimate residents of the district because he was searching for basketball victory. Each of the titles that the team 'earned' while playing recruited players should be revoked. The boys who now attend college and play basketball should be declared ineligible for accepting gifts and forfeiting their amateur status in violation of the NCAA eligibility rules.

Coach Irons is now retired and his reputation is tarnished. He did not achieve the ostensible success of basketball domination through fair or just means. If he had truly cared for the students of Vashon and possessed sufficient funds to pay for two boys' living expenses, he would have provided money to actual Vashon students' education without sacrificing his integrity, the school's honor, or other

boys' futures in order to win basketball titles. The community should be outraged with Irons' blatant violations of MSHSAA rules, his attempts to deny charges, and his absolute refusal to apologize for his actions or recognize his mistakes. The case is far clearer than the Byrd case and the illicit activities are far worse; however, no one has responded with the same vehemence. It is time for people and schools throughout the Saint Louis area to voice the appropriate anger.

## Staff Editorial

Agree **91%**  
Disagree **9%**

## After the storm

I've been going through the most challenging and emotionally taxing week of my high school life. I bet everyone, at one time or another feels the jaws of high school gnawing mercilessly at us until we feel like we have nothing left. However, while this week has been a virtual hell, the insights gained from the past five days bring a whole new meaning to the term "after the storm."

Believe me, it has been a stormy time in the life of Cameron Davis. The thing is, you truly don't notice anything while you're going through whatever it may happen to be that you're going through.

I went through a period of feeling complete outrage, betrayal, confusion, and deeply rooted sadness. However all of these emotions snowballed into one major emotion: being ticked off to the MAX.

See, when you're angry, you first of all believe that you're seeing the complete picture and perceiving what you're angry about. You begin making harsh, rash, and idiotic decisions out of nowhere, while feeling that you are completely justified in everything that you're doing.

The thing is though, stupid crap really seems to make a lot of sense when you're angry. So all of the ludicrous thoughts and ideas that people plant into your head while you're P.O'ed really seem to make sense and provide that quick comfort at the moment. However, what about after the storm? What about those people that not too long ago were your true friends? Well, when you're ticked off, none of that matters. This is why angry people cannot make decisions.

However, after a little doctor-prescribed catharsis, you then begin to gain the true insight. First off, you really cannot make sense

of anything until you have cooled off fully.

Once you purge every ounce of emotion, and you have nothing left but your organs, you can then begin to sort out the confusion of the tempest you just voyaged through.

Moreover, while in your fit of anger you were avoiding the real and tough questions, in a state of tranquility you can begin to confront and answer the most difficult of the questions and really begin to look inside yourself and the relationships you've created or potentially damaged, and that's the thing.

Anger, frustration, all of that angst, is not worth the potential damage of things that are more important. However, you can only begin to weigh the importance of all aspects of your life once you reach this point of tranquility. Which is not to say that you cannot feel how you feel; if you are still a bit sour over something, be sour, and try to heal it the best you can (communication works very well I have learned); however, don't let any ill feelings blind you of what you have at stake.

And this is the big picture, looking at what you have at stake. What is more important: your temporary high school freakout, or the people around you that could potentially be there to help future temporary high school freakouts?

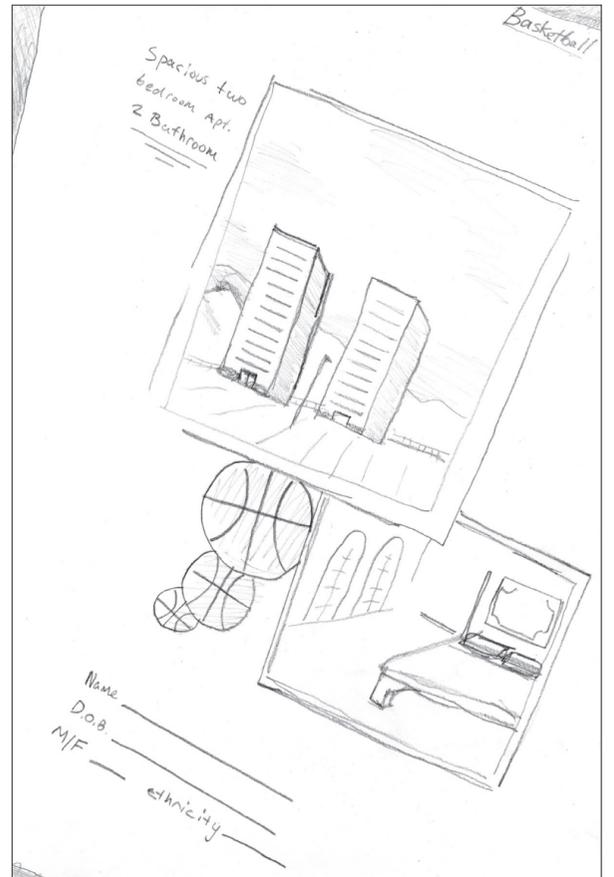
The moral of the story is that people get mad and do and say stupid things. Get over it and approach your situation with the utmost maturity because it is that maturity that will keep the things you hold closest to you secure.

Also, being angry all the time makes you ugly, fat, unpleasant to be around, and makes you die earlier. This is an insight that took me four years to come to, and it's only one of those things you can only truly learn with experience.

Thanks for listening.



[Cameron Davis]



Sam Bader



mclcampus

## Student yearns for home

Seven years ago I first left Shanghai. Seven years ago was also the last time I saw my hometown.

I remember wanting The Princess Diaries collection for my 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, and The Princess Diaries was what I got after I blew out my candles. I hoped for a strong and long-lasting friendship on my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I cannot be more grateful for having the best friend I could ever ask for. I aspired to accomplish on my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I am proud to have won national contests and have the chance to keep working toward success, as I will soon be a part of Washington University in St. Louis's Class of 2012. And every year during the seven years, I wished to travel back to Shanghai to take a look at the city I left behind. That wish is finally going to be fulfilled this year, as I will soon board the plane to Shanghai.

I find it hard to describe how I feel toward this trip, though it is one of the most important experiences in my life.

Besides the usual excitement, my long anticipation is also mixed with a sense of confusion and fear.

While I still consider myself a citizen of Shanghai, when I tell friends that I'm going back home in reference to this trip, the word "home" almost always sounds awkward when I used it in place of "Shanghai."

When I go back, I wonder if the street vendors will still be there as a unique ingredient to the lively Shanghai to attract crowds of shoppers who seek to bargain. I wonder if old ladies will still dance together with their fans in the park as a part of their morning exercise while the old men sit aside and show off to each other birds they have brought. I wonder if my kindergarten teachers are still teaching at my old pre-school; actually I wonder if my old pre-school is still there, or does it, too, exist no more just like the elementary school I attended and filled a large sack of memories with.

To me, Shanghai now seems like a long lost old

friend; you may have a good time together reminiscing about the past, but you probably won't be able to revive the long buried friendship because you will realize how much your friend has changed over time, and that the friend you once knew has already left the shell of a stranger that now stands before you. While I may have many memories of Shanghai, the city itself has probably changed so much that I will barely recognize it, and the place where I used to live might make me feel like a stranger in my own home.

I suppose that I fear this change. Sometimes, I wish that I could stop the time and seal Shanghai away in a box where my memories of the city would lie still with it. That way, when I'm ready for the wheel of time there to start turning again, I could just easily pick up the memories and smoothly resume the life where I left it.

However, I couldn't stop the time, nor could I seal Shanghai away in a box. Thus, Shanghai has changed a lot during the seven years I've been gone while my memories of the life I had there lay rusting in my head. And when I finally go back, I wonder if the segment of my life there will just snap like an elastic band that has been stretched too long and too tightly, and that I will be unable to continue the life I had left hanging.

I wonder what will happen when I first get off the plane in Shanghai and step on the ground I was once familiar with.

I might smile; I might cry. I wonder what will be the first thing that I do when I arrive in the city that I have left behind for so long.

I might run out onto the streets and take a good look of everything around me, the people, the buildings, the night sky, and even the pebbles on the street. I might also simply go straight to sleep after the long flight, but when I wake up the next morning, I would question myself if I'm really in Shanghai, and I would wonder to myself whether I am finally home at last.

### EL CUATRO



[TIAN QIU]

### [Thumbs Up]



- snow day
- Spring Break
- 39 school days until graduation
- March Madness

- snow cancelling spring sports
- too much work before break
- MAP/ACT/SAT testing
- only two more Globe issues
- postponed Spanish field trip
- crowded parking lot
- author project

### [Thumbs Down]



### Corrections Box

-In the story on the front page titled "Rugraff leaving after success at CHS," David Faulkner was mistakenly identified as a former CHS principal, but in fact taught at CHS in the past. He also served as assistant principal at Ladue, but he never held the position of CHS principal.

-On page 9 Phillip Levine wrote the column titled "Student reflects on voting rights." Kelly Moffitt did not write the story.

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

# Student overcomes struggles of learning how to drive

The very first time I stepped into the driver's seat of a vehicle, I was about 12 years old and the vehicle was a go kart. I was with my family in the Adirondacks and we had decided to make a stop at a go kart place.

Unfortunately, despite the clear directions about how to operate the go kart, once I started to drive, I promptly forgot which pedal was the brake.

I did, however, know which pedal was the gas, and so generated a disproportionate amount of speed without being able to stop. In part, I wanted to go fast, and wasn't really paying attention to how to stop the kart.

I started to careen around the track, hitting multiple other karts accidentally while only trying to turn. I got several "red flags," or warnings, for this behavior. By the time I was on my last lap, I got yelled at.

Once we got to the end of our run, each go kart was supposed to slow down and enter into one of the marked queues. I, however, did not pick up on the fact that I was supposed to slow down, and probably couldn't have if I wanted to. I don't know how fast I was going, but I was going fast enough for the woman directing the karts to hold out her hands in a panicked attempt to stop me.

At that point, I don't think I was even steering the vehicle. As a result, I ran into the wall with enough force to whiplash my body forward and backward again into my seat.

And so, the doomed ordeal that was my attempt to become a passable driver began.

I remember at least one of my

friends in 9th grade saying that they thought I would be a good driver. I thought that I would be fine at driving as well; I was clearly not taking the go kart incident as a sign.

The go kart incident, as I would later call it in my mind, was only the first of many occasions where I seemed to be getting a sign from God that I shouldn't drive.

I did eventually pass my permit test, although I had to take it two times, probably due to the fact that I did not read the book the first

time. The first time I drove on an actual road was when I was practicing with my mom—everything was fine until a big truck came speeding by, making me swerve left and almost drive off the road.

My mom assumed the position that she takes when she thinks I'm about to crash—hands braced on dashboard and door handle, feet pushed against the front seat edge. I tried to get off the road as fast as I could.

There are plenty of other stories—one of which involves my dad's car and a wall—about me and

my parents driving; but it's normal, of course, to have problems when you first drive.

In Driver's Education I thought I was doing alright until I took the practice test at the end of the session; my instructor didn't even give me my score, telling me that I went too slow (I was trying to be thorough) for the majority of the time.

I had had trouble backing up in a straight line, and we had stopped the parallel parking after multiple attempts. I failed that one, too.

Despite my experiences up to this point, I was looking forward to my driving test. I was expecting to pass, like the rest of my friends, without incident, and was already looking forward to having a car of my own to drive around.

The day of my first driving test, I remember it being very rainy. However, I had had such trouble getting a chance to take my driving test that I decided the rain didn't matter (if you've ever been to the driver testing place, and most kids have, you'd know that usually that place is way too crowded, and it's hard to get a testing time).

Naturally, I got the tester who looked like she could crush me with her bare hands—and seemed



Junior Ellie Bullard anxiously sits at the wheel of her car. From terrible go-kart experiences during family vacations to failing the driver's test, Bullard now hopes "to become a better driver in the future."

like she might! It was raining and I was alone in a car with someone of whom I was deathly afraid. Not the greatest test conditions.

The tester had to tell me to turn on the defroster (I didn't realize I had to turn it on, even though the car windows were so foggy it was hard to see). And, let's just say that it's good that there were poles for the parallel parking, and not cars.

My second driver's test was even worse—I didn't even get out of the parking lot. I accidentally pulled out in front of a speeding car while turning left out of the lot.

The tester, who was much less frightening than the one in my first

test, screamed, and yelled "stop" at the top of her lungs. She automatically told me to turn around and park in the parking lot—after all, you can't pass the driving test if you put anyone, including yourself, in mortal danger.

By this time, I was worried that I would fail my third test and would have to practice for another couple months, and then take the test again.

My parents were starting to get angry with me, and I was already angry at myself.

Happily, I passed my third driving test, and got my license. I don't know if it was luck, but I passed

with a 94 percent, and actually passed the parallel parking part.

But there's a catch: about a week after I got my license, I got into an accident. I'll spare you the gory details, but I will say this: the total damage cost about \$1,900.

In any case, it's been more than six months since I had that accident, and I'm happy to say that although I am pretty limited as to where and with whom I can drive my car, I have not had an accident since. A couple parking tickets, yes, but not an accident.

Hopefully I will manage to become a better driver in the future—I'm making progress. ☺

*The first time I drove on an actual road was when I was practicing with my mom - everything was fine until a big truck came speeding by, making me swerve left and almost drive off the road.*



[Ellie Bullard]



Katharine Weiss showing her affection for the Braves at Bush Stadium. This picture was taken before her dreams of becoming a baseball player were smashed by her father.

## Student chooses to dream

One of the first lessons my Dad ever taught me was, that I could not be anything I wanted to be. Sure, it might have been a harsh lesson for a six year old to hear, but he believed it was his duty to lower my expectations before it was too late. "You're never going to be a baseball player," he told me, "so don't bother trying."

In response, I did the best thing I could possibly do when dealing with my dad, I ignored him. I mean come on, this was the same man who told me my dolls weren't real and that Curious George was stupid. Who was he to tell me that I could not be a baseball player? Sure, I had caught more butterflies in the outfield than fly balls, but I was young, sprightly and enthusiastic. What else did I need?

So I held onto my optimism, and carried it through grade school and into middle school. I gave up my dream of playing for the Cardinals and decided I would be a writer, a job my father actually approved of ("Anyone can be a writer," he said.) I also decided that I wouldn't just be a normal writer; I would be a famous writer, one who sold millions of books and used big important words like "ubiquitous." And then I entered high school.

My dream of becoming a world famous writer was no longer "cute" it was naïve. People scoffed when I told them I planned to travel the world and write novels and articles about everything I encountered. "Good luck with that," they would say.

At first I ignored them. I would tell myself that they were jaded. And who were they to judge me and my plans? But then I found myself becoming one of them.

I began to face disappointment after disappointment. I watched as people around me would get A's on science tests they didn't study for, while my six hours of studying would be rewarded with a "C." Kids who never showed up to cross country practice would win medals, while my tenacity would leave me with a third to last place finish.

So I lowered my expectations. When my grandmother asked me when I would be applying to Harvard? I

laughed and said, "Come on Bo get real." When people would talk about the future I would remain quiet. The higher your expectations, the more likely you are to be disappointed. Passion wasn't going to get me a desk at the New York Times and my dedication to writing wasn't going to pay my bills.

I had to face it, my Dad was right. I was never going to be a baseball player, no matter how hard I tried.

Recently I discovered an old list that I had made when I was thirteen. It was a life plan. The plan went like this: graduate high school; go to Northwestern to major in journalism; write a best selling novel; work for the New York Times and of course marry Chad Michael Murray.

I laughed when I first found the list. Oh how young and immature I had been. But then I took a second look at the list and I was suddenly filled with sadness. What had happened to me? Had I really become one of the nay sayers?

I had allowed setbacks and disappointments to stand in the way of my aspirations. Who said dreams had to be reasonable? While my dream of working as a reporter for the New York Times may not be likely, it is exciting.

It is a dream that gets me out of bed every morning. It is a dream that allows me to sit down at my computer every month feeling as though I am working towards something.

Dreams are meant to be electrifying, not necessarily practical. Setbacks and "reality" should not dictate our lives. We should live our lives the same as we did when we were kids, unafraid to climb to the highest part of the monkey bars, unconcerned with what might happen if we were to fall. Because it isn't about what might happen if you "fail" but instead the journey you take and the feeling you get when you get to the top or as far as your efforts will take you. Some may call me "naïve," or even "immature" but I say to hell with them, I choose to dream.

And who knows perhaps one day I will look back at this column while sitting at my desk at the New York Times laughing about the "good old days" with Chad Michael Murray. ☺

Taking It In Stride



[Katharine Weiss]

## Conservative politician passes away, leaves legacy

When I heard that William F. Buckley Jr. had died a few weeks ago, I hardly took any notice. Why

would a young, self-described liberal like me mourn the death of a person who has been called the architect of the conservative movement, especially now that we have a chance to reclaim the White House from the Republicans? I brushed off the news as just another insignificant political factoid amidst the bombardment we are all currently experiencing.

But then I started to hear extraordinary tales of this giant conservative force. Articles headlined "He stopped history in its tracks," "Lion of the right" and "He was conservative before it was cool" caught my eye, clearly implying that Buckley was no ordinary right-winger.

With further research, I discovered that Buckley penned more than 50 books, lectured extensively, sailed across the Atlantic multiple times...the list of extracurriculars is limitless, as was his colossal intellectual prowess.

He was almost a caricature of himself, and certainly an iconoclast: Buckley spent the greater part of his life molding a movement at odds with the leftist collectivism that the United States fancied for much of the twentieth century.

I found myself on YouTube, typing "William F. Buckley" into the search box. What I saw was mesmerizing: a debate between Buckley and extreme left-winger Noam Chomsky on Buckley's television show, "Firing Line." Chomsky rambled about "intellectual degradation" and obscure philosophical notions; I couldn't really grasp what he was saying.

Buckley however, was sharp, focused, cunning, excited and clearly in charge. He argued with vocabulary so specific that I was left in no doubt of his exact position and ideas. He had a passion about what he said, and an equal passion about how he said it.

His eyes crackled with an electric zeal apparent even through the filmy imprecision of the old camera that had

taped the show. I was enthralled by their debate. Frankly, I could not agree less with

the bulk of Buckley's political ideology, but that hasn't stopped me from developing an admiration for the man.

Most fascinating are his views of the actions of the Bush administration: he has called the Iraq War a failure and a mistake, denounced the war on drugs and opined on other seemingly non-negotiable platforms of the party that he himself worked so diligently to create. If a politico of less than his standing were to promote such ideas, he or she would be drowned in the cacophony of conservative pundits decrying such disloyalty to their sacred ideals.

This, then, is what I take from Buckley: that there should be discourse and not acrimony in politics. His eagerness to debate the likes of Chomsky, as well as the carefully considered

against-the-grain stances he maintained throughout

his life, must teach us that swallowing party demagoguery just isn't good enough when it comes to the future of this country.

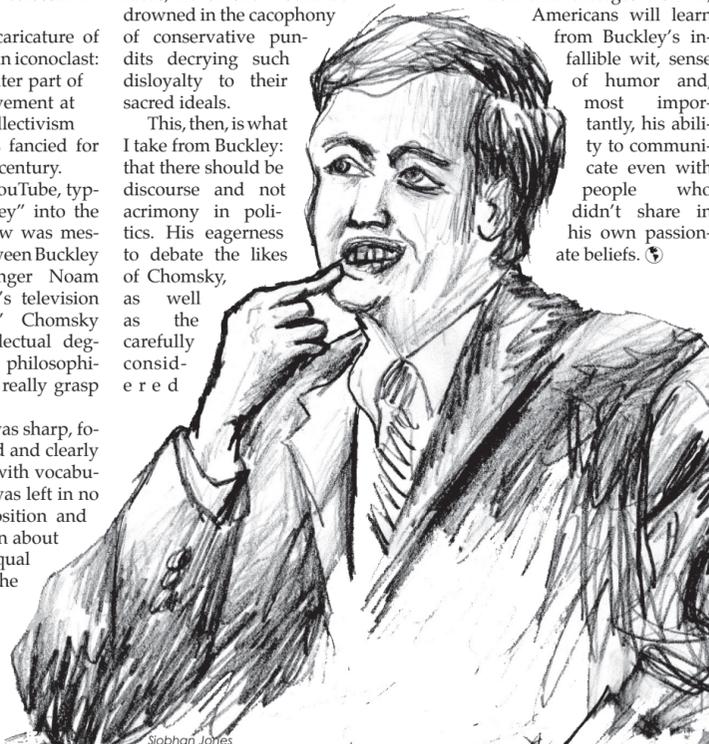
At this monumental crossroads in American politics, we must be firm in our beliefs - firm, but not intransigent. We must be able to sit at a table in civil discourse with people who subscribe to a completely different ideology. Buckley rose above the din in his intellectual ability to analyze party platforms objectively.

I hope that in the coming election and the administration that emerges from it, Americans will learn from Buckley's infallible wit, sense of humor and, most importantly, his ability to communicate even with people who didn't share in his own passionate beliefs. ☺

the last word  
discourse  
[nava kantor]



*At this monumental crossroads in American politics, we must be firm in our beliefs - firm, but not intransigent. We must be able to sit at a table in civil discourse with people who subscribe to a completely different ideology.*



Stobhan Jones

# Student urges peers to look out for environment

It's a heated environmental issue that we've all heard of. Global warming has caused passionate debate on both side but all of the discussion boils down to one concept: energy.

Energy, in the form of electricity, powers the world's technology. Energy in the form of heat warms humans to sustain life. Simply put, any sort of action requires energy, like processing trash which we create, heating water for showers and heaters, to name a few.

In the United States, most citizens take our seemingly endless energy supply for granted. It is not endless, and ignorance comes at a steep price. Although the electric bill does not seem as pricey as other fees like mortgage or neglecting to re-fatal mistake.



[Ken Zheng]

Around there are count-people can do to ergy bill as well cal footprint. energy, not only your electri-also reduce the occurs when electricity is created.

Let's begin with a simple, yet effective method. This will drastically help save energy with your computer desktop or laptop. Assuming you have internet access, go to [www.localcooling.com](http://www.localcooling.com) and click on the large green button to download the software. The application is small and virus-free but helps your computer save energy.

As the website says, this application will "Improve your overall computing experience and efficiency," by giving you full control of your computer's standby

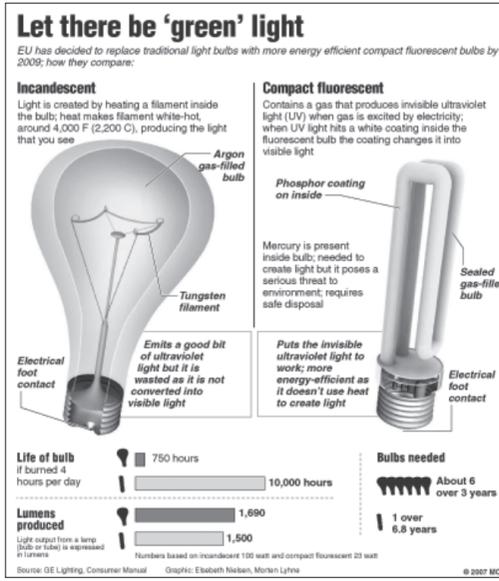
pattern. Overall, it has helped save the equivalent of over one million gallons of oil in terms of electricity.

After installing this application, you can control many aspects of your computer's condition such as how long it waits till falling asleep or when it should turn off in case you forget to. Today's world is brimming with technology, and the computer with its ability to use the internet is at the heart of our lives.

A broader version of this can be applied easily to all household appliances. Other than appliances such as your refrigerator or clock, all electronics should be powered down when not in use.

Most of us leave the lights on while leaving the house for a bit, and I know I almost always keep my room light on regardless of where I am. When you go to sleep, it's better to turn off all appliances that are on or in standby mode.

So the next time you decide to leave your printer



on as you're heading off to bed, simply turn it off and know that you're saving money as well as the environment.

Did you know that heating vast amounts of water in common households takes a huge amount of electricity?

Think about it, your dishwasher, washing machine, shower all use hot water. They all use water in fairly large quantities depending on how much you need to wash.

If we all used steaming hot water to wash our clothes then (none of our clothes would be white anymore) we'd be wasting electricity for nothing. Tell the laundry-doer of your household to use warm or cool to wash clothes, the same thing goes for the dishwasher.

As for the showers... who doesn't like a hot, steamy shower when it's chilly? I say shower because baths waste a lot more water and energy required to heat the

water. But a nice hot bath simply melts the tensions of the day away and soothes the aches of the body. Persuading you to give it up would be unfair, but could you at least shorten the length of your slice in heaven?

Speaking of your warmth, the thermostat is also a great way for you to change your level of energy consumption. My challenge to you is to lower the temperature by one degree in the wintertime and vice versa during summer. Think of all the trees you'll save, or those adorable, cuddly, penguins in Antarctica, whatever floats your boat.

Thermostats should also be programmed to not waste energy during the day when no one is home. Doing so will half your energy consumption.

While your thermostat can be used to regulate the temperature, nature can help. Instead of turning your thermostat from 72 to 70 degrees and forcing it to billow out cool air in the wintertime, just open a window and let the air rush in. This will quickly create a temperature that is just right and won't waste electricity in the process.

Insulation is also a big issue with today's housing. While most of us recognize that our windows are a way for us to look outside without sticking our head outdoors, we forget the other purpose of a window: to keep our house insulated. Insulation in housing is vital during winter and summer because of the huge difference in temperature between outside and inside.

My last suggestion is the tried and true switch from incandescent light bulbs to the energy-efficient CFL (compact fluorescent lights). They may seem expensive in the beginning but they last longer and consume one-quarter of the energy.

Having the ability to save money and the environment at the same time is truly a bargain. ☺



The Western Wall, all that remains of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, is, in effect, a big outdoor synagogue. Every day hundreds of people walk to the Wall to pray or just stand against it. Many carry their own prayers on small slips of paper and tuck them between the crevices on the large stone blocks.

## Making heritage a home

Sometimes, when I am asked about my background, I stop to think for a minute. I'm American, completely, but technically, half of my family is from Israel. So, I usually respond with some remark that I'm "half-Israeli." But what does that really mean?

Having been to Israel twice before in my life, I consider it a homeland, so to speak.

I first visited Israel around 1995, when I was just turning five. I hardly remember this trip.

The second visit, however, left a much more meaningful impact on my life. Even though the trip only lasted a handful of days, because I was 10 years-old, I was able to gain a much greater appreciation of my heritage, as compared to the first visit.

I was traveling to Israel with my father and brother for my aunt's wedding. In fact, I was going to play my violin for the wedding reception, and my brother was the ring bearer. Not only was this my first wedding that I attended, but it was also the first time I remember meeting my aunt and uncle.

I met so many other close and distant family members, too. I remember swimming with distant cousins and mingling at the wedding with people I had heard of and never met, and more so, people I had simply never known existed.

It is also amazing to think that in just one day we were able to drive from Tel-Aviv, a very metropolitan city on the Mediterranean Sea, all the way to the Dead Sea, and visit many other sites along the way. (Israel is about one fifth the size of the state of Missouri; it's tiny).

It is from this trip that I first began to understand where my dad lived during his childhood. I visited his home where he grew up, and played soccer on the field where he used to play soccer after school. We even stopped by his Elementary school. All of these sights showed me a whole new world outside of my home back in St. Louis. But, even as a child, I noticed the many similarities between my father's

and my own childhood. I was beginning to see a larger picture of the world, not just the American society I had lived in.

Moreover, we visited the Wailing, or Western Wall, probably the most holy site for all Jews. I was young, so I missed a lot of what was going on, but around the Wall was a swarm of merchants and the rest of the Old City, as it is called. This was my first true encounter with "old" or "historical" structures. I mean, these buildings had been around for centuries, and survived many battles and wars. Even though I was young, seeing those ancient structures in real life left an impact inexpressible through words.

Not only did I walk along the Mediterranean Sea, eat Israeli food, play Israeli games, watch Israeli television and see Israeli places, I felt as if I was just beginning to taste the "milk and honey" that Israel is known to be. It was on this trip that I was first really introduced to a whole side of my life, which I had never met before.

It has been seven years since I have last visited Israel, but, I am thrilled and once again excited to have the amazing opportunity to revisit Israel this coming summer.

On this trip I will spend more than just a handful of days fully experiencing Israel, an entire six weeks. On top of that, I'm going with a great friend of mine; no longer with my father or brother.

I'll be more on my own, more independent. This trip will be for me to decide how to make the best of it. I will be able to really see Israel through my own eyes, and find my own place in this still somewhat "foreign" place to me.

More importantly, this trip to Israel will give me the chance to really understand what I mean when I say, "I have an Israeli heritage." I'll be even more mature and hopefully wiser. And, with previous experience being in Israel, I can use this trip to remind me of the places

and sights I saw the first two times, and then help me to understand what this all should really mean to me.

As I mentioned before, a large part of my family still lives in Israel to this day. As a matter of fact, the only two first cousins that I have live in Israel. I have only met them once in my entire life.

Being able to see them again, and to meet with other family members who I honestly don't know, is an experience I can hardly wait for.

But there's even more that I expect from this trip of a lifetime to Israel. Being in Israel for six whole weeks would completely immerse me in the culture and society. Six whole weeks will almost force me to learn about my heritage and then hopefully understand my family's background so much more than what I understand right now.

Instead of six weeks just hanging out with new found friends, sight-seeing, sight seeing, eating, and having fun, (all of which I plan to do) I hope to really leave this trip, return home and feel a newly created connection with my heritage back in Israel.

Since 1995, when I was only five years old, to looking forward to what this summer will bring me, I have come to realize that I can answer the question of "where are you from," only for so long. I don't think you can say you come from a specific heritage, of which you know very little of. And what better way to gain an appreciation and an understanding of your heritage than by actually visiting the country itself.

I've answered that question for too long. Technically a part of me is Israeli. But to me, going back to Israel, at a mature and optimal age, will give me the perfect opportunity to discover what my heritage truly is. And once I gain that knowledge of my heritage, then I will know where my family is from, where I am from, and simply, who I am. ☺



[Aaron Praiss]

## Questioning playground safety

Last week's approval of City Ordinance No. 6814 by Clayton Mayor Linda Goldstein has been met with mixed reactions around the city.

The ordinance, which was sponsored, written, and pushed through City Hall by a local interest group calling themselves the Free Activity Restricting and Tempering Squad (FARTS) is looking to bring a greater sense of security to neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

"We just don't see how responsible mothers can allow their kids to play on those death seats they call 'swings,'" said FARTS President Vanessa McPushkins. "I think that a lot of parents will sleep safer knowing that we have put their child's safety into the hands of the law."

Specific provisions of 6814 include the immediate removal of all swing sets, monkey bars, merry-go-rounds, see-saws, zip-lines, chin-up bars, and sandboxes from public schools and parks. Additionally, all wooden playgrounds are to be "razed to the ground" and replaced with "safer metal and plastic alternatives."

The ordinance regulates slide height to no more than 8 feet. Any slide failing to meet the required standard will be considered a "direct threat" to playground security, and "will be eliminated—by force if necessary". Other directives include a railing height of 4.5 feet or higher around all platforms more than one-foot off the ground, and substrate restrictions that prevent anything looser than "coarse gravel" from "infiltrating the playground area." FARTS considers sand to be a level III choking hazard.

"What we're beginning to see is a mentality shift away from a playground that is 'fun' to a playground that is responsible," McPushkins said. "Allowing our precious children to swing around on these 'monkey bars' like animals is just not responsible. They could fall off, they could kick someone walking past, or they could dislocate a shoulder."

Failure to comply with any one of 6814's regulations is grounds for placement on FARTS' Safe Play? No Way! blacklist, an initiative that has been underway for several months.

As part of its Campaign Toward Safer Playtime, FARTS has already taken steps to make sure that child safety is kept top priority. A FARTS-funded commissioner has been visiting local playgrounds and ranking them on the Harm-O-Meter® Scale of one to ten, with ten being the most dangerous.

The Harm-O-Meter® will help determine which playgrounds are secure, and which will need immediate reassessing. Now that 6814 has passed into law, any playground scoring above a 3 on the Harm-O-Meter® will be placed on Safe Play? No Way! and will be shut down until proper improvements are implemented.

Boris Erikson currently holds the position of Chief Playground Inspector. He replaced former inspector Maxwell Fuller, who resigned in disgrace when a bribery scandal involving two 10-year-old boys from Kirkwood came to light. Erikson says that he would never jeopardize playground safety with such careless actions.

"I take my job very seriously," Erikson said. "If a playground is unsafe, I'll close it down. I'm not the kind of guy that can be bought off."

Since Erikson took over the post in late February he has examined about 15 playgrounds. Of the 15, only two have scored within the acceptable range on the Harm-O-Meter®.

"These were really just outstanding models for the modern play space," Erikson said. "We're talking a maximum height of 4 feet, high railings, and good sturdy stairs—no ladders."

Since Clayton has now joined Webster, Ladue, Kirkwood,

Richmond Heights, and University City in the FARTS effort, its playgrounds can now be legally condemned and shut down to await renovation. Erikson admits that he hasn't gotten around to all the playgrounds yet, but that he's working on it. What he's seen so far, however, hasn't been good. He describes his initial reaction when he first saw Captain Elementary School's playground.

"I almost passed out," Erikson said. "It was just beyond comprehension. There were violations all over the place. Chin-up bars—a 1 point penalty; monkey bars—3 points; platforms with only a 4.25 foot railing—3 points; a slide that was, I kid you not, 10 feet off the ground—7 points. I hate to say it, but it was an absolute massacre."

Needless to say, Captain's playground has been cordoned off with police tape, and currently lies deserted. School administrators were unavailable for comment, but witnesses report that students have been keeping busy with chalk and jump-ropes at recess time.

Captain fourth-grader Lisle Schopenhauer confirms that recess hasn't been the same time since FARTS came to call.

"There's nothing to do," Schopenhauer said. "We play hopscotch and tic-tac-toe. But there are rumors floating around about a shipment of finger puppets, so we're keeping our fingers crossed."

McPushkins believes that although kids might not see it, FARTS is doing them a favor in the long run.

"I think that once they reach adulthood, and look back, they'll be grateful that they had someone looking out for them," McPushkins said. "We're just trying to do the right thing. And right now, that means creating a safe, sandbox-free environment where our kids can just be kids." ☺



[Jeremy Bleeske]



A playground in Concordia Seminary lies deserted after it was deemed unsafe by local interest group FARTS. A makeshift sign warns patrons of the danger posed by the playground, whose swingsets, sandboxes, and slides were considered too dangerous for kids.

# Provisions for the unplanned

Planned Parenthood and Birthright are both non-religious affiliated, non-profit organizations designed to provide support for teens and young adults faced with unexpected pregnancy.

**[Fontasha Powell]**  
Editor

Each year in the US alone, there are over 6 million pregnancies a year and more than 47 percent of them are unplanned. One-third of these pregnancies are terminated, both naturally and by means of abortion, whereas two-thirds of these fetuses are actually born.\*

Planned Parenthood and Birthright are both nationwide organizations with multiple branches in the St. Louis Area to aid young people faced with unplanned pregnancy. While Planned Parenthood is a health center that offers prevention, testing and terminating services, Birthright is strictly a pro-life counseling foundation that lends counseling and support to pregnant women. Despite the inherent differences of the governing ideologies of these two organizations, they both boast one common aspiration: to help young people, women especially, deal with the issues accompanied with unplanned pregnancy.

## Planned Parenthood: Prevention, Testing and Terminating Services

Less than a 20-minute drive from Clayton, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, located in the Central West End near the Barnes Jewish Campus, has been providing a wide-range of confidential and affordable sexual health care services for over 75 years. They also have other locations in the St. Louis area including South City, North County and St. Peters.

"We are, in fact, one of the oldest pregnancy options in St. Louis that care about women and men alike and offer support in sexual health," representative Peter Miller said.

Education counselor Karen Omvit is in charge of overseeing all education about sexual health. She educates at schools, faith-based organizations and other youth organizations to teach teens and young adults about basic sex education.

"Planned Parenthood provides support for reproductive health services," Omvit said. "We offer education on sexual health, checkups for men and women, STD testing, HIV testing, emergency contraception, birth control pills and other birth control methods, condoms, pregnancy testing, abortion services and counseling."

Although young women are the primary clients at Planned Parenthood, the organization offers testicular cancer examinations, STD testing and vasectomy procedures for men as well.

"The majority of our patients are females, although we are receiving an increase in the number of males, who mostly come for STD testing," Omvit said.

One of the best aspects of their comprehensive health care services is that regardless of one's financial situation, help is always available.

"Medicaid, Mc+, Mc+ for kids and most insurance plans are accepted," Miller said.

In addition to insurance, financial assistance for cash or check payments are also accessible.

"Most of our service fees are based on a sliding scale" Omvit said. "Each price is different for each individual, depending on their financial situation. Funding from outside sources is available to help patients that aren't able to pay in full."

Another satisfying characteristic of Planned Parenthood is that it promises 100 percent confidentiality. Also, parent involvement and/or consent is not necessary for a number of their services.

"Teens can discuss or receive birth control methods such as pills and condoms without parental consent," Omvit said. "However, to receive an abortion or Emergency Contraception, in the state of Missouri, you have to have parental consent if you're under the age of 18."

However, as a sex education counselor, Omvit finds that her job is generally not easy.

"The hardest part about being an education counselor is that when educating at schools, I have to work around the policies and laws that have been passed by the government," Omvit said. "Of course we follow the law, but sometimes we are restricted in the amount of medically accurate information that we are able to give. We provide further access to this information through education programs outside of the classroom like social service organizations, faith-based groups and peer education programs."

For specific sexual health issues, or even general questions about teen reproductive well being, Omvit urges all to simply contact the nearest Planned Parenthood facility.

"Call or just make an appointment," Omvit said. "We'd be glad to answer questions or help in any way."

## Emergency Contraception

"Emergency Contraception [EC] is a drug prescribed, five days or sooner after you've had unprotected sex to reduce the risk of pregnancy," Omvit said. "The sooner you take it, the better. It can be used when a condom breaks, if a woman forgets to take her birth control or for a victim of sexual assault."

At Planned Parenthood, EC is available at a number of centers in the St. Louis Region and is available without delay. Young adults over the age of 17 can purchase it over the counter, while teens under 17 have to have an exam. The cost of EC is also available on a sliding fee scale and can range anywhere from \$10-\$45.

Although many mistake EC to be an abortion pill, it is in fact a prevention technique.

"A lot of people take EC to be an abortion method," Miller said. "The difference between EC and an abortion pill is that EC does not allow an egg to be fertilized whereas an abortion pill eliminates the already developing fetus."

In accordance to Planned Parenthood website, EC works by thickening a woman's cervical mucus so that ovulation cannot occur. As a result, the sperm cannot join with the egg and pregnancy cannot occur.

## Positive Pregnancy Test

"If a teenager came to us thinking she was pregnant, we would first give her a free pregnancy test," Omvit said. "Then, if the test is positive, we'd provide referral for the three legal options: Prenatal

care, adoption or abortion."

Although the three alternatives seem unambiguous and relatively easy, most mothers-to-be can't make-up their minds right away. In these cases, Planned Parenthood offers Non-Directive Options Counseling.

According to Omvit, the counseling is not geared to steer the patient in either direction, but simply give her the specifics about each of the three legal options.

"In Non-Directive Options counseling, the woman, and preferably her guardians and partner, discuss the three options," Omvit said. "We want to make sure that the woman is absolutely certain in her decision-making and that she is making an informed decision by knowing all of the facts."

## Keeping the Baby

For mothers-to-be who have decided that they indeed want to continue with the pregnancy, a prenatal care referral is one of the first things that Planned Parenthood offers.

"For women that want to carry their pregnancies to term, we help them set up regular appointments with their doctors to get checkups," Omvit said.

In addition to checkups, vitamins and ultra-sounds are also included. Because prenatal care takes place with one's individual doctor, the organization does not actually perform these tasks, but simply provides transfers to those medically qualified to do so.

If a teen decides to keep the pregnancy, but does not wish to keep the baby, adoption referrals are also available.

"We can also give the woman a list of organizations and aid her in calling and setting up an appointment," Omvit said.

Because Planned Parenthood is not an adoption agency, but a reproductive health center, after this decision is made, another agency then becomes the primary caretaker of the situation.

## Terminating the Pregnancy

The procedure for receiving an abortion with Planned Parenthood is fairly straight forward and swift. Only one counseling session is required, and then the appointment can be scheduled.

"One mandatory Non-Directive Options Counseling session is necessary before receiving an abortion, preferably with a guardian and partner, to make sure that the woman knows what she's going to go through," Omvit said. "But to receive an abortion, she has to be between four and 22 weeks. After that, abortion's no longer an option."

According to Miller, there are two abortion options. There's an abortion pill and also an abortion procedure. As stated on the Feminist Women's Health website, the abortion pill Mifeprex is a combination of the drugs Mifepristone and Misoprostol. A woman can only employ this method if she is fewer than 8 weeks pregnant.

During the first appointment at a clinic, such as Planned Parenthood, a woman takes an oral medicine then 24 to 72 hours later takes a vaginal or buccal medication that results in contractions, which causes a miscarriage. This medicinal approach is 95-97 percent effective and terminates the pregnancy six to eight hours after the vaginal or buccal medication. Both Mifepristone and Misoprostol are FDA approved.

"Cramping, bleeding and clotting are common side effects of the abortion pill and start in as little as 20 minutes after taking the pill," Miller said. "During this time, the embryo will pass although it most likely won't be seen because it's so small. The amount of bleeding that occurs by the pill is actually more than that of a surgical abortion. Some women prefer this because they can do it at home and it allows them more privacy."

However, there exist many risks in addition to the heavy bleeding and physical discomfort of the abortion pill. Around five percent of the women do not have a successful abortion and must go through the surgical procedure. Also, before receiving the pill, the woman is required to sign a form stating that if the pill does not work, she will indeed receive a surgical abortion. This is required because if the fetus survives after taking Mifepristone and Misoprostol, the probability that the baby is deformed is extremely high.

If a female is between six and 22 weeks pregnant, a surgical abortion is also an alternative.

According to Feminist Women's Health website, the average surgical abortion takes 10 to 15 minutes and causes less bleeding than the drug method.

After local anesthesia is applied to the cervix, feet are secured in stirrups, a speculum is inserted to open the vagina, and cone-shaped rods are used to dilate

the cervix. Then, a vacuum-like tool called a cannula suctions out the fetus and placenta. The further along the pregnancy, the longer the procedure and bigger the cannula.

"Some women prefer this method because there is less bleeding and cramping," Miller said. "But at the same time, recovery takes a few hours and nausea is a common side effect. Infection and damage to uterus lining are also more rare, serious side effects of the surgical method."

In the event that a teen chooses to undergo an abortion, whether using the drug form or the surgical procedure, Planned Parenthood does indeed offer post-abortion counseling and support.

## Birthright: A Pro-Life Organization

Though Planned Parenthood offers a variety of prevention and termination methods, Birthright, in contrast, works with teens one-on-one to promote pro-life decisions. Locations include the Central West End in addition to South City and Downtown St. Louis.

"Birthright is a pro-life agency that supports pregnant girls and women to help them keep their babies," counselor Sherri Wile said. "We discuss all options, but we don't show abortion pictures or offer abortion referrals."

In fact, the people of Birthright believe that support is an imperative component for any young woman faced with an unplanned pregnancy. In addition to offering free pregnancy testing, they also offer free counseling and other programs that aid mothers with material childcare needs.

## Support through Counseling

"If a young woman were to come to us and test positive for a pregnancy test, we would first talk about her options," Wile said. "We discuss her possible decisions and weight the impacts, realities and the future."

Like Planned Parenthood, Birthright is 100 percent confidential and if one is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian is not required to be present in order to receive counseling. This attribute is attractive to many young women, especially those who deal with adversity from their guardians.

"At Birthright, we see lots of different ages, cultures and religions," Wile said. "I've seen cases where a young teenager wants to keep the baby and the parents want to force her to get an abortion. I've also seen cases where the girl wants an abortion, but the parents want to make her deal with her mistakes."

According to Wile, in these particular situations, there is usually no majority outcome. If there is struggle between the young adult and her parents and/or partner, usually each individual case deviates. In situations such as this, Birthright offers encouragement.

"If there are conflicting issues, we weigh out the pros and cons of the daughter going against her parents," Wile said. "We give information to both parties and urge a support system. We let them know about all of the resources and programs available to new mothers."

Supplementing daughter-guardian conflicts, there also exist other unfortunate circumstances that Wile has witnessed involving pregnant women.

"Some women that come to us are homeless, come from abusive situations or speak different languages," Wile said. "Most of the time, they don't have the financial resources to take care of a baby, so we refer them to our programs that provide car seats, baby clothes and energy assistance."

## Accommodating and Tolerant

Most important, however, is the fact that although Birthright is a pro-life organization, it does not look down upon women who have received abortions in the past.

"We sometimes get girls that have had abortions in the past and come to us for help the second time around," Wile said. "We start over and use their previous ordeal as experience, evaluating what we could do differently this time. Even then, there still is pressure from their age, situation, parents or partners and the women sometimes chose to not use Birthright and get an abortion."

Nevertheless, Birthright continues to work each day to complete their mission of helping young women who are forced to deal with the overbearing stress and issues that come with an unplanned pregnancy.

"Feel free to stop in or pick up a brochure if you ever have questions or feel confused about certain situations," Wile said. ☺

For More Information Contact:  
Planned Parenthood  
1-800-230-PLAN  
Birthright Hotline 800-550-4900

\*Statistics from americanpregnancy.org



[ourview]



staff playlist

1. "Hide and Seek" Imogen Heap
2. "El Salvador" Athlete
3. "Paperweight" Joshua Radin
4. "Pills" Gary Jules
5. "New Soul" Yael Naim
6. "Popular Mechanics for Lovers" Beulah

Top Three...  
pizza places

1. Dewey's Pizza

2. Racanelli's

3. Whole Foods



fracas

noun

1. noisy, disorderly disturbance or fight
2. uproar
3. riotous brawl

What you didn't know...

- Fairbanks, Alaska hosts the World Eskimo Indian Olympics each July.
- North Dakota is the only state in the United States that has never experienced an earthquake.
- You share your birthday with at least nine million other people in the world.
- No word in the English language rhymes with "month."

website of the month

rhymezone.com

RhymeZone is a website that allows the user to enter any word and find rhyming words, related words, homophones and more.



St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols scores as Milwaukee Brewers' Damian Miller waits for the ball in the third inning at Miller Park in Milwaukee, Wednesday, September 26, 2007.

Student challenges wisdom of Cardinals' trades, lineup for 2008

[Michael Root] Editor

After an extremely difficult season in 2007 (as World Champions) after failing to make the playoffs and winning only 78 games, everyone expected the Cardinals to be on the trading block for big-name players to fill huge gaps in the starting lineup and starting rotation. That was wishful thinking.

For starters, instead of entering in the race for skilled players we could sign to a long-term contract, the Cardinals signed 33-year-old catcher Jason LaRue to a one-year contract after his worst season when he played 66 games for the Royals, hitting .148 with four homers and 13 RBIs. The Cardinals also signed right-handed pitcher Matt Clement, also 33 years old, even though he has not pitched since August 2006 due to a rotator cuff injury that required surgery.

The big trade for the Cardinals came when they acquired third baseman Troy Glaus from the Toronto Blue Jays for Scott Rolen. Glaus is coming off foot surgery and although he will be healthy to fully participate in spring training early, Cardinal fans will have to wait to see if he can live up to Rolen's fielding ability and previous offensive production.

Now let's take a look at the projected lineup for the start of the season as presented on FOX Sports on MSN.com: 1. RF Skip Schumaker; 2. CF Rick Ankiel; 3. 1B Albert Pujols; 4. 3B Troy Glaus; 5. LF Chris Duncan; 6. C. Yadier Molina; 7. 2B Adam Kennedy; 8. Pitcher; 9. SS Cesar Izturis.

Looking at this lineup, I see four, maybe five, almost certain outs with Schumaker, Ankiel, Molina, Kennedy and Izturis. Additionally, having two people in front of Pujols who will most likely get out, he has no runners to drive in and can easily be walked by the opposition, thus reducing his threat significantly. Another thing I hate is La Russa's batting a pitcher eight and a player ninth. Please, La Russa, stop trying to be different and over-manage the game. If it helped the team, then you wouldn't be the only one doing it in the league.

In terms of fielding, I don't have the necessary confidence in Ankiel

to replace Gold Glover Jim Edmonds in centerfield when I see Ankiel (a former pitcher) fail to make routine catches in the outfield. And speaking of not making routine catches, seeing Duncan get hit in the chest by a pop-up in the 2006 playoffs solidified that he should be an AL DH and not play in the field. I do have to admit he has much improved his outfield play as was evident last season, but I don't think he would be a

*I don't have the necessary confidence in Ankiel...when I see him fail to make routine catches in the outfield.*

starter if we had more depth in the outfield.

The Cardinals, for some reason, failed to even enter trade talks for former Minnesota Twins centerfielder Tori Hunter because they believed that minor league player Colby Rasmus is the future of the outfield. Fine, but when the future of the outfield has not played AAA ball yet, you may want to entertain some other options.

Cardinals, 15



Boys' lacrosse player Jonathan Goodfellow, senior, makes the catch and defends the goal. As pre-season ends, this year's team will concentrate on preparing new talent to step up and fill the shoes of the valuable players who graduated. Having a large number of players on the team will be beneficial to the team in their upcoming season.

Varsity girls' soccer gears up for spring

[Evan Green] Staff Reporter

The Clayton High girls' soccer team is in a peculiar situation. While they lost key seniors Rebecca Wall (Goalie) and Alex Johnson (midfielder), the team is not in a rebuilding period. One could even say that the team is at its peak this year with 15 returning players. The Hounds will certainly not be overlooked this season after their success last year in which the team was ranked as high as #6 in the Post-Dispatch girls' small school rankings. With key returnees, the Hounds have only a few holes to fill.

"Alex Johnson was a huge part of the team so it will take some adjustment to get used to our team without her," senior center midfielder Leigh Katz said.

Even without the return of Johnson, the team will still be returning the star of last year's team, junior forward Olivia Hayes. Hayes, who had 28 goals and 8 assists in 21 games for the Hounds, still believes that she has parts of her game to improve.

"My first touch on the ball needs to get better and I need to be constantly moving and create openings for myself," Hayes said.

Hayes feels that the team also has a couple aspects of their game to improve.

"We need to come together and play every game with passion and intensity. We have to leave each game knowing that we left everything on the field," Hayes said.

Other than the hole at goalie the team is in a position for success.

"We are really good at maintaining possession of the ball and playing aggressive for the full game," sophomore sweeper Kate Wheelock said.

lock said.

As the Hounds look to start the season, their off season rituals that have prepared them for the upcoming season.

"I went to a trainer for a while, and I conditioned in the center after school almost every day," Katz said.

Before each season, the Hounds set goals for themselves and the team.

"Overall I want to improve my fitness and my foot skills on the ball. Also, I need to work harder at coming back to help on defense," Hayes added.

The Hounds will begin the season at home against Orchard Farm (March 25) before playing at Principia (March 27), at Rosati-Kain (March 28) and at Ladue (April 2).

"As always, I am really looking forward to the Ladue game, but I also really want to play against Westminster and Villa," Hayes added.

Others on the team had their own personal favorites.

"Our toughest opponent will probably be Westminster or [John] Burroughs, so I can't wait to play against those two teams," Wheelock said.

As the season comes to a start, the biggest position to be won is at goalie, a race between junior Courtney Pierce and sophomore Sonja Petermann.

After that is decided, the team will begin a season that has great potential, especially for a team looking for revenge after being upset by Burroughs in districts last year, but with star forward Hayes leading the way, the Hounds should not have to worry about the offense, and hopefully the rest will follow suit on a team with an abundance of talent. ☺



Junior Diane Martin and seniors Anya Veremakis, Leigh Katz and Emily Anderson stand to block a shot on last year's girls' varsity soccer team.

Returning boys' lacrosse players fill void with numbers, experience

[Anya Veremakis] Editor

Although boys' lacrosse is not technically a CHS sport, each year it seems to be one of the most highly anticipated seasons for the CHS community.

With pre-season coming to a quick end, the lacrosse coaches (head coach Mike O'Brien, assistant head coach Brian Smith and defensive coordinator Mike Silva) continue to work the boys hard in high anticipation for the upcoming season.

"This year's turnout was about the same as years past, having right about 50 guys," assistant head coach Brian Smith said. "The difference this year is that the majority of our team has played before. In previous years, we would have to spend a lot more time teaching the fundamentals. Now we can focus more on what we are trying to get accomplished."

The program has 28 returning players, seven of which are seniors. With such a high number of returning players, the boys' higher level of experience seems to be one of their greatest assets.

"This year's team overall has a

lot more playing experience than last year's team," Smith said. "Last year we had a good amount of freshmen and sophomores getting significant playing time on varsity. So as we mix those guys in with this year's senior class, we should end up with a quality team this year."

Although the team gained a higher level of experience from last year to this year, the team will also have to face the struggle of losing valuable players that graduated last year.

"I think losing our goalie, Ryan Dubro, was a huge loss for our team," captain Tim Mena said. "But we have a couple goalies that have good potential to play at the varsity level, with senior, newcomer Patrick Rafferty and junior Tyler Moody. I think these two will step up big to fill Dubro's shoes. Also, missing Bob Maylack, a scoring machine, was big."

Losing so many valuable seniors last year will pose a number of obstacles for the team. Not only are they losing valuable offensive and defensive players, but also leaders on and off the field.

"Last year we had a great group of seniors," Smith said. "We took a big hit with the '07 graduation. I think the biggest loss was their

leadership; you can't put a price on that. But we have some guys coming back that should fill into those absent roles pretty well. On defense we bring back our all-state longstick midfielder and team captain Jon Goodfellow, Bryan Griesbaum has returned from injury and Andrew Dowd stepped up towards the end of last year, so we're excited to see how he develops. Offensively we are returning our leading goal scorer in Brigham Wheelock, Terry Ellis is coming off an impressive rookie season, and captains Tim Mena and Tucker Szybala look to end their Clayton careers on a high note."

The vast amount of players with talent and varsity experience is emerging as one of the team's biggest strengths, despite the loss of so many exceptional players last year.

"When you think about last year, I feel like the team revolved around a couple of the seniors, especially Bob," Mena said. "This year the offense has huge potential and it's more about working together as a team, offensively and defensively."

With so many strengths due to their skill and drive this year, the boys have set high goals for themselves and the team.

Boys' lacrosse, 14

# Girls' lacrosse becomes school-sponsored sport

[Gila Hoffman]  
Senior Managing Editor

In March 2006 the Board of Directors for MSHSAA met and discussed the Annual Ballot. They decided to include an amendment that was presented through the petition procedure. The proposal would amend the by-laws to include girls' lacrosse to the list of MSHSAA/school-sponsored sports, to become effective for the 2007-2008 school year. The amendment passed and now, for the first time ever, the girls' lacrosse team will become a school sponsored sport.

"Up until now girls' lacrosse could only have been a club sport," athletic director Bob Bone said. "It is against MSHSAA guidelines for a club team to play a school sponsored team, so we would have had no one to play against if, in the past, girls' lacrosse was a school sponsored sport."

The girls' lacrosse division in which Clayton is a part of includes various public and private schools. Some of these public schools include Eureka, Kirkwood, Ladue, the Parkways, the Hazelwoods, Webster Groves, and Marquette.

Now that girls' lacrosse is a school sport, many things will change for the team.

"The biggest difference is the sanctioning through the state high school association," Bone said. "We are now going to be responsible for hiring the coaches and buying equipment. If a sport is a club sport than the athletes are responsible for all of this themselves."

When the sport was a club sport the girls would have to pay up to \$300 to play, which might have been a deterrent for some girls.

"It is nice that the school now pays for the team to enter the league," senior Jackie Wilcher said. "The fact that it's now free encourages a lot more girls to play, so hopefully lacrosse will grow at Clayton."

*Ultimately, it will definitely benefit the team and better the program. It encourages more girls to play which will, in turn, bring about more competition for playing time and positions on the team.*

[Jackie Wilcher]  
Senior

In addition to the financial differences, the team will also get a lot more benefits from the school.

"Now that we are a school sport it is going to change where we practice and the kind of benefits we get," senior Ellen Hinkle said. "For example, we're practicing in the Center now. We used to have to pay for a field."

Later in the season the team will be able to use the fields by the tennis courts, instead of practicing at the Wydown Middle School field.

While there are certainly several benefits to the switch, Hinkle also sees some minor disadvantages.

"It is also going to change things for the worse, for example, uniforms," Hinkle said. "We just spent a lot of money on lacrosse uniforms last year, but now we will be wearing the field hockey uniforms."

In addition, now that girls' lacrosse is school sponsored, coaches will be notified if a student skips class, which may lead to a student not being able to play during a game. Despite these disadvantages, Wilcher believes that they will definitely be outweighed by the benefits.



Left: Seniors Elaine Beebe and Emily Owen play in a game from last year before girls' lacrosse was a school-sponsored sport.

"Ultimately, it will definitely benefit the team and better the program for Clayton," Wilcher said. "It encourages more girls to play which will, in turn, bring about more competition for playing time and positions on the team." While these changes may take some getting used to, the girls are still excited for the season. "I absolutely love the sport and the girls that are playing are all really fun and nice," Wilcher said. "I'm hoping the team will be really compatible and the sense of camaraderie will be strong. We're still in the beginning levels of creating the program at Clayton, so I hope we become more competitive with the bigger schools this season. Mostly, I expect to have a lot of fun and help create a positive reputation for Clayton Lacrosse."

Many key players left last year with the graduating class, so the team will be working on finding younger players. With around 30 girls coming out to practice at the beginning of the season, the goal is to have both a JV and varsity team.

"I can't wait to get in shape and get out on the field and show everyone what we've got," Hinkle said.

# Boys' lacrosse looks ahead to season

Boys' Lacrosse, 13

"This is my fourth year, third year at the varsity level, so being a vocal leader for this year's team is one of my goals," Mena said. "I also obviously want to continue becoming a true scorer. This could be my last year playing lacrosse and it is important for me to play every game like it is my last."

Seeing the talent and hard work that the boys are putting into the pre-season, the coaches have had high expectations, setting ambitious goals.

"We've set the bar pretty high; this year our team goal is to win a state championship," Smith said.

"We're in a good position to achieve that with the group of guys and the talent that we have. If the boys come out and put in the amount of work and have the dedication that it takes to become champions, there is no reason why we shouldn't reach our goals."

However, achieving such high goals and rising to the team's true potential will be no easy feat.

The coaches and the boys realize that they must work on improving some of their weaknesses from last year, as well as new challenges that have arisen this season.

"I think the biggest challenge this year will be adjusting to the new starters at defense and goalie," Mena

said. "It will be hard for them to adjust at the varsity level. But the defense is big and very athletic so I'm sure they will be ready to go by March 12th. The fight for the goalie position will be fun to watch."

The varsity boys' lacrosse season this year is to be anticipated as one of Clayton's very best.

"The offensive threat we have this year is one that Clayton lacrosse has never witnessed, except for maybe in the class of 2005," Mena said.

With highly ambitious goals, experienced players, a high level of leadership and a great deal of talent, it seems the boys' lacrosse season is one to look forward to.

# Player reflects on memories of CHS hockey

Thursday Feb. 14 marked a transition in my life that I was unprepared to accept, and I have still been unable to resolve my feelings. The day I was accepted into college, my high school hockey career ended. My dad claims that, albeit a very sad event, it was a perfect segue into the next major phase of my life; however, I still cannot come to terms with this transition.

My hockey career began roughly 10 years ago when I played for Webster Groves Youth Hockey Association. My brother, who is two years older than I am, also played hockey, and my family was preoccupied with hockey practices, games, and tournaments in Chicago and Nashville. Hockey was truly a major part of our lives and my love for the game continued to increase as I matured and played my first C Team game for CHS in the seventh grade.

I can still remember wearing the old-school Clayton jerseys with CLAYTON printed diagonally across the chest. Playing in seventh grade also gave me an opportunity to play with my brother for the first time in my life, which I failed to realize the significance of until a few years later when playing together was no longer a possibility.

Entering high school was another thrill when I began as a freshman on varsity, once again with my brother. Wearing your high school's sweater (hockey slang for jersey) is extremely special and cannot be done justice with words. Playing for Webster and being part of a team was fun but playing with 20 guys you go to school with forges a special bond unmatched by any other team.

Besides the team, having the stands packed with friends from school and having a long history of hockey makes the experiences very special and unrivaled.

I can remember losing in the playoffs in each of my last four years, all of which we had a legitimate chance of a championship: freshman year we lost in triple overtime to Mehlville who saved 96 of our shots; sophomore year we lost to Lafayette in the quarterfinals who

was eliminated in the year we lost to West in a the championship and finally year where Rockwood sudden-death

year I can picture the seniors who officially ended their high school careers and I always said to myself: "at least I have x number of years left", never fully absorbing the reality of the situation. Seeing my brother's final game, however, and being on the ice with him, was a moment I will always remember, but losing the last game this year is burned into my memory forever.

Our team played extremely well, especially with a short bench, but the first bounce went to Rockwood and they capitalized. It took me a few seconds to realize what happened and to internalize that it truly was over.

No more will I wake up before school to practice. No more will I spend my Friday and Saturday nights at the rink. During the past four years these things may seem unbearable, but looking back I would do anything to have them back for just one more game.

I have been 'in-season' for hockey since before August until mid-February. Now, I don't really know what to do with myself since the one extracurricular I gave my heart to is gone.

Luckily, I don't have regrets, at least none I have admitted to myself at this point, which makes the transition a bit easier. Talking to my brother, who has still been unable to fill the void of competitive hockey, I realize that it will be very difficult to find something I care as much about as I did about hockey.

I will continue playing hockey on a summer team of Clayton alumni, as well as through college and hopefully beyond, but nothing will compare to high school hockey. What I know right now is that hockey has provided opportunities that nothing else could have offered in terms of friendship, memories, and a sport that I love. I have an extreme amount of respect for all my teammates who I have been lucky enough to play with throughout my life.

Finally, I want to reiterate just how important high school hockey has been to me. Wearing the CHS logo on my chest alongside my fellow classmates and teammates is an experience that I will remember forever. Although it is depressing to remember the endings of my four seasons in high school, the good memories truly outweigh the tough ones, and I wouldn't trade them for the world.



THE ROOT REPORT  
MICHAEL ROOT

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**BEFORE AFTER**

# Swimming Hounds place at state meet

After a successful season, senior Kerri Blumer and junior Paige Meneses traveled to compete in the state meet

(clockwise from left) Junior Paige Meneses poses with coach Katelyn Eustis after receiving her medal for second place with a score of 17 points in the state competition out of 16 finalists.

Meneses performs a dive at the meet where she competed in the one-meter springboard dive. Senior Kerri Blumer competes in the 100 yard backstroke event where she placed thirteenth out of 16 competitors. Blumer starts her event off the block where she finished with a time of 1:03.36 and with four points.



All photos courtesy of David Kohmetscher



# Cardinals fail to make trades

Cardinals, 13

Anyway, moving to pitching, the projected starting rotation is: 1. RHP Adam Wainwright; 2. RHP Braden Loeper; 3. RHP Joel Piñeiro; 4. RHP Matt Clement; 5. RHP Anthony Reyes.

As any Cardinal fan would notice, two key pitchers are not in the rotation: LHP Mark Mulder and RHP Chris Carpenter. Carpenter, who had Tommy John surgery in July 2007 isn't expected back until after the All-Star break, and Mulder is recovering from shoulder surgery and is not expected until at least the second month of the season. Filling the shoes of Mulder and Carpenter will be basically impossible to accomplish especially with Reyes who went 2-14 last year and with Clement, who's production is unknown at this point.

One surprise from last year was closer Jason Isringhausen who went 4-0 with 32 saves and an ERA of 2.48. Isringhausen will need to keep up this pace this year and make sure that he closes out every game the Cardinals are ahead because each win will be extremely precious this upcoming year.

As far as Manager Tony La Russa goes, I am completely speechless that he would even open his mouth asking for Barry Bonds. The only thing Bonds would bring is a lot of media, and the Cardinals could use the money we would waste on Bonds for other players who can still play every day and have a future that doesn't involve jail time for perjury or suspensions for steroid use. This would have been one of La Russa's worst moves and, luckily for us, the Cardinals' management said no pretty fast.

The biggest thing I'm afraid of is simply the fact that the Cardinals are not as good as the NL Central teams of the Chicago Cubs, Milwaukee Brewers, or even the Cincinnati Reds. This poses a huge problem and puts the Cardinals in an extremely difficult situation because, if this is true, the Cardinals are already mathematically out of the playoffs. And it's only March.

Sports writer Dayn Perry from FOXSports.com predicts the Cardinals will lose 90 games this season, which will be extremely disappointing considering it would be the first time since 1990.

Luckily, it is baseball and anything could happen. So, let's hope for the best and remember that at least the Yankees haven't bought Pujols from us yet. ☺

## Cardinals Schedule

- March 31 vs. COL (home opener)
- April 2-3 vs. Colorado
- April 4-6 vs. Washington
- April 7-9 at Houston
- April 11-13 at San Francisco

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# SCARS

## Beneath the Surface

Domestic and relationship violence affects millions of people—primarily women. This issue is being confronted by many organizations in the Saint Louis region, as well as throughout the state of Missouri.

**[Ugochi Onyema]**  
Editor

Imagine living in fear, constantly contemplating every move, trapped inside a prison, a makeshift prison that also functions as a kitchen, a family room, a bedroom. The constant anxiety of leading this miserable existence stems from relationship and domestic abuse. This violence is inflicted upon people of all walks of life: female and male, heterosexual and homosexual, teenage and elderly. A crime that affects an estimated 1.3 million women annually; domestic and relationship violence is viewed in four significant components.

The first and most recognizable form of domestic violence is physical abuse. According to the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV), the indications of physical violence are when the abuser withholds medication and food, punches, strangles or burns the victim, throws objects at the victim and, ultimately, assaults or murders the victims with weapons.

The second type of domestic and relationship violence is sexual violence, of which the characteristics are withholding sex and affection as punishment, calling the victim sexually offensive names, forcing sex through both manipulative and physical means, injuring the victim in a sex-related manner and refusing to use contraceptives to prevent the passing of sexually transmitted diseases. This type of abuse is often difficult to determine because of the emotional trauma that surfaces when victims describe the crimes perpetrated.

The third

type of relationship and domestic abuse is psychological abuse. According to the MCADSV, this form of abuse is used by the abuser in order to maintain control of the victim. Psychological abuse can be identified by certain actions of the abuser, which include playing mind games, withholding approval and affection in order to punish the victim, stalking the victim and attacking the victim's weaknesses.

The fourth and perhaps the least recognizable form of abuse is economic abuse. Economic abuse occurs when the abuser ruins the victim's credit rating or refuses to allow the victim to work outside of the home.

Helen Gennari, an Advocate at Women's Place, a drop-in center for battered and abused women, says that the cycle of domestic and relationship violence depends on the situation, but there is a general cycle that chronicles the phases of domestic abuse.

"Often times, the cycle of domestic violence doesn't start until after marriage," Gennari said. Unfortunately, a lot of the emotional and verbal abuse that occurs in the relationship is not perceived by women as abuse. After the emotional and verbal abuse is the physical abuse. After the physical abuse, the abuser becomes

apologetic, followed by a peaceful time. Eventually, the tension builds up, and the cycle begins again. There have been women who beg their partner to just hit them, in order to get back to what people call the honeymoon phase."

Gennari says one of the most important tools that an abuser uses to maintain control over his victim is the power of isolation.

"I think one of the most extreme cases I've ever witnessed has been one involving a mother with a baby and three other children—grade-school age—and she was pretty much being monitored by her abuser," Gennari said. "Her partner always left her with only enough money to go to the grocery store, so she had no money for her own, and because of that, she became isolated from everyone else. Isolation is one of the main focuses of the abuser, to isolate them, so the [victim] doesn't have any way to get out of the situation."

According to Lundy Bancroft, the author of "Assessing Dangerousness In Men Who Abuse Women", the levels of danger among male batterers greatly differ. However, Bancroft asserts that there are serious factors to be considered. One of the more substantial factors is the intuition that female victim feels concerning her confidence in the batterer's ability to kill or severely abuse her or her children.

Other factors of the danger of male batterers include the access of the batterer to weapons, unemployment of the abuser, the amount of intimate relationships to family members and friends that the batterer cherishes, whether or not the batterer holds a significant criminal record, abusive tendencies toward animals and heavy use of pornography, among many others.

Bancroft suggests that upon confirmation of the danger level of the batterer, the victim should take great lengths in order to create a safety plan. This safety plan, according to Bancroft, should include inventing several methods to escape the home, varying her daily schedule, opening secret bank accounts, letting co-workers, friends and family members, in on her abusive relationship with the batterer, keeping her senses acute by abstaining from alcohol and drugs, informing the police department of the danger risk that the batterer poses and hiding important documents and spare car keys in the case of the need for a quick getaway.

Women's Place first move is to help victims of domestic and relationship violence to formulate sim-

ilar safety plans, a procedure that is one of many precautions that the organization takes to ensure the safety of its clients.

The organization's second step in protecting the welfare of sufferers of domestic abuse is to ask the victims whether or not they would prefer to invest in an Order of Protection, otherwise known as a restraining order.

"A lot of people think that it won't do a lot of good, especially if the abuser is not a law-abiding citizen," Gennari said. "However, if the woman does file an order of protection, and the abuser violates it, he can be arrested. We also ask the women whether or not they have family members that they can stay with, but sometimes abusers will threaten to kill family members, so in some cases that isn't a good option. We give them some options for shelters, but sometimes there aren't enough shelters to accommodate the women and their children."

According to the MCADSV, children in an abusive environment can be utilized to threaten victims. The batterer can use children in many ways including forcing them to observe the abuse, convincing them to keep tabs on the victim's daily activities, threatening to kidnap or murder them in order to keep the partner to stay at home and sexually abusing them in order to maintain a level of fear in the relationship.

However, many victims of domestic violence struggle through another dilemma. If the victim remains in the relationship, there is a possible risk in the children becoming targets of the violence or harming themselves in the process of protecting other family members. Conversely, if the victim flees from an abusive situation, the victim runs the risk of the batterer gaining custody of the children involved in the relationship through either legal or illegal means. The victim also takes her chances when giving the batterer the opportunity to make false claims of child abuse or neglect against the victim.

Gender often plays a large role in the outlook of a child concerning domestic or relationship violence. Gennari views the effect of domestic violence as somewhat of an emotional domino effect.

"Some boys will see the abuse, and think that this is the way that women are supposed to be treated, and will indeed do that themselves," Gennari said. "And girls

will lose their self-respect and allow the men [in their lives] to treat them the same way. The behaviors are easily passed down."

Girls in an abusive environment are more likely to display depressed or anxious emotions, where as boys in the same situation may display increasingly aggressive emotions. The effects on children are more than skin-deep, and are more profound than just their behavior. Gennari says that by allowing children to witness domestic and relationship violence, parents are subjecting them to psychological scars and anxiety toward the welfare of their parents.

"Children, unfortunately, are overlooked in this whole problem," Gennari said. "No matter how young they are, children always know that something is wrong. They become worried for their mother, they want to protect her, and some children begin to act out as a result. [I know this] because when I

was five years old, I was worried about my mother when she was in the same situation."

Children may show low self-esteem, poor academic performance and lose respect for their parent—most likely mother—if the parent continues to act passively toward the abusive violence, as well as for the relationship shared between them and the batterer as they continue to confuse fear as love, according to the MCADSV. Gennari can relate to the feeling that many children in abusive households, having lived in one herself.

"As a teen, I was angry with my mother because she would not leave her abusive relationship," Gennari said. "I was angry with my father as well, but I was more upset with my mother. At the time, I didn't understand her mindset, but I came to realize that there's a whole other side of abuse that mothers have to deal with."

Gennari believes there is a pattern in the reunion of batterer and victim that relates to victims' lack of emotional and tangible assets.

"Because he is so controlling and so manipulative, it would be fairly easy for the abuser to get his wife or girlfriend back home," Gennari said. "I've had women tell me all of the awful things that batterers have done to them, and she will still say that she loves him, and holds the hope that he will one day change. Many women, especially mothers, have no source of income, no self-confidence, so how does a woman leave with all of that lacking?"

According to Angie Macy, a counselor at Safe Connections, a facility that devotes itself to promoting the wellbeing of women's health, women in abusive situations leave the violent relationships on an average of five to seven times. Gennari attributes this to the manipulated appeal of the abuser that draws the victim back to the dangerous environment.

"There's been a pattern I've found in women: they don't want the abuser to go away, they want the abuse to go away," Gennari said. "But they can't change the abuser, and the only chance of safety is to leave, and she has to choose the right time for her to do so. And if they leave, they have a 75 percent chance of being killed. Many people wonder why [abused women] stay in violent situations, and the risk of danger is one of the reasons."

Macy believes that although media plays a large part in the glamorization of misogynistic behaviors, it is not the primary cause of domestic and relationship violence toward women. Gennari agrees with this viewpoint.

"The cause of domestic violence is basically created by the person who feels the need to control his partner, but media does help to fuel the violence," Gennari said.

The rehabilitation of victims of domestic violence is one that demands patience and time, and according to the MCADSV, it consists of four major components.

The first step of rehabilitation is to listen patiently, as the most important part of this step is to get a victim back on his or her feet to help the victim get to a place where he or she is comfortable in sharing his or her story. Then, the victim must have enough time to muster up the comfort in talking about the details of the violence. The next step is to inform the victim about resources available to her and the pros and cons of each solution to her domestic problems. The third phase of rehabilitation is to help the victim assess the path that she will travel down in order to stray as far away as possible from her abuser, and the fourth and final task is to strengthen the victim emotionally, so that she can stand on her own two feet and support herself as well as her family without the support of the abuser. The strides that victims of domestic violence must take in order to move on with life are greatly arduous, but the perseverance pays off in the end, once victims of abuse make the final break from the abuser.

"I think that for some women, they still make the break and still have feelings for him, while others feel bitterness and anger," Gennari said. "We try to get women not like victims, but to feel empowered. I think that they eventually have to come to a place of acceptance. It takes them a while to make the adjustment, but they must move on."

☺



Sam Bader

## Teens and Abuse

**Teens are most directly affected by dating abuse, which is comprised of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.**

**The Center for Disease Control currently uses a four-step method in order to prevent dating abuse:**

**1. Define the problem**

**2. Identify the risk and protective factors**

**3. Develop and test prevention strategies to prevent violence**

**4. Assure widespread adoption of the prevention strategies**

**Places you can go to for help if you feel that you are in a dangerous relationship:**

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•Crime Victim Advocacy Center

314-652-3623

•Family Resource Center

314-534-9350

•Legal Advocates for Abused Women

314-535-5229

•Life Crisis Services

314-647-4357

•Sexual Assault-Response Team

314-531-7273



# Mendelsohn to retire after 17 years of dedicated teaching

[Hyrum Shumway]  
Senior Managing Editor

After teaching more than three decades, history teacher Bill Mendelsohn has developed new curriculums and classes, taught and touched thousands of students and fundamentally changed CHS in his 17 years of service.

"I have known Mr. Mendelsohn since he came to the high school," history teacher Sam Harned said. "Mr. Mendelsohn brings tremendous passion to his subject and combines that with incredible content knowledge. He is always expanding his knowledge."

Mendelsohn's mastery of history makes the class intriguing for his students.

"Mr. Mendelsohn is probably one of the smartest men I have ever met," senior Erin O'Neal said. "I had Mr. Mendelsohn for AP U.S. [History] my junior year, and it was fabulous. This year, I decided to take Music in American Society and it has been very interesting. I am glad I was able to experience Mr. Mendelsohn as a teacher."

Mendelsohn's dedication to history is complimented by strong relationships with students.

"Fundamental to good teaching is forging good relationships with your students," Mendelsohn said. "Second, you must love and understand the subject you teach. Also, teaching and learning should be fun. If you don't love your subject matter, how can you expect your students to?"

Mendelsohn has been able to impart lasting knowledge and impressions on his students due to his pedagogical skills and his personality.

"I took AP U.S. my junior year in high school at CHS in the 2004-2005 school year," CHS alum Ariel Arpadi said. "Mr. Mendelsohn was one of those teachers who developed a personal relationship with each and every one of his students. I always felt comfortable talking to him even if the conversation was not related to history."

Although Arpadi has experienced dozens of teachers, no one has proven to be quite like Mendelsohn.

"He was really passionate about history and teaching in general," Arpadi said. "When stellar teaching and passion for a subject are there, a class can't go wrong. Mr. Mendelsohn is a 'one-in-a-hundred' type of teacher. I have had wonderful teachers in college, but never at the personal level that Mr. Mendelsohn was able to create. He is the kind of teacher that former students want to visit. Even after you leave his class, I feel he is still an influence."

In a modern-day world it is easy to forget why it is necessary to study what has come before.

Mendelsohn tries to make the history of events that happened years ago applicable to students' lives presently.

"A teacher needs to be able to see the big picture, and in history that means much more than straight facts and dates," Mendelsohn said. "History is about making meaning of your life by understanding how other people found meaning. It is important to make students' learning relevant to their life experiences."

Connecting history to students' lives is perhaps easier as it is an election year.

"Mr. Mendelsohn tries to link what we learn in class to the outside world," junior Julia Hartel said. "He has

compared the Roosevelt reforms of big business to how Barack Obama supports more business regulation."

Mendelsohn is known to occasionally take kids on relevant field trips, which are memorable for students.

"We once went to the Art Museum, and he gave us a tour of all the American pieces housed there," senior Jackie Wilcher said. "He knew a lot about the paintings and the history behind them and that was really interesting. I am not big into art history in general, but it was neat how the paintings corresponded to what he had taught us in class."

While his classes, especially AP U.S. History, have a reputation for being challenging, students feel his classes to be great preparation for college.

"AP U.S. is a college-level course, but Mendelsohn knew we were still in high school and took into consideration that we were not quite ready for college," Arpadi said. "AP U.S. was a great intermediate course that helped me prepare for college classes, while fulfilling my high school needs."

As he taught multiple classes, Mendelsohn has also served as Curriculum Coordinator since his arrival at CHS.

"As Curriculum Coordinator, I oversaw the redesign of the K-12 history curriculum," Mendelsohn said. "As a result of this program, freshman and sophomore history become both world and U.S. history. This freed up time for juniors and seniors to pursue diverse history electives."

Colleagues realize the benefit the new program offered, and students have perhaps unknowingly benefited from the 1994 changes.

"He has also been wonderful as Curriculum Coordinator," Harned said. "He was able to effectively plan the history curriculum for students K-12."

Mr. Mendelsohn believes Clayton to be a unique community that supports a school that offers good resources for teachers and exceptional opportunities for students that should be taken advantage of.

"I have loved teaching at Clayton," Mendelsohn said. "I like teaching within a community that values learning. I also appreciate the resources available to improve my craft. I have seen teachers in all the buildings in the district and the teaching in this district is exceptional. Rarely do you see teachers who care so much about teaching as you do at Clayton. I would like to thank the community and my colleagues for making these last 17 years truly wonderful. I have been blessed."

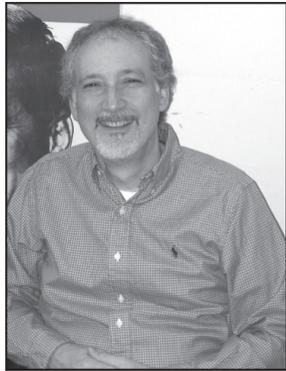
Students who had the opportunity to experience Mendelsohn realize what the school is losing.

"Although I believe the history department to be very strong, Mr. Mendelsohn was a key player in its success," O'Neal said. "The school will feel his loss."

O'Neal's comment is reiterated in the minds of many as the news of Mendelsohn's retirement spread. "I wish he would keep teaching," Wilcher said. "He is so memorable."

The school and the larger community will miss the dedicated teacher, the strong leader and the good friend that Mendelsohn has been.

"Mr. Mendelsohn is a good teacher and friend," Harned said. "He is a great guy and brings new ideas, an open mind and tremendous energy to the school. He is a great model for younger teachers and will be sorely missed. However, I feel that he will go on to do other amazing things." ☺



Hyrum Shumway

**History teacher Bill Mendelsohn will retire this year after 17 years of curriculum creation and teaching at CHS.**



Puhan Zhao

A student observes the snow-scape behind CHS. So far this winter, CHS has had three snow days.

# Weird weather patterns make for perfectly-timed snowdays

[Hannah Novack]  
Staff Reporter

This year, Clayton School District had a record of three snow days. The most recent one, however, was the most severe and probably the most necessary. On Monday March 3, the day started off cool, with rainfall later in the day. As the temperatures dropped, the rain turned to sleet and freezing rain. The storm worsened at midnight on Tuesday when snow descended upon the city. Weather forecasters predicted six to ten inches, and they certainly weren't kidding, as the snow continued to fall throughout the day on Tuesday.

All these ingredients made for impossible driving conditions and the inevitable closing of school. With such harsh winter weather, it's hard to believe that less than two days earlier St. Louis was enjoying record highs in the upper 70s.

Even with these drastic changes in temperature, this "strange" winter weather is, well, not that strange at all.

"These changes are rather typical for St. Louis, we are known for big swings in a short period of time," Chief Meteorologist for Fox 2 News, Dave Murray said. "If you look back, almost every year has three or four swings like this."

St. Louis is located near the center the United States. To the north, Canada experiences consistently cooler weather, while towards the south, there is warm air near the Gulf of Mexico. Missouri experiences varied weather conditions mainly due to these sources.

With such extensive weather patterns, it's hard to describe typical winter weather.

"[The temperature ranges are wide], with record highs in the 80s and record lows down to minus 22 degrees," Murray said. "Those are nice extremes."

Murray knows St. Louis weather. He has been in

the business for over 30 years, starting at Channel 5 in 1976. In 1983, Murray went to New York City to be the meteorologist for Good Morning America for three years. From there he worked in Boston until 1989, when he returned to St. Louis to work for Fox 2. Murray has been interested in meteorology since he was a child, growing up in the Mid-West.

"I got interested in fourth grade, when I watched a tornado outbreak from our front step in Kansas City," Murray said. "I was hooked at that point."

Missouri lies within Tornado Alley, and are not uncommon in the months March through May. However, this winter tornadoes have hit relatively early and severely. Despite the fact the tornadoes were out of season, they were no less disastrous—causing deaths in Arkansas and Missouri. On January 7, the National Weather Service reported 37 tornadoes in central and southern Missouri.

"We are in a La Niña weather pattern right now, have been all winter long and the end game of this pattern, as it dies, is massive and early tornado outbreaks," Murray said. "Weather from previous La Niña years gives us great clues to long-term trends."

La Niña has occurred about 15 times throughout the twentieth century. La Niña is the occurrence of particularly colder ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific, compared to El Niño, where there are warmer ocean temperatures. These ocean temperatures affect regions throughout the United States. Typically, La Niña causes warmer than usual winter temperatures in the southeast and cooler than usual temperatures in the northwest.

"All weather patterns all over the world are locked together—energy pockets move around the globe traveling along 4 key jet streams, two north and two south," Murray said. "To study and forecast the weather, you must look world-wide." ☺

*These changes are rather typical for St. Louis, we are known for big swings in short periods of time. If you look back, almost every year has three or four swings like this.*

[Dave Murray]  
Chief Meteorologist, Fox 2

# Lent, Easter focus on central elements of Christian faith

[Jiyoun Kahng]  
Staff Reporter

Easter is known to be one of the oldest and most important Christian Festivals and celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is also called a moveable feast because the date of Easter changes every year. However, Easter is always on the first Sunday following the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon), either on or after the Spring Equinox. This year, Easter Sunday is on March 23, based on the lunar calendar.

"For United Methodists, Easter is the center of our religion," Pastor James Christy of the Clayton United Methodist Church said. "It represents that Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ is alive."

On Easter, people generally celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ by attending church services and masses, spending time with family and friends and giving chocolate Easter eggs and bunnies to each other. Therefore, this day is typically the most attended Sunday service of the year for Christian churches.

"In Easter, Argentines usually buy huge chocolate eggs with all types of things inside like candies and toys, celebrate through church masses and have big feasts with families, which are a lot similar to what Americans do," freshman Melina De bona said.

The churches also celebrate Easter in many traditional ways during the Holy Week.

"There are different types of services held during Holy Week de-

pending on what the pastor or the church decides," Christy said. "At Clayton, we hold on Friday before Easter a Service of Darkness. The service is very somber and as it progresses the church is darkened and the religious symbols are draped with black cloth. Folks leave the service in the cover of darkness and silence as at this moment we believe Christ has died, and also the music is outstanding on Easter for this is the 'High Sunday' of our worship year."

Christians believe that Jesus came back to life three days after his death on the cross. As part of the Easter season, the death of Jesus Christ is commemorated on Good Friday, the Friday just before Easter.

"The celebration of Easter begins in earnest on the Sunday before



Taylor Obata

Easter, Palm Sunday," Christy said. "This Sunday is the Sunday Christ entered Jerusalem and the beginning of Holy week. At Clayton, the service is very up-beat. The church is decorated with palms and palm

branches, and we have the children parade and celebrate Christ's joyous entry into Jerusalem."

Starting on Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday (the day before Good Friday), Lent is a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline that leads to Easter. Fasting has been a traditional part of Lent, which allows Christians to practice abstinence and fully empathize with Jesus' suffering.

"Lent is a time of preparation for United Methodists," Christy said. "We use this time, four weeks before Easter, to prepare ourselves for the coming of Easter. Some fasting is done and denial of certain foods or other things is done as a way of preparation for the coming of Easter Sunday."

At the end of lent, the festival of

Easter is marked by feasting. After 40 days of fasting, chocolate eggs and regular eggs serve as the main symbolic food for people to enjoy. For Christians, Easter eggs are a common symbol for new life and rebirth.

"After my family returns from church on Easter, all of my cousins, aunts and uncles come over for

lunch," freshman Elizabeth Sikora said. "Then we have a big Easter egg hunt, which I think is the best part about Easter because it bonds the family together."

Some Christians think people tend to forget what the real meaning of Easter, is. It's not about chicks and bunnies, but the center of their faith. ☺



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# Undoing 'the Evil that Men Do'

Ten years after Princess Diana, the most famous opponent of landmines, died, the movement to rid the planet of this catastrophe goes on.



Tom Maxim

[Jeremy Bleeker]

Editor

The image is one you remember. In 1997, pictures of Princess Diana walking through the minefields of Angola caused a sensation around the world. She was on a campaign to raise awareness for what she called "a plague on Earth."

That same year, 122 governments signed onto the Ottawa Treaty, an initiative of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which forbade the production and use of anti-personnel mines. The ICBL, and primary representative Jody Williams jointly received the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for their work.

But a decade later, the landmine crisis is far from resolved. As of the ICBL's 2005 Landmine Monitor Report, an estimated 200,000 square kilometers are contaminated with mines or unexploded ordnance (UXO) in at least 84 countries worldwide. The report also states that only 135 square kilometers of mine-affected land were cleared that year.

"It seems to be this kind of intersection point between a conflict and a disaster," said Zach Hudson, Program Director of the Adopt-A-Minefield (AAM) initiative. "Landmines, of course, are the remnants of a conflict, but they behave, because they're post-conflict, much like a natural disaster would—at that kind of crisis level."

Hudson knows a lot about both conflicts and disasters. He lived in Ireland for several years, and, because of the violence to the north, decided to get a master's degree in international peace studies. When he was finished, Hudson travelled for a year in India, where he witnessed an earthquake, and decided to work for the Red Cross.

Now in New York, Hudson leads Adopt-A-Minefield, a program connected with the United Nations Association (UNA) in the U.S. It allows community groups, organizations, and corporations to sponsor the cleaning-up of known minefields.

"UNA chapters would hold campaigns to raise funds...to clear the minefield," Hudson said. "So a rotary club, or a church, or a school would raise funds to clear that particular piece of land. And then they would receive reports back on the clearance that happened on that land, and then post-clearance stories about how the land was being used once it could be put to productive use."

While that model still exists, and people still take advantage of it, AAM also accepts smaller donations which it then pools together. Hudson estimates that on average it costs about \$2 to clear a square meter of mine-contaminated land. In other words, adopting a minefield is not cheap.

"It really does range," Hudson said. "We have minefields that are \$20,000, and we have minefields that are \$200,000....A \$20,000 minefield is somewhere around 10,000 square meters."

Once sufficient funds have been raised, a team of deminers goes in. Sometimes the team is organized by the U.N., sometimes it's an independent non-governmental organization—either national or international—and sometimes it's a private corporation. But no matter who the deminers are, Hudson says that they are always gladly welcomed into the country.

"There's a lot of international cooperation with this," Hudson said. "It really is an international movement."

Hudson says that over the past few years, there has been a general mentality-shift away from a world that is "mine free" toward a world that is "mine safe."

"In Egypt, for example, there's something like 22 million mines," Hudson said. "They're more contaminated than any other country in the world, but most of those landmines are out in the middle of the desert, so no one actually goes there....That's why you don't really hear about Egypt as being one of these really heavily mine-impacted countries. You're talking about Cambodia, Afghanistan, where it's in the communities, where it's surrounding people's homes, where it's in the fields, surrounding wells, that type of thing. So when is the world going to be mine-safe? I would say it's probably going to be another decade."

Since the Ottawa convention, the placement rate of landmines around the world has plummeted. Before the ban was enacted, 131 countries possessed stockpiles of mines, with an estimated 260 million worldwide. The current estimate is somewhere around 180 million mines and 54 countries.

As the numbers indicate, landmines are extremely inexpensive to make. The typical anti-personnel mine can be produced for around \$3, and 13 countries are still known to be manufacturing them, including China, Russia, and the United States. The U.S. refuses to sign the Ottawa treaty because it claims that mines are vital to security along the 38th parallel in Korea. Despite its failure to sign the treaty, the United States did play a major role in the mine-ban movement during the '90s, and it remains the largest supporter of mine clearance around the world.

Rodney Robideau knows this firsthand. He is the Director of the Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDTC) in Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. HDTC is overseen by the Department of Defense, and is one of the largest centers in the country for training soldiers in mine action.

In 2001, a week after the bombing of Baghdad, Robideau went to Iraq for four months to help the country establish mine action programs and facilities.

"We were pre-positioned in Kuwait at the Humanitarian Operations Center," Robideau said. "We went in as an emergency mine action team, and I helped establish the information management system as well as the operations center for the National Mine Action Authority and the National Mine Action Center in Baghdad."

The goal of Robideau's mission in Iraq reflects the attitude taken toward mine action at HDTC. Soldiers themselves don't go overseas to personally remove a country's mines; they go to teach the people there how it's done.

"Our actual soldiers do not engage in the clearance of the country's contamination," Robideau said. "We've learned over time that it does no good, it serves no purpose, to have our personnel go over and put themselves in harm's way to remove somebody else's explosive remnants of war. That country really needs to buy into their own salvation, so that's why we train them."

HDTC trains between 50 and 250 soldiers per year in mine action. It also instructs 1000 to 1500 soldiers each year in mine awareness and avoidance. The center doesn't take more than two weeks to prepare a soldier for overseas deployment.

"The reason we're able to do that is because we define the mission as narrowly as possible to what they can accomplish in a four to eight-week period of time," Robideau said. "From that we'll break it down. We'll address the basics of humanitarian mine action during the first week—basically HMA 101. And then during the second week we'll focus very specifically on their mission through instructor-led and student-led situational training exercises."

When a country has determined that they have a landmine contamination problem, they petition for aid at the U.S. embassy or consulate. The embassy will then confirm whether or not that the country has a problem. If it does, then the country begins coordinating with the Department of State to be enrolled in the mine action program. However, if they want U.S. assistance, the countries have to play by the rules.

"They must accept our rules of engagement," Robideau said. "Basically that they'll stop fighting, stop selling, stockpiling, or utilizing landmines; that they will put some of their national assets toward their program, their problem; that they will provide personnel for training de-miners—be that military or civilian—and that they'll fund those individuals to conduct clearing operations."

The HDTC and the countries it assists has its work cut out. The sheer size of the crisis around the world can be overwhelming: 100 million mines is a lot to

clear.

"The scale of the problem is enormous," said Dr. Michael Deyholos, a professor of plant biology at the University of Alberta.

Deyholos, along with faculty at other universities, has been collaborating with researchers who work for the United States and Canadian militaries to develop a plant which could change color in the presence of landmines, thereby making detection much easier.

"We're trying to find genes that will first of all detect TNT and its products in the soil," Deyholos said. "And we'll need genes that will then transport that signal to the shoot, the leaves of the plant, and cause it to change color or something to see if there are landmines in the area."

The project has been in progress since 2003, but Deyholos predicts that it will take another five to ten years to create a functional plant. Although the work is slow, there have been breakthroughs along the way.

"Along with June Medford, [a University of Colorado professor] we found a system that would make plants turn from green to white when you triggered it," Deyholos said. "So that's called the de-greening circuit. We are just about done developing another circuit that will make plants change color from purple to green, and we also have a sequence of DNA that responds to TNT so we can hook that up to a gene such as one that changes the plant color."

Although various components of landmine-detecting plants (such as the de-greening circuit) have been developed separately, Deyholos believes that a fully-functional plant has yet to emerge. In 2004, the Denmark-based biotech company Aresa announced that it had developed a working plant. The news later appeared in National Geographic.

Deyholos, however, remains doubtful.

"I'm not sure if theirs will actually be functional, although they keep insisting that it will be," Deyholos said. "The basis for their technology is not detecting TNT, they're just detecting nitrate, which is a breakdown product of TNT. But nitrate is also in fertilizer, manure, urine and everywhere

else, so I'm quite skeptical about whether that will actually work."

If the technology is questionable, Aresa's CEO Steen Tharup is not admitting it. He remains steadfast in his conviction that his company has created a viable and practical product.

"Aresa has worked with thale cress (*Arabidopsis*) to detect landmines for quite some years," Tharup said. "The technology proved useful, as thale cress changed color when grown in soil where a landmine was buried."

Soon, however, Aresa will be utilizing its technology in a much more familiar species.

"It was decided last summer to transfer the technology into tobacco," Tharup said. "This is a more robust plant than thale cress, and it grows perfectly in the areas where landmines are traditionally used: the Balkans, Africa, South East Asia and Central and South America."

But even if tobacco is heartier than cress, Tharup says that it still has limitations, observing that "being a crop, agricultural fields are the optimal place to use the plants." Unfortunately, most mines aren't out in agricultural fields.

Deyholos confirms that plant technology does come with certain drawbacks. There are logistical challenges—an herbicide would likely have to be used in order to get rid of preexisting foliage; the seeds would have to be scattered from an airplane, or sprayed from an adjacent road. And depending on the location, the plants might not grow at all.

"Plants won't be useful for every situation," Deyholos said. "They really won't work on things like beaches, or underwater, where mines are also a

**"The evil that men do lives after them. And so, it seems to me, there rests a certain obligation upon the rest of us."**

[Princess Diana]  
Late Princess of Wales

problem."

But the news isn't all bad. Deyholos says that once a working plant system is developed, it costs very little to replicate and implement. He sees the technology as being helpful in the big picture.

"We know that it won't be sensitive enough to detect every mine," Deyholos said. "But what we're trying to do is cover a large area with the plants and see okay, within this square kilometer there are some mines, so let's use higher resolution, higher sensitivity technology concentrated here, whereas all these other square kilometers we've tested we don't find any mines so let's assume that they're not priorities for demining."

Although color-changing plants may seem strange enough, a whole host of detection strategies are being investigated around the world.

"There's actually some work being done in Montana with bees, that's a big initiative right now," said Hudson. "There's also some Japanese university organizations that are working on dual sensor detectors that use sonar to create a visual 3-D map of what's going on in the ground....Dogs [can be] trained to smell the explosive under the soil, they locate it, and then its deactivated or detonated in place. They also are using rats in some places to do this now."

David Summers is a professor of mining and nuclear engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly the University of Missouri at Rolla) where he also directs the High Pressure Water Jet Laboratory. In 2002, Summers was featured in Time magazine with one of the inventions of the year.

Summers, along with collaborating faculty, created a system of detecting, uncovering, and destroying landmines using pressurized jets of water. Summers explains how the invention works with a familiar metaphor.

"We used to be given things like water pistols," Summers said. "And you used to gleefully run around the house shooting everything that moved with this water pistol. And you discovered fairly early on that when you shot the cat, it made a slightly different sound, for example, than if you shot your mother. But if you were a little more scientific you also would have noticed that if you shot the wall, or you shot the window, or you shot the can, or you shot the table, they all made different sounds. And that's what actually happens when you take a high-pressure water jet and you squirt it at something—it will make a different sound which is a function of what it hits."

Summers breaks the problem down into three parts. First is finding the mine—the process described above, hooked up to modified voice-recognition software. Next the mine must be exposed, so, using the same water source, the surrounding soil is carefully washed away. The third step is elimination of the mine. The same water supply is still used, except now with a twist.

"Now we put sand in," Summers said. "We increase our pressure from about power-wash pressure to about 3 times power-wash pressure, and now with the sand in the water, the stream that we generate will cut through the mine. And so we cut right through, right where the fuse should be."

Summers admits that he hasn't worked on the project for several years. He says that with new technology emerging, such as ground-penetrating imaging and RADAR, interest in a less complicated method has been waning. However, Summers sees one big advantage with the water system.

"It's cheap, it's simple, an Afghan blacksmith can fix it," Summers said. "It probably costs less than \$2500 to put together."

Whether the answer is in plants, bees, or water guns, one thing is certain—the current landmine crisis has haunted too many for too long. Princess Diana saw this horror directly, and after her trip to Angola, she made an impassioned speech to call the world to action.

"Even if the world decided tomorrow to ban these weapons, this terrible legacy of mines already in the earth would continue to plague the poor nations of the globe," Diana said. "The evil that men do lives after them. And so, it seems to me, there rests a certain obligation upon the rest of us." ☹

# Foster care challenging, rewarding

CHS families take on the daunting task of welcoming children from broken families into their homes. While the times aren't always easy, most families find the experience to be rewarding.

[Mary Blackwell]

Staff Reporter

Three-year-old Cortez Bass was abandoned by his mother on Feb. 9. He was found wandering in the NASCAR Speed Park in the St. Louis Mills mall, and the Department of Family Services was contacted to take custody of him. Neglect and parental abuse are the most common reasons a child is put in foster care.

"There's all kinds of different reasons but mostly what we're finding a lot of it is single moms," foster parent Robin Kruse said. "She's either on drugs or the child is abandoned and nobody is really supervising. There's abuse, there's a lot of sexual abuse now days. People try to make money from selling their kids or taking sexual photographs to sell for drugs."

Some parents give up their children for foster care voluntarily because they are unable to fully provide for them, but most often authorities find children in need of foster care through the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline. In Missouri, 128 calls are made to the Child Abuse Hotline everyday. Also, children are put into foster care if their parents are arrested and sometimes if parents are homeless.

"There's a hotline number and teachers are mandated to report any suspicions," Kruse said. "The majority of kids school-aged are reported by teachers. Doctors will report children that are taken to emergency rooms. All doctors and nurses are mandated that if they suspect abuse they are to call the hotline to get the state involved."

Kruse went from working at an abortion clinic to founding the One Heart Family Ministries, an organization that finds families interested in foster caring, provides training and organizes support groups for foster parents.

"After I became a Christian, I realized what I had done by working in an abortion clinic that was killing all these babies and seeing it all firsthand," Kruse said. "So I had just a tremendous amount of guilt that I had on my shoulders from having done that. Once the Lord had forgiven me of that, He had just replaced that guilt and that horrible feeling with a love for kids - kids that I wanted to be able to help."

One Heart Family Ministries differs from state programs because Christian values are at the core of their training and support groups. Kruse thinks foster parents must have a strong support base from somewhere in order to do the job, and her Christian faith provides that for her.

"I feel that you can't really love these kids unconditionally and support them unless you have a relationship with the Lord," Kruse said. "It's not easy raising these guys. You know these children have been abused, neglected, abandoned by parents so they have issues."

Other foster families find support in different ways. The state also has an organization, Foster Care Coalition, that offers support groups on a variety of topics relating to foster care, oversees a clothing store exclusively for foster parents that sells children and teen clothing at low prices, gives training, provides information regarding updated laws in Missouri concerning foster care, and more.

Support groups keep foster and adoptive families connected. Through support groups, families share advice and parenting techniques. Foster parent Terri Lawrence was trained through the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, an agency that requires monthly attendance in support groups. In addition, she finds support through her church.

"On a more regular basis, our church is very supportive so they kind of have become a natural support

group," Lawrence said. "They'll offer to baby sit the kids for us if we need a break or buy things for them or invite them over to play with their kids. We just do that for each other. And also, in our agency you get a week-end off every month, so if you needed to travel or do something, and you didn't want the kids to come with you then they would spend the weekend with another foster family."

Lawrence's motive for foster caring is similar to Kruse's.

"We felt like as Christians, one of the things God wants us to do is to care for each other, especially children," Lawrence said. "We felt so lucky that we had parents and good homes and our kids had a good home. We just felt like it was something that we could share, our home and family with those in need."

To become a foster parent, the state requires attendance in a training program called STARS, which is a free, six-week training program that thoroughly prepares foster parents to take children into their home. Becoming certified to be a foster parent takes about eight to ten weeks, but it may be even longer before the family takes in a child.

"It took about six months before it was all said and done," Lawrence said. "We went to class every week for several hours, and there was some weekend training."

In addition to the STARS training, a home study, background check, medical check, fingerprinting, and interview are required before the parent is sent a certificate and put on the Missouri website as a foster parent. Then the choices come.

"They give a checklist of all the types of children you would want whether it be a boy or a girl, if you would take any race, what handicapped children you would have or what kind of abuses you could deal with or not deal with, if you could take a sibling group or if you only want one or a certain age," Kruse said. "So you have this whole list and then you go and they put into the computer what your family criteria is and when a child comes in fitting that criteria, they would call you with that child and ask if you would be interested in fostering him or her."

Foster parents have the freedom to turn down the opportunity to foster children they don't feel would be a good match, but in some cases foster parents will be flexible.

"When we trained we said that we were very interested in elementary and middle school kids, and we initially said we only wanted girls because our daughter was still at home," Lawrence said. "But it was funny because as our first placement we got a middle school boy, and yet we agreed to it."

Although siblings in the foster care system may be split up if one family can't take all the siblings at once, agencies and foster families try to keep siblings together. In fact, the Lawrences first took the middle school boy in attempt to keep a family together.

"He had a brother and sister that we thought would come with him," Lawrence said. "We wanted to keep families together so we tried to just take families. Most foster homes have three or four different kids that are not related, but we decided we would only do one family at a time."

A group home, also called a children's home, is where children stay after being taken away from their parents and before being placed in a home. Their time living in this temporary home may be anywhere from a night to a couple months. Foster parents can agree to take children at a very short notice because agencies try not to keep children in a group home for a long period of time or not at all.

"But sometimes, with the kind of care that we give



you can get a call, 'This is an emergency - we really don't want to put these kids in a children's home we want them to go straight to a family.' So we took an eleven month-old boy and his sister who was eight. They came like literally the next day. Usually they don't want anybody to go into a children's home. Some people take them in the middle of the night. It's really up to you."

Children from infancy to age 18 can be put in foster care. However, because foster parents can choose whom to let into their home, certain types of children are not accepted by foster parents as often as others.

"Everybody wants little children," Kruse said. "With infants maybe up to age two the families feel there's not going to be that many problems. Like they don't know anything because they're too little to know. They don't want to deal with it, so the majority of people are looking at that age. We try to encourage families to think about older children because the majority of children in foster care are school aged and older."

Before foster parents take children into their home, they can talk to a social worker to learn the background of the child or children, visit the children's home to spend time together, and then get a pass to take them on an outing outside of the children's home.

"We took our kids, when we first met them to a park and then Build-a-Bear and then back," Lawrence said. "Then we had them for a weekend. It's as gradual as you want in terms of getting to know them and feeling that you're ready."

Then when the foster child or children move in, preparation is necessary because usually the children don't own much. Foster parents may need to supply clothing, school supplies, or toys and that's where expenses come in. Foster care is meant to be free for the foster parents so the state supplies a monthly check.

"It's not like you get a grant, I mean you get a monthly subsidy but it is nothing you can live off of," Kruse said. "You really have to do it from a loving heart and know that these children need somebody to

do it." One challenge is determining what would make the foster child most comfortable in their new home.

"We might get some new bedding like when we had the boys recently we got Superman sheets," Lawrence said. "It's kind of like Christmas a little bit. You try to get them some stuff they'll have when they get here and when you come get them, they're usually excited because usually they don't like being in the children's home."

Kruse estimates about 60 percent of children in foster care do not return to their original families and are placed for adoption. Kruse's daughter, Shauna Collison, was about 14 when her family started foster caring. The Kruse family has adopted five boys whom their family first foster cared.

"We already had four kids in our own family, so it made our family larger, but it also made my brothers and sister and I feel a responsibility to help the community of children," Collison said. "Of course it required some sacrifices, like sharing our parents and rooms, but we all understood that it was better to give these kids a chance to live with a family."

Collison was "like an older sister" to the foster children that stayed in her home. After growing up in a home with foster children, Collison has decided herself to be a foster parent.

"I think the biggest advice I would give to people thinking about becoming foster parents would be to understand that these kids are coming from hard backgrounds and they will need time, love and understanding," Collison said. "You can't expect them to be perfect and you can't expect it to be all fun. Like having any child there will be trials and set backs, but if you are prepared for that, you can really help to make a difference in the life of a child."

The state wants children to remain with their family if possible. Currently, Cortez Bass is out of foster care and now his father has custody of him. Still, there are 550,000 children in foster care in the United States. ☺

# Students find early decision process rewarding

Despite the pressure of shorter application deadlines, students are finding that applying to college early decision or early action may be a strong alternative to regular admissions.

[Maddy Bullard]

Staff Reporter

The college application process is complicated. It can be difficult to navigate through while getting lost in the mess of test scores, essays and applications. But some colleges offer the option of applying early for those who know exactly where they want to go to college.

Early decision and early action are two of the most widely known and offered options for those who wish to apply to a school before everyone else. Carolyn Blair, CHS college counselor, is an expert on the subject.

"Binding [early decision] means the student, parent and counselor sign a contract stating that if they are admitted they will attend," Blair said. "Early action (non-binding) means you apply early [and] find out early but don't have to commit until May."

About 14 seniors used the early decision option this year, and about 42 used early action. Applying early can help the student's chances of getting into their school of choice, but won't guarantee acceptance.

"Early decision has influence in that it allows a college to know that the applicant will attend the school," Blair said. "Schools are ranked based on the numbers they yield from the students they accept, so they may be willing to take more

of a risk if they know the student will matriculate...It just means you put yourself in a better strategic spot if you apply early."

Despite the advantages, applying early is not the best option for all students. It takes organization and a strong conviction that this college is perfect for them.

"[I would recommend it] only if they have a school that they know is the place for them and they have no financial concerns in the process," Blair said.

Senior Erin O'Neal was one of the seniors who used early action in the application process. The schools O'Neal applied to all had rolling admissions. O'Neal applied early to the University of Illinois.

"[With rolling admissions,] the applicants are admitted as they come in, rather than holding them all to compare to one another," Blair said.

Also with rolling admissions, the student hears back from the school earlier as to whether or not they were accepted.

"I got the benefit of hearing back from my schools very early without having to commit to a single school," O'Neal said. "Also, when applying with rolling admissions, deadlines are a lot less stressful."

Applying early, as mentioned before, may partially reduce stress, but usually doesn't make the application itself any easier.

"The hardest part was making

sure I got organized with my teacher recommendations and sending my transcripts and ACT scores," O'Neal said. "I had to start that process really close to the beginning of school to ensure I gave my teachers and counselors enough time to get everything done."

The advantages outweighed the workload and initial stress for O'Neal.

"I would definitely recommend applying early because the process goes a lot quicker," O'Neal said. "I heard back from all my schools in the middle of December as opposed to most people who have to wait until spring to hear from their schools."

Blair agrees that hearing back early is a big advantage and stress-reliever.

"It's a long wait 'til April," Blair said.

Senior Emily Arnold also applied early to her school of choice, the University of Kansas (KU).

"I decided to apply early because ever since I visited in the winter of my junior year I knew [KU] was the place for me," Arnold said.

Arnold felt that applying early gave her a major advantage stress-wise.

"It helped reduce stress a lot because I found out way earlier than a lot of my friends," Arnold said. "It felt good just to know."

Based on her positive experiences, Arnold would also recommend



applying early to future college applicants.

"I would recommend applying early to other people because you can start to organize yourself sooner," Arnold said.

Another student who applied early was senior Sarah Zimmerman. Zimmerman who didn't think that applying early gave her much of an advantage stress-wise.

"Stress-wise I don't think it changed much, I just had to do it earlier," Zimmerman said.

She did however, recommend the option to future seniors.

"I would recommend it to people who know where they want to go," Zimmerman said. "Then it is out of the way and makes for less stress later."

Zimmerman applied early to the University of Pennsylvania.

Natalie Turza also decided to use the early application option. She applied early to Tulane University, and thought that applying early made the whole process less scary.

"College is such an intimidating subject, but when you apply early and get [in] early, then it is a lot less daunting," Turza said.

She thought applying early was a big advantage.

"Applying early is definitely a huge advantage because you find out earlier and you don't feel all the last minute stress and anxiety," Turza said. "Just be sure to let your teachers and counselors know well in advance that you need their recommendations." ☺

# Reports show increase in prescription drug abuse among teens

[Leah Eby]

Editor

Despite decreasing overall teen drug use, recent reports show that prescription drug use is becoming increasingly prevalent among young people in the United States.

According to a number of national studies and published reports, the intentional abuse of prescription drugs, such as pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives, is on the rise, particularly among teens.

In fact, among teens ages 12 to 17, prescription drugs have become the second most abused illegal drug next to marijuana, and new users of prescription drugs have caught up with new users of marijuana. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, one third of new users in 2005 were between the ages of 12 and 17.

Prescription drugs can be classified into three groups: opioids, central nervous system (CNS) depressants, and stimulants. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, opioids "are prescribed to alleviate pain," CNS depressants "slow normal brain function and are used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders" and include tranquilizers and sedatives, and stimulants "increase alertness, attention and energy, which are accompanied by increases in blood pressure, heart rate, and respiration."

Pain relievers such as OxyContin and Vicodin are the most commonly abused prescription drugs by teens. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, in the past year, almost four percent of eighth to twelfth graders reported using OxyContin, and nearly six percent reported the use of Vicodin.

"OxyContin and Vicodin can be very addictive, which means a person who starts to use them can start to need them all the time, and that becomes very problematic," said Betsy Foy, Assistant Director of Student Health Services and Coordinator of Alcohol and Other Drugs Programs at Washington University in St. Louis.

Adolescents are more likely than young adults to become dependent on prescription drugs, reported the Office of National Drug Control Policy in its Analysis of Recent Trends on the Emerging Drug Threat.

At a younger age, reported the New York Times, "the neural circuits that release chemicals that link new, adult-like experiences with the motivation to repeat them develop more rapidly during the teenage years than do the mechanisms that control these urges and impulses... As a result, teenagers are not only more likely to feel enticed by drugs than older people are, but the effects on their brain can also be long lasting."

In addition to becoming addicted, researchers at the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) found that students who abused prescription stimulants reported higher levels of cigarette smoking; heavy drinking; risky driving and abuse of marijuana, ecstasy, and cocaine.



Leah Eby

While many American teens are educated in the dangers of drug abuse, adolescents continue to abuse prescription drugs for a variety of reasons. The Office of National Drug Control Policy reported that teens admit abusing prescription medications for reasons other than getting high, including to relieve pain and anxiety, to sleep better, to experiment, to aid concentration, or to increase alertness. More than one third of teens report feeling pressure to abuse prescription drugs, nine percent believing that drug abuse will help them fit in with their friends.

No matter the reason for drug abuse, many other factors contribute to the increase in adolescent abuse of prescription drugs.

"The main reason I believe this trend is happening is because it is often easy for students to have access to these drugs," Foy said. "People at home have prescriptions for these drugs and for students who want to experiment with drugs, they can go to the medicine cabinet and take one or two pills and no one notices. It is not as dangerous as having to go out and find somewhere to buy drugs on the street."

As Foy suggested, prescription drugs seem to be more accessible than street drugs, including marijuana and cocaine. According to the National Office of Drug

Control Policy, 47 percent of teens who use prescription drugs report getting them for free from a relative or friend, ten percent say they buy pain relievers from a friend or relative, and another ten percent of teen users merely took their drugs without asking.

"They're in the house," said John Walters, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. "They don't have to find somebody to give them marijuana or cocaine or meth outside of the home. They have them in many kinds in their medicine cabinet, a medicine cabinet of a relative, or a friend gets it for them."

Clayton High School health teacher Doris Smith agrees that easy accessibility is one cause of the increase of prescription drug abuse among teens. In addition, however, Smith brings up another major reason for increased adolescent drug use.

"I guess somewhat easy availability and the belief that because they are prescription they are better quality and 'safer' than non-prescription," Smith said.

The popular myth that Smith mentioned regarding the belief that prescription drugs are "safer" is a concern of many doctors and health officials, who believe the myth to be false. Smith said this myth comes from the fact that the user is not dealing directly with a dealer, which is perceived as more safe, and they know

that prescription drugs are tested specifically for safety and efficacy. However, she is quick to point out that the prescription drugs that are commonly abused are classified as "schedule two" drugs, meaning that they have a high possibility of addiction. Such drugs, if not prescribed to someone, are just as serious and dangerous to them as illicit drugs.

"The answer to that [myth] is that if they are not prescribed for you, you do not know if they are safe," Foy said. "When doctors prescribe medication they find out many things about their patient before determining if a drug is safe and what amount is safe based on weight and other factors. If you take someone else's prescription, it definitely may not be safe for you."

The Office of National Drug Policy reported that nearly three out of ten teens believe prescription painkillers are not addictive, while four out of ten believe that prescription drugs are much safer than illegal drugs, even if not prescribed by a doctor. When teens abuse these drugs, they often characterize their use as "responsible," "controlled," or "safe."

Dr. Lynda Erinoff, formerly of the NIDA's Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research, also contradicts the myth that prescription drugs are "safer" than street drugs.

"Students abuse prescription drugs to get high, to self-medicate for pain episodes, to help concentrate during exam time, and to try to relieve stress," Erinoff said. "Regardless of the motivation, people need to know the risks of abuse and the dangers of mixing drugs. A drug dose that a doctor orders for one person is not necessarily appropriate for another, and prescription abusers are potentially taking a serious risk."

If this risk is taken, it is often followed by necessary recovery. According to the Office of Drug Control Policy, in the past ten years, the number of teens going into treatment for addiction to prescription pain relievers has increased by more than 300 percent.

When a student is taken to Foy, by themselves, a friend, or someone on campus, her first step is to talk with them and take an assessment.

"After the assessment, I will talk with the student about possible treatment options which can range from brief therapy, attending support groups like AA or Moderation Management, or the need to go to an intense outpatient or inpatient program," Foy said. "Treatment all depends on individual needs."

A friend of Smith's works as a counselor for a drug treatment facility that helps in the recovery process following drug abuse, and he has observed the increase in drug abuse first-hand.

"He recently told me that it's rare anymore that he sees a client that doesn't have some sort of prescription drug abuse alone or in addition to using other drugs," Smith said. "It seems to me that once someone has crossed that line into using whatever drugs, they'll ignore or justify the dangers to either relieve the pain they're feeling or gain the high they're looking for." ☺

## Transfer students from Burroughs welcomed, befriended

[Kelly Moffitt]

Co-Editor in Chief

You walk across the graduation stage, staring out into the endless world ahead, waving your diploma and beaming like mad. But wait: as you look out into the roaring crowds, you realize you recognize no one in the crowd. You wake in a cold sweat...what a nightmare.

For seniors Nick Turner and Andrew Hubb, this dream felt like the prospect they had as they entered CHS halls last February. Luckily, as the weeks pass by, they are beginning to feel as if graduation will not be as harrowing as that.

"Obviously, it is hard to enter a new environment, especially when everyone at Clayton has practically gone to school together for their entire lives," Hubb said. "I still remain close with my friends [from JBS] and hang out with them almost everyday after school. It is hard not to see all of them everyday, but it's not so bad. I still plan to go to Burroughs' graduation, but I'm sure I will start crying when everyone gets their diploma."

Perhaps what makes their transition harder is the fact that they did not do it by choice.

"Nick and I were on a Model United Nations [school-sponsored] trip in the Netherlands at the end of January," Hubb said. "Some drugs that are illegal

in the United States are legal for personal use in the Netherlands. To make a long story short, we smoked weed on the balcony of our hotel room with two local kids our age who were also attending the conference. One of our teachers knocked on the door because, I think we were being too loud, and apparently could smell it right away. We were called into the teachers' room and told them what happened. They quickly evaluated the situation and we were sent home the next day, Monday, Jan. 28."

When they arrived home, they were smacked with a sentence much harsher than they anticipated.

"We went to school Tuesday and met with the headmaster in the morning to discuss the situation," Turner said. "That evening, we had a second meeting at JBS where he informed us that we had been 'asked to leave.' Do I regret it? Of course I regret it, but at this point, I've moved on. What's done is done, and getting pissed about it won't change a thing."

Both boys' families have been supportive, if a little disappointed because they understand the ordeal was a tough one to go through.

"They felt more sympathetic than anything because they felt as though I was punished in an overly harsh manner by a school where I had never once been in trouble before," Turner said.

Both Turner and Hubb had relatively little experience in transferring schools beforehand as they transferred to Burroughs with many of their friends in the

seventh grade.

Luckily, for both Turner and Hubb they have some familiarity with the Clayton area and are still close to their friends.

"I have actually lived in Clayton for the past year," Turner said. "My dad has always worked in Clayton and I know the area very well. I am really happy this is where I live right now, in terms of school. It is getting harder to communicate with my friends—part of our punishment is that we are banned from attending all JBS functions, such as sporting events, dances, proms, until we graduate, so that makes things difficult. I still see my friends on some weeknights and weekends but it's definitely less frequent and more of a hassle. It's still weird going to school every day and not seeing people that I've gone to school with since kindergarten."

However, the experience is preparing them for the feeling of leaving for college, albeit a bit early.

"It's a little sad considering we're all going to be headed off to college soon and will inevitably drift apart," Hubb said.

However, unlike many transfers, the two seniors get an extra set of ears to share the move with.

"Nick and I were good friends before we came to Clayton," Hubb said. "I think he and I will both agree that we weren't the best of friends before this experience, but it has naturally made us much closer. We joke about it now though, because there's no use dwelling on the past. Recently, we haven't really talked about it at all."

Both boys knew quite a few people from Clayton, and some they already counted as close friends, which also helped in the move. The two also found something they hadn't expected: people willing to make new friends, even so late in the high school game.

"No, it hasn't been hard to make friends; I've been really impressed and appreciative because a lot of people have gone out of their way to introduce themselves to me and make me feel more comfortable," Turner said. "I don't expect to make a whole new group of best friends, because many of these people have gone to school together for six or more years, and it just doesn't work that way; not to mention I still have my 'old' group of friends."

Hubb has found it a bit harder to get to know people.

"I'm not a very extroverted person, so I guess it has been difficult to make friends, but not any harder than I expected," Hubb said. "Everyone has been really friendly and has gone out of their way to introduce themselves. I know a few people from Clayton before I came here and they too have been extremely friendly."

The boys, who came during a high-workload time for seniors (Author Project, AP cramming) have found the teachers helpful.

"For the most part, I really didn't have to make up any work," Hubb said. "The teachers have been very nice and understanding. They really haven't been very

judgmental either which is something I think Clayton should be proud of."

What has been interesting in the transition has been finding the differences and surprising similarities between private and public school.

"Obviously I have some bias in that I went to Burroughs for five years and have only been at Clayton for a few weeks," Hubb said. "That aside, I guess the schools are really more similar than you'd think. I think the AP classes at Clayton are pretty similar to regular classes at Burroughs, maybe even a little slower pace. Burroughs is also very competitive academically which you can view as a good or bad thing. I personally liked it because it drove me to excel; however, it was stressful at times. Also, Burroughs is a much smaller school and I recognized everyone, and knew 90 percent of people by name. Maybe I would at Clayton too, had I been going here longer."

Turner is learning to enjoy the little differences.

"One thing I can think of is that classes here are larger and people are absent more frequently," Turner said. "There are definitely plenty of kids here who are just as bright, or brighter, than many of the people at Burroughs—there is just a wider range at public school. Also, Clayton feels far less competitive about grades, test scores, colleges, which I really like."

However, second-semester senioritis is also kicking in for the two.

"The transition is making senioritis worse because as much as I want to entirely let go, I have to work to try to maintain good grades to prove to both my parents, and colleges, that this was just a bad mistake that I have

*It hasn't been hard to make friends; I've been really impressed and appreciative because a lot of people have gone out of their way to introduce themselves and make me feel more comfortable.*

[Nick Turner]  
former Burroughs student

learned from," Turner said.

Hubb wants to soak it all in.

"I can't wait for school to be over," Hubb said. "But on that note, I also don't want to look too far into the future and forget about today. Even though Clayton is not where I would chose to be, no offense, I don't want to just glide through and miss the whole experience."

Hopefully, by the end of the year, the graduation stage will not seem as treacherous with the help of newfound friends and memories of the old that stick by.

"It will not be hard for me to walk across the stage as a Clayton graduation because there are a lot of good people here who I've been friends with and have become friends with since starting here," Turner said. "But it will be hard to attend the Burroughs graduation, however, and watch all my classmates of five and half years walk across in a ceremony that I always thought I would be a part of." ☺



Kelly Moffitt

Former JBS students Andrew Hubb (left) and Nick Turner (right) have found their transition to Clayton relatively simple due to welcoming students and teachers. Though they had to leave their friends at JBS, they have been able to make new friends at CHS.



"Persepolis" is an Oscar-nominated film that explores Marjane Satrapi's childhood in Iran.

## 'Persepolis' gives insight into Iran through writing, film

[Colleen Layton]  
Staff Reporter

"When you call a whole country the axis of evil or fanatic terrorists or whatever, after a while, people—they forget that these people you are actually talking about are human beings"—Marjane Satrapi

The United States of America's strained relationship with Iran is complex; Iranians are often seen as the enemy.

In "Persepolis", the autobiography of Iranian native Marjane Satrapi, the violence in Iran is viewed from the other side. Told by a child's point of view in simple yet captivating black and white comic panels, the graphic novel gives readers a charming and insightful view into a world entirely different from the United States.

Starting during Iran's revolution from the Shah, the first novel shows Marji's growth from an impressionable young girl into a knowledgeable young adult about to leave Iran on her own. Her progression in age is accompanied by the close relationships she has with her family, the negative changes brought along by the revolution as well as an understandable history of Iran that flows well with the rest of the story.

In the second part of her life, the humor becomes cruder and thoughts become darker. Now living in Europe, Marji has to learn to fit in with westerners and overcome their prejudices. Although it isn't as charming as the first novel had been, the morals are still as strong, if not stronger and the true conse-

quences of a rushed revolution are shown. When she returns home, she no longer feels welcome and falls into a deep depression. She can't be who she wants to be without her parents or the law judging her. Although the second novel felt more hurried than the first with less character development, it was still a satisfying end to Marji's youth.

Both novels are complimented by beautifully simple drawings done by Satrapi, which effectively

portrays the harsh environment of Iran.

The dialogue is another well-done aspect of the book that enforces the bond between the reader and Satrapi. The voices are so real; I could easily imagine their tones and moon running through my head.

The movie "Persepolis" was released first in France where it took several prizes at Cannes Film Festival, all of which it deserved. The story line is almost word for word and the animation is perfect, just as if the illustrations in the book could move.

The music in the background was key in setting the moods for the different scenes. One song in particular, a rendition of "Eye of the Tiger," was funny and moving

at the same time, showing Marji's stand against the new reforms in Iran.

Sound was what really separated the film from the book. When bombs dropped, people in the theatre looked frightened and when Marji's grandmother spoke, her tender words, although in French, left few dry eyes. The only problem that the film really had was that where books leave so much up to the imagination, the film lays out all the answers.

**Although [the movie] isn't as charming as the first novel is, the morals are just as strong...the true consequences of a rushed revolution are shown.**

Yet, for the most part, this did not bother me. I left the theatre 110 percent satisfied with what I saw, just as I had expected. The fact that Satrapi was the director could have very well been why the film worked out the way it did. It is a masterpiece, and not only did it deserve its nomination at the Academy

Awards, it should have won.

The books and the movie are both eye-opening works of art. While the French film (in subtitles) is still out in theatres, the books are in most any store and soon an English film will be coming out, starring Iggy Pop!

When you read Satrapi's thoughts, the people, our enemies, become more human. ☺

## 'City Boy' discusses married life, complex relationships

[Sarah Horn]  
Editor

About a year ago I saw David Sedaris read some of his stories out loud and at the end of his show he promoted an author named Jean Thompson, whom he highly recommended. On the way home I said I would like to read her if Sedaris respected her so much, and of course my father went out and bought every single one of her books. They laid on my desk untouched for a year. And then I finally picked one up.

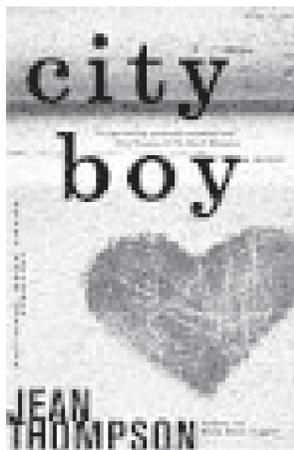
Now I cannot wait to read all of Thompson's novels. I have only read two so far, and both were superb, but the best by far is "City Boy," a novel about newlyweds Jack and Chloe Chase and their attempts to live together in Chicago. They soon discover that even though they may have escaped the suburbs, they crave the normal lifestyle as the marriage starts to crumble.

Right off the bat the couple discovers that their new apartment is surrounded by crazy neighbors, including the reggae lover and pot smoker named Rich Brezak, whose loud music and interesting girlfriends remain a source of trouble throughout the entire novel.

As Thompson starts the novel: "They had a bad neighbor. Bad in all the usual ways, and difficult to ignore. Music, noise on the stairs, carelessness about the disposal of garbage...Jack and Chloe called him Hippie Pothead Rasta Boy, or sometimes just H.P.R.B... Eventually they learned to live with annoyance, grievance, and the sense that an unfairness had been done to them."

Immediately the reader is introduced to the idea that Jack and Chloe are in for a hard time, as they adjust to married life, full of unexpected twists and unfairness. The two other abnormal neighbors are the racist Mr. Dandy and the deaf, older woman Ms. Lacagnina.

While Jack and Chloe are madly in love, they are



complete opposites. Jack is a committed husband, who stays at home in hopes of being a writer, but remains frustrated because he can never complete a story. He works as a substitute teacher to bring in more money. However, in a gender role reversal, Chloe brings home the most income by maintaining a high-ranking job at the bank. Jack loves Chloe more than anything and tries to be the perfect husband but because of his low self esteem and Chloe's flirtatious behavior at work, it seems as if the marriage won't work, and Jack soon becomes obsessed. More than anything the novel explores at exactly why the marriage is failing and why sometimes love simply cannot conquer all.

My favorite part of the book is Jack's relationships with his neighbors. Jack is often considered to be at the mercy of his wife, as he is always the one who must run upstairs to tell Brezak to turn it down. But each time he travels up something strange and interesting occurs, that adds some fresh twists to Jack's otherwise boring stays at the apartment. The story is extremely sad and serious, but Jack's unexpected relationships with all of neighbors provide some comedy and laughter.

I also love Thompson's style: she is easy to read yet complex. The themes and ideas of the book are not hard to access, yet they are complex in themselves. Thompson writes truthfully, and forces the reader to confront the harsh realities of human relationships. I also love that the novel progresses quickly, like a thriller, yet is still a book about love, relationships, and emotional truth. "City Boy" is definitely one of those books that you cannot put down.

"City Boy," although a work of fiction, truly delves into the human psyche and the dynamics of relationships. As a National Book Award Finalist, I would definitely say that "City Boy" is a great, yet serious, book about the complexities of human nature, relationships and married life in the United States. ☺

# cinematic OBSESSION

[Kelly Moffitt]  
Co-Editor in Chief

As most of you know, I have an obsession with films that my doctors have diagnosed as an untreatable affliction: one that can only be cured by watching more and more. It is a trait that has been passed down from my parents; my father, a fellow movie obsessive whose sole goal right now is to collect every Academy Award winner out there for his bursting movie shelves. He has an eye for good entertainment, and though I jibe him about his forays into the second and third of 'the Matrix' trilogy, I always go to him for suggestions. My mother, on the other hand, has an eye for spotting technique and artistry in the film-making biz and has instilled a need in me to see only the finest of meaningful cinema (starting with my foray in the fourth grade to see 'A Time For Drunken Horses' a Czech subtitled film about land mines I did not completely understand). Indeed, I have had friends who have

gotten out of the car after seeing a moving with my father and I who have said: "Wow, I did not know two people could discuss one movie so much." My friends fondly, but a tad warily, poke fun at me for how many movies I have seen and own, but they always come back for recommendations and to "rent" from me. Yes, people, this is the real deal—not one of my other hypochondriacal spasms spurred by watching an all-too-lifelike hospital scene—I am a movie fiend.

If you have met any other movie fiends in your life, you will know the one question never to ask them (you know, the 'which is your FAVORITE OF ALL TIME?' question) and if you don't know any yet, remember not to for future reference. We get all sweaty and nervous at the mention of favorites and truth be told, after a while, we simply shut down. We do not compute. So give up, you're not getting my favorite movie out of me. Thus, you will have to settle for my current (yes, this could change in a week's time) obsessions which are the following:



'Out of Africa': 1985, rated PG ♦ Inspired by Isak Dinesen's life as a writer and her most famous novel, this movie leaves me breathless. It's where I go when I feel sad to realize the world is so much bigger than. And every time I am awestruck by the cinematic genius that is Sydney Pollack. Not to mention the acting powerhouses Robert Redford and Meryl Streep who make the story about a Danish woman's struggle to keep her coffee farm afloat in Kenya, make the screen burst into flame. Full of rich scenery and a mind-blowing score, this film is one for every movie collection. Oh yeah, if you don't believe me, check out its Oscar checklist. 'Best Picture' is right on top.



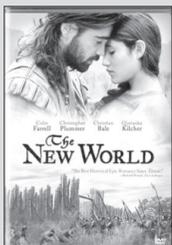
'Fight Club': 1999, rated R ♦ All I can say is I am still reeling from when I first saw this movie. I think my mind got completely warped from the utter suspension of reality and truth that is director David Fincher's masterpiece. With stunning, although disturbing, performances by Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, and Helena Bonham Carter and a provocative, twisty plot, this film won't leave you necessarily pleased, but with a mind ready to be philosophical and confused. Plus, it also helped to explain the confusing subject of AP Stat's confidence intervals to me...just watch it, you'll see.



'Terms of Endearment': 1983, rated R ♦ What could have been another awkward '80s film for saps turned out to be a beautiful look at the ever-changing course of human relationships. The film watches as a tempestuous mother and daughter duke it out through the years, seeing each other through the good and bad in men, jobs, homes, children...life. This one always catches me with a tear in my eye, or maybe a bucketful at my feet. A truly inspiring picture where an all-star cast of Shirley MacLaine, Debra Winger, and Jack Nicholson all carry the film on eagles' wings.



'Brown Sugar': 2002, rated PG-13 ♦ Okay, before you glare at me or give a confused blink let me just say, yes, this one surprised me too. I know it's not in my stereotyped genre and I'm not Miss Really-into-hip-hop, but every time it comes on vH1 as a 'movie that rocks' I am always glued to the screen, commercials and all. I also know that it is not all because of Taye Diggs' incredible attractiveness or Sanaa Lathan's cool demeanor—it's because the story is so creative and, yes, has an ending that we all want. Using the allegory of hip-hop for love, a movie that could have taken the easy road to an inevitable end makes it interesting along the way. Hey, we're all allowed to just want to be entertained once and while, aren't we?



'The New World': 2006, rated PG-13 ♦ This is one of those 'artsy' films that before you know it, despite all your rules about actually enjoying something too poetic, bathes you in its sunlight. Especially interesting is that over three-quarters of the film no words are spoken; the audience is left to simply bathe in the world of the surprisingly not clichéd and actually realistic world of Pochantas and John Smith. With an out-of-nowhere perfect performance by Colin Ferrell as John Smith and an enthralling innocent, beautiful portrayal of Pochantas by new-comer Orianka Kilcher, I was left wowed by this film. You actually feel the world around you as the characters in the film do, an achievement made by the incredibly poignant director Terrence Malink. A fine work for a gloomy day needing a bit of sunshine. ☺

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## Seasoned TV show is classic

[Abby Eisenberg]  
Editor

What do Dave Chapelle, Mitch Hedberg, Ray Romano, and Ben Stiller all have in common? They all made an appearance on the '90s animated sitcom, *Dr. Katz Professional Therapist*, a show recently released on DVD for the very first time since its original run in the 1990s.

When I was in elementary school and would be sent home sick, I would always lay with my dad on the couch, and watch *Dr. Katz*. I never understood it, but was delighted by the big laughter that it caused in my dad and the shaky animation style. As one can imagine, I was elated at the sight of the box set of *Dr. Katz* for sale at vintage vinyl one weekend. I bought it and brought it home to watch it, and was shocked at what my dad had allowed me to watch as an innocent, 8-year-old girl, sick with the flu.

Noted for its easily recognizable crude animation style called "Squigglevision", the show is very bare, but very witty. It is based around the life of Dr. Jonathon Katz, who has voice of, and is designed to look like the real-life comedian of the same name. The show usually starts off with an interaction between Katz, and his son Benjamin, thirty and unemployed, who lives at home. Usually some sort of conflict overcomes the two, such as Ben deciding that he wants to go into "animal husbandry" or something of the sort, and the comedic and quippy exchange between them opens the plot for the rest of the episode. The conversations between Ben and Katz are mostly improvised, with only a general outline decided on before hand, and are always hilarious. Katz then heads to work as a professional therapist, who sees famous actors and comedians as his patients. The likes of Sarah Silverman and Conan O'Brien lie on his couch, and perform their stage comedic material as *Dr. Katz* offers funny insights occasionally, or just lets them talk to him. The cast of characters also includes Katz's hilarious secretary, Laura (Laura Silverman), and his friends Stanley (Will Le Bow) and Julie (show producer Julianne Shapiro), the bartender at the bar near his office.

*Dr. Katz* is a little-known treasure. It is perfect for every mood. The rough animation style provides a perfect pack drop for this simple, not overdone comedy that pokes fun at everyone. Katz perfectly delivers his innocent and silly remarks, as the comedians loudly rant about their lives, as his nonchalant and apathetic secretary takes his calls in the next room. Ben always brings an awesome sense of hilarity in his naïveté and gets into funny trouble sending Katz into a new frenzy every episode.

Its goofy and off-beat humor is hard to beat. The comedians are picked carefully, and they display their best material on this impressive show, essentially a collection of the best that stand up comedy has to offer. Katz and his patients present a smart and unique comedy consisting of quick, dry humor is something everyone, be it a forty-five year old father, or an eight year old young girl can enjoy. ☺

## Jack Johnson album provides insightful songs

[Nina Oberman]  
Staff Reporter

"I want to take the preconceived out from underneath your feet," Jack Johnson sings in the opening song of his fifth studio album, "Sleep Through the Static", released on Feb. 5 in the United States. In this darker, more political arrangement, Johnson diverges from the easy-going, diaphanous tunes of "In Between Dreams" (2005), towards heavier concepts. The title, Johnson's take on the war in Iraq, conveys what he sees as a willingness to ignore global issues.

"We can push a little button and turn the war on and off," Johnson said in an interview with Ben Jones. His traditional laid-back sound, despite the addition of electric guitar, remains on the surface of his music, but beneath it are lyrics rooted in skepticism. The opening song, "All at Once," expresses the struggle to be open with emotions in today's society, foreshadowing the songs to come.

"Sometimes it feels like a heart is no place to be singing from at all," Johnson repeats throughout the song to a simple, slow melody. In contrast to the catchy, feel-good opening number of his previous album, "Better Together," Johnson has made a complete turn-around. His new message, however, is no disappointment. Listeners realize that life has both "Better Together" moments and "All at Once" moments.

Inspired by two stickers, Johnson's next song, "Sleep Through the Static," conveys his frustration with American passivity. While on the road touring, he saw a car with both a "Support our Troops" bumper sticker and one that read "Jesus Loves You".

"I just kind of wonder what Jesus would think if he saw his name next to "Support our Troops," Johnson said to Jones.

So, Jack offers his own message, one that Jesus would agree with. "That's no way to treat an enemy," he says in the song. Using questions as a chorus, he shows the easiness of countering violence with violence: "Who needs keys when we've got clubs? Who needs please when we've got guns? Who needs peace when we've gone above, but beyond where we should have gone?"

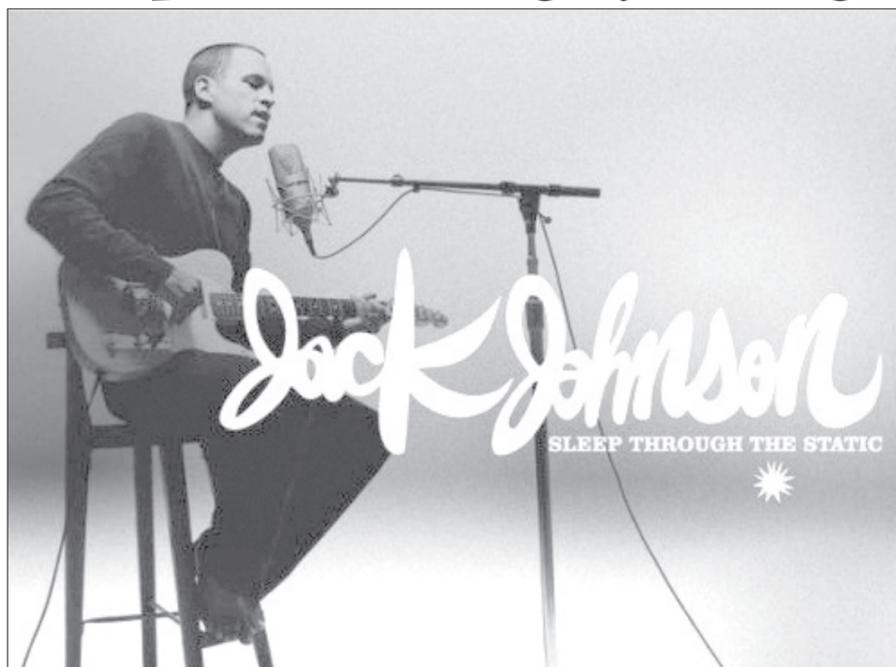
Johnson sees that in a democracy, "freedom can be freezing"—it's easy to ignore the atrocities abroad from the comfort of our homes. He pokes fun at blind patriotism, showing how it can dramatically alter one's outlook: "Mind your manners, wave your banners, what a wonderful world from this angle we see." Johnson reminds us how easy it is to ignore the suffering around us, and change the world to suit our likings.

This message echoes in his next song, "Hope," as he warns of the dangers of unwavering optimism. "It will teach you to love what you're afraid of, after it takes away

All that you've learned to love." Hope, he shows, can transform from a positive outlook into an excuse for anything. So, Johnson tells listeners, "You don't always have to hold your head higher than your heart." His idea is important: it's okay to cry—it doesn't make you irrational.

The album's short, aching love song, "Angel," switches from a worldly perspective to that of Johnson's own life. There is a simple sweetness in it that few artists today are able to achieve.

Johnson segues from his own love to an empathy that he wishes the whole world would feel. In "Enemy,"



Jack Johnson recorded "Sleep Through the Static" in a completely solar powered studio.

he tells several uncanny anecdotes to illustrate what can happen if we put our "hatred in a box." The melody is highly repetitive, and the group's sound differs little from the previous songs. But Johnson himself has admitted that the main focus of his music is the lyrics. The guitar, bass, drums, and keyboard seem to be more of an accompaniment to Johnson's thoughts. His voice is not a flashy musical instrument, but simply a touching way to deliver his message.

The album's most upbeat song, released in December as a single, is "If I Had Eyes", in which Johnson sings about the complexity of relationships: "Sometimes time doesn't heal, no not at all, it just stands still while we fall, in or out of love again." His perspective is refreshing, but the song closes with a slightly irritating series of inexplicably cheery woos. Although catchy, it is conceptually not a high point on the album.

Johnson follows with another love song, this time more casual in "Same Girl", and ode to his wife and her outlook on life. He sings with only simple guitar strumming, and it seems a song more worthy of being left on an answering machine than released internationally.

"What You Thought You Need" poses the essential questions of life, and Johnson answers them in his own way. "It's all for the sake of arriving with you," he sings, showing that whatever doubt we experience and whatever trials we face are well worth it alongside those we love.

"Adrift" is, in my opinion, Johnson's response to his own song, "Inaudible Melodies" (2001). In his debut album, he begged the world to "slow down...you're moving too fast." Now, however, realizing that he will be unable to alter humanity's relentless speed, he sings, "this moment keeps on moving, we were never meant to hold on." Johnson sees that he can't expect things to stop for him, nor can he hold on to every memory.

"Go On," Johnson's meditation on his growing children, expresses the bitter sweetness of letting go. "There's still so many things I want to say to you—but go on, just go on," he tells his sons.

"They Do, They Don't" is the singer/songwriter's take on the Book of Genesis. He satirizes the Bible's simple explanation of evil, singing "Your point of view was chosen by the serpent's ruse." This allusion shows how Christians seem to reduce evil to a mere symbol, rather than a human trait. He cautions against the dangers of such views, saying "Archaism is a dusty road, leading us back to nowhere." Although the line is wise, it is somewhat clunky in the song.

"Sleep Through the Static's" most accessible song is "Monsoon". Although Johnson's thoughts appear to be those of a deep stoner, his ideas have traces of traditional Buddhism. "All of life is in one drop of the ocean, waiting to go home," he sings. He plays on words cleverly, saying "Monsoon-er or later" to connect two phrases. Once again, the band's sound diverges very little, but the positive reggae beat gives this song a more cheerful vibe.

Johnson's closing song, "Losing Keys," is like a desperate sigh. He sings as though out of breath, pausing between phrases: "Been going—upwind now—for too long—forget how—to let go." He doesn't conclude the song, but rather closes with the phrase "And then," symbolizing a continuation of our lives, our relationships, and our problems.

"Sleep Through the Static" isn't a huge step away from Jack Johnson's habitual style, but the lyrics indicate a much deeper understanding of the world, even if that entails cynicism. Recorded on his own label in a fully solar-powered studio, Johnson's album takes a different path not only in its theme, but also in the music industry. His songs are conscious in every possible way. ☺

## Critically acclaimed films do not satisfy all who watch

[Dakin Sloss]

Senior Managing Editor

Although critics hailed "There Will Be Blood" and "No Country For Old Men" as excellent films, I found both to be disappointing movies. Neither seemed believable, and both were full of unnecessary gore and violence.

"There Will Be Blood" follows the story of Daniel Plainview, played by Daniel Day-Lewis, who turned himself into a rich oil tycoon. A young man notifies him of a potential site for an oil well and he travels to the small California town to investigate the prospect. The location turns out to be the jackpot and Plainview purchases huge tracts of land to begin the project. The movie follows his development of the oil well and his relationship with his young son HW who suffers a tragic accident. Meanwhile, Plainview comes into conflict with the local preacher Eli Sunday.

Daniel Day-Lewis acts well, but the random plot events made the character impossible to accept. Plainview is not only successful, but also angry. As he earns a fortune, he occasionally goes crazy and kills people, completely overreacting to minor offenses. At no time could I believe that his insane actions would actually occur.

The plot twists and murders seemed contrived at best. Furthermore, Day-Lewis and Dillon Freasier who portrays the son HW, lack chemistry, and the father-son relationship never seemed real.

The director Paul Thomas Anderson had a difficult task to make the long and slow story come to life. The movie begins with minutes without dialogue, and despite many intriguing scenes, the film as a whole is no better than dull and overly lengthy. In many of the parts without dialogue or anything occurring, fast paced music suddenly arrives for no apparent reason. Then, when the plot picks up, the music fades away. The ebb and flow of the movie did not mix with the music and "There Will Be Blood" was overall boring, not believable and too long.

"No Country For Old Men" featured another Western setting for a film of random, bloody and sudden death. The main character, Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin) finds a truck in the middle of the desert. Around the truck lie dead bodies and in the back seat he finds drugs and money from a cross border smuggling attempt. He takes the money for himself, but soon a psychopathic serial killer named Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) pursues him. Despite the town's sheriff's (Tommy Lee Jones) attempts to track the murderer, Chigurh continues on a rampage.

The acting in "No Country For Old Men" was far superior to that of "There Will Be Blood." Tommy Lee Jones narrates the movie and creates a believable ag-



Motion picture directors Ethan and Joel Coen accept an Academy Award for best picture for "No Country for Old Men" at the 80th annual Oscars.

ing cop who seems hopeless against the cunning of hit man Chigurh. However, Jones ends the film recounting a supposedly symbolic dream. The film's attempt to be bright and meaningful adds nothing to the story and only left me confused and angry about the abrupt and random conclusion.

Brolin's performance also crafts a realistic character, a mixture of greed for cash and fear of the pursuing assassin. The best performance of the film lies in Bardem's creation of a blood-chilling murderer. He flips coins to determine his victim's fates and speaks only a few meager words throughout the film. Bardem did an excellent job frightening me, but his actions make no sense as he randomly pursues people and kills them for no reason.

The plot obviously lacks holes and fails to explain character's motivations in many cases. Directors, the Coen brothers, did not follow the novel the movie was based on by Cormac McCarthy, and though the exciting chase scenes remain, no substantial meaning or significance comes through. The story seems artificial like in "There Will Be Blood" and every new random murder delivers more blood and guts just to shock viewers.

Like "There Will Be Blood," large amounts of time pass without dialogue or any noise whatsoever. This is more effective in "No Country For Old Men" and creates suspense, but the movie still falls short of what it has been hyped up to be.

Overall, "No Country For Old Men" includes the

excitement that "There Will Be Blood" lacks, but neither delivers a discernible message. After leaving both movies I had no clue what the directors or writers were trying to communicate, other than the fact that people go crazy and kill people. It is odd that both movies could include great actors and performances, but failed to captivate me.

I did enjoy watching the films to find out what happened next, but in the end they were not worth the time and they certainly do not deserve the huge reputation they have received as classics, because neither offers a theme.

I recommend staying home to eat real cheddar popcorn instead of overpaying to see two mediocre movies. ☺

# CLAYTON CD CLASSIC 'Welcome Interstate Managers'



[Kelly Moffitt]  
Co-Editor in Chief

'Twas the summer before eighth grade: a fateful summer, full of mysterious happenings and introspective soul searching. Amidst the searching and happening appeared a song that will forever be lodged into the hearts of any iGen member: "Stacy's Mom," the power-pop snatchy-catchy song of youthful yearning by the band Fountains of Wayne.

Both hated and loved, "Stacy's Mom" is one of those songs that sticks with you—and always gets your friends singing in the car or at an especially dull party.

But I'm not writing this because of the song "Stacy's Mom," as I have actually never found any real musical merit to the song. I am writing because the album it is a part of, "Welcome Interstate Managers," is so versatile in its ability to catch me spot-on in any mood I'm in: depressed, dancey, down-on-love, up on the world, ready to sing my lungs out on the highway...

Basically: this album is memorable. Unlike so many others on my CD rack, which I listen to four or five times and shove back into armoire, I have not taken this 16-song CD out of my car for the past three months. There's a bit of nonsense and a bit philosophical-ity in every rhyme and witty line. If I had to pinpoint it, I'd say my fascination stems from the fact that every one of their songs has a story behind it...and the stories are all quite strange.

Unfortunately, for most of the general populous, this album never had a chance to become memorable because no one looked beyond the incredibly radio-repeated-publicized "Stacy's Mom."

I get a lot of weird looks for endorsing this album, but anyone who has actually listened to the whole thing, would have to agree—it's so much more than poppy "Stacy's Mom" would have us think.

The style of the songs album ranges from the '60s to the millennium in variations on power-pop, to soulful ballads, to acoustic, to juvenile punk, to backwoods country, to Cars-inspired tracks, and I even sense a hint of Simon and Garfunkle in there somewhere.

This is Fountains of Wayne's third album and their best. Though they took a long break from doing anything consequential between their second and third album, singer-songwriters Adam Schlesinger and Chris Collingwood came back for a triumph—if perhaps not in album sales.

Some songs are, admittedly, under-par like "Hackensack," "Yours and Mine," and "We've Got All Kinds of Time" because of their naïve lyrics. The band consists of four members: Adam Schlesinger, Chris Collingwood, Brian Young and Jody Porter. Though their instrumentations and vocals are very good—can beat the greatness of the lyrics.

My personal anthem for the winter has been "Valley Winter Song," especially applicable now in the awkward winter-spring shift of seasons. The song is nothing short of perfect, especially if you love acoustic guitar and gently building harmonies. The lyrics are those of a modern lullaby, beautifully reminiscent and calming: "And late December/Can drag a man down/You feel it deep in your gut/Short days and afternoons spent pottering around/In a dark house with the windows painted shut/And the snow is coming down/On our New England town/And it's been falling all day long/What else is new/What could I do/I wrote a valley winter song/To play for you."

Another song much like "Valley Winter Song," albeit in a completely different style, that I adore is "Hey Julie."

It's catchy and on-beat, making you wish you had someone to get home from work to. There is even a bit of a rumba-beat in there. It aptly describes the banality of day-to-day existence, polishing up the brightness found when in love with lyrics like: "Working all day for a mean little man/With a clip-on tie and a rub-on tan/He's got me running 'round the office like a dog around a track/But when I get home,/You're always there to rub my back/Hey Julie,/Look what they're doing to me/Trying to trip me up/Trying to wear me down/Julie, I swear, it's so hard to bear it/And I'd never make it through without you around."

Other songs I enjoy include the punky, highway-ready "Bright Future in Sales" and the slower high school ballad "Fire Island."

Sometimes I feel stupid for buying an album when I could have just as easily bought one song off of iTunes for the same effect. With Fountains of Wayne, it's completely the opposite. I feel like a fool for only buying "Stacy's Mom" when they had so much more to offer; it just happened to take me another three years to discover that. This is an album that is completely worth the \$10.97 amazon.com price. Not to mention how cool it is to start up one of those "remember when" conversations when people give you the weird look for liking Fountains of Wayne...yes, those guys who wrote "Stacy's Mom." ☺

# Teen drama over the top yet comically addictive

[Katharine Weiss]  
Senior Managing Editor

There is something wrong with a TV show that has me feeling sorry for a 22 year-old who owns her own clothing line and dates boys that look as though they came straight out of a J-Crew catalogue. And yet, neither my dignity nor my brain has stopped me from tuning into the CW every Tuesday night at 8 p.m. for the fifth season of "One Tree Hill."

Starting its run in 2004, "One Tree Hill" was always known as the "inferior" version of Fox's "The O.C." but while "The O.C." was canceled in February of 2007, "One Tree Hill" is still going strong. Which begs the question, what is it with this show?

The show oozes with overly dramatic plot lines, hackneyed dialogue and bad hair (would it kill Chad Michael Murray to get a hair cut?) While most teen dramas attempt to give teenagers a show they can relate to, One Tree Hill long ago resigned their attempt at creating anything resembling reality. Proof to point: In what world does a guy get married at 16, have a kid at 17, get signed by the NBA at 19 and become paralyzed by 20? Certainly none of the kids I sit next to in English class.

This season, creator and producer Mark Schwan has truly outdone himself. The gang you have come to love (or strongly hate) is back, but instead of joining them at a fictional college that they all just "happen" to attend (believe it or not, this idea seemed too contrived for Schwan), the show now takes place four years after graduation.

The idea is that the characters have now lived life and therefore have more to complain about than the same old high school drama that Schwan has beaten into the ground for the last four years. Lucas Scott (played by Chad Michael Murray) has published his first novel, and is now working on his second novel. But life is not all good times for Lucas. He is also facing the disastrous decision of choosing between two incredibly hot girls who both love him. Gasp. If only all of our lives were that treacherous.

Lucas's half brother Nathan (James Lafferty) on the other hand faces more serious issues after he is temporarily paralyzed from getting into a bar fight. Nathan's dreams of playing basketball are put on hold as a result. Nathan's pain however, is lessened by his massive house and swimming pool (complete with a picture of a basketball on the bottom).

Then there is Brooke Davis (Sophia Bush), former high school cheerleader and class president. In less than four years, Brooke has become the designer and



Chad Michael Murray (right), who plays Lucas Scott on the CW's hit drama 'One Tree Hill,' chats it up with his fictional family member, Jackson Brundage (left) who plays his nephew, Jamie Scott, during season five. The show is a bit outlandish but still highly entertaining, and has kept audiences coming.

CEO of the successful clothing line "Clothes over Bros." (Aren't cheerleaders supposed to be miserable after high school?)

And now we come to Peyton. Unlike the other characters, Peyton's life hasn't changed much since high school; her life is still a long sequence of one horrific event after another. After quitting her job as the "mail girl" at a prominent record company in LA, Peyton moves back to Tree Hill to try and win back her true love Lucas.

While the acting on the show isn't too horrible, it is still a sad day when all of the reoccurring actors are being out done by newcomer Jackson Brundage. Brundage is charming, cute and talented. And did I mention he is only four? Other additions to the cast include Michaela McManus as Lucas' editor girlfriend, as well as singer Kate Voegele (Hey Schwan, nice attempt at plugging her CD but I don't think the audience has picked up on the 45 references per episode of how great a singer she is, perhaps if you played her songs over and over. Oh wait.....)

The Feb. 26 episode was a low point for the show,

in which all the girls in the cast were "accidentally" locked in the library of the high school. The characters reacted by calling each other "fake blonde bitches," throwing large furniture and singing along to the same song while looking sad upon reflection of their own lives.

The music is annoying, the voice overs are trivial and the comical one liners fall flat. And yet, despite it all I still find myself falling asleep every Tuesday night, debating what the future holds for the gang in Tree Hill. Most signs point to my own shallowness and lack of excitement and quality entertainment in my own life.

While most of my One Tree Hill viewings involve a lot of muting, some eye rolling as well as laughing at the wrong moments, every now and then when I allow myself to stop being so "cool" I am drawn into the world of Tree Hill. Who wouldn't want to live vicariously through Peyton? She is drop dead gorgeous and she gets to date Chad Michael Murray.

One Tree Hill is the epitome of a dumb teen drama, but as far as mindless entertainment with pretty people and a cute little kid goes, the show isn't half bad. Besides there is nothing wrong with a show for that .00000001 percent of high school students out there with a wife, kid and a contract with the NBA, having a guide for how to live their life. ☺

While most teen dramas attempt to give teenagers a show they can relate to, 'One Tree Hill' long ago resigned their attempt at creating anything resembling reality.

# Random lunar event causes anxiety

[Helen Wiley]  
Staff Reporter

What would happen to the earth if a giant meteor hit the moon? You may never have contemplated this before, but the book 'Life As We Knew It', by Susan Beth Pfeffer, explores a possible answer to this question in the greatest of detail.

Miranda is a typical teenager with a normal life and family. She is 17 and lives in Pennsylvania. She fights with her mom, can't return to ice skating after a serious injury and is not entirely happy for her father's newly pregnant wife. Her life would be like that of any other teenager in a teen fiction novel except for a sudden event that turns her world upside down.

Miranda thinks that it is no big deal when she first hears that a meteor is going to collide with the moon. The only issue she sees is that her teachers might give her extra homework assignments. This opinion starts to change after the moon is knocked much closer to the earth in orbit.

The moon controls many natural processes on the earth. Huge tidal waves and tsunamis wipe out coastal cities, killing millions. Cape Cod is totally submerged in water. Earthquakes last for weeks in Missouri. Volcanoes that have been dormant for thousands of

years start to erupt. The ash creates a blanket around the earth, keeping the sun out, leaving only darkness.

As if this wasn't enough, electricity stops. Miranda's school closes for the rest of the school year to hopefully resume in fall. Gas prices eventually rise to \$35 for three gallons. There are no more electric appliances used (including the T.V.), except for the occasional times when the electricity comes back on and Miranda's family works furiously to get the house cleaned with the vacuum and clothes into the washer.

Immediately after the moon is knocked closer in orbit, Miranda's mom makes the family go to the store and buy as much long lasting food as possible. They purchase more cans of food than anyone would ever want. However, this decision saves the family.

Miranda tries to keep her life normal. She tries to start a relationship with an old swimming teammate and still fights with her mom, goes to a pond to ice skate for as long as she can breathe and hangs on to old friends even as she watches them die. Everything has changed around Miranda. Her family tries to survive on only one meal each day, minimal water, and no heat in a subzero winter.

Even with all of the troubles Miranda's family faces, they are

still much better off than others around them. Together they struggle to stay alive from one day to the next and somehow maintain great relationships with one another.

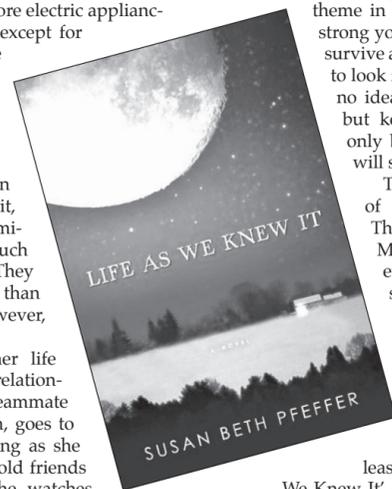
Coming of age is an extremely dominant theme in this book. Miranda becomes a strong young adult. She helps her family survive a deadly case of flu and skis miles to look for a doctor's help. Miranda has no idea how long her family will live but keeps up hope and knows that only by working together her family will stand a chance.

This book is told through a series of diary entries Miranda writes. The reader is allowed to enter into Miranda's mind and experience events alongside her, giving a real sense of her new world.

Susan Beth Pfeffer has written over sixty books including many for teens. She wrote the bestselling novel 'The Year without Michael' and the award-winning 'Kid Power.' Susan Beth Pfeffer will release a companion novel to 'Life As We Knew It' called 'The Dead and the Gone' this summer.

'Life As We Knew It' is an extremely interesting prediction of the earth after the moon's position in orbit changes and a wonderful reflection on trials teenagers face growing up.

This startling novel keeps readers entranced and might even bring them to tears. ☺



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# A Musical Marathon

The 24 hour musical proved to be a physical and mental challenge. Students attempted to write and perform short pieces with little sleep and even less time. Despite the obstacles, the musical this year was ultimately rewarding for its participants.

[Simone Bernstein]  
Staff Reporter

Sets, songs, and six short scripts are developed in the annual student-produced 24 hour musical. On Saturday morning March 1, 2008 CHS was bustling with numerous students working on their short plays. Some students were taking a short nap in their sleeping bags, while others were running around the Commons and practicing.

This year the show was run by juniors Rebecca Singer and Mariah Smith. Students participating in the show arrived at six in the evening on Feb. 29. The students stayed at CHS for 24 hours developing the short musicals. The musicals were performed on March 1.

"Trying to put a musical together in only 24 hours is really exciting and motivating," junior Carolina Tejada said. "I also met new people and gained new friendships in the 24 hours."

There are many options for student roles in the 24 hour musical. Students are able to act, write, compose music, direct, or choose a technical role. This range in student roles allows students like Wirthlin to try a different role in developing a show. Wirthlin usually takes the role of an actress, but this year decided to try directing. This year there will be six directors, since there is one director for each mini musical.

The 24 hour musical is an exciting event for most students interested in theater.

"I participate in the 24 hour musical because it's re-

ally fun," junior Susie Wirthlin said. "It might sound really exhausting, but it's exciting to create these little musicals in one day, memorize them, and put on a performance."

The 24 hour musical provides support for local organizations and provides a weekend event for numerous high school students.

"The 24 hour musical raises money for the theatre department, and usually a charitable organization," Wirthlin said. "This year, the theme of all the musicals is black history. The goal is to bring more attention to black history month in an artful way."

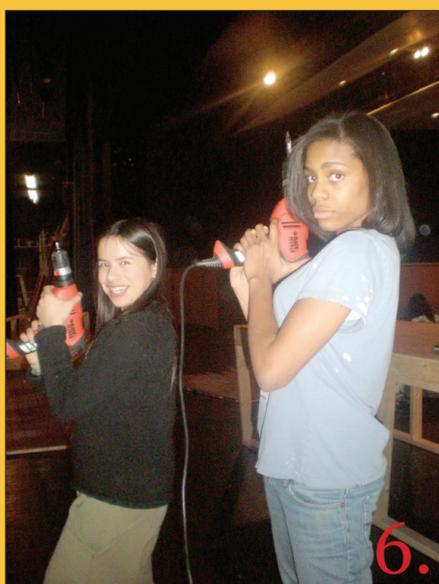
Although writing musicals in 24 hours is a lot of work, every year the shows are a success.

"Each play is one act long and takes about ten minutes to perform," sophomore Ellen Spann said. "The easiest way to write the plays is to make them a comedy of some sort."

Putting on a musical in 24 hours brings about many challenges and lots of had work usually given time to fix in weeks of rehearsal.

"Figuring out ideas for the show is the most difficult part of being a writer," senior Alex Phillips said. "After ideas for the plot are developed, writing the script becomes a lot easier."

"I enjoy the 24 hour musical because its amazing to see what the participants come up with in such a short period of time," Wirthlin said. "These shows usually turn out very impressive, with creative story-lines and entertaining music. We all have so much fun rushing to put things together. Every student interested in the arts should be part this experience."



## The Stages of Making a Musical

1. Destroyer X played by junior Tim Smith walks across the stage in robotic fashion. "It was hard to play a robot," Smith said. "It was hard to move stiffly like a robot and learn how to speak like R2D2."
2. Students participate in an acting workshop.
3. Junior Nathan Crall attempts to catch some shut eye before the early morning begins.
4. Senior Bradford Rolan and junior Kate Wheelock work in a workshop together. "The workshops were very informative and they taught us different ways of expression in the arts and allowed us to build community," Rolan said.
5. Freshman Jojo Witherspoon plays her part as Jojobot.
6. Junior Nichole Burton and freshman Hai-Ly Dubreuil enjoy drilling. "The 24 hour musical was fun because I learned how to do tech work," Debreuil said. "I liked the drill a lot."
7. Freshman Sarah McAfee and Jojobot team up against Destroyer X.
8. Senior Andrew Dallas puzzles over the set as others look on.