



# clayton high school theglobe

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1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton MO 63105

## [snapshots]

### No School Memorial Day Weekend

There will be no school on May 26 for all CHS students. Enjoy your long, three-day weekend.

### End of the Year Exams

Underclassmen final exams: May 23 to May 28  
Senior final exams: May 20 to May 22  
Science and History are on the first day. World Languages and Math are on the second day. English and Physical Education are on the last day of testing.

### CHS Graduation

Graduation is going to be held on May 29, at 7 p.m. Congratulations to all seniors on a fantastic four years of high school.

### DECA Success

On April 25 CHS students went to the DECA International Career Development Conference. The Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia. Vikram Chakravarthy, Dylan Cockson, Mack Su, Lisa Tang, and Yiliu Zang represented CHS. Congratulations.

### Missouri Scholars Academy

Sophomores Meredith Redick, Alozie Onwumere and Nina Oberman have been accepted to participate this summer at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

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# Barbeau selected as assistant superintendent

[Helen Wiley]  
Staff Reporter

A new face will soon be seen in the administration of the School District of Clayton. Starting July 1, Dr. Dottie Barbeau will begin her role as assistant superintendent, replacing Dr. Mary Jo Liberstein.

At Clayton, Barbeau will be the assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. She will help form the curriculum, make assessments of current programs, and work on professional development.

Barbeau grew up in St. Louis and had a double major at Washington University in St. Louis for her Bachelors degree in education and psychology. She also completed her Masters degree in the instructional progress here. Afterwards, Barbeau did her Doctorate at St. Louis University on educational leadership.

She is currently the curriculum director for the Waterloo School District in Illinois and has served for three years. She worked as a gifted education teacher in the Rockwood School District for eight years prior to Waterloo. She has also worked at Webster University in two ways: as the director of gifted education and teaching a graduate course called curriculum design.

Superintendent Don Senti believes that Barbeau's experience will serve her well at Clayton.

"She has experience in a district about the same size of Clayton," Senti said. "The jobs are very similar and she will do fine."

Barbeau's three sons are a major part of her life. Her eldest, Chris, graduated from medical school and will start his residency in July in surgery. Daniel graduates this May for Butler University and will start his studies in law at St. Louis University. David, Barbeau's youngest, is completing his freshman year at Knox College in Illinois. Barbeau feels that her children have impacted her path in the education field.

"As a parent of children who have progressed through the school system, I know that teachers have high expectations for students and the vice versa," Barbeau said. "It is important to develop good working relationships between parents, teachers and students."

Barbeau got into this field of work because from the time she was very little, Barbeau was interested in learning new things about topics and people. She enjoys looking at both teaching and learning and how to improve both at the same time.

"It was very natural for me to pick the education field," Barbeau said. "I enjoy learning from children."

In the past, Barbeau found that there are many challenges faced when teaching students with different

levels of learning. Some students are gifted, others are English language learners, and a few are special need students.

"It is hard to find the best way to accommodate all of these students' needs and provide them all with challenge and activities suiting their interests," Barbeau said.

Another challenge Barbeau deals with is the variety of teacher types. Teachers have a variety of different strengths and ideas about teaching.

"Some are resistant to change and advances in teaching, while others are excited to adapt immediately," Barbeau said.

Barbeau finds it very exciting when teachers move to using the best practices. She has also learned to accept and work with those who do not want change. Barbeau likes overseeing the curriculum from kindergarten to grade 12.

"Controlling everything helps me see learning or subject matter gaps from one grade level to the next."

Barbeau feels that student achievement can be increased when these gaps are filled, but first they must be caught. She also believes in a high sense of community between schools and surrounding neighborhoods.

"Community involvement is important in school events," Barbeau said. "When everyone works collaboratively, they all win."

Barbeau has always admired the School District of Clayton. She took the assistant superintendent position at Clayton feeling the need to work in a dynamic and progressive environment.

"Clayton has extraordinary teachers and administrators," Barbeau said. "Working here will be like a dream come true."

Barbeau is replacing the retiring Dr. Mary Jo Liberstein.

"Liberstein helped bring this district where it is today and had a strong history of working with the teachers, staff, and administrators," said Barbeau. "I would like to follow her example and continue to work with these groups helping students achieve more."

Senti is sad to have Liberstein leave, but is looking forward to having Barbeau as an addition to the Clayton administration.

"Dottie is full of energy and very smart," Senti said. "She has already been quick getting started and up to speed at Clayton by attending every school board function."

Barbeau's goal is to provide the best teaching and learning community possible. She would like to have talented administrative workers come together with a common goal to further help the district succeed.

"This district is already very high achieving," Barbeau said. "The diverse talents in the administration will help Clayton become even better." ☺



Dr. Dottie Barbeau

Courtesy of Chris Tennill

# Plans for renovation of district facilities progress

[Jeremy Bleeke]  
Editor

Clayton's "Blueprint 4 Tomorrow," the project to renovate and re-ramp every building in the District, has taken a critical step forward in the path to becoming a reality.

On April 29, two employees of the architectural firm Christener presented preliminary plans for the high school at an open meeting of teachers, administrators, board members, and residents. Christener, whose offices are located in downtown Clayton, has undertaken several prominent projects in the St. Louis area, including the Butterfly House and the Center of Clayton. It has worked on various projects with the Clayton School District over the past 15 years.

Charles Brown, a Clayton grad, and one of the architects working on the "Blueprint 4 Tomorrow", led the presentation.

"These plans are all adjustable," Brown said in an interview afterward. "These are really just early sketches to give the architect, as well as the lay person, an idea of how much space will need to be added to the building and how it will impact the site."

Brown presented three options for the renovation. In options A and B, the Cottage and Industrial Tech buildings are removed, and a two story addition is built out over that area. The addition would add 52,000 square feet of space.

The floor plans of A and B are very similar. The main difference is in the location of the science wing. In option A, science is on the bottom floor with math, and English and social studies are on the third floor. That leaves world languages, counseling, the library (which doesn't change location in any of the plans), group meeting spaces, and CTE on the middle floor.

In option B, English and social

studies remain on the top floor, but science is moved up one level. CTE replaces it on the bottom floor.

The two plans have their respective pros and cons. In both A and B, the English and social studies departments are adjacent. In option A, math and science are adjacent as well, but in option B that adjacency is lost when science is placed on the second floor.

In option B CTE moves to the lower level, which is practical because practical arts classes often require bulk materials to be moved in and out of class (in option A, this problem is addressed with the installation of a large elevator). Linda Williams, who teaches Culinary Arts and Wardrobe, was pleased with how the plans dealt with the needs of those classes.

"We hope to have the CTE department all in one area," Williams said. "Our big concern was not

Blueprint, 5



Shaina Kornblum

Friend, mentor and coach Joe Gamlin organized the annual Sixth Grade Camp, among many other activities.

# Beloved coach, teacher passes away at age 61

[Nava Kantor]  
Co-Editor in Chief

On April 19, Clayton High School lost a well-loved and respected teacher and coach, Joe Gamlin, to a heart attack. The ongoing outpouring of grief, memories and support by the CHS community attests to the incredible impact Gamlin had on his students, team members and co-workers.

"He believed he made a difference in kids' lives and that that was the most important thing he could do," Principal Louise Losos said. "He was totally down-to-earth. He cared deeply about the people around him, and his students were his focus."

Born May 4, 1946, Gamlin was a man of many talents. Receiving a Bachelor of Sciences from Indiana State University in 1969, he went on to Webster University to earn a Master of Arts in teaching in 1976.

Gamlin taught for nearly 30 years and had been at CHS since 1989. He was a former department chair of the CHS Physical Education and Health Department and has been the varsity golf coach since coming to CHS. Gamlin also coached varsity basketball from 1989 to 2000, and three of his teams won district championships.

As a full-time teacher this year, Gamlin was teaching numerous classes, including Basic Rock Climbing, Advanced Rock Climbing, Sports Science, Independent Study Fitness, Golf and Racquet Sports and Team Sports.

Losos is grateful to Gamlin for his sunny attitude and contributions to the CHS athletic program.

"He was instrumental in starting our climbing program and he

played a key role in the sixth grade camp program," Losos said. "He brought a great can-do attitude to our school. He was willing to go that extra mile for the kids."

CHS Athletic Director Bob Bone also appreciated Gamlin's impact.

"Coach Gamlin loved being around and loved helping the students at CHS," Bone said. "He was a hard worker who was well-respected by his students, other teachers and area coaches. His experience and knowledge were great resources for other CHS coaches as well as for the athletic department in general."

Gamlin was the co-director of Sixth Grade Camp from 1995 through this year. The program is an annual team-building experience for all sixth graders during

the fall and is a highlight for both the campers and the CHS students who act as their counselors. Gamlin was an integral part of the program's success.

"Coach Gamlin was a lot of fun, especially at Sixth Grade Camp," Wartman said. "All the sixth grade campers loved him because he was so easy to get along with. And he made a really good root beer float, I'll tell you that."

In addition to his successes in teaching and coaching, Gamlin qualified for the National Senior Olympics in badminton and table tennis. He competed, finishing 7th in the country in badminton singles and doubles and won a bronze medal in badminton in the summer of 2003. Other favorite pastimes included golf, climbing and fly fishing.

Gamlin also worked in the custom decorating and remodeling

Gamlin, 5

He was totally down-to-earth. He cared deeply about the people around him, and his students were his focus.

[Louise Losos]  
Principal



# Papal visit spreads message of Catholic faith

During his recent trip to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI addressed the most pressing issues facing American Catholicism.

**[Maddy McMahon]**

Editor in Training

By absolute population, the United States is the third most Catholic country in the world, after only Brazil and Mexico. However, despite this, American Catholicism has quite a few visible problems. A declining number of priests, the closing of Catholic schools, and the recent priest sex abuse scandal are just some of the issues plaguing the Church in America.

In an effort to repair these, Pope Benedict XVI visited the U.S. in a multimillion-dollar trip during which the Pope addressed the United Nations and celebrated the bicentennial of many dioceses on the East Coast.

"One of his main roles is to be a pastor. He's coming to let people know he cares about the United States and wants them to be faithful to the message of Jesus Christ: the Gospel message," said Monsignor John Shamleffer, pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Clayton and also the Judicial Vicar for the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The visit, which took place Apr. 15 to Apr. 20, included meeting with people or speaking at the White House, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Nationals Park in Washington, the Catholic University of America, the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, the St. Joseph's Church in Manhattan, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the UN, and ground zero.

With great candor, Pope Benedict defined the sexual abuse in the Church as "gravely immoral behavior" and further admitted that it was "very badly handled."

The Pope referred to the diminishing numbers of young men being ordained into the priesthood when he assured believers that "It is more important to have good priest than many priests. We will do everything possible to heal this wound [the sexual abuse scandal]."

Clayton High School students and Catholics Paul Orland and Susie Wirthlin agreed that the Pope's approach to dealing with the scandal was best.

"I don't think that beating around the bush does anything except make the Church look worse. I think the best strategy is to be honest and candid," senior Paul Orland said.

"I think the Pope handled the issue well," junior Susie Wirthlin said, "but the priests who sexually abused children should be excommunicated, and treated just as any other predator would be."

Besides the sex abuse scandal, Pope Benedict main-

ly addressed the issue of Catholic unity. He was saddened by church communities that have given up on any "attempt to act as a unified body, choosing instead to function according to the idea of 'local options.'"

Pope Benedict's plan to reunite the Catholic Church is by returning to the essentials of Catholic dogma and avoiding moral relativism. In other words, the Pope wants his followers to follow all of what the Church professes, and not bits and pieces of it. Interestingly enough, Pope Benedict revised the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the book that defines the Catholic stance on every issue, before assuming his papal role, which confirms his attention to every facet of Catholic philosophy.

"Pope Benedict is inviting all Catholics to fidelity, calling everybody to be faithful to the Catholic teachings," said Shamleffer, "He came here to bring up the faith of Christ in the U.S. and present the positive message about our Catholic faith."

To unite a Church that encompasses one sixth of the world's population is a daunting task however one might propose to accomplish it, and it is all the more difficult for Benedict, who, after four years in the papacy, still must face comparison to his predecessor, the beloved Pope John Paul II.

To some people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, Pope Benedict seems more conservative than John Paul II, and more worried about making a diverse group of followers become one people unified in faith.

Orland admits that John Paul II and Benedict XVI seem so dissimilar, it's difficult to draw a comparison.

"John Paul II had such a strong reputation that I think it is hard to compare Benedict with him, even after a few years," Orland said, "I think Benedict is more conservative and focused on reshaping the Church around a core of the most serious believers, even at the risk of losing membership."

Just as John Paul II and other religious leaders before him, Benedict is trying to shape his Church to fit the modern world.

"I don't think that what he is doing is any different than what Pope John Paul did," said Shamleffer.

On Apr. 18, while in New York, the Pope visited the United Nations to represent the Vatican and the Catholic community.

"My presence at this Assembly is a sign of esteem for the United Nations," the Pope said, "and it is intended to express the hope that the Organization will increasingly serve as a sign of unity between States and an instrument of service to the entire human fam-



Pope Benedict XVI greets the crowd at a Mass in Yankee Stadium in New York City on Apr. 20, 2008.

ily. It also demonstrates the willingness of the Catholic Church to offer her proper contribution to building international relations in a way that allows every person and every people to feel they can make a difference."

The Pope's visit was representative of the enormous duty he has as a religious leader.

"Just by virtue of the fact that they have such broad influences, religious leaders should be moral guides as well as spiritual guides," said Orland, "I think they have the responsibility to use their influence in any way possible to improve global welfare."

It seems that the Catholic community in the United States will continue to impact people's lives.

"Catholics make up roughly a quarter of all the people in the United States. [Catholicism is] very vibrant and healthy—there are over 65 million Catholics in the U.S. Just this year in our archdiocese we had 1500 adults join the Church," said Shamleffer, who noted that the demographics of the religion are constantly changing, but the Catholic faith continues to bring people together with Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes, and charities.

"We need to continue to be faithful to the message of Christ," said Shamleffer, "When we [as a Church] do that, we do wonderfully. When we forget that, I think we do poorly." ☺

# Proposed FBI biometric database jeopardizes personal privacy

**[Leah Eby]**

Editor

Recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced plans to create a massive biometric database in an effort to better identify terrorists and criminals. Biometric refers to methods for uniquely recognizing humans based upon physical or behavioral traits.

Though there is already an FBI database of 55 million sets of fingerprints that catalogs the world's most dangerous individuals and others who have been fingerprinted, this new database would include other forms of biological identification to further identify criminals.

Specific characteristics such as palm prints, scars, tattoos, iris eye patterns, and facial shapes would be entered into the database as well. According to CNN, some researchers are investigating the use of a person's walk as another means of identification.

The purpose of this proposed biometric program, known as Next Generation Identification, is to combine various pieces of biometric information to better identify potential suspects and criminals.

Earlier this year, in an effort to endorse the development of the database, the FBI granted Lockheed Martin a \$1 billion contract to help create this new catalog of people's physical characteristics. Lockheed Martin is a technology company that previously built the FBI's current fingerprint database. This deal is said to last up to 10 years, as the process of developing this massive database will certainly take some time.

The FBI has already begun collecting palm prints, mug shots, and pictures of physical traits such as scars and tattoos. However, these records are currently being stored on computers 30 feet underneath the FBI crime data center in Clarksburg, W.Va.

The greater information and detailed descriptions available to the FBI and other agencies for investigatory use, the more accurately authorities will be able to determine suspects.

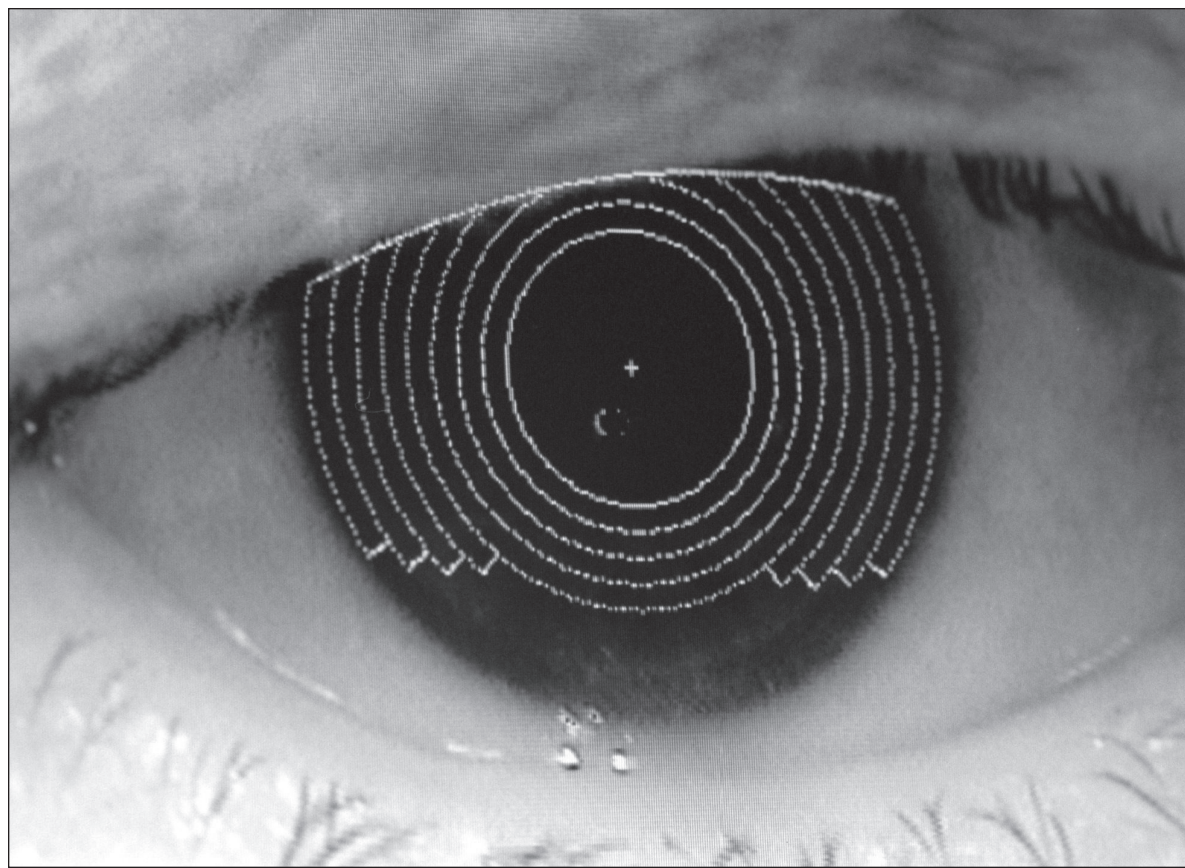
"The best increase in accuracy [in identifying potential suspects] will come from fusing different biometrics together," said Bojan Cukic, co-director of West Virginia's Center for Identification Technology Research.

With this fusion of physical characteristics in an organized catalog, Kimberly Del Greco, FBI Biometric Services section chief, believes that the database will not only increase accuracy, but greatly increase the safety of American borders.

"[The database is] important to protect the borders, to keep the terrorists out, protect our citizens, our neighbors, our children, so they can have good jobs and a safe country to live in," Del Greco said.

However, though some, including Del Greco, believe the database will be beneficial to the country's law enforcement and national security, critics believe people are being forced to reveal too much personal information.

Barry Steinhardt, director of the American Civil



Plans have begun for the development of an FBI biometric database called Next Generation Identification that will compile records of fingerprints, palm prints, scars, tattoos, facial shapes, and iris scans in order to better identify potential suspects.

Liberties Union's Technology and Liberty Project sees this development as a breach of personal privacy and civil liberties.

"It's the beginning of a surveillance society where you can be tracked anywhere, anytime, and all your movements, and eventually all your activities will be tracked and noted and correlated," Steinhardt said.

To contradict Steinhardt's view, Lawrence Hornak, co-director of the West Virginia University research center, believes that the heightened security measures will actually enhance people's privacy instead of violate it.

"It allows you to protect your identity as being you," Hornak said. "And it allows people to avoid identity theft, things of that nature."

Kevin G. Coleman, Senior Fellow and Chief Strategist for Technolytics Institute, a company that focuses on improving critical measures of performance, creating sustainable competitive advantage, delivering innovation and technology, and managing security and risk, agrees with Hornak and believes that the database does not jeopardize personal privacy.

"This is a balancing issue," said. "The database for law enforcement with unique identification information is a great tool for catching criminals and identifying people who have their information stored in there

as well. I have a security clearance so my data is in there and I am fine with that."

Coleman suggests that those worried that the FBI database will violate people's privacy should reconsider the amount of information already widely available to the public in the form of credit cards and other services.

"I am more concerned about credit card companies and the data they have," Coleman said. They know what products and services you buy, where you bought them, when you bought them and you can put together an interesting picture of a person using that data."

In the future, admission to the database may not be limited to felons and terrorists. Even now, many of the FBI checks against the fingerprint database are done as background checks for those applying to sensitive jobs such as government positions or jobs involving children or the elderly.

Because of this, some are still weary of the increasing personal information required or innocent citizens by the FBI database.

"This had started out being a program to track or identify criminals," Steinhardt said. "Now we're talking about large swaths of the population - workers, volunteers in youth programs. Eventually it's going to be everybody." ☺

## Comedy news shows informative

**[Colleen Layton]**

Reporter

Most television networks currently have some sort of newscast available for viewers. Fox has Fox News, "Dateline NBC" and "Meet the Press" are on NBC, even Nickelodeon has "Nick News with Linda Ellerbee". Comedy Central is no different.

In this day and age, there is a wide range of information available from many different viewpoints, including liberal news networks, conservative programs and religiously affiliated shows, but in the end, they all provide similar news stories, just with a different twist.

"I was watching the news this weekend and they were talking about people dying," freshman Tanner Schertler said. "They focus a lot on death and despair; people find too much interest in the bad subjects."

Comedic news shows provide the same stories, but with a slightly sillier look at more complex and often disheartening situations. This view of the news is often times preferred by high school students, such is the case with "The Colbert Report".

"The Colbert Report" is considered a satirical news broadcast that mocks right-wing shows such as the "O'Reilly Factor" on Fox. Covering a vast spectrum of topics from entertainment to politics, "The Colbert Report" combines humor with informative news.

"It is for people to enjoy, nobody should be offended," Schertler said. "It isn't for receiving news."

Currently 1,297,000 Americans watch "The Colbert Report", according to the Nielsen ratings done in January. One might be afraid that these viewers are misinformed and might not know what is really happening in the world. But just because viewers watch these late night television shows doesn't mean that they don't receive information from other sources as well and those who don't are still not left uninformed.

"I read the Onion online and listen to their podcasts," sophomore Danny Steinberg, a fan of "The Colbert Report" said. "I also read the New York Times three or four days a week and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch almost everyday."

The University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey discovered that the 1.45 million fans of the "Daily Show" are politically savvier than those who watch competing shows such as David Letterman and "The O'Reilly factor". Episodes of the "The Daily Show" hosted by comedian Jon Stewart on the Comedy Channel include interviews with notable guests such as Jimmy Carter, a montage of weekly newscasts and headlines, and a feature story that covers topics from primary elections, raising gas prices and the war in Iraq. However, these segments are drenched in humor, making for a less serious atmosphere.

"The news is depressing, I want to watch something to entertain me, not to make me cry," freshman Dawn Androphy said. "The fact that it is offensive is what makes it so great. It is on Comedy Central and therefore, shouldn't be taken seriously." ☺





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# Outsourcing jobs causes debate

[Maddie Harned]  
Editor

With the 2008 presidential race gaining prominence in America, the country has political issues on the brain. One of the most fiercely contested topic is that of outsourcing American jobs to foreign countries.

Those who support outsourcing assert that overall it benefits the world's economy as well as produce new jobs in sometimes underdeveloped countries. However, those who oppose outsourcing believe that it takes away jobs from Americans, therefore hurting the country's economy.

While the debate over the morality of outsourcing may be nowhere near an end, it is perfectly legal and companies outsourcing seems to only be gaining popularity.

Lisa Weigand\* has gained a unique understanding of the complexity of outsourcing jobs. Since she is not the official spokesperson for her company, she was reluctant to give her real last name or the name of her company.

"I work for a market research company that is global," Weigand said. "We have clients in North America, Europe, and Asia, and we have offices those places too. The owner of the company grew up in India, but lives here. My job entails doing advanced analyses on data we collect, training all new staff, and helping to coordinate the work we send back and forth between continents."

Often jobs are shifted out of the United States to near-shore, or close-to-home locations, such as Mexico and Latin America, and some to off shore, or to farther locations, such as China and India. This is a global trend, with European companies also concurrently transferring jobs to Eastern Europe and Asia, and high-wage Asian countries moving jobs to low-wage neighboring countries and even to China.

Service jobs, particularly ones involving information technology and call centers, are being more and more commonly being shifted from the United States and Great

Britain to India. Weigand's work often must be taken to an international level.

"The work does go both directions - I do all the advanced analyses needed by our offices in Mumbai, Singapore and United Arab Emirates," Weigand said. "Most of what our overseas offices work on are projects that originate overseas - that is, Singapore sends most of its simpler data analysis requests to India, and our two Indian offices rely on each other for support for projects originating elsewhere in Asia."

Weigand does take into account the sometimes anti-American portrayal of outsourcing, however she believes outsourcing has a much broader definition and purpose.

"I think we most frequently use the term to mean arranging to have tasks that once were done in the U.S. done elsewhere instead," Weigand said. "But really, it can be conceived more broadly - if a company used to do a task itself, and now is instead hiring a different company to do that task, it has 'outsourced' that task. So my company could outsource its accounting work (if we used to have an accountant but then got rid of her/him and hired an accounting firm instead). We talk a lot about outsourcing overseas because it feels new and threatening, but outsourcing can be within the U.S. too."

While the universal practice of outsourcing is a relatively new phenomenon, the basic principle of sending jobs to foreign countries is not. Ultimately, most companies' main goal is to produce a profit, and that business strategy is as old as commerce itself.

Nevertheless, Weigand recognizes the economic benefits that outsourcing jobs has brought to her company.

"When we need to hire more programming support, we usually turn to one of our Indian offices (the one in Bangalore)," Weigand said. "The reason is that salaries there are just astonishingly lower than here. I always knew there was a difference, but didn't get the magnitude of the difference until I was actually helping to hire a couple of years ago. We can hire someone with similar skills for about one-fifth of the salary cost there than we pay here. That doesn't even factor in things like benefits and social security taxes, I'm just talking about the salary itself."

Undeniably, the salaries in foreign countries such as India and China are significantly lower than those in America. What has made outsourcing such a profitable option for companies is that the level of work quality is approximately the same.

While there certainly are economic benefits, outsourcing has also led to much backlash against American companies.

According to a survey conducted by Business Week, the current total size of the U.S. labor force is 140 million jobs. The same study revealed that 400 to 500 thousand U.S. jobs have been lost to date due to outsourcing.

Furthermore, according to Forrester Research 3.3 million jobs are projected to be lost over the next 15 years due to outsourcing. Overall, UC Berkeley reasons that there are 14.1 million American jobs at risk.

Outsourcing has had an especially significant effect on the Midwest, the region of the U.S. that lost the most jobs to outsourcing from Jan. through March 2004.

In addition to the loss of American jobs, Weigand also sees cultural differences that get in the

way of her work. "Thomas Friedman wrote a book called *The World is Flat* in which he argued that certain kinds of communications are making the world a more level playing field (facilitating many kinds of outsourcing), which will require Americans to compete with a broader employment market," Weigand said. "I realize that he has a great deal more knowledge and authority than I do, but I am going to go out on a limb and say that I disagree - or at least that I don't think these changes are going to happen as quickly or as dramatically as he seems to predict."

Weigand said communication is too central a part of doing highly technical work.

"Frankly I've found the communication difficulties involved in sending work to my overseas colleagues to be substantial. Some of the differences are cultural; if you're dealing with an Asian culture where confrontation is done in subtle ways and saying 'no' explicitly is fairly insulting - well, it can be hard to grasp when you are indeed being told 'no', and even harder to figure out how to press the issue if 'no' just isn't an acceptable answer."

Weigand has first hand experience with the trials and difficulties that come with outsourcing.

"If we were all truly great at communication, and could clearly convey the task to be done, I think outsourcing could work well," Weigand said. "But I think that is a fantasy. I never cease to be amazed at the ways that misunderstandings can crop up, even among people who share a culture. I think we'll move toward figuring out what sorts of tasks work well when outsourced and what tasks don't, and will lower our expectations of how outsourcing will transform modern business practice."

While the debate over outsourcing most likely will not cease to end anytime soon, the practice is only growing. Now an international system, outsourcing undoubtedly is immensely changing the face of world economics.



Tibet monks listen to speakers during the rally at UN Plaza in San Francisco, California on April 8, 2008.

## Tibet proves to be tough humanist dilemma for 2008 Beijing Olympics

[Ting Lu]  
Staff Reporter

With political leaders all over the world urging respect for human rights and protestors everywhere demanding a "Free Tibet", completing the journey of the Olympic torch does not seem like an easy feat.

Now that the 2008 Beijing Olympics are just a few months away, countries are putting pressure on China - more than ever before - over the issue of China's rule over Tibet.

Last month, French President Nicolas Sarkozy told the House of Commons and House of Lords in Britain that Britain and France shared a responsibility to push for the respect of human rights and cultural identity. Sarkozy said that these goals could only be achieved if there was "true dialogue" between China and the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet.

Violent street demonstrations in London, Paris and the United States called for President Bush and other world leaders to skip the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in August in order to show protest against China's domestic policies concerning Tibet.

Western political leaders were pressured to engage in a symbolic boycott of the opening ceremony. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, said they will not accept invitations to attend the opening of the Olympic Games. The United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, a Korean, also said that his schedule would not allow him to attend the opening ceremony.

Sarkozy said that he does not rule out a boycott of the opening ceremonies of the Olympics in Beijing this summer.

The United States seems to have a different stance on the issue. Although President Bush insisted on diplomats and journalists being allowed access to the Tibetan region, neither Bush nor his advi-

sors openly criticized China or its government.

Although there have been mass demonstrations protesting the Olympics, China does not seem to be bending under pressure.

Eberhard Sandschneider, a China expert at the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin, says that Tibet is more important to China than the Olympics.

"The country is economically so attractive and by now so powerful that any measures we take will be met with painful countermeasures," Sandschneider said. "The Olympics are important to the Chinese, but not as important as Tibet. Sovereignty and stability will always outweigh public relations."

In response to the anti-Chinese protests and threats of boycotting, many Chinese citizens are urging the boycotting of Western goods. Chinese demonstrators are set out to launch a campaign against French companies, blaming the companies for their country's support of a free Tibet.

Some have also called out for boycotts against American companies such as McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Last Friday and Saturday, protesters gathered in front of outlets of the popular French retailer Carrefour, drawing thousands of people. On Saturday, about 50 demonstrators carrying banners held a rally at the French Embassy in Wuhan, China before the police arrived.

Currently, much of the outrage is restrained to the Internet. More than 20 million people have signed online petitions, agreeing to stop shopping at the French Carrefour chain, Louis Vuitton and other stores linked to France.

In a survey released on Friday, Xinhua, China's state news agency, said that 66 percent of protesters who responded said that they would not shop at Carrefour during a month long boycott planned for May. Overall, Tibet continues to loom over the heads of world leaders.

## Independence of Kosovo has varied reactions

[Sarah Rangwala]  
Editor

After centuries of being juggled back and forth between empires and countries, the province of Kosovo declared independence from Serbia on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February.

The U.N. has managed Kosovo since the NATO attack on the region in 1999. NATO forces still remain to secure the area

While the United States, the United Kingdom and France have been among many countries to declare support for this decision, states like Russia and Georgia have already condemned the parliament of Kosovo.

In trying to describe the opposition and possible effects of this event, senior Max Jewett likened Kosovo's independence to the independence of the United States.

"It is kind of like when the US broke apart from the England," he said. "It inspired a lot of revolutions. It was a model for most of the revolutions after 1800."

Russia has been dealing with violence from Chechnyan separatists and Georgia has had trouble with regions like South Ossetia within

their country.

Although independence was announced through peaceful means, the reactions that followed weren't as passive. According to BBC, after the Kosovo parliament had declared itself independent, grenades were thrown at U.N. and E.U. buildings in the Serbian part of Kosovo.

Serbs in Serbia also reacted violently, attacking the U.S. embassy after they proclaimed support for Kosovo.

The support the United States and many of the powerful European Union countries have given to Kosovo doesn't leave everyone hopeful.

"It is kind of a joke," Jewett said. "We endorse everyone who wants independence in hopes of spreading democracy. But it won't work because democracy is the most corruptible form of government."

Russia has joined Serbia in saying Kosovo's move was illegal in terms of international law and that under the 1999 agreement that allowed Kosovo to become a U.N. administered region, Kosovo can exist as nothing else.

Most Kosovars identify them-



selves ethnically as Albanian. Since the state of Albania was declared sovereign it has been asking that Kosovo become a part of its country. However, part of the declaration of Kosovo included the fact that Kosovo would not let itself absorb

into any other country. Stipulations of the declaration also included protection of the Serbian minority that resides within Kosovo.

Kosovo's parliament has adopted a constitution which is expected to be implemented by June 15.

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A NOT-SO-ORDINARY LOOK AT PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS

**15 things you don't know about ... TIBET**

- The deadly protests in March over Chinese rule in Tibet have spread out on the Internet. China blocked YouTube.com because it showed Tibetan protesters and also documented a perception of media bias against China. [tweedle.org](http://tweedle.org) showed images of bodies of protesters killed.
- Tibet, officially known as the Autonomous Region (part of the People's Republic of China), is depicted by the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), which is less than half the landmass of Tibet with only one-third of the total Tibetan population.
- Total area: 475,000 sq. mi. (1,219,000 sq. km); population: 2.8 million, with more than 1,000 monks. Tibet boasts the largest number of Buddhist monasteries in the world. The Dalai Lama's former residence, now a museum.
- China invaded in 1950 the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader and head of state, fled in 1959 to Dharamsala, India, where Tibetan refugees have incorporated their culture, celebrating Losar (Tibetan New Year) and the Dalai Lama's birthday (July 6).
- Most Tibetans practice a form of Mahayana Buddhism called "Vajrayana" (the Tibetan means "secret of wisdom"); the current 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, was recognized as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama (and named Lhazo Dawa) at the age of 7 when the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989).
- The Dalai Lama wants an independent, self-governing Tibet. He is currently the president of the 200-member Tibetan Youth Congress.
- Tibet supporters include Richard Gere (pictured right), Gilda Haer, Arnie Lennox, Harrison Ford, Julia Roberts, Uma Thurman.
- Films on Tibet include "Kush" (Steven Seagal in Tibet) and "The Golden Child".
- The Dalai Lama has a Web site ([dalaibud.com](http://dalaibud.com)) where you can find information on, among other things, where he's traveling in the world.
- "Crazyshak" will Bill Murray's rendition of "Caddyshack" for the Dalai Lama. The "haha off" and "haha on" - big hilar, the Lama.
- Tibet is nicknamed "The Roof of the World" because it has Mount Everest (above).
- Traditional apparel includes a long robe with long sleeves and high collar and weather clothes are made of wool, felt and sheepskin (barley flour is the main food). Tibetans mix it with tea and butter, they're 30 or 40 years for eating, riding and wearing.
- Check out Tachung (Taini) in Chengde, Hebei Province, a singer/performer who lives in the Chongqing Tibetan Dance and Opera Company since their home as well. It also is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- "Cloud of promise" - a Tibetan prayer wheel (above) is a traditional Chinese prayer wheel.
- Made of aluminum.
- Olympic torch design - "Cloud of promise" - the Olympic torch design, the Olympic flame will be lit in May when the torch relay begins. The Olympic flame will be lit through the 11-city relay covering all 31 Chinese provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions and municipalities before the Aug. 8-24 Beijing Summer Games.
- More than 150 Tibet to China. Organizations and a letter to the Chinese government, the sponsorship of the Olympic torch relay. You can act as a representative American company to a Chinese market, and Tibet Color. can help manage the International Campaign for Tibet.
- And one note: Tibetans drink long life tea and Chinese tea which is often flavored with salt, soda and sugar butter. they also can go for a good very 100% tea - with tea from Carlsberg, Lhasa Brewery sells Tea from the roof of the world.

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# Adored coach and teacher leaves lasting memories

Gamlin, 1

business and owned a Haagen Dazs ice cream store in Ladue from 1980 to 1989.

Losos believes that these aspects of Gamlin's life gave him an advantage as a teacher and a coach.

"He was a unique person because this was his second career," Losos said. "When he talked with kids it was framed in his real-world experience."

For Gamlin, nothing could compete with his love for his students.

Senior Elicia Wartman developed a close relationship with Gamlin through taking several of his classes and through her two-year participation in Sixth Grade Camp as a counselor.

"What was cool about Coach Gamlin was that he had a great relationship with a TON of CHS students, not just a few," Wartman said. "He had a unique way of interacting and relating with his students. He was a teacher, but also a motivator and a guide."

The accepting and welcoming attitude that Gamlin projected allowed a vast number of CHS students to develop a relationship with him.

"He put a lot of time and effort into every single one of his students," senior Shaina Abrams-Kornblum said. "No person was too unimportant for him to talk to at any point in the day. He set an example for all of us, to aspire to be great people and better students."

Gamlin was famous for his aphorisms, such as "Play with integrity" and "You're burning daylight!" The halls of CHS still ring with them as his students carry on his legacy.

"My fondest memories of Coach are his little sayings, like 'strategy' and 'big boy,'" junior Tim Smith said.

Wartman also remembers Gamlin's favorite phrases fondly.

"He had a lot of sayings that are life lessons and don't only apply to high school," Wartman said. "My favorite was 'don't let what you can't do get in the way of what you can do.' That will apply for the rest of my life."

Abrams-Kornblum received that same kind of encouragement from Gamlin.

"I think that he was more than a teacher," Abrams-Kornblum said. "He pushed me to do things that I didn't know I could do, like traverse the rock wall. Sometimes I hated it when he pushed me, but in the end I'm thankful that he did. It made me realize that

no matter how good I thought I was, there was always room for improvement."

Being a counselor at Sixth Grade Camp allowed Abrams-Kornblum to get to know Gamlin.

"Gamlin was tough, but he was a softy on the inside," Abrams-Kornblum said. "When I first met him freshman year, he was very intimidating. He gave off an aura of complete confidence and assurance, and I had never seen that before."

Her favorite memory of Gamlin occurred this past fall.

"It was Wacky Wednesday at Sixth Grade Camp, and I had the chance to play a few games with Mr. Gamlin," Abrams-Kornblum said. "We played a few rounds, and he beat me many times because, of course, he had never lost. We decided to play one more round. It lasted forever, but I beat him - the first, he claimed, to do so."

The "can-do attitude" that Losos described enveloped Gamlin's students in his optimism.

"He was a really happy guy," Wartman said. "He made everything seem so clear. If I was feeling stressed, it was never an issue. He just said 'We'll work it out.' He cared about every person and wanted to make sure everyone was going to be okay."

The teachers and administrators of CHS took note of the compassion Gamlin had for his students.

"He imparted a real sense of caring," Losos said. "They knew he loved them and how important that was."

His phrase "play with integrity" applied on and off the field; Gamlin would never let a student do something that wasn't to his or her fullest ability.

"You did it right or not at all," Wartman said. "But on the same note, he guided you through and made you realize that you could do it."

The varsity golf players have been left with two capable and encouraging coaches, but without the unique, joking and motivational presence that was Coach Gamlin.

"Coach was a really warm and compassionate person and an awesome coach," team member Smith said. "I don't think he needed to teach, but he still did it because he cared about his students."

According to Smith, Gamlin was always practical and considerate.

"Our golf course is kind of far away and so sometimes people have trouble getting there, but he was always really understanding about any problems we



Coach Joe Gamlin with the boys' varsity golf team at the Gateway National Golf Course. Along with being a great coach, Gamlin was a beloved teacher and mentor to many CHS students.

Yearbook Archives

had," Smith said.

Gamlin emphasized the same values to his golfers as he did to his students.

"He stressed integrity, playing with honesty and hard work, and how they'll all pay off in the long run," Smith said.

The wisdom that Gamlin imparted to his students at CHS continues to influence them.

"Every time I play golf, I think about what Coach would have done and what shots he would have wanted me to take," Smith said. "Because of him, I think twice about my decisions and why I'm making them."

For Abrams-Kornblum, Gamlin's legacy is one of pride in one's accomplishments and responsibility for one's actions.

"I found that out first hand," Abrams-Kornblum

said. "His high expectations motivated me to be a better person."

The students of CHS have been remembering their coach and teacher through a candle lighting ceremony, several memorial sports tournaments, covering the climbing wall with notes and flowers and attending his funeral, at which there was standing room only.

Gamlin's own integrity, as a coach, teacher, mentor, colleague and friend, will never be forgotten by those who had the fortune of learning from him.

"His legacy is in the individual impact he had on his students, and I believe that will stay with them as they grow up," Losos said. "He truly loved his students and they loved him back, and you could feel it every time you were with him. He cared about this place deeply. I still can't fully believe that he's gone." ☹

# Blueprint 4 Tomorrow offers options, solutions

Blueprint, 1

being on the ground floor, as we all have a great deal of equipment and supplies, and this issue was addressed."

Given where science would have to be located if it were moved, math in option A is moved to where the English department currently is (though remaining on the bottom floor). This concerned several math teachers, as well Principal Louise Losos.

"The math department has spent the last 10 years making those areas conducive to how they teach," Losos said, referring to the SmartBoards, projectors, and storage space that the department has installed. "Does it really make sense to move them?"

Having concluded with A and B, Charles Brown then moved on to option C, which is 13,000 square feet smaller than A and B. He later discussed the plan during an interview at his office.

"Option C is still thinking future forward, but it's looking at a more incremental strategy," Brown said. "In the first two options there's a complete new addition build-out—two stories, about 26,000 square feet per floor. In option C it's a three story build, so it's a more consolidated build, but it is about 13,000 square feet per floor....The advantage to that is we can maintain the IT building."

Losos, however, did not see the preservation of the IT building as a positive. She voiced this opinion at the meeting, and later during an interview.

"I'm not a fan of option C," Losos said. "The tech building remains, and is just sort of left there. Mr. Kramer, who's our industrial tech teacher, is there, and feels a little abandoned. Secondly, in options A and B we build in a little meeting room space. I'd like a space where we can meet with 120-150, which would allow us to have faculty meetings, but which would also



Aaron Praiss

The Industrial Tech building might be reconstructed as part of the Blueprint 4 Tomorrow Plan. The plans will be finalized by June and involve many changes for all of the district's schools.

be much conducive for it, for example, social studies brought a speaker in."

Charles Blackmore, band teacher and Music Department Chair, also found option C unsatisfactory, though for different reasons. Blackmore believes that option C is settling for less due to monetary concerns. While he realizes the school can't build everything it wants, he thinks it can do more than what option C proposes.

"I believe we need to look at the project for the 'long haul,' which is why option C concerns me," Blackmore said. "As a district, we should commit to getting this done right, informing the community why it is so important we finish this project now, and not plan on coming back for more in a few years."

Other issues regarding the plans as a whole came up as well. Chemistry teacher Mike Howe noted that a greenhouse was not included in any of the options. He

worries about the time constraints of the project.

"I am concerned that we need more space now, and it looks as if the plan will take several years to be implemented," Howe said.

Howe, along with many of the science teachers, has been advocating for improved facilities for a long time. In fact, the inadequacy of the science facilities around the district was what prompted plans for a renovation in the first place.

"We have two teachers teaching out of our department every day," Howe said. "This means that we are teaching science in rooms that are not equipped for science. We are unable to do most demonstrations outside of our department due to water issues, gas, ventilation, etc. Consequently we either cut the demonstration or cut lab time. Additionally, many of our teachers are teaching in rooms that were designed and built in the mid 1950s. Pipes are rusting, faucets are dripping, and

facilities are showing their age."

English teacher John Ryan also expressed alarm at the state of the English department.

"Our floor says welcome to high school circa 1950s," Ryan said, noting that the custodians do an outstanding job, despite the older construction. "Now, we're not the only department in need of an update, but given how many students we serve and the high volume of traffic in our hallway, our area is pretty distressed. Whatever happens, we want to ensure we have updated, clean, English-dedicated classrooms and a department office that can accommodate all 20-plus English teachers."

Like Howe and Ryan, Losos believes that a renovation is long overdue. She pointed out that when CHS first opened it was built for 650 students. It now has 850. She also brought up the Cottage—which she sees as a problem in need of being addressed.

"For about 20 years people have been talking about taking it down, so minimal work has been done," Losos said. "And it's really not conducive to positive learning. Great things come out of it, no question, because we have fantastic teachers, but for Clayton High School I don't really think the Cottage represents us well."

As far as price, Losos said that at this point it's anyone's guess. The plans are expected to be finalized and approved by June, and will be unveiled to the public in September. For Brown, as a Clayton graduate, the opportunity to work on plans for the High School has been fulfilling. It was at CHS that he first realized he wanted to be an architect.

"This is almost an honor to be able to make a positive impact on a place that helped me determine what my future was going to be," Brown said. "So hopefully the kinds of ideas and space that are developed in this process give another young person creativity or an outlook on their future." ☹

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PROM: the good, the bad, the ugly

# Prom garners mixed reactions

[Ugochi Onyema]  
Editor

With a change of scenery, this year's Prom brought a new experience to the juniors and seniors. The dance, held on May 3 at the Hyatt Hotel in Union Station, had many students leaving with smiles on their faces, either with a date or with friends.

Junior Jacob Goldsmith preferred going with out a date, a choice he feels allowed him to enjoy the dance more.

"Dancing with my friends was my favorite part of prom," Goldsmith said. "I went stag and so I was glad that it wasn't so date-oriented."

For junior Neda Svrakic, the PTO-sponsored After-Prom at Tropicana Lanes provided a lot more fun.

"My best memory of prom was oddly enough the bowling," Svrakic said. "I did surprisingly well without the bumpers."

Goldsmith also believes that the chaperones at the dance did a good job of remaining somewhat incognito while interacting with the attendees in a positive manner.

"I think that the chaperones did a good job of not interfering, and they were also really friendly," Goldsmith said.

Svrakic agrees with Goldsmith, and also appreciates the fact that there was no welcome line at the Prom.

"I definitely felt like they really were not there to interfere but to socialize," Svrakic said. "And there wasn't a long awkward hallway lined up with teachers and parents—I hate that."

Goldsmith believed that in addition to the absence of welcome lines, the music was significantly better than it has been at other dances.

"I thought that the music was good because they played good music the whole time, and they didn't play any of those remixes they played during Peppers," Goldsmith said.

The meals served at Prom consisted of two entrees: one with chicken and a vegetarian pasta. Both Goldsmith and Svrakic enjoyed their main entrees.

"The dinner was really good and I liked that they had a veggie option," Goldsmith said. "And that they had lots of different food on the plate. The dessert was also delicious."

Goldsmith and Svrakic both ordered the vegetarian meal, and they both enjoyed their meals.

"The salad was really good, and the pasta—well, it wasn't really pasta—but it was okay," Svrakic said. "The Oreo cake that we had for dessert was truly fabulous."

Despite all of the accolades that students gave the event, there were a few downfalls. Goldsmith disliked the prolonged wait for the desserts.

"The giant line at the chocolate fountain is my worst memory of prom," Goldsmith said. "I was sad because I had to wait a long time."

Senior Vikram Chakravarthy ordered the vegetarian meal as well, and disliked it, as he did his dessert.

"The food was not very good," Chakravarthy said. "I had the vegetarian meal but, regardless, it was bad. The cake was melted by the time we got our pieces."

Svrakic disliked the quiet music played at the dance, music that some students did not recognize.

"The music wasn't loud enough, and I didn't know some of the songs, which was disappointing because I like singing along really loudly," Svrakic said.

Junior Tom Maxim agreed that the music's intensity heavily affected the dancing.

"I think that the music was all right, but the dancing stopped abruptly after the coronation," Maxim said.

In addition to the music intensity, Svrakic disliked the exodus of attendees, which she feels shifted the aura in the room.

"I didn't like the fact that a lot of the people left early—it completely changed the mood," Svrakic said.

Chakravarthy felt that the amount of people who left the dance early was substantially greater than last years.

"There weren't really any other differences between this year's prom and last year's prom though," Chakravarthy said.

Maxim also disliked the drive from Clayton to downtown St. Louis, which he felt was somewhat of an imposition on the students.

"The location of prom was the worst part, because it was far from school and inconvenient to drive to from downtown St. Louis," Maxim said.

Svrakic disagrees.

"I thought that the location was really good, and it's just such a nice area," Svrakic said. "It was also really cool to have prom the same night as another school."

Maxim also attended After-Prom, but felt that it was mediocre in comparison to the main event.

"I preferred Prom because it was a more unique experience and there wasn't much to do at After-Prom," Maxim said.

Conversely, junior Becky Poplawski enjoyed the festivities at After-Prom.

"It was nice that they had free bowling, and a lot of the prizes that they were giving away were sweet," Poplawski said.

Svrakic believes that next year's juniors will be able to rise to the occasion when planning the prom for 2009, but thinks that they will have to work hard to meet the high standards set by this year's prom committee.

"I'm sure whatever they do will be just as fun, so it'll be a pretty close call," Svrakic said. "But it's hard to beat a Chocolat theme." ☺



Junior Class officers William Kass, Leah Eby and Abby Eisenberg get decked out for Prom.

## Let's Get it Together: Prom Edition

After the success of the last "Let's get it together," I felt that another serving was in order, especially after Prom. Now, overall the event proved to be very nice, elegant, tasty and chocolatey—but you know you saw some things that made you want to slap the mess out of a few people. Do not fear; I'm here to help CHS do Prom and other dances for next year extra right. So with that in mind, CHS, let's get it together with these dances.



[Cameron Davis]

Now the easiest way to tackle these issues is in chronological order from how I saw it. The first red flag I came across at Prom was some of these dresses. Now, we must understand that Prom is a tradition. It is classically formal yet stylish. You should aim to keep your dignity at Prom; yet some seemed to have left their dignity at home with the other half of their dresses. Let's make one thing clear: Prom is NOT the Halloween dance. No one needs to see anyone else's goodies while trying to enjoy their food, the Prom aesthetic, or a simple conversation at their dinner table. Keep the goodies in the goodie jar.

Next, as a quick note to all guys, girls appreciate REAL corsages. I recall seeing a corsage constructed out of ribbon and a holiday gift wrapping bow. Where was the flower? Beats me. But really, Prom is the one time out of the entire year to do it big. So fellas, get out there and spend a few bucks, and get your girl a nice corsage. Do you really think they spent hours trying to look as fine as possible to have you throw a 99 cent bow on their dress? Negative. Get it together.

Moving on, let me say that breath mints are your best friend. In social gatherings, having some sort of breath freshener on you is a must. No one wants to have a conversation that they can't focus on due to the toxic airborne event

of your breath. Moreover, you don't want people talking about you and your sour mouth the entire night. Get a mint, or talk from a distance.

Now let's get on this dinner etiquette. Two main rules: Chew with your mouth closed, and share the food, especially the bread. Sometimes the bread is the only tolerable item on that dinner table, so don't scarf it all. If worst comes to worst, ask for Finally, and most importantly: dancing. Now I'm all for the close dancing, but after Saturday night, half these people either needed to find some spiritual cleansing or move to Hollywood to start a new type of career after the stuff exhibited on that floor...and at the tables. As a general rule, you should only be up against the person you're dancing with while leaving moderate room between you and your partner for dignity. Moreover, I don't need gross couple #9 all up on me while I'm trying to have a conversation. Keep that mess to yourself.

And as for kissing on the dance floor, that's kinda cute. You may look at a couple and go "aw-www," but when that turns into some sick mess out of "Aliens," and it looks as if Sigourney Weaver needs to come to that dance floor to exterminate you and your date, we have a problem. And on top of that, remember to still keep the goodies in the goodie jar, especially on the dance floor. Trust me, "lettin' it all hang out on" the dance floor is not a good look for anybody.

Ultimately though, as CHS students we pride ourselves on knowing how to really get down at dances. We have it made as far as dances go, especially at Prom (the prom next door was fully dancing to "I will survive"—yeah I can pass on that). You can still get down and party hard without making yourself look like the next trife tabloid in the news. Bring the class, bring the respect, bring the heat and excitement. CHS, let's get it together. ☺

# World language teachers come from variety of backgrounds

[Katherine Greenberg]  
Editor

Two Spanish-speaking teachers at CHS, Stephanie Martin and Teresa Schafer, come from very different places but share their love of foreign languages.

Martin grew up in St. Louis and learned Spanish during high school and college.

"It wasn't until I went to Mexico and realized that I could have conversations with Spanish speaking people that I became very interested in languages," Martin said.

Both teachers agree that studying abroad is key to broadening a person's knowledge and skills when speaking a language.

"Speaking a language fluently is a life-long task,"

Schafer said. "It requires consistency and perseverance. A teacher can only do a portion of the work."

Schafer noted the hard work of her language students who at times take advantage of computerized programs and online courses.

"It takes a lot of commitment but it has become a lot easier with the advances in technology," Schafer said.

Unlike Martin, Schafer was born in Peru and did not learn a lot of English in school.

"In school we learned only vocabulary words; there wasn't any conversation," Schafer said.

At 17 Schafer went to an interpreter and translator college. While attending university in Switzerland, she studied French and English. She then returned to Peru to finish at the university where she continued to learn English.

When Martin was studying abroad in Spain, she met her husband.

"When I met my husband he did not speak English," Martin said. "He did not learn English for two years so I used only Spanish to communicate with him."

Students have also learned that learning another language can be important.

"I think that learning another language could come into use later in life, so even though it is hard work I would like to continue to do so," sophomore Gabrielle Inder said. Inder studies French. "It is nice to know that someday I could have a second language that I speak fluently."

Schafer believes learning a language can open a student up to a whole new way of looking at the world.

"When you can speak another language it is like

looking through another set of eyes," Schafer said. "When people learn other languages it closes the gap between types of people, and people no longer look at other people as foreign."

This sentiment is echoed by some of the students at CHS.

"I take a language because I feel like it could be useful to me later in life and I like having the option of living in a Spanish-speaking country," sophomore Jen Golden said.

Martin also said students have many avenues to learn a language and explore other ways of life.

"AP is not the only route to being fluent in another language," Martin said. "It takes time but it is worth it. When a person can understand another language, it leads to a deeper understanding of the culture." ☺

# Series of earthquakes shakes up Midwest, startles students

[Abby Eisenberg]  
Editor

The recent earthquakes that shook the St. Louis area have left nerves a little rattled as well as the houses.

At four in the morning in April 18, a 5.2 magnitude earthquake shook the St. Louis area. A 4.5 magnitude aftershock hit late the next morning. This occurrence was certainly unusually for its Midwest location, in southern Illinois.

"The [April 18] earthquake that occurred was an unusual one because it happened in the middle of the continent," Advanced Placement Environmental Science teacher Chuck Collis said.

"When a continent is parked in one place for a long period of time, it essentially becomes an insulator for the magma's heat energy, which greatly weakens the interior of the plate," Collis said. "This earth quake was nothing to be alarmed about. Chances are that maybe one more will happen in our lifetime, and the North American plate is certainly not in eminent danger of breaking up anytime soon."

Earthquakes can happen for a variety of reasons. If there are two plates of the earth's crust that are sliding past each other and meet, creating a lot of tension, it creates an earthquake. The currents of the mantle, a fluid that moves slowly but surely as a result of the energy it receives from the earth's core cause of the crust's motion. When enough tension has been built where plates meet, it causes abrupt motion. The currents provide the energy, and the plates are really massive, thus causing a lot of friction, and the boundary is thousands of feet long, so the resulting force is considerable.

Although the recent earthquakes were not that large, some people fear that they could set off the New Madrid fault I southern Missouri, which could cause a much bigger seismic event. Most area experts say that the events do not normally work that way. The smaller

earthquake could actually be considered a good thing, in terms of the future of the area.

"What are preferable are lots of little earthquakes like this one versus one big one, because each small one releases some tension, and prevents the bigger isolated ones that tend to cause more substantial damage," Collis said.

The earthquake ended up being fairly harmless. The only reported damage was concrete falling from an aged bridge on South Kingshighway. All six lanes were open to traffic again two hours later. The bulk of the concern stemmed from windows rattling, and things falling from shelves. Many students had memorable experiences from the evening.

"The first thing that popped into the head is the exorcist, because my bed shakes a lot when I lay down normally, but it was shaking a lot, and I was really scared," junior Kate Wheelock said. "Then, we all woke up, and we went down to the living room, and my family thought that our addition had fallen down, and shaken the whole house. I didn't believe my dad when he said it was an earthquake."

Others weren't as cautious.

"At first I thought someone was jumping on my bed which didn't make sense," junior Susie Wirthlin said. "I didn't know what was happening, then it stopped, and then I just thought I was crazy, so I went back to sleep."

Junior Ben Peipert's reaction was also a little absurd.

"It woke me up at four in the morning," Peipert said. "I thought Godzilla was outside my bedroom. Then my mom freaked out and made us all go down to the basement, and I had absolutely no idea what was going on."

Then on May 5, 1 2.7 magnitude earthquake rattled nearby Fenton, Missouri. Experts say this quake, from a completely different fault, was unrelated. ☺

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# Showing Support

## Setting politics aside, Clayton students offer support to troops through a letter writing campaign.



Sophomores Alex Butler and Nicky Turza write letters thanking soldiers for their service. After two meetings, the group has written over 100 cards.

[Phillip Levine]  
Editor

Most people don't realize the impact and significance of small gestures in life. This is certainly not the case with a group of high school students who send letters to American soldiers fighting in the Middle East.

"I came up with the idea one night around January when I couldn't fall asleep," sophomore Alex Butler said. "I turned on the news and saw an anti-war protest. It made me think about how I would not want to be fighting for my country if my country were not behind me. Then I started to think of something I could do so that the soldiers knew that there were still people behind them and I wanted to thank them. So I decided that I should get some people together to write thank you card to the soldiers."

After coming up with the plan, Butler brought up her idea to her friend Nicky Turza who thought it was a great idea. The two friends came together and helped to promote the club to send letters to soldiers in Iraq.

"I was one of the first people at the first meeting," sophomore Anna Copilevitz said. "The first thing we did was make cards for the troops and we said how

much we appreciated them being over there. While we were making the cards, Valentine's Day came around and so we made Valentine's Day cards too."

The students see the soldiers on the news or hear about the lack of support and simply want to show them all that there are still people in this country that support them.

"I do it because I think that since most of the candidates for the new election are promoting taking the troops out of Iraq," Turza said. "Many Americans are forgetting that there are still soldiers fighting and dying, and we need to support them no matter how we feel."

Butler agrees that she feels a need to thank the soldiers for all of their hard work and loyalty to this country.

"I want to thank the troops for putting their lives on the line everyday to protect our safety," Butler said. "I know that it is impossible to write a letter to all of them, but I believe that if I can put a smile on one soldier's face, then I have made a huge accomplishment."

So far the group has written over 100 letters in just two meetings.

"Sometimes there are 15 people and sometimes

there are five," Butler said. "You can stay for however long you want and write however many cards you would like. I tell people that if they can only come and make one card, then that is fine because that will make a difference to one soldier."

Although there are many students who are in the organization to write letters, many of the students do not support the war.

"At least half the people in the club do not support the war," Butler said. "The thing is we are not writing letters to the U.S. government. We are writing letters to the soldiers who are there because they want to protect the American people back at home. I believe that they are truly heroes and even if people do not support the war, they should support the people who have put their lives aside, leave their families at home, and risk their lives everyday to make America a safer place to live."

Other participants agree that they do not support the war but still feel it is important to support the troops themselves.

"I personally don't support the war," Copilevitz said. "But I really think that it isn't right not to support the soldiers. They are risking their lives over

there and they deserve the respect and support from people. I think Americans need to thank them. I want to tell them how I feel and that there are people who support what they are doing for our country. I know it was their choice to go but they are risking their lives over there and even if we don't support the war, we owe them the respect and appreciation for risking their lives to protect us. I know that I wouldn't risk my life to fight in Iraq."

Regardless of how the students feel about the war itself, the consensus is that it is still extremely important to support the troops who are out there fighting for our country. In addition to sending letters, the students have some other ideas of how to show more support.

"Next year I hope to make it more than just writing cards," Butler said. "I want to have a beanie baby drive because I heard this on the news, 'These seemingly unsubstantial stuffed animals that were popular in the '90s help save lives. The soldiers give the stuffed animals to the local kids in Iraq; the kids, in return, tell the soldiers the location of hidden IEDs or Improvised Explosive Devices. This [shows] that such a small gesture can keep our troops safe in the Middle East.'"



Borders in Brentwood has been closed since Feb. 2008 and is scheduled to reopen by early June

## Borders to reopen after flooding

[Maddie Harned]  
Editor

Containing thousands of books, CDs and DVDs, the Borders in Brentwood, being the closest Borders location to Clayton, was a frequent go-to place for CHS students to study, pick up books or grab a bite to eat at the café.

However, a pipe break in several months ago led to a massive flooding of the store. Water was as high as bookshelves. Soaked books had flowed all the way out of the store and into the streets.

After such a devastating happening, the Borders in Brentwood would literally have to rebuild and restock the entire store. Amazingly, and after several months of damage repair, the Borders in Brentwood is scheduled to reopen.

"If everything goes as planned, the Borders in Brentwood should reopen in mid-May," manager Kelly Mumm said.

"Nonetheless, as Borders found out the hard way, nothing can be entirely certain.

Once the big day comes, and so does the returning business, there are many festivities planned to drum up public awareness and enthusiasm for the reopening.

"On May 30, May 31 and June 1 the Borders in Brentwood will be having a grand reopening celebration," Mumm said. "There will be a local art room fea-

turing St. Louis artists' work. John Brown, author of *Missouri Legends*, and Joe Saunderman, author of *Route 66* will be featured guests there as well. There's going to be a lot of child activities and Nickelodeon games for kids to play, so we're planning on having a lot of fun events to welcome back our customers."

While the future is looking rather bright for the reopening of Borders, there certainly were more trying times after the flooding incident. Countering fictitious rumors that the Brentwood Borders would be permanently closing, Mumm says that Borders will still be the same store it once was after reopening.

"Pretty much there will be no changes in the reopened Borders," Mumm said. "We will still stock approximately the same number of CDs, books and DVDs. The only main difference will be that the doors will finally be open again."

In addition, the employment situation has not suffered. "Our employment will be virtually the same," Mumm said. "Fortunately, no jobs were lost from the flooding."

Through all the immense adjustments, restocking and hard work that has gone into repairing and reopening the Brentwood Borders, the final product is a slightly modified yet familiar book store.

"St. Louis is a thriving book-loving community that we are glad to have back as customers at the Brentwood Borders location," Mumm said.

## Club opens students to the world of philosophy

[Ting Lu]  
Staff Reporter

While Clayton students have a variety of different interests, philosophy is a very unique common interest among some CHS students.

Philosophy club, sponsored by history teacher Sam Harned, was originally created by juniors Joshua Oberman and Jack Callahan in February of 2008. Oberman and Callahan created the club with the hope of attracting other students who are also interested in philosophy.

Philosophy club meets on Wednesday mornings before school and sometimes on weekend evenings at Kaldi's.

In philosophy club, students discussed philosophy and analyzed philosophical texts. Oberman hoped to conduct insightful discussions as well as provide further resources for students to learn more about philosophical issues and topics.

For the past few meetings, Oberman has brought interesting philosophical readings and mind exercises to get people thinking.

"We plan to study anything from the classical Greek philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle to more contemporary thinkers such as Nietzsche and Wittgenstein," Oberman said. "We also plan to discuss major philosophical issues such as free will versus determinism, the relationship between the mind and the body, and the foundations of morals. I think all those topics will make for some pretty intriguing intellectual discussions and debates."

Oberman said that philosophy club will be open to discuss any issues or philosophical conflicts that people bring up.

"I plan to do more of the same in the future and also introduce people to the ideas of different philosophers and philosophies, as well as some central questions of philosophy," Oberman said.

Although philosophy club members had high hopes, Oberman and Callahan agreed that getting the club off the ground has been a slow process.

"Our meetings have been sporadic and lowly attended," Oberman said. "Nevertheless, I have heard from many who have expressed interest in the club. I just wish they would show up to some of our meetings."

"I am partially to blame - both Jack and I have really been bogged down with extracurricular activities this year," Oberman said. "So for this year, philosophy club isn't doing so strong."

Oberman also said that next year he is really planning on expanding the club.

"I was also interested in getting an informal group together this summer to read directly from and discuss some philosophical texts," Oberman said. "I would encourage people to join."

Oberman said that next year, he will rally a lot more support for the club and try to ensure that the club has a good core group of members who will be the true philosophers of Clayton High School.

Oberman strongly recommends anyone who enjoys asking fundamental questions, likes deep-thinking or is interested in philosophy to join the club as soon as possible.

Callahan also agreed that other students should join philosophy club.

"The best part about Philosophy club is that there is free ice cream at every meeting," Callahan said.

Freshman Ikshu Neithalath, who has attended a few philosophy club meetings, says that philosophy club is very rewarding.

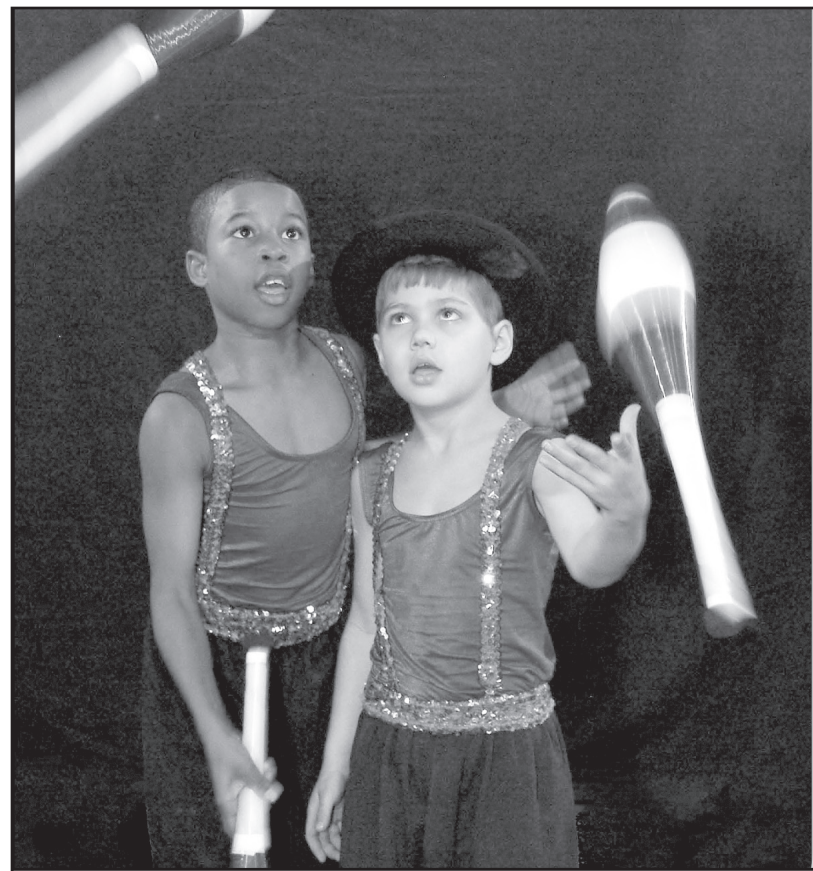
"Philosophy is a very interesting topic," Neithalath said. "It is fun to study and is very enjoyable."

Although Philosophy club did not reach as many members as desired, there is still hope for next year.

"I definitely would encourage students to join. Philosophy can give someone new ways of thinking about the world in which they live," Callahan said. "It really can be quite liberating."

*I plan to do more of the same in the future and introduce people to the ideas of different philosophers and philosophies.*

[Joshua Oberman]  
Junior



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# Summer destinations in St. Louis

Even if you're not going somewhere this summer, St. Louis has some hidden treasures to get you out of the house.

[Helen Wiley]  
Staff Reporter

## 1 The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

This museum was redone a few years ago. It has some really great modern art inside and outside to enjoy. The architecture of the building complements the pieces within. Every Saturday there is a free public tour of the building.

## 2 Cahokia Mounds State Historic

Cahokia has the remains of the most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico. In its peak in 1200 C.E., the city covered nearly six square miles and had possibly 20,000 people. It was larger than London, England at the same time

## 3 Duff's Restaurant

This restaurant located in the Central West End has a nice variety of foods. On a warm day you can sit outside and eat with your dog. Although Duff's is dog-friendly, they can't go inside. The restaurant has a nice atmosphere that adds to its appeal.

## 4 Whispering Arch at Union Station

Next time you visit Union Station, make sure you see the Whispering Arch. Located in the Hyatt Regency Hotel's Grand Lobby, the arch allows guests to share quiet secrets. If you stand on one end of the arch a person on the opposite side can hear you. This amazing piece of architecture cannot be seen everywhere.

## 5 Silver Creek Glider Club

This gliding site is about 40 minutes from Lambert Airport. Teenagers 14 and up are allowed to use the gliders. This place might be a fun to visit with friends or family even if you don't go up and just watch. You have to get certification before you can go up, but each ride is fairly inexpensive.

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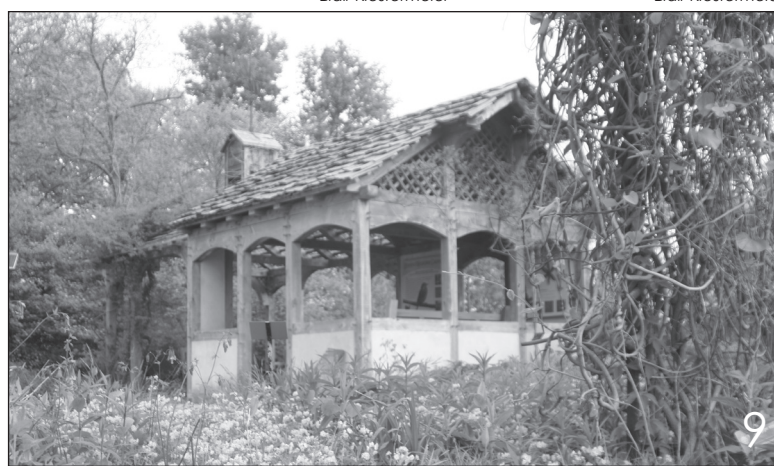
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Jenna Wonish



6

Blair Klostermeier



9

Abbie Minton



4

Blair Klostermeier

6

## 6 Watch riverboats by the Arch

Next time you decide to visit the Arch, check to see if there will be any riverboats docking that day. There are not many of these left, and it is a special experience getting to see one before they are all gone. You could even take a ride.

7

## 7 The Boat House

Forest Park has many waterways that you can navigate with a paddleboat or rowboat. The cost for a 1 hour rental is \$15 and life jackets are provided. You can take a dog with you on the boat and eat outside with him at the Boat House Restaurant.

8

## 8 The Train at the St. Louis Zoo

The zoo is always a fun place and make sure that next time you ride the train. It may not be fast like a rollercoaster, but has different appeals, such as the colorful murals. You can see a lot of the zoo without even walking and pick out what to visit in person.

9

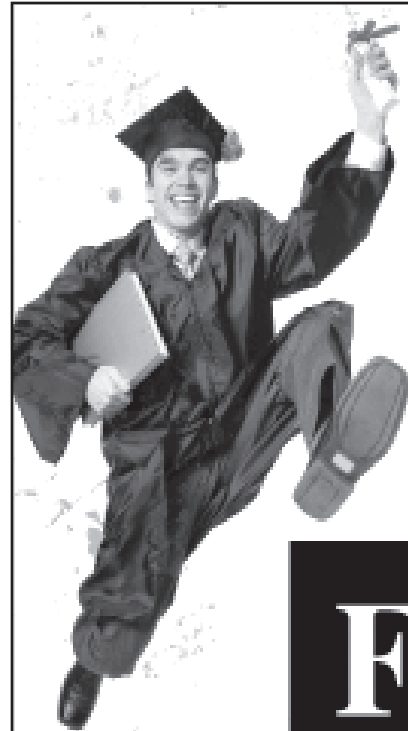
## 9 Shaw Nature Preserve

If you have not gotten a good walk in a while, visit Shaw Nature Preserve. In the spring, this park has beautiful flowers. There are ponds, prairie environments, and nice forested areas. It is very quiet here and a nice change from school.

10

## 10 St. Louis Carousel at Faust Park

There are not many big carousels left. This one was installed in 1929. Be a little kid again or take younger siblings for a ride. Each ride costs \$1. The carousel is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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We also remind students that as the Globe is a student publication, all compliments, opinions, complaints, warnings, threats, sabotage attempts, arrest warrants, and libel suits should be forwarded to the Globe Office (see contact info below), not the Superintendent's.

--the Globe editors

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# Searching for individuality

## After her parents' divorce, a young girl searches for meaning and finds her identity in telling others' stories.

So this is it, my last word, for the pages of *the Globe*. And it's fitting because I'm writing about the very thing I have avoided every month my name has come up to write a column. It is something that is so confounded with in myself that I hardly know where to begin. It is the good, the bad, the beautiful, the horrid, the depressing, the happiness and the sadness of every aspect of my life: my parents' divorce.

Let me start with this fact. I have been blessed in this world to have been given parents whose marriage ended relatively amicably and who have always had my wellbeing at the core of every decision they ever made. They've always been open for communication with each other and with me. They made it their duty to make sure I was happy, loved, and got all that I needed to make up for it...something that doesn't happen for a lot of kids whose parents are divorced. They always did everything in their power not to make me suffer any more than was inevitable for a decision that was never mine to make.

My parents got divorced when I was 3 years old. One of my first memories is of asking my mom when we moved into our new house when dad was going to come with us. She told me, "Kelly, we talked about this, your daddy is not coming with us. You're going to go stay with him some days and with me on others."

Ever since that time, I have switched between houses almost every other day. Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday nights, I am with my dad. The others, I am with my mom.

People think it's weird—and I guess it kind of is. Most people either live in one set house with one parent or do alternating weeks, so my split-lifestyle is hardly comprehensible, even to people with divorced parents.

When I was younger, and held more fiery opinions about divorce, I probably would have rattled off some fundamentalist-sounding diatribe about how I thought divorce should be outlawed.

The constant forgetting of my school poster, or my favorite shoes or my coolest Barbie; the crossing of wires, which would end up with me sitting bewildered in front of ballet wondering who was going to pick me up; the snippets of harsh fights heard over the phone about why I had been late to school *again*; the unnecessary pressure of needing to make sure that neither one of

my parents felt left out when I had one holiday with one and no holiday with the other; the pressure of having to make everything equal, everyone happy, all the time—it was overwhelming.

My parents gave me everything that I could tangibly ask for. The problem was they couldn't give me the only thing I really wanted: the three of us, smiling gaily, in a picture, simple, uncomplicated...happy.

I could never be truly carefree. There was always that ticker going on in the back of my head making sure that everything was good between everyone...I didn't look enough at how happy I was for myself.

Those years in elementary school were the worst. I was always comparing my family with the other "perfect ones." And with the ever-increasing amount of things I had scheduled in my life, fitting all three of our schedules together was becoming increasingly difficult. I had to have everything categorized in my head because I thought I was the only one who could keep the whole operation running smoothly.

It got to me, over the years. By the time I was old enough to realize I was having a breakdown, it was too late. I'd spend hours at night, silently crying in my room, just simply worrying...about everything. I couldn't handle it plus all the onset of adolescent insecurities with friends and boys and body that came on early for me.

My parents are very different. For example, my mom will not cook without the recipe book open, the ingredients perfectly minced, and everything in perfect order. My dad doesn't know what a recipe book looks like and his specialty is macaroni with hot dogs. Both have their merits and faults. But, by living with both of them simultaneously, I have grown up to have split-personalities.

On one hand, I'm hyper-organized, have a love for solitude, and make decisions with ease; on the other hand, I just want to do what I want to do when I want to do it, must be surrounded by friends, and sometimes deliberate for hours between whether to have Taco Bell or Steak and Shake for dinner.

I am a collage, an amalgamation of a person who just really doesn't know who or what she is or will be. I am an oxymoron, a hypocrite...I change my feelings, thoughts and expressions at the drop of a hat. I

didn't/don't know who I am.

There's still some resentment there and there always will be but, luckily, as I've grown older and gained some much-needed perspective, I have realized the sacrifice, love and gift my parents gave me with their divorce: my twin personalities, at least, are my very own, genuine article.

My parents' divorce has made me versatile. Where once the only thing I ever wanted was to have a whole family, I have realized that I do: a loving mom, crazy dad, and amazing stepmom, who make my life more full than most other "perfect" families.

Now my question has become that of a different sort. Is this who I really am? Though I finally feel somewhat at ease with my extraordinarily magnified polarity, I'm still not sure. My grandma keeps asking why I'm going all the way out to University of Southern California. I think she's worried it's because of the family, something about escaping them.

Though I've told everyone it's because of what a great journalism school Annenberg is, part of the reason I am going out to California is because of my family. Not because they did anything wrong, but because I need to make sure that I really am who I think I am. I can't tell you how excited I am to finally have one single room of my own. I need to be sure that who I am isn't just two parts of my parents—I need to make sure it's one, whole part of me.

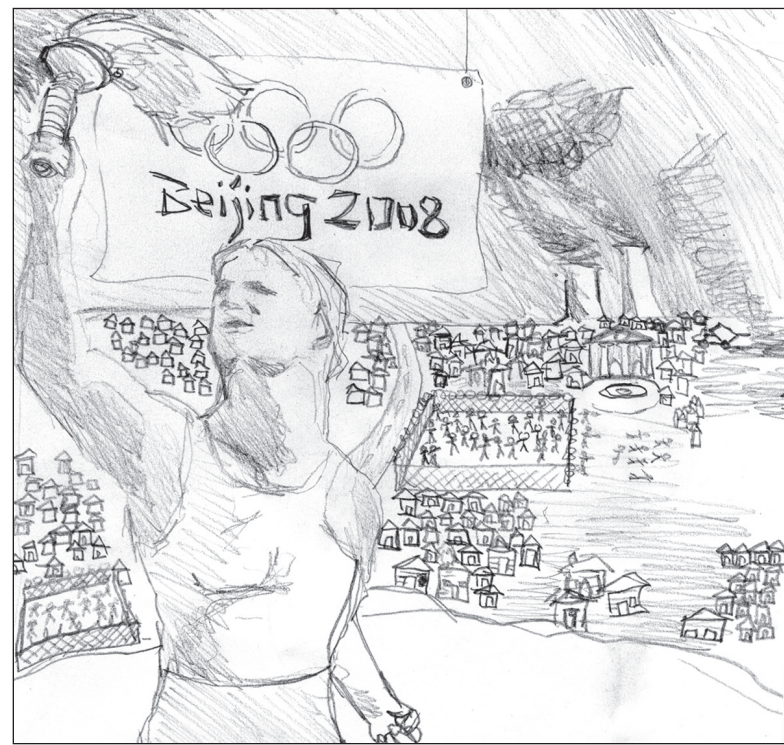
I'm glad to say that I am finally on my way to figuring out my own answers to all these questions partially because of journalism. It's the only thing I can think of that I did because it was all my own idea. My mother had me with ballet and piano, my father had me with basketball and guitar. Though I loved those things in their time and place, they never really fit me.

The moment I walked into the *Globe* office, which was completely of my own accord, I knew I had finally found a place that I could call my very own, where I fit. It's ironic because it's through other people's stories that I've finally started to write my own.

*The Globe* and journalism in general are what have given me myself. Hopefully, with every word I type, every interview I do, every story I lay out, I can pay them back for the gift I've needed in my life since that day when I was 3. Through my stories, I continue to try to figure out this thing we call life.

Thank you for allowing me to find this part of myself because it is to you, the source of my stories, that I really owe it all.

And that is the last word. ☺



Sam Bader

# China's policies defy Olympic spirit

"One world, one dream."

So vows the official web site of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. But in recent months, protest after protest has erupted to block the path of the Olympic torch in Athens, London, Paris, San Francisco, New Delhi and countless other cities. Even Olympia, Greece, the birthplace of ancient Olympic tradition, failed to welcome the torch without demonstrations.

The world has belatedly begun to vocalize against China's soiled human rights record.

Numerous human rights infringements have occurred in China due to the upcoming Olympics. In order to make way for the games, thousands of poor citizens in

Beijing have been forcibly relocated, leaving behind what meager lives they had built for themselves.

Beijing's Olympics organizing agency and China's Foreign Ministry have put the number of Beijing residents that will be displaced from their homes for the Olympics at just over 6,000 people; the Geneva-based group Center on Housing Rights and Evictions claims 1.5 million.

Uprooting this multitude has been called out as a breach of human rights by activists worldwide. The Chinese themselves, however, are denied the right to vocalize their grievances due to the government's policy of censorship, suppression and propaganda. Chinese activists have been increasingly persecuted by the police for voicing concern over human rights abuse.

These same policies apply to Chinese journalists, who do not have access to Tibet or the disputed province of Xinjiang. They have less permission to report openly on these areas.

Beijing has promised that conditions are to be identical to the censorship-free operations of journalists in Athens 2004 and preceding Olympics, but they have opened up to neither Chinese nor foreign media.

China's policy toward Tibet is another point of contention for support of the Olympics. Though Tibet is considered internationally to be under China's sovereignty, the People's Republic of China's rule in the area has been criticized as a violation of human rights and has even been accused of genocide (by the Supreme Court of India in 1959) and imposing an apartheid system upon Tibet (by the Dalai Lama in 1991).

Actor Richard Gere, chairman of the International Campaign for Tibet, has called for boycott of the Olympic games to pressure China into giving Tibet independence, as have innumerable groups around the world. The situation is not improving.

China's economic and political support for the Sudanese Government and its proxy militias has enabled the continuation of the massacre in Darfur. The website www.dreamfordarfur.org has referred to the Beijing Olympics as the "Genocide Olympics" because of China's sale of weapons to Sudan. As a country with unmatched influence over Sudan, China should be exerting itself in an effort to stop the violence there rather than arming the militia.

Likewise, the Chinese government has shown constant support for the repressive military rulers in

Burma (Myanmar). China opposed international sanctions against Burma, where human rights violations are growing increasingly desperate.

Support for Robert Mugabe's brutal regime in Zimbabwe is yet another strike on China's record. A shipment of weapons from China headed for Zimbabwe that eventually turned back included rocket-propelled grenades, mortar rounds and 3 million rounds of AK-47 assault-rifle ammunition. After assessing the situation, Human Rights Watch declared a very high risk of these being used against the civilian population of Zimbabwe.

"China prides itself on being a 'responsible power,'" said Sophie

Richardson, Asia advocacy director at Human Rights Watch. "This means it had no

business shipping arms to an abusive government in the middle of a brutal and violent crackdown."

The Beijing Olympics must be used as a platform by the international community to express that these far-reaching human rights violations will not be silently approved of through participation in China's moment of glory.

President George W. Bush declined to boycott the games, saying in February, "I view the Olympics as a sporting event. You got the Dalai Lama crowd, you've got global warming folks, and you've got Darfur. And I just am not going to go and use the Olympics as an opportunity to express my opinions to the Chinese people in a public way."

On the contrary, the Olympics are much more than a sporting event, and we must use them as an opportunity to publicly express disapproval for global injustice. They have been and will continue to be a symbol of the international cooperation of which human rights are an irrefutable part — unless we stand in tacit endorsement of China and its human rights policies.

The Olympic Charter's first and second principles are "respect for universal fundamental ethical principles" and the "preservation of human dignity." These principles, not the medals, records, and attention on the host country, are the true glory of the games.

Though it would probably be the most effective form of protest, a full boycott of the 2008 Olympics may not be the most appropriate action to take. Athletes that have been training for these games their whole lives should not be denied the opportunity to participate and perhaps realize their life-long goals. Perhaps a symbolic boycott of just the opening ceremonies would be a good way to express condemnation of the host country while not hurting the athletes. Our president, however, has no such plans.

Thus far, the torch of Beijing 2008 has proved not to light the way for the nations so much as to be kindling and kerosene for those prepared to protest China's censored press, forced relocations, treatment of Tibet and support of violent and abusive rulers in Africa and Burma. An Olympics amidst these travesties should not have the support of the international community.

Only with international solidarity in protest can the great potential of Beijing 2008 be realized; only then can "One world, One dream" truly exist. ☺

# Student reflects on academic fortune

When I first stepped inside of a typical high school in China, I knew exactly what to expect.

Aside from all the lighthearted tours of the schools and all the hospitality from school administrators and staff, I knew, before I even set a foot on the first school ground, that the typical stressed-out Chinese students would be what I'd see most.

I wasn't wrong. But after experiencing life as a typical senior at four high schools, I realized that I had underestimated the students' situation in my previous expectation.

They didn't just live off the stress from the slowly approaching college entrance exam (CEE) that was notoriously known for being pretty much the only determinant of their futures.

The Chinese students I met were purely prisoners.

They are imprisoned in a harsh reality where they have had to live without much of the liberty to experience teenage life, to laugh without restraint, or to simply sit under the sun and enjoy the day.

They don't have the right to laugh without the promising hope of doing well on the CEE. They don't have the time to enjoy the sunshine when, seven days a week, they have to sit under the cram-session ceiling around which the sun rises and falls without ever being fully noticed.

In their own different ways, all the schools I visited exuded an air of repression.

I would most identify my first school with its class bell. The bell is composed of a beautiful melody, really, yet the relaxing tune does the opposite of lifting the students' spirit by marking the start of one jam-packed class after another, from 7:40 in the morning until 6 at night.

What I remember most from my second school is a phrase, "Play till you drop." The 30-minute activities recess was already over when a boy in my class continued to shoot baskets on the court. As I watched the boy through the classroom windows, I asked a fellow student in the class why he risked being late to class simply because of a game of basketball. The student replied, "Because we only get one activities recess per week, so when we do, we almost have to play until we drop, and play like there's no tomorrow."

I associate the third school with my friend's laughter. The overall atmosphere of my third school was comparatively lighter indeed, and the students seemed a lot bubblier, yet they are the ones with teachers who would call as many parents-teacher conferences as necessary, alternately keeping a boy and a girl every day after school for as long as needed to make sure they don't walk home together, just to separate the young couples at school. The students there did share more laughter than those at the other schools, indeed, but there was still a line that they couldn't cross.

Whenever I reflect on the fourth school, the word "silence" comes to mind. I remember sitting in the class, next to the blue curtains, white walls, among the students who all had their heads down, immersed in reviewing the practice test they had just done, and there was just silence. The only thing that had a heartbeat in that classroom was the CEE countdown calendar staring glaringly at the class.

Sitting through a whole day of Chinese high school was difficult for me. After a couple of classes, every attempt I made trying to listen failed me completely as I would soon doze off to dreamland.

But it really didn't matter. Because I didn't have to listen. They did. They really had to helplessly force themselves to absorb nearly every word of every lesson from every day because their life depended on it. Mine didn't.

I've always known how extremely competitive students have to be under the Chinese education system. My attitude has always been: yes, it is really hard to get into a college there, but it's equally hard if you want to get into a good school in the U.S.

I still hold onto that opinion, but I have come to realize that the two education systems are simply incomparable. They are simply too different. And their difficulty levels shouldn't be and can't be compared on the same scale.

But as different as they might be, and as difficult in their own ways, I admit that I would still pick to be under the American over the Chinese education system any day.

And I did. And I am extremely fortunate for having had the option to choose. ☺



[Tian Qiu]





Nick Andriole poses with 4 other students at the Global Campaign for Education Summit held in D.C.

## D.C. trip sparks concern

Last week I had the opportunity of visiting Washington, D.C. to attend the Global Campaign for Education summit and press conference along with 50 other students from the United States, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Palestine. The main purpose of this trip was to raise awareness and urge our elected officials to support the bipartisan Education for All Act of 2007. The legislation is sponsored by New York senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and is known as S. 1259 in the Senate, and HR 2092 in the House of Representatives.

This legislation is very important as conservative estimates indicate that there are as many as 72 million children who lack access to a primary education. However, there are approximately 300 million children without access to both a primary and secondary education. Education is an important tool in the fight against global poverty, as it has been proven to reduce HIV/AIDS and improve economic conditions. The Education for All Act calls to increase funding for global education from \$465 million this year to \$1 billion in 2009, and up to \$3 billion in 2012. While \$3 billion or even \$1 billion may seem like an excessive amount, we must recognize that this is as an investment in the future and an opportunity for the United States to take a leadership role in this issue.

While in D.C., I had the opportunity to meet with staff from the offices of Senator Christopher ("Kit") Bond, Senator Claire McCaskil, and Representative Russ Carnahan. While meeting with staff, I had the opportunity to inform them of this pressing global is-

sue and encourage them to co-sponsor the bill. At time of press, the Education for All Act has 64 co-sponsors, however, 150 co-sponsors would help ensure that increased funding is approved.



[Nicholas Andriole]

Being in D.C. was a very empowering experience for me, as I met with students from the United States and abroad that shared common values with me on global issues, and are also motivated to make a difference. On Tuesday, I attended a press conference with my fellow students along with New York Representative Neida Lowey and Colombian singer Shakira. While having the opportunity to meet Shakira was amazing, I find her commitment to placing an end to global poverty mind-blowing. Shakira has worked in her home country of

Colombia and abroad to open schools and advocate for education.

The United States must take a leadership role in ensuring every student has access to a primary education. The increased funding will be used to help remove some of the barriers present in education systems in developing countries. The main barrier to education for many children is school fees. The funding provided by this legislation would be used to remove school fees and implement a more comprehensive teacher training program. However, efforts in Kenya have been successful. In Jan. 2003, Kenya abolished school fees for primary education, and the very next day 1 million children attended school. Kenya has since worked to add capacity by building schools, training more teachers, and developing a transition program from primary to secondary schooling.



Meramec elementary teacher Cheryl Martin mentors a student. She will be retiring this year along with five other teachers, but has instilled lasting memories and lessons in her students' lives.

## Meramec teachers leave memories

Although the substantial solid brick building remains the same, new teachers standing in front of white boards will replace some of my favorite staff at Meramec Elementary School. Five loved and admired faculty are retiring; Librarian Nancy Keller, third grade teachers Cheryl Martin and Paula Lewis, and kindergarten teachers Rebecca Guthrie and Susan Fitzgerald will all take their final bows this year.

Hundreds of CHS students who once attended Meramec spent numerous hours of their childhood with these five teachers. What traits make for a high-quality elementary school teacher? Ideal teachers provide a stimulating learning environment in which each child can experience growth and develop to their full potential.

Yet my 8-year-old sister's definition of her ideal elementary school teacher is the one that remembers to give time for a morning snack, takes them on interesting field trips, and explains assignments thoroughly. At a young age, it is difficult to understand the concept of a model teacher. Guthrie, Martin, Keller, Fitzgerald and Lewis are

model teachers.

These five teachers made a huge impact in my life. As librarian, Keller informed me of wonderful books for my reading level. She always encourages students to complete reading awards and explore a variety of genres.

With Keller, I also developed skills and techniques working on the "Meramec Tribune", our elementary school's quarterly newspaper. As a copy editor of the paper, I was exposed to a variety of articles which sparked my interests in writing and publishing.

Martin and Lewis created a year full of ice cream outings and pool parties to recognize success and achievement. Martin filled third grade with many useful tips. She fostered the idea that a student needs the right tools to become organized.

Without the right tools, a student will never accomplish an organized workplace. Remember those 26 "weighty words"? Words like coruscate, abasement, bifurcate, and ingratiate are third grade words that might even boost my SAT verbal scores. How could I ever forget the creative and colorful activities

around the room, which included trivia questions, and always ended in fabulous prizes?

Although Guthrie and Fitzgerald were never my "official" classroom teachers, I interacted with them through reading buddies and fifth grade helpers. They were always interested in my schoolwork and extracurricular activities. Fitzgerald even attended one of my summer theater performances. Both of these kindergarten teachers were inspiring faculty who devoted numerous hours to their students and made even though that were not

Yes, many new enthusiastic and experienced teachers will cruise through Meramec next year with their own creative teaching styles. Yet how could anyone fill these retiring staff members' shoes? Newly hired teachers in my former classrooms will blur my treasured and prized elementary school memories.

When my little sister enters third grade in the fall, those colorful hallways will seem so different. I will cherish memories of my Meramec days, while envisioning those five retiring teachers enjoying the colorful fall landscapes without having to contemplate their school calendars. Thanks to the five of you for enriching my Meramec days.



[Simone Bernstein]

## Focus on looks hurts girls' esteem

Early every weekday morning, weary girls arise to don carefully chosen outfits, primp their hair, and paint their faces. They stare into the mirror, silently wondering what the day has in store, worrying who they'll see, and more importantly, how they will appear. For too many high school students, self-consciousness has become a fact of life.

As young women, we should not have to turn to cosmetics to feel "normal." We should not have to conceal ourselves to face the world. We should not have to coat our eyes to avoid looking "dead."

To insist that no one wear makeup would be both unrealistic and unfair. High school students, like all Americans, have the freedom to dress themselves as they please. I would agree that this is an indispensable aspect of our culture, and allows for a freedom of expression that other countries do not allow.

Although makeup as an expression of individuality is irrefragable, this is rarely the case. In a blatant expression of irony, advertisements today encourage young

women to go for the "natural" look.

In her film "Killing Us Softly," Jean Kilbourne examines advertising and its influence on today's ideals. On average, an American sees roughly 3,000 ads each day. Through the radio, television, newspapers, magazines and billboards, advertisements sell us not only products, but also a concept of normalcy.



[Nina Oberman]

From a young age, women learn that they must spend enormous amounts of time, energy, and money attempting to recreate the image of beauty that the media forces upon us.

Kilbourne shows that this ideal is in fact unattainable, because it is based on absolute flawlessness. In a beauty ad, the model "never has any lines or wrinkles, and certainly no scars or blemishes—indeed, she has no pores."

Such standards are not only unnecessary, they are extremely hurtful. Research shows that four out of five teenage girls are dissatisfied with their appearance. As a result, they cannot behave as freely

or confidently in social situations. No makeup will cover up a lack of self-esteem.

Our initial conceptions of our classmates are largely based on how they appear to us. All too often, this can determine whether we approach them or not. Dismissing this focus would instill a more positive self-image in everyone. Once we stop judging ourselves so harshly, we will stop judging others harshly.

Already, we are making progress. For this year's 100 most beautiful people list, several stars, including Eva Longoria, Jessica Alba, and Rachel Bilson, agreed to be photographed without makeup. Still, below their photos on the People Magazine website are links to other stories: "Teeth Whiteners Exposed" and "Lose 30 Pounds Quickly." Obviously, we still have a long way to go.

Rather than accepting the needless shame that society forces upon teenagers, we should dismiss this focus on appearance. As Kilbourne said, "What's at stake for all of us, men and women, boys and girls, is our ability to have authentic and freely chosen lives—nothing less."



Katharine Weiss's parents go on a "family" vacation with their dog, Cloee, but left Katharine at home. During the past two years, Katharine has dealt with this loud, clumsy dog whose cuteness consumes her parents.

## Life in puppy's shadow

From the start, I knew she was trouble. She was too perfect. She was everything I was not: quiet, affectionate and a good listener. But do I honestly have to compete with a dog?

My parents ate her up. I tried to tell them, but they wouldn't listen. They claimed I was jealous. Me? Jealous? Ha! I just saw her for what she was, an imposter. Don't they see all of her flaws? She is undeniably needy, incredibly loud and has run into so many doors I have lost count.

She instantly acted as though the rules didn't apply to her. When my parents called her on it, she just looked at them with those deep blue eyes and all was forgotten. She soaked up their attention like a Bounty paper towel, and boy did they give it to her.

Everyday they would go on and on about the "adorable" things she would do and how much everyone else loved her. It was like I wasn't even there. I knew that my parents were just trying to fill the void that would soon encroach on their hearts when I departed for college.

But come on people, my room isn't even cold yet.

Don't I deserve but a little attention? I did just give you the last 18 years of my life. I suppose they won't even notice when I am gone. Five minutes after I leave they will turn my room into a shrine for her. They tell me paranoia is unfounded. For "God's sake Katharine," they say. "She is just a dog."

It has been two years since she entered my house and wooed my parents. And as I get ready to depart for college I am ready to say to hell with it.

You can have them, Cloee, but I must warn you they are fickle folks. And one day they will come home with something cuter, something more lovable and you too will be replaced.

Why just the other day they took in my sister's cute little cockapoo. You had a hard time trying to conceal your jealousy. Each time my parents would coo over Izzie's size or her big brown eyes, you would shove your way up front demanding equal attention.

You have my blessing, Cloee. So enjoy them while you have them. And when the day comes when they no longer find you as cute as you once were, don't come whining to me.

### Taking It In Stride



[Katharine Weiss]

## Why don't you cheer up, Emo Kid?

As I was contemplating what to write for the last column of the year, I asked my special, senior friend — let's call him, say, CrunchMuffin, for anonymity's sake — what I should write. His first idea was that I write a column about something cool, like the grass in the quad, my symmetric backyard or the life of an ant. Then, he suggested inter-galactic space travel. Because as everyone knows, I'm quite the expert on that topic. "Write about, AP exams," CrunchMuffin said. "...PSYCH!"

After telling him that his ideas were dumb and introducing better topics, such as forgiveness or poetry, he bluntly asked me: "Why are you so Emo?"

After replying that I was indeed NOT "Emo" and wanted to write a meaningful column—that question caused me to ponder deeply.

Why is anyone "Emo?" Aren't we all to some degree, "Emo?" I deliberated on an even deeper level, and when I figured I was just on the brink of discovering the meaning of life, I had an epiphany: "Emo"-emity is a corrupted root in American society and the problem lies in confidence.

Self-confidence, I believe, is not the issue. I believe that as a class, as a school, as a society, as fellow-human beings, we need to have confidence in each other. Every person should believe that the person next to him/her is capable of significantly impacting the world with their own uniqueness. If we all do so, the world would be a much better place.

I imagine someone right now is most likely asserting, as my AP World teacher has once done to a smart-aleck student, "Well, who are YOU?"

Hmm, that is indeed a good question, scholar. While attempting to sound witty with my quasi post-modern "flow of conscious" toned column, I do believe that I have at least an inkling about what I'm talking about.

I've quit sports because I've had coaches not believe that I was capable of making the winning shot. I've seen best friends cry because teachers have told them they wouldn't score higher than a 3 on an AP exam. Conversely, I've scored goals because I know that I had a coach and a whole team relying on me, cheering me on. I've seen friends blush with pride after receiving a compliment on an extremely well-written DBQ essay.

In sum, I've witnessed, firsthand, the importance of others believing in you. When humans believe in each other, the effects are astounding and make one believe that truly, anything is possible. We as a society need to do that more often.

If I could leave you, readers, with one final word for the year, one last philosophical thought that should linger in the zenith of your heart forever, it's the following statement:

I know that you can do it! You are an extremely capable, powerful person! I THINK THAT YOU ARE AMAZING!



[Fontasha Powell]



# Senior recalls years at Clayton

I remember as a kindergartner looking forward to the school Thanksgiving reenactment and yearning to wear my homemade pilgrim costume. I recollect my profound detest for nap time. Now I would love to have scheduled nap time. As graduation nears, many memories have been flowing in and out of my mind daily. I have been shaped by my family, but also by the many teachers and friends I have made in the last 13 years.

One of my favorite memories of elementary school was putting on the second grade play of "Jack and the Beanstalk". In the play I played a prince and climbed a short ladder that seemed to be as tall as the Empire State and then proceeded to save Rapunzel.

I had such a fun time doing the production and felt so cool wearing sunglasses at school. While this story is fun to tell, the most pivotal point of my second grade was probably a stray comment made by my teacher Miss McD.

"Hyrum, you write so fast!" she said. "You will surely be a journalist someday." From that point on I always tried to live up to my "journalist" name and stopped trying to write legibly. If I slowed down, Joe Lucky would often remind me of my "journalist" status. It is interesting how the prediction of my second grade teacher has proved accurate, as I have loved high school journalism.

The next major event was probably my third grade year where I learned to take pride in my work and acquired my passion for reading "classics". My third grade teacher Dick Koblitz once gave us a test of our knowledge on atoms and the structure of them. I remember writing frantically and filled four wide-ruled pages speaking about the structure of atoms (with many illustrations included). I wish I still had a copy of that quiz because I got a four out four on it and was so proud.

Mr. Koblitz taught me to take pride in my work even if it was building with pattern blocks. Mr. Koblitz also helped cultivate my love for good literature that I try to live up to this day. He had a large bookshelf of "Great Illustrated Classics" that I would check out and try to read as fast as I could.

As a "journalist," it was my job to do this. I read "Moby Dick", "The Red Badge of Courage", and "The Invisible Man". Every time I finished a "novel," my family and Mr. Koblitz would tell me how much these books would help me in later life.

I am indebted to both my family and Mr. Koblitz for helping me learn to love to read. It has given me hours of pleasure and things to think about when I have time to think. Even now I choose books due to their "classic" or "masterpiece" status and rarely allow myself to reader pulp fiction. Life is too short to read bad books. Middle school was a transition time for me.

However, it was also very fun and helped define who I am. As a sixth grader I loved 6 central or "6 cool," as we called ourselves. We went on many field trips to the zoo with Mrs. Sermos or the History Museum with Mrs. Wall.

I learned to appreciate nature and finally understood that big numbers over small numbers yield larger numbers, a mathematical concept that was difficult for me to first get. Perhaps the funniest event in sixth grade was when I was in Orchestra and I waved at Mrs. Shepard, who was my sister's math teacher. As Mrs. Shepard waved back, an expo marker that was in her hand flew out of her hand and bounced off my arm.

My memories of seventh grade are much more limited as they consist of working really hard in my Honors math class to try to stay in and also the delight of burning Cheetos in science class.

While both were very rewarding, working hard in math at a young age taught me that I could do difficult things, and I have been able to stick through honors math even if I tend to over think it sometimes.

My last major memory of seventh grade was when I was called "fat boy" one time during gym class. This event was pivotal because I had multiple ways to respond. I could have felt bad about my image and hid, thereby secluding myself from seventh grade society, but I decided not to make enemies with people and to try to get along with people, even when they were cruel.

It took a long time to really learn how to get along with people, but this skill has helped me in so many ways in my life thus far. As I slowly found my friends in middle school and high school, I believe I have more empathy for others as I know what it feels like to be marginalized.

The greatest part of high school is that high school has only gotten better as I have progressed through it. High school started out very difficult as I spent hours of my life pouring over physics which left little time for me for my other subjects. Physics proved to be like my Honors math course in seventh grade. It taught me I could tackle hard things.

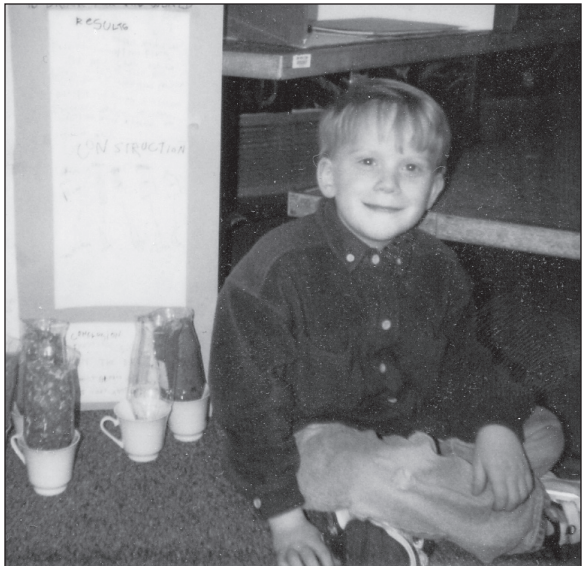
My sophomore year was very different from my freshman year as I quit things that I didn't enjoy. These included French, water polo, and orchestra. Although I knew I could do hard things, I did not need to do everything. I worked very hard during sophomore year and was proud of my grades, especially a perfect score on my history final and an A in math (a miracle really).

Junior year was when I reached the apex of my academic record—just in time for college transcripts. I especially loved reading more "American Classics" in Honors American Literature, and listening to Mr. Collis

## EL CUATRO



[HYRUM SHUMWAY]



Courtesy of the Shumway Family

## Hyrum Shumway happily shows off his science fair project from kindergarten.

was some of the best comedy I have experienced. It is a rare gift when someone can make a class on dehydration synthesis so engaging and interesting. His biology classes made me laugh every day. Whether it was his own comments or his reactions to difficult questions, such as, "Isn't there some African lion that can drink salt water?", the class was one of my favorites.

My senior year I took hard classes and my GPA has dropped, but the knowledge and experience I have gained from those difficult classes has made the drop well worth it. School isn't easy, but college won't be either so the preparation that I am making right now will hopefully yield dividends my freshman year in college.

One of the greatest lessons I have learned in high school is that you have to do something that you love at all times. My passions have changed throughout my career at Clayton, but there was always something that I liked to do. Just as important as it is to focus on school, it is equally important to be distracted at times by worthy pursuits.

I owe so much to my teachers and friends who have been patient in my learning process and explained and re-explained concepts for me. I also owe a lot to my friends and family who have supported me and given me a boost whenever I need it. I am amazed at my writing improvement (thanks conferred English and Globe) and how much I can write about Clayton.

As I ponder on the past I look to the future and wonder what it will hold for me. I know the skills and knowledge I have gained from Clayton will be a great asset for me next year and in my later life.

Students sometimes complain about school, but in the end there is no other district I would rather go to than Clayton. I will be a Captain Bulldog, a Meramec Mustang, a Wydown Wildcat, and Clayton Greyhound for life. Thanks, Clayton! ☺

# Persistent pursuit teaches confidence, gives pride

I confess: beyond my timid and quiet exterior, I am quite loud and lazy. Ask anyone who knows me. I sleep 10 hours a day on a regular basis, and I enjoy talking with my friends. But most of all, one thing that truly characterizes me is my extreme dislike of sports.

It all started when I was 9 years old. My father put my sisters and me into Clayton sport programs. For my two younger sisters, it was t-ball, but for my older sister Ugochi and me, it was softball. I was not happy about leaving the TV screen and my daily Nicktoons for a useless game of hitting a ball with a stick, but I agreed to go, and that was only because of the free food I was promised.

I remember thinking that maybe, by some stroke of luck, I would lose my inelegance and get through the season in one piece. I was wrong. Within the first three weeks of the season, I sprained my ankle, split my lip open, and received multiple other scratches and bruises.

I went through three seasons of softball before I told my parents that I was incapable of playing any sport and would never play a sport ever again. Yet, here I am, on the girls' JV soccer team, playing soccer.

A friend of mine persuaded me to play soccer this year so we could have more time to talk and hang out. Being the dominant sport in Africa, some say that I should have soccer (or football) in my blood. Before now, the only soccer I have ever played was with my relatives in the summer, and on rare occasions did I touch the ball. But I really wanted to hang out with my friend, so I reluctantly agreed.

We planned to condition two or three days a week together during pre-season; she ended up coming once or twice. Though I continued to condition, I still wasn't ready—either physically and emotionally.

When the first day of the season came along, she said that she had lost her eligibility card and had too much schoolwork to do. So I walked to Gay Field in the freezing rain, wearing a t-shirt, black capris, and my ratty tennis shoes, telling myself that it couldn't possibly get worse.

But it did. I was five minutes late (and scolded by the coaches for it) and finished last in the short one-mile run and the runs across the field. I began my dejected plod back to the school, soaked and defeated when a beacon of hope came towards me in the form of a car.

Sophomore Alix Williams offered me a ride back to school. I graciously accepted with a smile on my face, but the pain and humiliation of the day's practice left a deep wound in my self-esteem. That night I really considered quitting, but I don't like leaving things unfinished, and if I started now, that would prove that I was weak and couldn't break out of my shell.

For the next couple of days I grudgingly came to practice, observing my fellow future teammates and the freshmen, seeing where I could fit in. I saw some girls I liked and some girls I didn't have a great past with. During those weeks I gritted my teeth in frustration, trying to cooperate with some girls I had difficult relationships with, and when the JV team was finally formed, how to deal with feeling like the outsider.

That's when I realized that the only way I could cooperate with everyone and feel connected with the team is to break out of my "shy-natured girl" shell and display my true personality. So, during practices, I tried to talk more and worked hard to increase what meager skill I had. Gradually, I felt as if I was part of the team, and that boosted my morale during games.



[Jjoema Onyema]

# Administration changing CHS philosophy

As we, the senior class of 2008, graduate, we leave behind a different and in many ways worse Clayton High School than we entered. We are the last class that remembers a different administration. We are the last class that experienced Clayton High School at its best, when teachers and administrators sought to educate and provide students freedom.

Even though CHS had its flaws when we arrived as freshmen, the overall environment far surpassed any other school in the area. Former principal David Skillman maintained a balance of discipline and liberty that allowed students to learn from their mistakes and remain high academic achievers.

Now, the Clayton philosophy has been under attack for three years, and the new philosophy pales in comparison to the old ways. Dr. Losos does not support students' rights (outside of journalism) or opportunity to make choices for themselves. Instead of crafting an open and free community, the current administration has repeatedly selected to act as rigid disciplinarians.

When we were freshmen, the administration did not have a Hallway Blitz policy. When we were freshmen, the administration did not support limitations to students freely traveling between CHS and the Center of Clayton easily. When we were freshmen, the administration did not give detentions to students who were tardy. When we were freshmen, the administration did

not assume that students would make bad decisions before dances and no one had breathalyzers.

When we were freshmen, CHS was a place all about students learning through the exercise of freedom. That is no longer true. With the implementation of the aforementioned rules and various other policies. Dr. Losos and the current administration has taken an aggressive stand against our rights as students.

In many cases, the policies did not respond to problems at CHS, but rather anticipated student misbehavior and proactively denied students the opportunity to choose for themselves. An administration should be reactive to problems, but should not cut off corners for students before the students have an opportunity to make an informed decision for themselves.

All of these changes in the Clayton philosophy are only one component of the current decline of CHS. Additionally, various teachers with tremendous experience are leaving, being replaced by teachers who do not know of the better days at CHS. Over the next few years CHS will lose teachers Donna Rogers-Beard, Jim Lockhart, Rex Rice, Curtis James, Sam Harned, Glenn Cody, Bill Mendelsohn and probably others who are either retiring.

These teachers are responsible for the AP World History, AP English Literature, AP Physics, AP Calculus BC, AP European History, AP German, and AP U.S. History. They and the other teachers who have served Clayton for years make up the backbone of Clayton's excellence. Without these teachers remaining to defend the CHS of a few years ago, there will soon be no one who remembers what CHS was like.

We have unfortunately watched one of the best schools in the country be slowly attacked at its roots, and if someone does not make a change, soon the entire structure will collapse.

Without the fundamentals that made CHS great, it cannot continue to thrive.

Students reached great success because of the free environment harbored by CHS administrators and the extraordinary quality of the teaching staff. However, as the long time greats are replaced with new and inexperienced counterparts, and the freedom of CHS disappears, students at CHS will no longer surpass the competition. CHS students will continue to be bright, but CHS will no longer be unique in its educational philosophy that supported such innovations as open campus.

The decline of CHS has begun; it is up to those of you remaining to stop it. ☹



[Dakin Sloss]

# College process proves stressful

Who's worried about college?

I am.

Compared to the years when our parents went to college, college searching has become a very long and stressful period for many teenagers. There are multiple standardized tests that need to be taken, applications to be filled out, recommendations to ask for, essays to write and much more.

But even on top of that, there is the simple question of where you want to go to college? I think I've already been asked that question at least a million times over the past year.

And frankly, I never know what to say.

I have a few colleges I'm interested in, as well as few I know for sure I don't want to attend. But, in general, I never have a concrete answer ready.

This bothers me, especially in light of the already tremendous stress that is placed on high school students. It is an extremely difficult decision to make, about where you want to study for many years of your life. There are so many aspects to take into account.

So, like many other students, I decided to attend the very large College Fair at MICDS at the end of April. I really didn't expect to get much out the fair besides some pamphlets about schools I knew I was interested in. I also thought this would be a good time to meet the representatives of schools I hadn't heard about and broaden my spectrum of schools that would give me a great education.

Immediately as I entered the MICDS gym, I was bombarded with other students discussing with their parents and flipping through colorful pamphlets about various colleges. Rows upon rows of tables were set up with bright displays and covered with pamphlets advertising that specific college. Students walked this way and that way carrying bags, loaded down with pamphlets and brochures.

People were everywhere. The first thing I was reminded of, surprisingly not college related, was Trick-or-Treating on Halloween. It seemed as if students would walk up to a table, or from my view, a house. They would "knock" on the door and then shake the owner's, or representative's hand.

Students would tell a joke and light conversation would be held. Then the "candy" would be passed over, which in reality, was a pamphlet describing everything a prospective student needs to know about that college.

Then students would run back to their parents exclaiming what they just received at so-and-so's house. They would each greedily peer down into the bag, selectively pick out a scrumptious pamphlet, and then devour it together.

That was my primary reaction, and even now, I feel that the college search and process has been overblown dramatically, just like my description of this college fair.

I learned a great deal of information, and I too "devoured" many pamphlets like a young boy on Halloween night.

However, in terms of applying to college, I feel that the process has been over-extended and has developed into one of today's headline news stories. A majority of high schools across the nation are concerned about the college process, which means that many thousand more students are over-involved and stressed out about college. I am one of those students.

At first I wasn't worried at all. I knew getting into college wouldn't be easy, but I knew not to over-react to it. Now, however, it is hard not to. Even at the "trick-or treat" fest, I managed to find a few of my sophomore friends.

My question is why a sophomore student should be attending a college fair? Sophomores should be first preoccupied with their grades and involvement at school. Just seeing sophomores at a college fair demonstrates that society has put a tremendous amount of pressure on students to get into college.

There is no doubt that college acceptance rate at top tier colleges has gone down over the past years. More and more students are applying, and there is only so much room. But, students also need to realize that there is a place for them out there somewhere.

After attending college fairs like this one, I have begun to realize myself that there are a large number of students applying to college today. I might not make it into every school I want to.

I am still going to try my hardest.

As I "trick-or-treated" that one night, and as I continuously search every university on-line, I am forced to realize that any college on my list will do. Be it number one or number five.

Besides the already incredible stress placed on students by society, it is inevitable that students place stress on themselves. Students tend to get wrapped up in the idea that only one college is good for them: that they can only go to one college. And, if they aren't accepted to that one college, the world ends.

In fact, I think students need to take a moment to breathe and take a step back. The amount of students that go on to college from CHS is ridiculously high in comparison to many other schools around the nation. There are so many great opportunities to learn about different colleges by attending CHS, like the MICDS College Fair.

I am now very thankful to be in this situation and high school, and I think everyone else should also consider themselves fortunate.

I just think people and the majority of society need to understand that in many degrees, the college process has been over-exaggerated, and as a result, students are more worried about college acceptance than ever before.

Getting into college was going to be hard enough as is, but with constant discussion, fairs, visiting, ACT scores, GPA's, extracurricular activities and colorful pamphlets, it is no wonder students are freaked out and then either overly excited or depressed when they get their college letters in the mail.

This is the stress and pressure that wasn't present during our parents' high school years and I wish wasn't present today. ☹



[Aaron Praiss]



# Senior Sendoff: A Tribute



11  
Jackie Wilcher

[Sarah Horn]  
Editor

In only 16 days the class of 2009 will be walking across the stage, handed a diploma and then they will be out the door, tackling on the next part of their lives. Both an exciting and emotional time, the seniors reflect on the best parts of Clayton, the regrets, and their hopes and plans for the future.

Senior class president Marta Toczykowski has found CHS to be a great place of learning and fun, but still looks forward to the future that lies ahead. Toczykowski believes that her friends and her grade as a whole truly represent her experience at CHS.

"Our grade is great," Toczykowski said. "We've been through a lot of tough times, between losing classmates, seeing a new principal and having lots of policies change. Between freshman year and senior year, Clayton High School has become a different place. I think we all made the best of it and I think we all got along great."

Senior Jonathon Goodfellow also believes that his friends are what made his time at CHS unforgettable.

"I will miss hanging out with my high school friends and being in the Clayton bubble," Goodfellow said.

As their time at CHS dwindles down, seniors find both many successes and regrets from their four years here. Senior Hannah Doty, who was a new student last year, identifies both with her laments and accomplishments at CHS.

"Clayton High School was a place I never thought I'd be since I grew up in Evanston, IL, but it is a place I will always remember," Doty said. "My only regret is that there are still some people I wish I knew better who knew me better!"

Toczykowski also recognizes many of her own successes and regrets in her time at CHS.

"I think I have a lot of regrets and successes," Toczykowski said. "I am proud of the work I have done over the past four years (if you forget about 3rd and 4th quarter senior year), but I can't say that I didn't make my mistakes. I did end up grounded for half of my sophomore year, and I do wish I would have spent more time and made more memories with the people in my grade, but overall, I only have great memories of great times with everyone."

But for many the most memorable moments, and the ones that will be missed most, at CHS are related to activities outside of school, such as athletics. For senior Laura Bliss this is just the case.

"I will miss playing field hockey, basketball and soccer," Bliss said. "Although I might get a chance to

play intramural or even club sports in college, it won't be the same as it is now. I love being part of a team, and playing in those rival games against Ladue and MICDS, but it won't be the same in college."

The same is true for senior Jon Pang, whose greatest success was winning state in tennis with his doubles partner, senior Max Shapiro.

And of course for others, the best memories are the random happenings and inside jokes with friends.

"For me it was eating 2 pounds of peanut butter at lunch freshman year," Goodfellow said. "This is a success and regret."

However, as their final year at CHS comes to a close, the seniors look forward to summer plans and what they wish to do next year. Many seniors plan to attend a college in the United States. For Bliss, she plans to work as a counselor at the popular sleep-over camp of Miniwanka and to attend Indiana University next year. Similarly, Pang also wishes to attend this university at Bloomington.

"Next year I'm going to attend the business school at Indiana University," Pang said.

Toczykowski also plans to attend a university next year and already has ideas of what she wishes to major in.

"Next year I am going to the South," Toczykowski said. "I'm going to the University of Mississippi (otherwise known as Ole Miss) and I am going to the honors college and double majoring in business administration and real estate with a minor in political science."

However, not every senior plans to follow the traditional plan. While Doty is attending Adelphi University in Long Island, NY, she has been accepted into their B.F.A program and will go through an intense program with around 20 other people for four years as she majors in theater. Senior Lisa Ast, is also straying from the normal path by taking a year off before going to college as she plans to attend a university in Israel and wishes to build up her Hebrew language skills before attending school.

"I am also going to Israel next year for year of Jewish and Religious studies," Ast said. "So I am going to Israel a little bit early so I can take a month-long class at the University of Haifa to help me better my Hebrew language skills. The school is in a foster home so I will be working with kids as like community service along with the learning. I will be going to college called Yeshiva University the following year."

And as the seniors look forward to throwing their caps in the air and walking out to a new world, they leave CHS with full hearts and happy memories.

As Toczykowski summed up the thoughts of May: "Sometimes I just think it all happened too fast and I wish I could have slowed down some parts." ☺

## SENIOR PHOTOS

1. The senior class gathers around the Golden Greyhound at the Homecoming football game.
2. Seniors Parker Rawdon and Tim Mena watch the Homecoming football game together.
3. From left, seniors Anya Veramakis, Abbie Minton, Leigh Katz, Brittany Hutchins, Chiara Corbetta, Laura Bliss, and Tatiana Birgisson, pose with flowers as the Homecoming queens nominees.
4. Seniors Laura Bliss and Shainia Kornblum
5. Senior Jon Pang plays tennis at an after-school practice. He later won state with his doubles partner, senior Max Shapiro.
6. Senior boys work diligently at Senior Community Service Day.
7. From left, seniors Nava Kantor, Hannah Doty, and Kelly Moffitt pose together at the Homecoming football game.
8. The cheerleaders, from left seniors Preshus Jones, Amanda Tren, Lauren Phillips, and junior Chandler Rollins, drive on in the Homecoming parade with spirit.



2  
Blair Klostermeier



4  
Clamo



3  
Blair Klostermeier

## SPORTS

"My greatest success at CHS would be winning state with my doubles partner Max Shapiro."  
Senior Jon Pang



5  
Clamo



6  
Clamo

"I was impressed by the Senior community service day at how well the class of 2008 has been able to bond together from freshman year to the present time."  
Senior Hyrum Shumway

## SERVICE

## CAMARADERIE

"I realized that I really like the small school feel. I am able to walk around and say hi to people I know who know me and I've learned I really love that!"  
Senior Hannah Doty



7  
Blair Klostermeier



8  
Blair Klostermeier

"I think I will most remember homecoming. Every year it is so much fun. I love all of the spirit that is shown during all of the events"  
Senior Laura Bliss

## SPIRIT



**[ourview]**



**staff playlist**

1. "Red Rabbits" The Shins
2. "Paper Planes" M.I.A.
3. "Party People" Nelly ft. Fergie
4. "Say" John Mayer
5. "Stop and Stare" One Republic
6. "Piece of Me" Britney Spears

**Top Three...  
juice brands**

1. capri sun
2. apple & eve
3. juicy juice



**mo:ie:ty  
noun**

1. an indefinite part; a small portion or share
2. one of two basic tribal divisions

**What you didn't know...**

**The Thriller album released by Michael Jackson in 1982 is the best selling album of all time, selling 26 million copies worldwide.**

**website of the month**

**blackle.com**

blackle is the energy saving format of the google search engine, conserving energy by using a black screen.



# Girls' soccer scores winning record



Julia Reily

Junior Chelsea Flood fights for the ball in a game vs. Parkway Central.

**[Evan Green]**  
Editor in Training

As the girls' soccer team is off to an amazing start with a record of 10-4, the team has been a force to be reckoned with on the pitch. Most recently, the Hounds have been firing on all cylinders with two 5-0 wins over St. Elizabeth and Jennings.

However, after winning eight of their first 9 games, the team proceeded to lose their next 3 before winning the two games after that.

Senior captain Sonja Gierada led the team in the St. Elizabeth game as she contributed two goals and an assist. In the team's 5-0 win over Jennings, senior Laura Bliss had two goals, and senior Anya Veremakis added a goal and two assists. Freshman Bree Northern contributed a shutout in the game for the Hounds.

After a season in which Northern split time in goal with junior goalie Courtney Pierce, she will now be the starter for the rest of the season. In goal, Northern has a 5-4 record and two solo shutouts.

Previously, the team endured a rough patch of games, losing three straight to Parkway North (4-2),

Westminster (3-1), and Parkway Central (2-1). In the team's 2-1 loss to Parkway Central, Northern made 10 saves in a losing effort, to go along with another Gierada goal.

Junior forward Alice Lehmann thought the Parkway central game was the best.

"We made some really good plays and held possession for a lot of the time," Lehmann said.

In losing, the team has learned where they need to improve.

"We really need to finish our opportunities in the attacking third of the field," Hoelscher added.

Others on the team felt that the team had different ways to improve.

"We have done really well on defense and getting back on the other team's attack," junior forward Olivia Hayes said. "But we still need to focus on getting the ball out of the defensive third successfully without just kicking."

Other than those aspects of the game, the team has done increasingly well in different parts of their game plans.

"I think our movement of the ball has been really good, and we have gotten a lot better at reading

plays and being able to support each other effectively," Lehmann said.

Hoelscher had a different view as to the team's strengths.

"Emily Anderson and Sonja Gierada have really stepped up for us, but our team has played well together, and we have steadily improved our possession and have played good defense," Hoelscher added.

Gierada has 11 goals and 10 assists on the season for a total of 21 points, second best on the team behind Hayes (37 points). Anderson has accumulated 11 points (4 goals, 3 assists) from the midfield spot.

This year, districts will be played a Burroughs on May 12, 14, 16. Because the Hounds have played so well, they have earned a two seed in the district tournament, meaning that they have a bye in the first round of district play.

The Hounds had their last game of the season on May 6. They scored a victory against MICDS (May 7), with a 7-0 shutout, cancelled due to

Hopefully the team will have a long postseason run that will bring a magical ending for 7 key seniors and a team that has worked so hard to get where they are today. 🐾

# Girls' lacrosse finishes with teamwork

**[Anya Veremakis]**  
Editor

Although girls' lacrosse was just admitted as a school-sponsored sport this year, its rapid success during the season has caused it to be a team that Clayton students are proud to call their own.

With a 12-2 record and wins over tough competitors like Webster, Parkway West and Ladue, the girls look to finish out their season strong.

In addition, the team has also had several other impressive wins including Rockwood and Whitfield.

"To summarize the season, I would say it was very successful," senior captain Jackie Wilcher said. "Being state-sponsored for the first year ever, we really wanted to make a good impression and create a reputation for girls' lacrosse program, and I really think we did just that."

Their great success has not come without challenges. The girls have worked hard to perfect their flaws and overcome obstacles through the course of the season.

"Team unity was a challenge for us in the beginning of the season," Wilcher said. "We really struggled to click on the field, meaning our passes and catches were just not being made. We still struggle during some games, but we have really gotten better at many of the basic skills needed to play the game."

Additionally, the girls had to overcome their "underdog" status in order to score some big wins.

"I think one of the girls' biggest obstacles was their confidence in themselves and their ability to play," head coach Sarah Hartong said. "When the season started we played teams that weren't as good and when we started playing better teams, the girls realized that they had to gain more confidence, work together and play as a team to win."

The girls play together with the help of talented players and a strong line up down the middle of the field. The group of four seniors that play the middle of the field is composed of Ellen Hinkle (crease defense), Jackie Wilcher (midfield), Elaine Beebe (point attack) and Emily Owen (crease attack).

Additionally, senior goalie Shaina Kornblum is a key player who has helped the team win numerous victories.

The girls' talent is evident in the fact that many of the girls are league leaders: Jackie Wilcher is third in the league for ground balls (98) and fifth in the league for assists (11), Emily Owen is second in the league for goals, assists and overall points (50 goals and 14 assists) and Shaina Kornblum is second in the league for save percentage and saves (133 saves).

"We may not have a large team, but in the end I really think that every player is a key player and that is what makes us such a great team," Kornblum said.

Although the team had immense talent coming into the season, its non-complacent nature has caused them to continually work hard and improve.

"The girls have definitely improved on passing and catching and they have recognized when to shoot and when to pass, whereas in the past everyone wanted to be the hero," Hartong said. "Also, our senior leadership is one of our greatest strengths. We have a great group of seniors that are setting the way for the other players."

As the end of the season draws nearer, the girls hope to have as much success in districts as they have had in the season. The odds are indeed in their favor, given their winning record and great teamwork.

"Our goals were really just to have fun, play good lacrosse and win some games," Wilcher said. "Now that we've accomplished those goals, we are looking to have success in districts and finish a memorable season with no regrets." 🐾



Abbie Minton

Senior Ellen Hinkle makes a run in a varsity game vs. Marquette.

# CHS seniors to play varsity sports in college



Matt Katzman

Senior Parker Rawdon will be playing varsity soccer at Columbia College of Missouri.

**[Sara Rangwala]**  
Editor

A little over 150 years ago the first intercollegiate athletic competition was held. Not on a baseball diamond or a football field, but rather on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire.

Nearly 30 years later the Rowing Association of American Colleges, the first collegiate sport

organization, was formed. The excitement grew along with the number of sports clubs and competition.

Today, juniors and seniors are accustomed to asking about divisions, sports, and the like during college visits. The thought of going to a college without any sports participation is one that doesn't occur to many.

While most are just interested

in attending sporting events, a few Clayton students are looking to play sports in college. For senior Mark Heil, being able to play baseball in college was his biggest priority. He secured a spot on Columbia University's Division I baseball team.

"I was recruited by the coach," said Heil. "He had seen me play before, and I sent him a video."

To encourage Heil to seriously

consider Columbia, the coach flew Heil up to New York.

"I got to stay with a player on campus for two nights," Heil said. "I got a feel for how the program works and how the school is in general."

Senior Daniela Depke hadn't even planned on continuing volleyball in college. However, Beloit, the college she plans on attending, offered her a position on their varsity team.

"When I went in for an interview I told them I played volleyball and was captain of the [Clayton varsity] team" she said.

Although she doesn't plan on playing varsity volleyball all 4 years in college, Depke likes the idea of having workouts.

For students that don't wish to play varsity sports, other options include club and intramural sports. Senior Sonya Gierada, who will attend Duke University, will be playing club soccer.

One of the main differences between varsity and club sports tends to be the time commitment involved.

At Columbia the baseball program involves conditioning all year long. The most intense workouts occur in both the fall and the spring. Additionally, athletes are expected to workout individually in-between seasons.

Soccer at Duke also involves regular practices. Being a part of the club team also involves traveling and challenging competition, but still allows the players time for other extracurricular activities.

"I talked to a girl at Duke who played on a club soccer team there," Gierada said. "She said they practiced twice a week and played a game about once a week and did at least one traveling tournament."

One of the main reasons Gierada decided not to play varsity was because she didn't want soccer to dominate her undergraduate experience. However, finding a college that could accommodate her passion for soccer was very important.

"I wanted to play wherever I went," she said. "But you would be surprised how many schools don't have club soccer for girls. It ended up being really lucky that Duke has it."

Depke also considers herself lucky to have secured a spot on the varsity volleyball team at Beloit. She has visited the school and got to meet and practice with the rest of the team. She hopes that having gotten to know other students will make the transition from high school to college smoother.

"Going in there, I will have people I know before school even starts, which will make it all a little easier," she said. 🐾



# Record-setting month shocks Cardinal nation, pleases fans

[Evan Green]  
Editor in Training

The St. Louis Cardinals have surprised everyone so far this year. In leading the National League Central Division after 30 games and setting a club record for wins in the month of April, the Redbirds have shown that they are in the race for the playoffs for the long run.

"I didn't expect much from the team at the end of spring training, but now I think that they have the potential to do well the entire season," sophomore Charles Goodman said.

The team's most pleasant surprise has been their consistent starting pitching. With the second best team starter ERA (earned run average) in Major League Baseball, a spot that was supposed to be a major weakness for the team has turned out to be their strongest aspect of the game.

Led by staff ace Adam Wainwright, the staff ERA is an astonishing 3.61, even though the team's supposed top two starters are on the disabled list.

"Our (the Cardinals) pitching has done better than I expected at before the season started," junior Syd Warner explained. "Even [Kyle] Lohse has done extremely well."

Indeed, spring training signee Lohse has been a sparkplug for the team's rotation, second on the team in individual ERA with a 3.79 earned run average. Lohse was signed during spring training to be a filler pitcher until aces Chris Carpenter and Mark Mulder returned.

Mulder is scheduled to return in late May, while Carpenter will most likely not come back to the rotation until the All-Star Break (mid-July).

Albert Pujols has continued to be the Albert Pujols we all know and love, producing his usual mind-boggling numbers, although this year they are in different batting categories than previous years. Pujols is leading the Major's in on-base percentage, intentional walks, base on balls, and is third in batting average and fourth in OPS (on-base plus slugging percentage). Pujols is on pace for an eye-popping 46 intentional walks, which would put him into waters that have only been tested by the great Willie McCovey and Barry Bonds in the history of baseball.

In a recent poll of the 30 MLB managers about the player who they would least like to pitch to, Pujols received the majority of the vote (11.33 votes), followed by a tie between New York Yankee third baseman Alex Rodriguez and Los Angeles Angels right fielder Vladimir Guerrero for second place, each of whom only received four votes.

"I can understand why some teams would pitch around him, but as a fan, it's really annoying to watch your best player not get a chance to impact the game,"

sophomore Tommy Hummell believes.

Part of the reason for pitching around Pujols is the relatively weak lineup surrounding him.

Although Rick Ankiel is a great success story, other than two spurts of offense, Ankiel has struggled, leaving Pujols vulnerable to be pitched around. Even Pujols has admitted to not following his usual strict choice in swinging at only strikes because of his growing frustration with being pitched around.

In a recent St. Louis Post-Dispatch article (April 10), Pujols stated, "Obviously, I have chased some bad pitches out of the strike zone. Like everybody else, I'm human. I'm not a robot."

Other than Ankiel protecting Pujols in the lineup, manager Tony La Russa has batted platoon outfielder Ryan Ludwick there with some success, but most still believe Ludwick to be, at best, a fourth outfielder. If La Russa chose to put outfielder Chris Duncan in the four spot, he would be stuck in a predicament because Duncan is so prone to striking out, not the sort of batting trait that is needed when batting behind Pujols. Even with that spot in the batting order up for grabs, the team has still been successful.

"I would prefer to see Ludwick bat behind Pujols because he has done so well there, and he provides some good power for the team," Hummell added.

The other option to bat behind Pujols is third baseman Troy Glaus, the new addition to the team from Toronto. While Glaus has produced major power numbers in the past, he has hit only one home run so far this season, and his batting average is fairly low. That, combined with being slow-footed is why Glaus makes for a poor option to bat behind Pujols.

"Glaus has surprised me because I didn't expect him to do so well, but he has produced a lot of RBI's," Warner said.

Glaus has performed well for the Cardinals in the RBI department, driving in 21 runs, second on the team.

In reality there is no perfect candidate to bat behind Pujols, especially seeing as he is the most feared hitter in the Major League according to the majority of MLB general managers. With that in mind, the Cardinals will make the best of the situation.

Rookie outfielder Brian Barton has also been a pleasant surprise for the team, providing some much-needed speed on the bases for a team that has gotten away with winning even without much speed in recent years. Barton is a great help to a team without much power and the sudden return to a newer form of Whiteball (a style of baseball made popular by former Cardinals manager Whitey Herzog; it is basically small ball, or playing for one run, rather than depending on home runs).

"I really think that Barton has brought some much needed speed and excitement to the Cards," Goodman said.



Albert Pujols fields a ground ball off the bat of Cincinnati Reds' outfielder Adam Dunn. Pujols has led the Cardinals to 22-14 record.

As well, the team's situational hitting has been outstanding. With a team batting average of .281 (fifth in the MLB), the Cards have delivered when they have needed it most.

If the team can hold together until Carpenter returns, they will have an extremely good 1-2 punch at the top of the rotation in Wainwright and Carpenter. Thus far, Wainwright has been outstanding, including a gritty complete game on April 26, beating the Astros while throwing an amazing 126 pitches, unheard of in today's game. That, combined with Wainwright's recent ability to win games without having his best stuff has truly transformed him into the team's ace, even when Carpenter returns.

Most people in baseball still don't believe the Cards have the ability to maintain their position throughout the season. Even with the doubts that surrounded the team at the beginning of the season, they have proved everyone wrong so far, and something that will hopefully continue as the season rolls on.

With a team that seems to lack pure talent other than Pujols, La Russa would have to be named the manager of the decade if he were somehow able to guide the Redbirds to the postseason and beyond. ☺

# Unforgettable relationships influence high school insights

In the days following Coach Joe Gamlin's death, I have taken some time to reflect on my relationships with various coaches, teachers, and adults thus far in my life.

In particular, I have been fortunate enough to have formed a very close bond with one of my hockey coaches Doug Reisinger. Doug, a CHS parent and long-time hockey coach, first coached me when I was in seventh grade and for Clayton. For the past six years, Doug has coached me for many JV, varsity, men's league, and a summer



Over these years, Doug has coached me for many JV, varsity, men's league, and a summer relationship where we talk about other things besides sports. In fact, we talk less about hockey than we do about life, which causes me to value our relationship even more.

I think that these sorts of relationships are extremely rare nowadays, and especially with high school sports, because of a few reasons: high school students are often relatively immature, the coach is usually a teacher in a school setting, or some other reason that inhibits a relationship from extending beyond the playing field. However, when a relationship is formed, it is even more special.

I also believe that these relationships are more common at Clayton because of the caliber of teachers and the maturity of the students.

At Clayton, a number of students have been able to form such relationships over their high school careers, which is a testament to both the teacher/coach and the student.

I know of a number of students (many of whom are my good friends) who have become very close with English teacher Matt Balossi. Unfortunately, I have not had the opportunity to get to know Mr. Balossi on a personal level, but I know that he has made the high school experience much better for my friends who have gotten to know him over the past four years.

As I mentioned before, the real reason I have been thinking about these relationships is because of Coach Gamlin's death. Coach Gamlin epitomized a coach and a teacher who formed meaningful relationships with nearly everyone at the school, whether he was your coach or not. In pretty much every case, his role in the relationship was less of a coaching role because he mainly served as a mentor for life in general.

Personally, I got to know Coach Gamlin through being a counselor at Sixth Grade Camp this year, but I regret not getting to know him better. The tremendous attendance at his funeral was a tribute to his effect on the lives of so many at CHS, which could only have been accomplished because he was opened to form relationships with every student and person he met.

One of my good friends had a very complicated relationship with Coach Gamlin, but it was important nonetheless. Gamlin taught him, and everyone else, about life and being a good person before worrying about sports.

After talking to my friend, I came to the understanding that his high school experience would not have been the same if it had not been for Gamlin. Even though they had their ups and downs, he understood that Gamlin was trying to make him a better person.

In general, I think that coaches play a crucial and often underestimated role in students' lives that moves beyond the playing field.

I truly believe that these relationships form such an important part of shaping individuals, especially in terms of teaching respect for others and instilling essential values at such an impressionable age. These coaches have used sports as a context for life in order to teach their players about teamwork, discipline, hard work, responsibility and the like.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the teacher and coaches that have taken the time to get to know me (and other students) on a more personal level and who have taken time to be genuinely interested in my well-being. My high school experience would not have been the same without you. ☺

# Boys' lacrosse team second in division, looking strong for making playoffs

[Evan Green]  
Editor in Training

The Clayton Greyhound boys' lacrosse team has been extremely successful lately. By winning their last four games against Hazelwood (16-4), Rockbridge (7-3), Parkway North (10-1), and Wentzville (12-10), the team improved its season record to 9-6.

Before the four wins, the team lost a hard fought battle with Fox, one of the top teams in the area. In losing 13-10, the team learned that they have a couple of weaknesses.

"Fox was definitely our toughest game so far, but we learned that we need to improve on reversing the ball, so that when the defense over pursues, we can take advantage of it," sophomore attacker Max Goldfarb said.

Junior attacker Brigham Wheelock has led the team so far, having netted an astonishing 37 goals and 14 assists (51 points) in just 13 games, tops by far for the team.

"I have done really well with my assists and off-ball play," Wheelock said.

As the team has gone through the season, Wheelock has received some much-needed support from fellow junior attacker Terry Ellis. Ellis has scored 27 goals and has 15 assists for 42 points.

"Terry has really stepped up since moving to attack," Goldfarb added.

Elsewhere on the team, senior midfielder Tucker Szybala is third on the team in points with 26 and has exhibited key leadership qualities for the Hounds.

"I feel like I've done the small things well to help the team, but the team still needs to come together and play all four quarters hard," Szybala said.

Junior goalie Tyler Moody has recently received almost all of the playing time in goal for the Hounds, and, after a rough start, has done exceptionally well for the team, including holding Parkway North to one goal on four shots and allowing just three goals on 13 shots against Rockbridge.

"Since Moody has stepped his game up, he won back the starting spot, he has been playing really well, and he has vastly improved since February," Goldfarb said.

On the season, Moody has averaged 5.59 goals a game, an improvement from last season.

In the team's impressive 16-4 win over Hazelwood, both Ellis and Wheelock had five points, and Goldfarb and Szybala each had a hat trick.

**Everybody on the team has two goals. One is to beat Ladue, and the other is to win a state championship.**

[Max Goldfarb]  
Sophomore Attacker

As we go to press, the Hounds still have the two rivalry game against Ladue (May 9) at home to play, but only three total games left on the regular season schedule. As well, because Clayton is second in their division, the Hounds are almost a lock to make the playoffs (top four in each division qualify).

"Everybody on the team has two goals. One is to beat Ladue, and the other is to win a state championship," Goldfarb said.

Szybala shares that goal with Goldfarb.

"My season expectations have not been met until we win the state championship," Szybala said.

With that in mind, and a number four ranking in the Class II division, hopefully the Hounds can pull out a state championship, continuing Clayton High's tradition the last four years of winning at least one state title, something that has not happened yet this year. ☺

# Golf team inspired to try for postseason glory

[Michael Root]  
Editor

In the past, the boys' golf team has had an impressive track record with players reaching state and performing at very high levels. This year, however, their outlook on the season has changed in light of Coach Joe Gamlin's recent death.

"Coach Gamlin's death is a motivating source for everyone on the team," junior captain Sam Ryan said. "We are no longer playing for ourselves. We are playing for him."

This year's team, comprised of many young players with only one senior, has had very good success throughout the season with impressive victories and finishes in tournaments that preceded Gamlin's death. The team won the Affton Scramble Tournaments and the Rittner Tournament, and placed fourth in the Conference Tournament, proving their capability to perform and compete against any school in the area.

However, the team has found that Gamlin's death puts things in perspective.

"Everything has seemed a lot harder since he passed away," Ryan said. "But it has brought the team closer besides just our performance with golf."

Due to the team's young roster, Ryan and junior co-captain Colton Smith have been forced to step up and

serve as positive role models.

"We are a very young team with a solid top five or eight players," Ryan said. "This leaves room for the younger players to learn from example and improve and gain experience this year in order to play a more vital role in years to come."

The coaching staff is also forced to step up and attempt to fill the huge shoes left by Gamlin. Math teacher Chris Moody has been named the new head coach of the varsity team for the remainder of the year.

Looking forward in the season, this year's team participated in districts where they hope to play well and qualify for state.

"Personally and as a team, we hope to place in the top 15 in state," Ryan said, "but we know we have to do well in districts first."

In districts, which took place on April 29, the Hounds had four players qualify for state: freshman Eitan Kantor, Ryan as well as junior Tim Smith, and senior Peter Glik. This is the first time in about four years, according to Glik, that Clayton has had this many people qualify for the state tournament. As a team, they placed second overall at the district tournament, which is a huge accomplishment that Clayton has not achieved in many years.

"For our team, with the situation we are in with Coach Gamlin passing away," Glik said, "districts could not have gone any better."

Glik also reiterated Ryan's remarks that Gamlin's death has motivated the team and propelled them into their recent success.

"Collectively, we probably took [Gamlin] and all the things he taught us for granted throughout the season and in years past," Glik said. "But now we realize how much of an impact he has had on everyone, which has forced us to work even harder towards our goals of state."

Despite the head coaching change, the boys' golf program has a bright future with their young roster and maturing underclassmen. As Glik mentioned, it is pivotal for this year's team, and for teams in the future, to have younger players step up and perform at high levels.

"If a few kids, like Eitan did this year, can step up and gain experience as underclassmen, then the team has a much better chance for success," Glik said. "Especially with losing someone like Gamlin, it is even more important for players to self-coach themselves and others in order to make sure everyone is in line and performing to their highest potential."

As the golf Hounds look towards the state tournament, which takes place on May 11-13, they know one thing is for certain: their success is directly linked to the impact Gamlin had on the program and individual players whether it was on the golf course or in the hallways at school. ☺



Abbie Minton

Flowers were placed in the pin of a cup in honor of the late Clayton golf coach, Joseph Gamlin. Gamlin died of a heart attack at the age of 61 on April 19, 2008.



# Risky Business

When students slip into the business of selling drugs, some eventually opt out after realizing that the consequences outweigh the profits.

**[Gila Hoffman]**  
Senior Managing Editor

Larry David, on the HBO sitcom *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, often finds himself in rather obscure situations for a middle-aged man. In one particular episode, David hits the streets hoping to find a drug dealer that can supply him with marijuana to help his father find relief from his glaucoma. David, exceptionally nervous, approaches a dealer after he witnesses a drug transaction.

"First of all you can calm a little," the dealer says. "Relax. Create the illusion that we are friends talking here."

David overdoes it by patting the man on his back and forcing out a laugh.

"I can get you an ounce of, you know, some real hydroponic, scientific stuff, but that'll run you 500 bucks," the dealer tells David.

"Hydroponic?" asks David.

"Yeah."

"I'm not looking for a sound system, my friend," David says.

David settles for an ounce of "schwag" for \$200.

They quickly exchange the money for the drugs, and David hurries away.

While the show's intent was merely to place David in yet another awkward, hilarious moment, drug dealing is not always fun and games.

In 2005 the U.S. government conducted the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The survey reported that nationwide over 800,000 people aged 12 to 17 had sold illegal drugs during the 12 months before the survey.

Another survey, the 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that nationwide 25.4 percent of students had been offered, sold or given an illegal drug by someone on school property. The survey found that in some states the percentage was nearly 40 percent, but in others the numbers dropped to 15 percent.

Every year nearly \$7 billion is spent to arrest and prosecute nearly 800,000 people for marijuana offenses, whether it is selling, distributing or using the drug. Even though a large amount of resources are put towards cracking down on the illegal activity, still nearly 85 percent of high school seniors find marijuana 'fairly easy' or 'very easy' to obtain [National Institute on Drug Abuse]. This statistic has not changed since 1975.

While the numbers may be high nationwide, the population of dealers at Clayton is fairly low.

"I would not really consider the people who sell drugs at Clayton actual drug dealers," senior male A said. "For example with pot, a lot of people at Clayton

will buy directly from the dealer, keep some for themselves and then sell the rest to their friends for the same price they paid for it. So since most of the people at Clayton do not handle a large amount of drugs at one time, they are not really making that much money compared to the actual dealers they bought it from who handle larger amounts."

Scott Jacques, a PhD student in the Criminology & Criminal Justice Department at UMSL, has been researching and studying the issue since his undergraduate years at the University in Georgia. While an undergraduate, he had his own research project in which he interviewed 25 young [18 - 23 years old] middle-class drug dealers.

He decided to further his research and education at UMSL because of their tradition of interviewing active offenders. In addition to his research of middle-class dealers, Jacques also has interviewed 25 lower-class drug dealers.

This semester he, and Richard Wright, the Criminology & Criminal Justice Department Chair at UMSL, have had two papers published: "The Relevance of Peace to Studies of Drug Market Violence," published in the journal *Criminology*, and the other, "Intimacy with Outlaws: The Role of Relational Distance in Recruiting, Paying, and Interviewing Underworld Research Participants," published in the *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.

Jacques has presented his research in places like London, Los Angeles and Montreal.

According to Jacques, some criminologists would say that someone is most likely to sell drugs if they have low self control, a lack of social bonds (familial ties and interest in school), subscribe to a deviant subculture and/or are stressed from life.

"I'd say that the persons most likely to sell drugs are those who use drugs, are friends with drug dealers and users, do not have a legitimate job, know a lot about drugs, are mostly 'left alone' by their parents and have enough cash to buy a large quantity of drugs," Jacques said. "As relates to the last 'facilitator' of drug dealing, you may be surprised to find out that some drug dealers start their career right after receiving birthday or graduation money."

Consider two quotes from dealers that Jacques has interviewed during his research: Christian said: "[I] started talking to this kid on my [sport] team, and we decided...that we'd go in together with our graduation money and buy some quantity and we'd start selling."

Pete said: "The first time I bought an ounce [it] was with birthday money that I got."

For senior male B, who was involved in drug dealing off and on for around 14 to 18 months, the opportunity to begin to deal arose from a different source.

"I met someone who had really good pot," male B



said. "For Missouri, this pot was fantastic and I just wanted to share it with my friends."

One of the motivations for being a part of drug dealing is the money that comes along with the activity.

"For the 'typical' high school or college drug dealer, profit can literally range from \$50 a week to thousands of dollars a week," Jacques said. "Some dealers are solely interested in 'smoking for free'; for instance, if a person buys an ounce (28 grams) of marijuana for \$300 and sells 3 quarters (7 grams each) to his friends for \$100 each, the dealer can smoke a quarter (or \$100 worth) 'for free.'"

For male B, profit was not a main concern. "I didn't really make much profit, mostly I was just able to smoke for free," male B said.

Some dealers get "deeper and deeper" into drug dealing. Pete initially bought an ounce, but eventually he was buying half pounds (8 ounces) of marijuana, typically worth \$3,200 at the retail level) every week or so, and he was smoking an eighth (3.5 grams, \$50 worth at retail level) of marijuana every day.

There is no one profile of a drug dealer. A fact of criminology is that, typically, people between the ages of 14 and 24 are most involved in crime, and that crime peaks around 18 years of age.

"This is true for whites and blacks, rich and poor, male and female," Jacques said. "This 'fact', it seems to me, is also true for drug dealers; high school seniors are more likely to sell than juniors, who are more likely to sell than sophomores, who are more likely to sell than freshmen, who are more likely to sell than middle school students."

It is quite possible for dealers to make a "career" out of drug selling, but in the long run few seem to do so.

"Although there are other reasons, one reason

that dealers stop selling is because they are victimized," Jacques said. "Dealing is, so to speak, all 'fun and games' until you get a gun put to your head, or lose hundreds if not thousands of dollars in a fraud, or your parents' home is burglarized because someone was trying to find your drugs and drug-money. After being victimized, some dealers ask themselves: 'Who am I? Am I a drug dealer or a good kid? Can I be both at the same time? Should I continue dealing drugs or strive toward a legitimate livelihood? Are the rewards of drug dealing worth the costs of being victimized or the chance of being arrested?'"

After a little over a year, male B decided to stop dealing drugs.

"It started getting annoying," male B said. "People didn't seem to appreciate the pot and they didn't appreciate the hookup, so I stopped."

Many cities are taking action to try to stop drug deals in residential neighborhoods. Just last month, a bar owner in Atlanta, Rufus Terrill, built an armor plated remote control robot to survey the area, record video and chase away drug dealers near the location of his bar, close to where a day care is also located. The robot, which is 4 feet tall and weighs 300 pounds, has a loud-speaker in which Terrill uses to scare off drug dealers. It is also equipped with a water gun that sprays people causing problems in the area.

There is a broad range of penalties for drug trafficking. The lowest grade of penalty for marijuana drug trafficking includes the possession of one to 49 plants or less than a 50 kg mixture. For the first offense jail time does not exceed five years and a fine of up to \$250,000 for an individual or up to \$1 million if more than one person is involved. For the second offense, the jail time and fine amounts double. ☺

## Students ignore dangers, consequences of alcohol

**[Nina Oberman]**  
Staff Reporter

At Clayton, putting oneself at risk has become the latest trend. In the 2007 Health Risk Survey, 35 percent of CHS students reported binge drinking in the past month, compared to only 25 percent nationally. Similarly, 34 percent of students said that they had ridden with a driver who had been drinking in the past 30 days.

Clearly, the majority of students who choose to drink don't take the necessary precautions to arrive home safely. But Clayton's luck cannot be everlasting.

According to the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, one teenager will die about every hour on each weekend in an alcohol-related car crash.

"We've been really lucky that we haven't had any deaths yet," sophomore Peri Harlan said. "But people really have to make sure that they have a designated driver."

The lack of communication between teens and parents has also added to the danger. At the town hall meeting on under age drinking in April, parents were encouraged to set strong boundaries for their children. But sophomore Gabby Mottaz believes this may not be enough.

"Kids are going to drink whether you say yes or no," Mottaz said.

"It's way more dangerous to have a teen drinking without the parents knowing than it is to have them drinking with the parents knowing. Teens get into cars drunk because they're too scared to call their parents to pick them up."

Rather than recrimination, Mottaz values open communication.

But what makes students want to drink despite the proven dangers? Health teacher Doris Smith points to high levels of stress at Clayton, peer pressure, and higher family incomes. Many students, however, see it differently.

"I started drinking because it was something new and fun to do," sophomore Lucy White\* said. "It didn't really have anything to do with peer pressure, it was just a lot of fun, and so I didn't think of the negatives."

In addition, warnings about the dangerous effects of alcohol often backfire, making students even more curious about experimenting. "It's so forbidden that it's really tempting to try," senior David Rone\* said. "You want to overcome all of your obstacles, and drinking is valued as something that makes you stronger."

Unfortunately, high social status does not denote mental wellbeing. Alcohol, when consumed in large

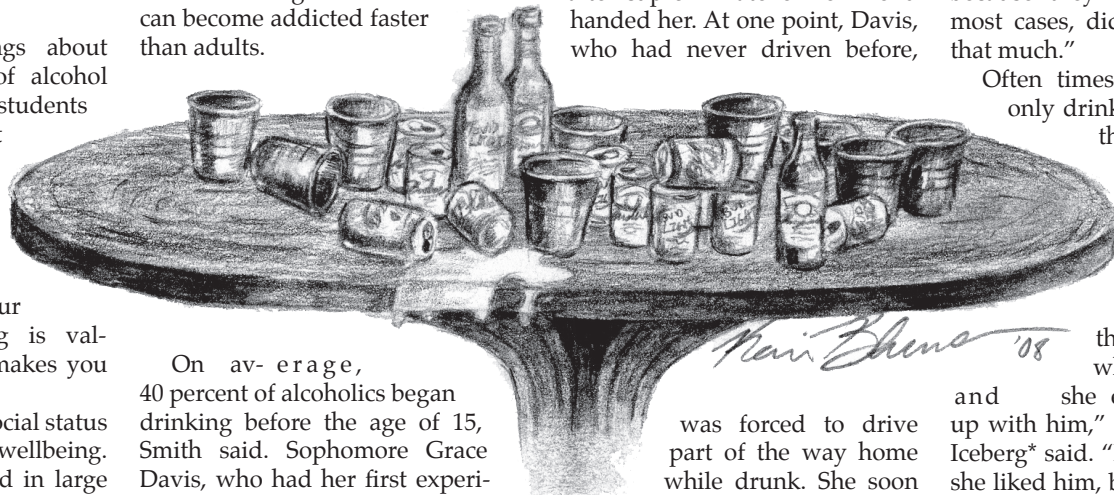
quantities, takes its toll on the hippocampus, or memory storage area of the brain.

As Smith explains, the hippocampus gathers information through our senses, and then files it away for later use. For this reason, binge drinkers often can't remember their experiences while drunk, and may experience a blackout.

"Drinking is so widely accepted in society that the views minimize the dangers," Smith said. "You may think it's not affecting you, but it can really catch up with you in the short-run and the long-run."

Anyone who binge drinks on a regular basis will experience damage to the hippocampus, resulting in a brain that is 10 percent smaller on average.

Another hallmark of high school drinking is that teens can become addicted faster than adults.



On average, 40 percent of alcoholics began drinking before the age of 15, Smith said. Sophomore Grace Davis, who had her first experi-

ence with alcohol at the age of 12, was immediately hooked.

"When I first drank, a switch literally flipped in my head," Davis said. "I knew this was what I wanted to do, and this was what I was going to do."

For Davis, drinking started out less frequently: every weekend, one of the nights. Eventually, she started drinking during the week, sometimes on her own.

"I loved the way it made me feel—absolutely invincible, I could do whatever I wanted," Davis said. "I felt relaxed and comfortable. I could stop worrying about everything else that was going on."

Her friend, a 25-year-old bartender, often provided her with alcohol and drank with her. She would drive around; drinking cup after cup of whatever her friend handed her. At one point, Davis, who had never driven before,

realized that the risks she was taking weren't worth the rush of drinking, and enrolled in the Crossroads program.

Davis recognizes that her experiences are unique, but warns others that addiction isn't predictable.

"It depends on the person you are, and there's no way of telling whether you're going to go too far or not," Davis said. "And when you're in the moment, you don't know if you're doing that."

Although few students at Clayton would say that they have a drinking problem, alcohol has had many negative effects on their life.

"My worst experience around alcohol is whenever I see someone getting sick," junior Jennifer Burell\* said. "That's when it's gone too far, and I feel really, really bad for them because they're helpless and, in most cases, didn't mean to drink that much."

Often times students will not only drink too much, will do things they would never have considered doing while sober.

"Once when I was with my friend, she met this 21 year-old guy when she was drunk, and she ended up hooking up with him," sophomore Katrina Iceberg\* said. "I guess she thought she liked him, but she never got to

see him in the daylight when she wasn't drunk, and by the time she did see him for what he was, it was too late to go back."

Because experiences such as this aren't necessarily unexpected while under the influence of alcohol, Smith challenges students to examine their choices more deeply.

The biggest concern for most students is that their parents will catch them drinking. The issues, however, run deeper than disobeying the rules.

"Really look at why it is that you need alcohol to have fun," Smith said. "What else is missing?"

For many students, drinking has become a weekend routine. It is a habit, however, that can easily be broken with support from organizations around the area.

"I know everyone says you don't need to drink to have fun, but I never believed that until I actually experienced going to parties and staying sober," Burell said. "It's still just as fun and I'm usually grateful I didn't drink because I feel better in the morning."

For drinkers who may find it more difficult to stop, there is an open support group at CHS, run by the Crossroads program. They meet on Tuesdays during school at Northwest Coffee in Clayton. See Davis or a counselor for more information.

"If you need help, get it," Davis said. "You won't regret it." ☺

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# Mental health month raises awareness for teens

**[Preeti Viswanathan]**

Editor in training

In addition to being the month which precedes summer, May is annual Mental Health month, just as October and certain other months represent awareness for various causes. This month, the purpose is to raise awareness about mental health problems such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and depression. The 2008 theme for Mental Health month is being socially connected and helping others stay connected and healthy.

Various organizations in Missouri are planning events to increase understanding of mental health conditions and raise awareness about the significance of mental health. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in St. Louis is hosting a walk-for-awareness event in Forest Park on May 24.

"NAMI St. Louis is planning a week of education programs and our *NAMIWalks* also in May raises awareness and funds for our programs," NAMI St. Louis Director of Volunteers Sharon D. Lyons said. She said that the best thing for the general public to increase its own awareness is to educate itself.

"The best thing you can do is get the facts about mental illness and be supportive of friends and family members who have symptoms of mental illness and those diagnosed with an illness," Lyons said.

Clayton High School health teacher Doris Smith said that among adolescents nowadays, depression is the most common form of mental illness, followed by bipolar disorder.

"We are seeing greater numbers of teens diagnosed with both depression and bipolar disorder," Smith said.

Though the exact explanations for this recent trend are hard to pinpoint, Smith thinks it may be because teenagers face more pressures in their daily lives.

"It could be the greater stresses teens deal with or could be that we've become much better at recognizing the disease and making the diagnosis," Smith said.

Lyons also agrees that depression and anxiety are the more common mental health conditions in teenagers, and these are most often characterized by a loss of enthusiasm for social activity and irritable behavior.

"Typical symptoms are changes in behavior, changes in activities and friends, substance abuse, dropping grades and school attendance," Lyons said. "It can be hard to distinguish between normal changes due to pu-

berty and changes that need medical attention. Some of the available treatments include talk therapy with a counselor and/or medications. Another typical mental problem is ADHD which can also be treated with therapy and medication. However, many families are reluctant to have their child on medication and that is understandable."

While a number of mental disorders are becoming widespread in younger people as well as older adults, stereotypes and misunderstandings still exist. LaDonna Haley, Program Director at the Mental Health Association (MHA) of Greater St. Louis, thinks these misconceptions usually come as a result of ignorance.

"Myths, along with lack of information, are the foundation of societal, cultural and personal stigma, all of which can contribute to people not getting treatment," Haley said.

Haley said MHA's goal is to educate individuals to change their outlooks on mental illnesses.

In general, our belief is that getting educated with factual information about conditions (emotional, psy-

chological, psychiatric), illnesses, treatment and the potential for successful treatment is essential to dispelling the myths that still abound in our society. Also, speaking out to family, friends, church, community, policy makers, etc., is crucial to changing the mindset of our society's perspective on psychiatric illness and other mental health conditions, and the need for access to treatment, she said.

According to Lyons, many people might also misjudge how mental illness happens and who it pertains to.

"Certain myths include seeing mental illness as a sign of weakness, sin, or bad parenting," Lyons said. "Using words such as 'crazy' and 'psycho' add to the stigma and have the connotation that mental illness happens to others."

Having the proper access to treatment can be difficult for some because of worries from family members that medication can lead to dependency or that it isn't the right kind of therapy.

"Some see medication as a crutch and [think] medication contributes to the mental problem, however, mental illnesses are now seen as chemical imbalances in the brain and the medication corrects the imbalance," Lyons said.

She hopes that there will be a large turnout at Forest Park to support mental health awareness. ☺

**We are seeing greater numbers of teens diagnosed with both depression and bipolar disorder.**

**[Doris Smith]**  
Health teacher

## Strange phobias perplex students

**[Ellie Bullard]**

Editor

Everyone is afraid of something—whether it's fear of speaking to an audience, of death, of heights, or of poodles. Some phobias, or fears, however, seem a little stranger than others.

Fear is linked to the area of the brain called the amygdala. Usually, this part of the brain secretes hormones that control fear. Those hormones stop being secreted once the perceived threat is no longer perceived as a threat. For example, someone might see a large bug and might initially be scared, but eventually would realize that the bug holds no threat, and the amygdala would stop secreting hormones. However, when someone has a phobia, the brain is unable to realize that the threat is not actually a threat, and so the amygdala continues to secrete hormones, creating a continual feeling of fear or terror.

Often, many people's phobias don't make sense. For example, Senior Katie Weiss is deathly afraid of poodles.

"My fear of poodles dates back to an incident that I experienced as a child," Weiss said. "One summer while at camp with my family, I must have been four or five because I did not yet know how to swim, I swam out (wearing a life jacket, of course) to a raft in the middle of the lake with my two sisters. When we got there, my sisters took off my life jacket and we lay out on the dock. About 10 minutes later these two black poodles that have been coming to camp about as long as I have swam out to the raft wearing their own twin life jackets. When they got to the raft, they jumped on board and started chasing me around and since I couldn't swim, and I didn't have my life jacket on, I had to remain on board as I was terrorized by these two devil dogs."

Junior Julia Hartel also has a strange fear of seaweed. Her fear was present when she was young, like Weiss.

"I was absolutely terrified when I went to Mexico for the first time and went snorkeling," Hartel said. "I was little and squeezed my mom's hand the entire time and was really scared."

Hartel and Weiss' experiences have changed the way they look at the things that they fear. Often, they face problems that stem from having strange fears. For example, Weiss is often made fun of because of her fear.

"Unfortunately everyone else thinks that my fear is a joke and constantly taunt me with it," Weiss said. "One time when I went out of town I came home and went to bed in the middle of the night, I flip over my pillow and there on my pillow is a picture of a poodle that my Dad had taped on as a joke. I found the joke cruel and was very mad at him. In another incident, one of my friends came into the newspaper office while I was



nava kantar

**Even this innocent-looking poodle, belonging to Nava Kantar, can inspire strange fears in some people.**

laying out a page for the paper and changed all the pictures on my page to pictures of poodles."

Hartel's fear has also limited her when participating in certain activities.

"My family visits our cabin every summer and I always swim a lot less than my brother and sister," Hartel said. "I choose to take our boat to the swimming pier in the deep part of the lake, far away from any seaweed while my brother and sister swim out to the pier, passing right through the shallower seaweed filled part of the lake. You couldn't pay me \$500 to swim through seaweed like that."

Weiss's fear has even limited her in the places that she's willing to go.

"My sister lives in Aspen which is basically the poodle capital of the world, and not just regular poodles, but poodles that are died pink and have pedicures and are scary even if you aren't normally afraid of poodles," Weiss said. "Walking the streets in Aspen is torture because every way you turn there is a poodle."

Hartel and Weiss have, nevertheless, have decided to try to find ways to conquer their fears.

"Unfortunately I am spending my summer in Aspen this year working so I need to come up with some plan to avoid these devil dogs, other than screaming and running in the opposite direction," Weiss said.

As frightening as it is to her, Hartel plans to overcome her fear of seaweed when faced with amazing opportunities.

"While I know that my fear is kind of weird and makes little sense, I can't help it, but I won't let it get in the way of once in a lifetime opportunities," Hartel said. "If I had a choice however, oceans and lakes would not have seaweed anywhere that people swim, and they would be filled highly chlorinated, crystal clear water." ☺

## Personal finance class a must for class '10 and up

**[Maddy Bullard]**

Staff Reporter

For the class of 2010 on, personal finance will be a graduation requirement. Although the class has been around for a while, it was never a required course until now.

The personal finance teacher is now Marci Boland, but soon additional teachers will be needed to fill the post.

In the personal finance class, students study topics like income, money management, spending, credit, saving and investing. Skills include managing a budget, learning how credit cards work, and learning about financial independence in general.

Many of this year's sophomores and freshmen may ask why this class has recently become a requirement.

"There is an increasing number of young adults that do not understand how credit cards work, carry a huge debt on their credit cards, do not understand about saving for retirement, and investing," Boland said. "We are a financially illiterate society, and we cannot rely on Social Security to be our source for retirement."

The personal finance class is open to juniors and seniors.

"The class is open to all juniors and seniors," Boland said. "When you are trying to teach adult concepts about success after college, it is a little too early to teach to freshmen. I wish it was only a second semester senior class because then these concepts are the most relevant, but I understand that this is not an option."

Personal finance class was popular even before becoming a requirement.

"Before this class became a requirement, it already was a popular class," Boland said. "The students in the class do feel as if they have learned essential life skills."

The class at CHS can fulfill an elective CTE credit although the state has ruled it could be counted as social studies, home economics, or business.

"Most high schools in the state have chosen to add this class as an elective," Boland said. "Clayton has decided to use this class as a CTE credit (the old practical arts credit)."

Boland feels that the class is a great way for students to get prepared for life after school.

"It is an extremely valuable class to help students become successful in their future," Boland said. "Isn't high school all about preparing for [the] student's future? If they cannot get a job, manage their credit or even understand the basics about investing or how our financial system works, then students will not be very successful."

Boland has talked to many Clayton parents and staff, all of whom agree that personal finance teaches important life skills.

"Louise Losos has even commented to me several times about how she needed to have taken this class in school," Boland said. "I have not talked with a parent who did not think these concepts were not essential to their financial success."

Boland also states that if students are interested in business, knowledge of the topics covered in personal finance can be a major asset.

"Ask any business person in the financial world and have them look at our competencies that we teach," Boland said. "They will tell you that these skills are essential for future success."

Boland concludes that the new class requirement is just a way for CHS to give students an extra edge after high school.

"We are trying to give our students a helping hand," Boland said. "By the time students are high school seniors, they need to start thinking about the future."

She says that without the skills taught in personal finance, success will be more difficult to achieve.

"Clayton students see themselves very successful in their future," Boland said. "Clayton parents want their children to become successful in their lives. If you do not know how to manage money, write a resume or even how to interview for a job, it makes your future a little harder." Boland is a very avid supporter of the class and points to the practical value of the skills it teaches.

"I am passionate about this class," Boland said. "It is a wonderful class that students should be embracing instead of shunning...We need to become more proactive securing our financial future." ☺

**If they cannot get a job, manage their credit or even understand the basics about investing or how our financial system works, then students will not be very successful.**

**[Marci Boland]**  
Personal Finance Teacher

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# Seniors look forward to meeting roommates at college

**[Gila Hoffman]**  
Senior Managing Editor

The decisions are in. After the grueling four month long college application process and after waiting another four months for the decisions, seniors now know where they have been admitted and are ready to decide where they will be for the next four years.

In order to make the decision process easier for seniors, many colleges organize admitted students days or weekends so that they can get a feel for the school and more easily make their decisions. Another question on the minds of many seniors is "who will be my roommate?" Students are able to meet their fellow classmates at these special days on campus so that they may possibly find someone whom they would want to room with.

"I went to IU [Indiana University] for the Kelley School of Business Direct Admit Day," senior Jon Pang said.

"We heard the dean of Kelley give a speech and we heard a bunch of current students talk about their experiences. We also heard a recent graduate who now works for Goldman Sachs in New York talk."

The school also set up several booths run by students and faculty members so that admitted students

could learn about different areas of study in the business school and about various activities and organizations such as a business fraternity. "I decided to go because I wanted to learn more about Kelley and I found it to be informative," Pang said. "We talked about internships, studying abroad and about what to expect out of the school."

Senior Matt Katzman will also be attending IU next fall. He recently attended a program called Freshman Forum to learn more about the school. Similar to the Direct Admit Day at the Kelley School of Business, at the Freshman Forum, a professor and student spoke to the students about the various experiences and opportunities IU has to offer.

"I decided to go because I hadn't seen campus yet and also I wanted to learn about the school and all the stuff I need to do before school actually starts," Katzman said.

Senior Steven Glynias, who will be attending Mizzou in the fall, also plans to attend a day for admitted students.

"I got a letter in the mail inviting me to a "Meet Mizzou Day" coming up soon, and I am supposed to be meeting other freshman and their parents from

around the St. Louis area," Glynias said.

Another important factor that students consider when enrolling in school is the issue of the college roommate. Both Pang and Katzman are planning on being randomly assigned to their roommates. In order to make the matches most compatible, schools often create students according to their tastes in music, bedtimes and how social they plan to be.

Glynias tried a different route.

"I tried to find a roommate by posting on a group on Facebook for all Mizzou Class of 2012," Glynias said. "I was reluctant at first, but after a while I decided that posting for a roommate

wasn't that bad of an idea and gave me a chance to find someone with similar interests, or at least someone that wouldn't get on my nerves. I got a couple replies and really had a good experience. I found a guy that I turned out to have a lot in common with and it worked out well."

Senior Emily Arnold who will be attending KU also

*"I think finding my roommate on my own is going to help me a lot with my transition."*

**[Emily Arnold]**  
Senior

# Students voice views on popular, unproductive pastime

**[Taylor Stone]**  
Editor in training

Facebook. If a Clayton High School student doesn't have a page on this convenient, easily accessed social networking website then they certainly still know it as a household name.

This free-access website lets users join networks, such as a school, employment location, or regional area, to interact with other people.

This popular website was founded by Mark Zuckerberg (then still a student at Harvard University) in early 2004. At first, it was only made available to Harvard students and finally expanded to anyone age 13 and over as its popularity grew among the college and high school crowd. A whopping average of 69 million users worldwide access it, with more and more people joining every day.

Today, it is privately owned and operated by Facebook, Inc. The name was coined after the paper "facebook" displaying members of a college campus community that some American universities and private schools give to students as a way to get to know each other.

But what is it about this website that has millions of teenagers logging on each day?

Junior Abby Williams reflects on this question. "I think it's a fun way to network or write a quick note," Williams said.

"Also, businesses that set up pages could prob-

ably get a lot of customers and stay in contact with old friends, so it could be good for the economy."

Sophomore Erica Blustein has a different view.

"It's great that I can easily keep in contact with all of my friends, especially the ones I have outside of school," Blustein said. "Sometimes you need to ask friends questions, and calling them is not always reliable, but they have a computer and are on Facebook, so you can get your questions answered fast."

*"I think that a lot of students are being hurt by Facebook because they let it interfere with their studies."*

**[Abby Williams]**  
Junior

Though there are many benefits to using the popular website, there are certainly some downsides. This is especially true when it comes to wasting time, and resulting

addiction.

Junior Lo-ann Dubreuil thinks it depends on the situation whether a person is wasting time on Facebook.

"If you are here just to be here and just pass your time looking at your friend's profile or pictures, then it's a waste of time," Dubreuil said. "If you are talking and don't spend too much time on it, it's not a waste of time."

Blustein agrees with Dubreuil.

"For some people, Facebook is a problem because they become addicted to it and are constantly on it, or they use it to bully or stalk other people," Blustein

said. "For those people in society who use Facebook properly and don't let it take over their lives, Facebook is fine."

Some students admit that Facebook is a major distraction when it comes to homework, or as a motive for procrastination.

"It is definitely a distraction from homework," freshman Jack Hodapp said. "I would much rather go on Facebook than work on an English essay."

Sophomore Jeanette Nguyen agrees.

"I spend a lot more time on Facebook on school nights," Nguyen said. "It is definitely a distraction from my homework."

These conclusions cause many people to ask of other downsides of Facebook.

"I think that a lot of students are being hurt by Facebook because they let it interfere with their studies," Williams said. "Also, all of the modern entertainment available to today's youth that involves Internet use could be potentially harmful because it involves very little physical or mental activity. So our IQ's will go down, while our weight goes up."

Another problem also rises with the increasing national dilemma of cyber bullying and online predators.

"Facebook could possibly increase cyber bullying, but that can be avoided by only having your close friends added, and also reporting any incidents of bullying that you see or have happen to you," Blustein said.

"Online Predators are only an issue if you display all of your private information or friend people you do not know, because if you only talk to people you know on Facebook, then you can avoid possible predators.



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# Journalism evolves in Internet age

[Carol Iskiwitch]

Editor

It may be going the way of the rotary telephone or the cassette tape. Daily newspaper circulation reached its height in 1984 and has steadily declined since then, according to the Newspaper Association of America.

There are several factors influencing the decline in popularity of traditional newspapers. At the top of that list is the internet, a technology that has changed the way people work, communicate and live.

The trend of increased online presence for newspapers is evident in St. Louis. STLtoday.com, the internet home of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, is accessed by more than two million unique visitors per month (2007 Omniture,) while paper copies of the Post-Dispatch reach a total of approximately 1.1 million households (2007 ESRI-BIS).

"The biggest thing [online news sources offer readers] is immediacy, followed by depth," Richard Weiss, Contributing Editor of The St. Louis Beacon, said. The St. Louis Beacon is a new non-profit, solely internet-based publication. "Newspapers have only so much space or can only afford so much. Cyberspace is practically unlimited. So if readers want to go deep on a particular topic they can."

The internet also allows for more communication between readers and journalists.

"You can do a little of this in a newspaper (letters to the editor and various forums) but only up to a point," Weiss said.

Another feature that the internet makes possible for publications is the ability to create a social network for readers with similar interests to find each other and exchange information. Blogging, or online self-publication, is common on newspapers' websites. Blogging has made it possible for anyone with access to a keyboard to share his or her opinions with the world.

"Bloggers play an ever increasing role for good and/or ill [in the transmission and diffusion of news]," Weiss said. "They provide information that mainstream journalists don't always find. They shoot down the conventional wisdom with facts that they bring to their blogs. But they also frequently spread rumors and innuendo that find their way into the mainstream media. We live in a free society so there's nothing that can really be done to filter out bad blogs and encourage good ones. That's why education plays such a large role. People need to know the difference between a well-supported argument and blather. They need to



MCT Campus

ask fundamental questions every time they read a blog, or any article for that matter: How does [the writer] know? What sources are cited? Can they be checked?"

Despite the risks due to a general decrease in accountability, internet publications appeal to readers because of their ability to update quickly.

"Readers now expect all the info to be very fresh and up to date," Weiss said. "That makes newspapers feel very dated. What's keeping them in business to a great extent are the codgers who love their newspapers and aren't too familiar with mobile devices. Time is running out on the printed product I believe. Others disagree. If there weren't magazines and newspapers, they say, someone like Bill Gates would invent them

because they are still a good resource. Ultimately, they may simply be guides to what's online."

Online homes for traditional newspapers are not the only way that the internet revolution is changing the face of journalism. Exclusively-online publications, such as the St. Louis Beacon, are popping up and gaining popularity.

The mission statement of the St. Louis Beacon states that it "will provide news that matters to people in our region and a place where we can thoughtfully discuss it. The Beacon aims to serve and engage citizens by creating a distinctive new news medium in which users can play an active role."

The Beacon was pioneered by longtime journalists

who wanted to continue writing important and meaningful stories for the community, Beacon Health Editor Sally Altman said.

"It's very expensive to put stories out on paper; you can do it online much more cheaply," Altman said. "Being online means we're accessible, for free, to anyone in the community with computer access."

According to an official announcement, the St. Louis Beacon, originally known as The Platform, went through a name change in April in order to "avoid any confusion that might result from the recent appearance of a new blog created for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial page. We were surprised to discover that the blog's name is The Platform and that the name appears in print announcements with a trademark symbol next to it."

The Beacon's new website, stlbeacon.org, is now up and running. The website contains news stories and columns with a particular emphasis on issues pertinent and of interest to St. Louisans. In addition, the website has interactive features such as beacon staff blogs and a forum (click "Speak Up" under the Voices dropdown menu.) In the forum, users can discuss issues ranging from politics to health and science to arts and life.

Although several editors of the St. Louis Beacon were formerly on the staff of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "This is not an anti-Post-Dispatch publication," Margaret Freivogel, co-founder and Editor of the Beacon, said in an interview with the St. Louis Business Journal. "But we think more reporting is good for everybody -- for the community and each news organization. We are providing more reporting and news that matters for people in our region. We can build in a lot of context and continuity of content. We think of ourselves as a new resource for people."

With such a dramatic shift to electronic publishing, the journalism industry is evolving at a rapid pace.

"Reporters are asked to do a lot more," Weiss said.

"In my day, we carried a notebook around and came back and wrote our stories on a typewriter and handed it off to an editor. Now reporters may carry along with a notebook, a blackberry, a digital camera (video and still) and a recorder. They must know how to use all these toys; file a brief story quickly for online and then a more thoughtful one for later. Then there's this thing called live blogging where you cover an event live online as it's unfolding. I think it's kind of neat, but it's certainly differently than the past where your copy went through at least a couple of editors before the public got a look at it. Now it's a high wire act." ☺

# Life of film critic blends perks, pains

[Katharine Weiss]

Senior Managing Editor

He shows up 10 minutes late to the movie. No big deal he already saw it at the Toronto film festival. He walks into the seemingly dead theater, makes polite chitchat with the owner, gets helped to his usual: a medium popcorn and Diet Coke and takes his seat in the first chair of the back row.

To some people, Joe Williams is like Superman, but instead of the power to see through walls, he has the power to see movies before they are released and instead of a cape, he has a pen that lights up so he can write in the dark. And instead of saving people from bad guys, he saves people from bad movies.

At 50 years old, Williams claims he lives the life of a college student. Every week is the same. He picks five movies he wants to see, or five movies he feels the need to see, spends Monday and Tuesday at the movie theater and then spends Tuesday night bouncing a Nerf ball off of the wall of his office as he cranks out review after review for his Wednesday deadline.

Eight years on the job as a reviewer for the St. Louis Post Dispatch, Williams never ceases to be amazed at the luck of his child hood dream coming true.

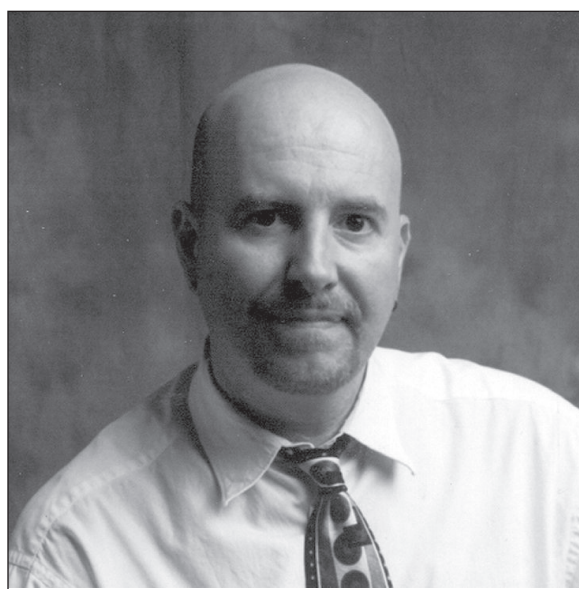
"I grew up loving movies, thanks to my mother's obsession with golden-era Hollywood and to Channel 4's late-night Bijou Picture Show," Williams said. "That's probably why my favorite movie is still 'It's a Wonderful Life.' The first movie I ever saw was 'A Hard Day's Night,' The Beatles movie. I remember people actually screaming at the movie screen. The movie combined my two loves, music and movies."

Williams' love of movies continued through his adolescence as he was drawn to the thrilling lives of reviewers.

"I am a lifelong movie buff, but in 1978, when I was 19, I started watching 'Sneak Previews' religiously," Williams said. "Throughout the '80s, I read the critics at the Village Voice, like Andrew Sarris and J. Hoberman, and worried that I would never be as hip or elusive as they were."

When Williams entered the University of Pennsylvania in 1976, he had set his sites on a career as a novelist. While walking through the campus one windy day Williams stumbled upon a piece of paper that made him reconsider his choices.

"One blustery November day in my sophomore



Courtesy of Joe Williams

year, I picked up a piece of paper that was blowing past me. It was a brochure from the University of Southern California. It showed palm trees and cheerleaders and students making movies, and I figured it was time I went to California and got into the film business."

At USC, Williams changed his major to film. However, Williams was turned off by the commercialism of the program and soon after switched back to his previous major of English.

When Williams left USC he was unable to find a job. He returned to school and attended the University of Missouri for a Journalism degree. After a short stint as a freelance writer with People Magazine in Los Angeles and then as a rock critic for Cash Box magazine, Williams found his way to the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Williams had always envisioned himself as a critic for the Post Dispatch and was thrilled to have landed the gig.

"When I was in high school I use to want to be a movie critic and I use to read Joe Politick's reviews in the St. Louis Post Dispatch," Williams said. "I told myself that when I grew up I would be a film critic and write for the Post Dispatch. I was willing to start at the bottom. I got a full-time job on the paper's Web site, and then graduated to assistant editor and then senior editor of Get Out. I kept myself conspicuous in

the eyes of management until the film-critic position opened up in 2000."

When Williams finally landed his dream job after four years of working his way up from the bottom, he found the job to be less glamorous than he had imagined it to be.

"This is the job I've wanted since I was 10. But be careful what you wish for," Williams said. Along with all the art-house, indie and foreign films I love, I have to review teen comedies, slasher movies, action fodder, chick flicks and a lot of stuff that makes the world a worse place. I recently saw 'Made of Honor.' It was dreadful. Think of the movies you like the least, I have to go see those."

However Williams prefers the truly awful films to those stuck between pure genius and downright dreadful.

"The hardest thing to do is to find a way to pass judgment on a mediocre film," Williams said. "It is way easier to write a review about a bad film than a mediocre one. Hollywood is good at making slick movies. A lot of the movies are well made, by a machine but just don't say anything. It is really hard to express indifference to a film."

Even when stuck reviewing a 'chick flick' or 'slasher movie,' Williams attempts to keep an open mind.

"I recognize that there are kinds of movies, and all kinds of moviegoers, so more than most critics, I try to see a film through the eyes of its intended audience" Williams said. "It's what I call reviewing the movie on its own terms. If it does what it's trying to do, who am I to say that such a movie shouldn't have been made?"

Williams also realizes that people don't necessarily base their movie choices on his reviews.

"I don't think that people make up their minds based on my reviews," Williams said. "I sometimes get e-mails that say: 'If you don't like a movie, I know I am going to like it.' I believe that in personal taste there is no right or wrong. I have seen more movies than the average person but that doesn't make my opinion better. I don't want people to decide whether they like a movie based on my review, I want people to see my review as a creative endeavor in its own right. I want people to feel as though in reading what I write they are experiencing a mini movie."

Due to Williams' intense schedule, he sometimes comes up short of reaching his own high expectations. "Sometimes I write a review and I'll read other

people's reviews and I find out that it sounds just like someone else's," Williams said. "It is at this point that I start to feel unoriginal. I spend a lot of time on word play. I use it to keep myself amused during mediocre movies. For example, with the movie 'Baby Mama' I used a lot of birthing puns and sure enough, I found out that other critics used phrases like, 'this movie did not deliver any laughs.'"

With the large number of reviews that Williams writes a week, he has come to rely on a formula to facilitate the process.

"In assessing a film, I try to strike a balance between useful information and high-brow analysis," Williams said. "No matter how clever the critic, the first duty is to describe the movie in terms that the average reader can understand. Then, to assess the movie on its own terms, it is necessary to determine the filmmaker's intentions. The next step is to ascertain whether and how the film achieves its goals. The next step is to place the film within the context of broader trends. And the final step, if I've got room left in my 15-or-so inches of space, is to say whether and why I personally liked it or not."

Despite the formula, Williams often still finds himself struggling for words.

"I usually take four hours to write a review, and half of that time is spent either on the first or last sentence," Williams said. "I cannot write when others are around. I spend most of the time trying to think of the right word while I pace around or throw a Nerf ball at the wall."

Despite the long nights and the endless struggle with words, the job of a movie reviewer is not without its perks.

"I do get regular invites to travel to the coasts and interview movie stars, and I've been backstage at the Oscars a few times," Williams said. "So bragging rights come with the job. But then I have to remind myself that I'm really just a parasite leeching off the creativity of others."

All in all, Williams is just a little boy stuck in the body of a full-grown movie critic.

"I am the only critic I know who has waited hours to get a bleacher seat outside the Oscar ceremony," Williams said. "Not because I'm an ironist or because I'm a sucker for the Hollywood publicity apparatus, but simply because I love the movies and I want to understand the role that they play in our lives." ☺

# Former Claytonite named a top entrepreneur

[Hannah Novack]

Editor in Training

"Walking out of a big lecture class in college one day, I noticed that everyone got out their cell phones and called friends saying 'Where are you?' Sam Altman said. And with this observation, Altman, former Clayton resident, was inspired to develop the Loopt software. Altman's family lives in the area and his brothers Max and Jack graduated from CHS.

"I thought it'd be great if you could just look at your phone and see where all your friends are, what they're doing, and what the cool restaurants are," Altman said.

This is exactly what the software does.

The technological and entrepreneurial world has also sat up and taken notice of Altman's innovative program. He was recently named #4 on a list of the "Top 30 Entrepreneurs Under 30" by Inc. Magazine.

The Loopt software allows users to see where their friends are and what they are up to, and also notifies users of recommended restaurants, events, and other places from their cell phones. Loopt also allows members to send pictures, messages, and invitations.

So who is this software designed for? Altman said "14-30 year olds that tend to be highly social and live in bigish cities."

Altman, along with a classmate from Stanford, set out to work. Altman didn't have previous work experience with a larger company of a similar technological

field.

"I was a college student before this," Altman said. "I'm on leave now."

After leaving school in September 2005, Altman was able to dedicate his full time and attention to his budding business.

Altman says developing the software was initially difficult.

"We didn't have a blueprint for the software the first time, we just made a prototype," Altman said. "We had to totally throw it out and start over at one point."

Converting his creative idea into a real business plan was a relatively smooth transition with help from advisers and investors.

"We were fortunate enough to work with Y

Combinator, Sequoia Capital, and New Enterprise Associates," Altman said.

Y Combinator, Sequoia Capital, and New Enterprise Associates are venture firms that help startup companies in the early stages of business.

Since its establishment, Loopt has grown rapidly. "We are the largest company in the space [with] about 50 employees," Altman said. "[Loopt has] raised \$17 million in venture capital."

The software product has been well received by major cell phone companies. Loopt was first introduced to the public by Boost Mobile on Nov. 20, 2006.

"We've done deals with Sprint, Boost Mobile, and Verizon," Altman said. "They market the product and make it available to customers." ☺



# Influential parents provide Clayton students with unique experience

[Fontasha Powell]

Editor

With new MTV shows, such as "Rock the Cradle" and the newest Hollywood fad of pregnant celebrities, celebrities' children have been a hot topic in the media.

Although one would not typically imagine the halls of Clayton as a place for children of celebrities, many Clayton students do in fact have well-known, influential parents. Among with the perks of receiving free tickets and meeting well-known people, there are disadvantages of having a well-known parent, such as not spending enough time with him or her.

Junior Hayley Rosenblum's father is Scott Rosenblum, a well-known Criminal Defense Lawyer in the St. Louis area. Rosenblum feels that disadvantages do exist to having a renowned father.

"The worst part of my dad's job is how time-consuming it is," Rosenblum said. "I don't see him as much as other people see their dads. He leaves before I wake up and doesn't get home until around 9. Also, my dad knows all the details to every illegal thing possible, so I never get away with things."

Wydown Eighth grader Carol Clay's dad is Congressman William Lacy Clay, Jr. and her grandfather is Congressman William Lacy Clay. She too dislikes the time she has to spend without her father.

"My dad works in D.C., and he comes back every weekend, so he's always going back and forth," Clay said. "The worst part about it is that if my mom can't take me places, I can't really go anywhere."

Paul Orland, whose mother, Barbara Orland, is an Oboe player in the Saint Louis Symphony, agrees. His mother practices her oboe frequently.

"She has to perform and be perfect every week," Orland said. "Sometimes it can be stressful. Also she has to practice a lot and work long weekend nights."

Junior Kelsey Haslett's father is Jim Haslett, the defensive coordinator for the St. Louis Rams. Haslett agrees with Rosenblum, Clay and Orland; she believes that the most worst aspect of her father's occupation is that she doesn't get to spend as much time with him as she'd like.

She also thinks that losing a football game is a negative aspect.

"The worst part of my dad's job would either be the long hours he works, moving, or a Monday after a loss," Haslett said. "A loss affects the entire family."

Despite the missed time, the teens do find time to spend quality time with their parents. Rosenblum enjoys going to sporting events with her father during free time.

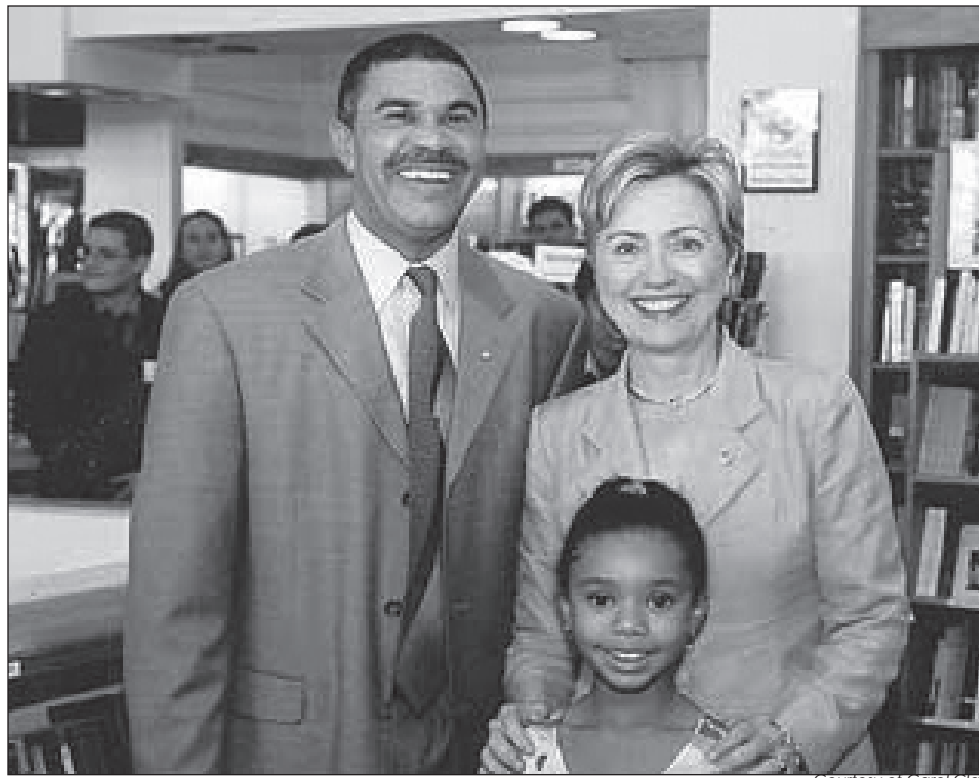
"When I do hang out with him, we do things like go to dinner or go to the Rams or Cardinals games," Rosenblum said.

Haslett likes going to dinner with her father when he doesn't have to work.

"My dad tends to have Friday afternoons and Saturday afternoons off," Haslett said.

"When we were little, the family used to go to Chuck E. Cheese when he was off. But now, we just go to dinner. If he has more than two days off, we go on vacation."

Clay likes to partake in typical quality time with her father.



Upper Left: Carol Clay five years ago with her father Congressman William Lacy Clay and Former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Upper Right: junior Kelsey Haslett with her father Jim Haslett, the defensive coordinator of the St. Louis Rams. Within the Clayton School District, there are a handful of students whose parents are public figures or work with prominent members of society.



Courtesy of Kelsey Haslett

"When my dad is home he takes me wherever I want to go and cooks and stuff," Clay said. Another, sometimes negative, aspect of having an influential parent is being in the public eye.

In New Orleans, Kelsey's father was the head coach of the New Orleans Saints. Haslett felt that she was always being scrutinized in the public eye.

"When I lived in New Orleans, I always had to be on my best behavior because people were watching," Haslett said. "Now, in Clayton, I don't have the same pressure."

It sometimes bothers Clay when people approach her father in public.

"Everyone wants to talk to him or come say hi," Clay said. "We usually have to stop what we're doing, but it doesn't bother him at all. Sometimes I do get kind of annoyed. I'm pretty used to it. When I was 7 and he just got into Congress, people would come up to him and say things like 'I saw you on TV.'"

Rosenblum, however, thinks that seeing her own father on the news is slightly odd.

"When I see my dad on the news, I think that it's kind of weird because he's my dad," she said.

Orland, however, does not feel this burden. Because his mother is in a large group of people, she is hardly ever recognized out on her own.

"People never recognize her when we're out," Orland said. "I mean, I guess she's not a huge celebrity or anything."

Haslett sometimes has to deal with people saying negative things about her father. She however, does not allow it to affect her.

"I usually try to ignore people who say negative things about my dad because they usually don't know the whole situation," Haslett said.

Rosenblum takes a stance similar to that one of Haslett when it comes to negativity concerning her father.

"I'm always around my dad's friends and clients, so I rarely hear anything bad about him," she said. "Though, when I do, I just ignore it because I know he's the best at what he does."

However, perks sometimes outweigh burdens of having a prominent parent.

"The best part of my dad's job is getting to meet all the different people, whether its sports celebrities, or just regular people," Rosenblum said.

Haslett thinks that getting tickets is also a perk.

"Getting Rams tickets and occasionally meeting a celebrity is pretty interesting," Haslett said.

Orland agrees with Haslett. He thinks that free tickets are a definite bonus of his mother's job.

Clay agrees that overall, special treatment is nice.

"When I'm with my dad at the Capitol and other congressmen, I get treated special," Clay said. "People say hi a lot and talk to me. Also, I get to be on the floor with him as he votes on bills. The thing that I've wanted to do most is probably meet Barack Obama. My dad knows him, but I don't."

Orland gets an added bonus in addition to free symphony tickets.

"I get free symphony tickets, and I also get free oboe lessons," Orland said.

Clay, however, feels that her peers treat her no differently because of her father's occupation.

"My friends know that my dad's a congressman, but they don't really care," Clay said. "His job is to benefit them."

Perhaps the most ominous factor of having an in-

fluential parent is living up to their standards and the high bar that has already been set for them.

Given she could be potentially be the third generation of the political legacy, Clay feels that she has the responsibility to continue the family tradition.

"I feel like I should carry on the family name in politics," Clay said. "That's what I want to do. But I also feel like I have no other choice but to get into politics. My name has to change when I get married though, so that doesn't really count as holding the family name."

However, most of the Clayton students don't believe that they have an obligation to follow the footsteps of their parents.

"I'm not really expected to live up to my dad's expectation because his occupation is more male-dominated," Haslett said. "However, I've grown up with football all my life. I have learned a lot about the sport as well as the business side of the NFL. I've learned there is a lot more to football than what people see."

Orland feels the same way. Although he has excelled at several instruments including the oboe, English horn, saxophone and violin, he doesn't feel like that achieving in music is a duty.

"Even though my mom taught me oboe at the age of 10, she lets me do what I want," Orland said. "She helps me with my music, but there is no pressure to be great."

Rosenblum too agreed. She has, in fact, already given her father notice that she doesn't wish to become a lawyer.

"My dad knows I don't want to be a lawyer," Rosenblum said. "But he just expects me to work hard and love what I do, like he does. I never feel pressured to succeed in the ways he has, because I know that no matter what, he'll be there for me 100 percent." ☺

## New smartphones broaden technological horizons

[Nicolas Andriole]

Editor in Training

In recent years, mobile phones have become increasingly popular as more functions have been added and the fees associated with the service have declined. Smartphones, however consist of a mobile phone that boasts a full keyboard enabling easier access to the internet along with e-mail and other multimedia capabilities such as a camera, music player, and access to games. A wide array of smartphones are on the market, and are priced between \$100 and \$500 depending on the service provider and any current rebates or other special offers. Some common smartphones currently on the market include the Apple iPhone, Samsung Blackjack, several Blackberry models, and several Treo models.

Smartphones were initially targeted for use by business professionals, however they have grown in popularity among consumers and particularly students.

Junior Kelly Hummell has been a Sprint customer and Palm Treo user for about seven months and enjoys the ability to access information quickly when it is needed.

"[Having the Treo] is convenient because I am able to send and receive information faster than

people without smartphones," Hummell said. "If I need to look something up, I can do it immediately. I don't think I could live without my Treo."

Increasingly, smartphones are including global positioning system (GPS) technology. Similar to navigation systems found in upscale automobiles, GPS enables users to find their location and obtain directions.

"AT&T is bringing GPS capabilities to a much broader audience of not only business users but also mobile professionals and consumers," said Michael Woodward, vice president, Business Voice/Data and Wireless Products, AT&T.

Although Apple's iPhone lacks GPS capabilities users are able to obtain maps and directions through a Google Maps application. Apple recently issued a software upgrade to iPhone users that enabled the phone to locate its approximate location through Wifi networks and

ATT's edge network.

"The maps application is very cool, helpful, and convenient in terms of looking up information when I need it," senior and iPhone user Matt Katzman said.

While smartphones offer many useful functions, a data package must be added to the customers standard voice plan. Data packages enables customers to use wireless data networks, such as Sprint's Mobile Broadband network or AT&T's 3G network. Many data packages also include text messaging and packages

range in price between \$20 and \$100 per month, depending on the device and service provider. Popular websites have created mobile versions with fewer graphics to enable faster download speeds, and content optimized for the smaller screens found on such devices. For example, the popular social networking website Facebook has created both a mobile version along with an iPhone site that allows users to take advantage

of the iPhones unique multi-touch technology. Other websites, including those of newspapers, television networks, airlines, and banks have modified their pages to make them more accessible to smartphone users.

Although websites have been optimized for use on smartphones and wireless data networks continue to expand, some users, such as HTC Mogul user Ben Stamp are frustrated with slow speeds.

"Sometimes my phone is a little slow," Stamp said. "It would be nice to see the phone consistently run faster."

However, wireless carriers are working to address speed concerns. Sprint has increased the coverage area of its Tier 1 internet network, while AT&T is adding 3G coverage to major metropolitan areas.

As smartphones increase in popularity, consumers should expect to see more models become available along with exciting new features.

Users agree that smartphones enable access to useful information, entertainment, and connectivity.

"I wanted to get a smartphone because I always found myself in a position when I needed to use e-mail or the Internet and I wasn't near a computer," Hummell said. "I'm never bored with my smartphone. It's quite entertaining." ☺

*"[Having the Treo] is convenient because If I need to look something up, I can do it immediately. I don't think I could live without my Treo."*

[Kelly Hummell]  
Junior

**Smartphones**

- Apple iPhone**  
Pros: touch screen, internet, "chat functions"  
Cons: expensive!
- Treo**  
Pros: Bluetooth wireless technology, vibrant color screen  
Cons: Too much to look at!
- Sprint Smartphone**  
Pros: spacious keypad, 1.3 megapixel camera  
Cons: hard to use, bulky, uglier than other smartphones

Sobhan Jones

## Clayton students "play the stock market" for amusement and affluence

Jiyoun Kahng

Staff Reporter

Despite the rocky times recently in the stock market, several CHS students still enjoy investing in stock. Stock market is a market for the trading of publicly held company stocks or shares, with unlimited world issues and possibilities for the future. Senior Sam Jewett and sophomore Chi Zeng are two of the students who play the stock market. These students started paying close attentions to what companies and countries around the world are up and coming since they were little.

"I bought my first stock when I was in sixth grade," Zeng said. "I still remember buying 2000 shares of Applied Digital Solutions, a company that made memory chips for about 45 cents a share. It was really cool, since I felt that I was a small, but substantial part of a large system, the stock market."

The students became enticed into trading the stock market, primarily from the thrill of potentially winning big, just like millions of other day traders around

the world.

"It's like gambling except with a systematic approach and the fact that you have a certain quantitative control over your profits," Jewett said.

Zeng says by investing in stock markets, students are learning and exploring the real, volatile economic world at young ages. Nevertheless, the stock market is an extremely volatile and often arbitrary world of underground syndicates, and random economic windfalls or downfalls. Therefore, many student traders have difficulties predicting their profits and often times get scared when the market dips or when it is time to hold on to stocks or sell them.

"The younger an investor, usually the riskier their investments hence the higher the potential for return." CHS Economy teacher, Ms. Boland said, "Usually young investors play around with the stock market and learn some invaluable investing tools that will make them more successful later."

Young investors tend to be more impulsive and usually do not take the time to research their invest-

ments first. Also, Young investors are looking for the quick money so they tend to buy and sell more often whereas seasoned investors look at the stock market as a longer term investment.

"Well, students like me have not been around long enough to see market cycles, and we don't manage risks well," Jewett said. The stock market has certain fundamental concepts and trends that students who are investing in stock markets should master. The most important concept to understand in choosing a stock lies in the fundamental analysis of the company itself.

"A company must have a lot of cash, especially enough cash to overcome its debts" Zeng said. "However, the financial security always makes me feel safe."

The students had some tips for teenage students who are interested in playing the stock market. "The most important thing I know about investing is to diversify," Jewett said. "I make sure that you are investing in many different industries with companies that will do well in the long term. But it is also fun to

make higher risk investments in up and coming companies, as long as you don't pour too much money into them because you may lose a lot of money."

The students also think that the sooner students invest, the better. Many good funds and companies are available for low prices, and the sooner people invest the more they earn. Of course, student traders must balance schoolwork with trading stocks.

"I think that's the largest challenge," Zeng said. "It's really easy to get addicted to stocks, but young traders need to note the importance of maintaining the equilibrium between schoolwork and day trading."

Ms. Boland, the CHS economy teacher, guides the students to a right path for investing in the stock markets.

"The stock market can be a wonderful way to invest money and potentially has the ability to make money, but the key to investing is to diversify your investments." Ms. Boland said, "Do not put all your money into the same investment but split up your money into different investments." ☺





Young boys from Belfast, Northern Ireland, form bonds as they play basketball together through an innovative program called Peace Players International.



Used with permission of Peace Players International

[Kelly Moffitt]  
Co-Editor in Chief

He may be a self-proclaimed geeky white guy from Washington of upper-middle class upbringing, a Jesuit schooling with a penchant for tangential speaking, but he can hoop. And that talent, which brought him from being a high school basketball star to the starting lineup at Catholic University, had finally started to peter out.

That is what brought him to the center line of almost every one of the world's most famed and infamous cultural, ethnic, and racial disputes.

"Well, I was good at basketball, but not too good," Sean Tuohey, 32, said. "I played in college, but no one would pick me up to go pro, so I decided to go the only place that had a team that could take me, Belfast, Ireland."

You see, basketball is in Tuohey blood. With a father who was chairman of the D.C. sports commission, and a brother two years older, Brendan, who went on to play and coach professionally, one did not just give up basketball.

So as Tuohey's career began to peter out, he turned to coaching. That's when he realized that Protestant and Catholic kids in Northern Ireland never played together. Their schools were not integrated, their neighborhoods segregated, their teams, most definitely, not commingled.

So he decided to try something new. As he mixed kids from both backgrounds together on neutral teams, he found that the competition involved with basketball could break down generations of hatred.

"Kids who can play together can learn to live together," Tuohey said.

And so they did, and continue to do so, all over the world.

After the success in Ireland, Tuohey was urged by the police chief in Belfast, who'd lived in South Africa during apartheid, to see if they same sort of games would work in a world that continues to live racially divided despite the breaking of apartheid law.

Tuohey was ready for the challenge, and with his brother, Brendan at his side, they returned home to the United States, raised some money ("from some extremely loyal fans...our family," Tuohey said.), and started the international association, Players for Peace, in 2000.

"Basketball was a new sport to both countries," Tuohey said. "In Northern Ireland, Catholic kids played Gaelic sports, such as hurling, and Protestants played rugby. In South Africa, black kids played soccer and the white kids played cricket. Basketball is neutral."

Not to mention the fact that basketball is an American sport, which apparently, translates to totally cool.

That is the first secret to the program's success.

"And the kids we coach are ages 10-14: old enough to play, but their minds can still be molded towards acceptance. And our programs run year round in the neighborhoods, so the teams, competition, bridges built, become a part of everyday lives of the kids involved."

Since 2000, the program has grown to include kids in Northern Ireland where religious hatred reigns, South Africa where the racial divide is a chasm, to the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians on the West Bank, to Cyprus where Greeks and Turks could never before see eye to eye, and now, to New Orleans



to bridge a community divided, post-Katrina.

"The Middle East right now, is not the place you want to be," Tuohey said. "Bombs are going off, you don't exactly want to be dribbling a ball in the middle of that. If I was afraid to go to the places that I had to go to get stuff done, I wouldn't have found out that Palestine is awesome. The people there are so cool—they've been trapped by war. When you release them from that and give them a chance to cheer, it's an explosion of creativity. We have been able to bring Arabs and Jews together to play together—it's not completely there yet, we still can't get Palestinians over to Israel, its going to take six, seven years...but we're never going to leave."

Over the past six years alone, the program has helped over 45,000 children. Since its beginning, support for the organization has swollen: the NBA sends retired players and coaches to train the kids, the Nelson Mandela foundation donates over \$100,000 a year to it, there are over 100 full-time coaches (not including the youth leaders who help to unite kids on a peer level), and the budget has grown to over \$1 million.

Sean Tuohey, after traveling all over the world to start these games, realized it was time to move on.

So he handed over the organization to his brother Brendan and some others, now called Peace Players International, and hit the road.

He's been all over: from Novograd (he wanted to quell his fear of Russians... "I grew up knowing they were the only white people I should fear," Tuohey said. "I grew up during the age of Rocky IV.") to Hollywood (he wanted to make movie of his experiences starting Playing for Peace) and now is back in South Africa—Durban to be exact—where he is trying to make even

*A love for basketball and a passion to make a difference led a young man to start a foundation that has had profound effects on kids around the world as they learn how to play together for peace.*

more change.

"People have fears everywhere," Tuohey said. "I've seen it with all the kids I've worked with, I've seen it within myself. For instance, I'm afraid I'll never find love, but now I'm staring down a permanent wall of fear in Africa. One of the reasons I came back to America is because I need help. I'm going to trust kids here are going to help me because you're exactly the same age as these front line soldiers I'm trying to arm in the fight against AIDS/HIV."

It was an idea he got while working in South Africa with kids playing basketball.

"In South Africa, the story hasn't ended," Tuohey said. "I showed up there in 2000, with \$7,000, a basketball, and an idea that I could make blacks and whites come together. I didn't have a plan. I knew one person in Durban. The city had collapsed, and it's a scary place."

He went around to different schools and asked if I could teach basketball.

"They threw their kids at me," Tuohey said. "I went to black school and white schools—the white schools were a lot harder because they had all the amenities, and basketball was really unknown. It just started happening—I was coaching, everyone was playing, and then all of a sudden more Americans came, and this thing, it became a business."

Once he saw that white and black kids would play together, they built courts, and on those courts, they posted signs about safe sex and AIDS awareness. And with the coaches, he made it clear that they were getting AIDS tested so the kids would learn the stigma was not just that dirty people went to get, at least, checked out.

In slow steps, he started having the coaches talk about AIDS, drugs, alcohol, racism, and everything in

*In Northern Ireland, Catholic kids played Gaelic sports, such as hurling, and Protestants played rugby...Basketball is neutral.*

[Sean Tuohey]  
founder of Peace Players Int'l

## Young actor pursues dreams

[Hyrum Shumway]  
Senior Managing Editor

While many CHS students and students view the Shakespeare Festival held this year from May 21 to June 15, one senior—Cameron Davis—will take a more active part in the festival this year—playing Prince Edward.

"Clayton acting has been the biggest gift CHS has offered me," Davis said. "I have met great people, made good connections, and have been exposed to a lot of good resources that are helping me succeed in what I want to do and will help me later on."

Davis' teachers believe he is ready to act at a new level.

"I have heard from most students who enter theater programs in college that they felt prepared for the jump from high school to college program," CHS Theater Director Kelley Ryan said. "We work very hard here at CHS to work at a professional level."

Many theater classes are aug-

mented with guest artists who train students in cutting edge theater styles and techniques. Students can choose to direct, compose, and write; and have opportunities around town to intern with professional companies.

Cameron has taken advantage of his opportunities and has already achieved recognition.

"Already, Dawn McAndrews, the artistic director for the Shakespeare Festival, told me that I should be proud of Cameron in rehearsals for Richard III that, 'he has shown as much professionalism as the professionals, and sometimes even more,'" Ryan said.

Davis is excited for the new opportunities that he will soon experience.

"I felt lucky to get into the University of Cincinnati Acting Conservatory because only 20 kids get in every year," Davis said. "I am very excited to go there. I know that it is going to be a challenge, but this makes me highly optimistic as my future as an actor."

Davis should be able to confront

them if he puts the same effort into his future endeavors as has in his past.

"The challenge as an actor is always the competitive nature of the field," Ryan said. "Cameron is a big fish in a small pond here at CHS and even in St. Louis. I know he will continue to be successful even when he dives into the big ocean. There are, however, no guarantees. Cameron is off to a strong start and is set up to succeed by continuing his training at one of the top conservatories in the country."

Davis has earned the respect not only of his teachers, but also of his fellow students.

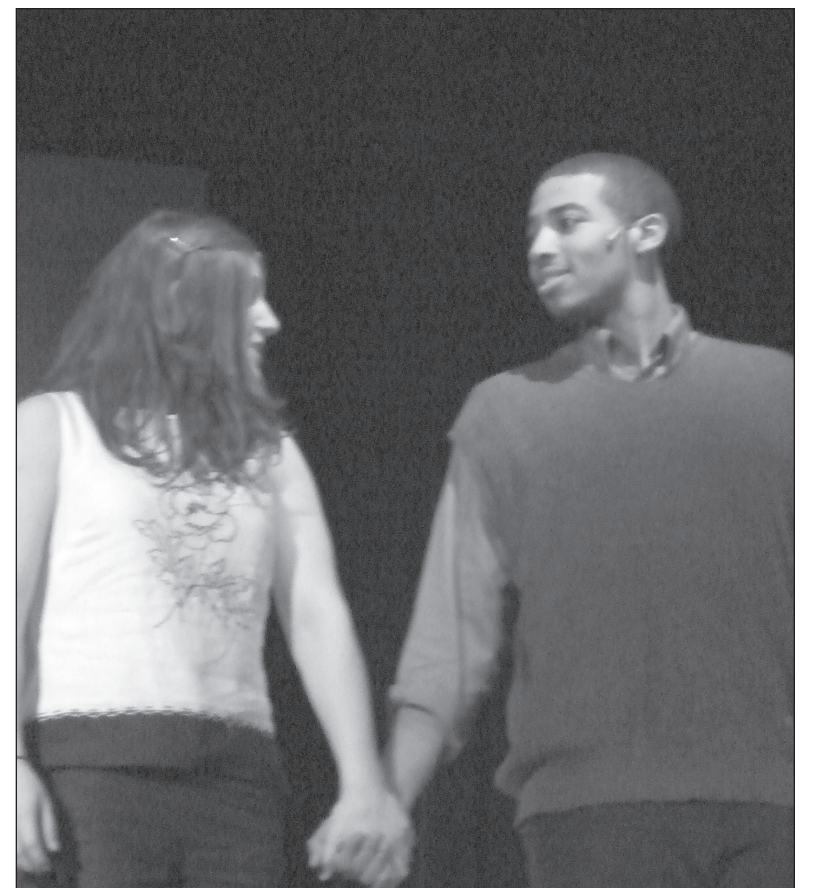
"CHS is losing a great positive leader to be around the theater department," senior Hannah Doty said. "Cameron is one of the few people who is friends with so many types of people. This will help him in his acting career because he is able to connect with everyone and people feel comfortable around him. Because he treats everyone equally, people listen and respect him."

Davis has high expectations for the productions that he will perform in.

"I want to do acting that really has a strong message that captures humanity at its best," Davis said. "I love acting human relationships on stage and, moreover, I like theater that is entertainment, but makes you go home and think about it afterwards."

While Davis has worked very hard, he also has sound advice for underclassmen actors and actresses.

"I really have not gotten much sleep in high school as there has been a lot going on," Davis said. "I try to keep on top of it all by making time in obscure places. I have done Statistics homework during rehearsals and rehearsed lines in psychology. If I were to give advice, it would be to never stop trying and never lose your hunger for acting and be yourself and don't afraid to break out of your shell and try new things. CHS is the safest place to do that. And most importantly, only listen to trustworthy criticism." ☺



Blair Klostermeier

Seniors Rebeccah Singer and Cameron Davis convey a touching moment from "Company," in which Davis displayed his musical and comedic talent.





Ali Sehzadeh

# The Muny prepares for summer season

For nearly a century, children, teens and adults alike have enjoyed the theatrics at the Muny in Forest Park. Performers in the theater believe that this year will be no different.

**[Caroline Stamp]**  
Staff Reporter

Every year, thousands of people brave the heat, rain, and wind to see a show at the Muny in Forest Park. As in every other year, this season is sure to be popular.

"The shows this year are 'The Producers', 'Disney's High School Musical', 'My Fair Lady', '90 Years of Muny Magic', 'Miss Saigon', 'My One and Only', and 'Fiddler on the Roof,'" marketing Director of the Muny Laura Peters Reilly said.

Picking the shows for the Muny each season is no easy task. Each year the audience is given a survey to find out what they would like to see. Then the Muny sees which shows are available to do.

"We put together what we hope is a good mix," Reilly said. "Something old, something new, something for kids, something for teens, and a big dance show."

With all of its popularity already,

"High School Musical" is sure to be one of the most popular shows at the Muny this season.

"I think 'High School Musical' will sell the most tickets because of all the little girls that will want to see it," sophomore and Muny performer Nick Oliveri said. "But I think 'Miss Saigon' will be the best."

Also on the program this year is "90 Years of Muny Magic". This is a show celebrating 90 years of summer shows at the Muny.

"It's going to have some of the best songs, dances, and production numbers from the last 90 summers," Reilly said. "There will be some things from old-fashioned operettas, some big dance numbers, and a lot of surprises."

After the shows are chosen, the long process of auditioning begins. Each year around 300 adults audition and anywhere between 500 and 1000 kids audition.

"For the kids' auditions you

have to have eight measures of music prepared to sing," freshman and Muny performer Erica Hill said. "Then they teach you a dance which you do in groups of 10."

After the first auditions, kids who are chosen to be in the Muny have a chance to be a part of Muny kids or Muny teens.

"Muny kids and teens is an education outreach program in which they pick 20 to 30 people who got into the preliminary audition," Oliveri said. "The group performs all around the St. Louis area."

Adult auditions are run a little bit differently, but the main requirement for everybody is to be able to sing and dance.

"Adults can audition in New York or in St. Louis," Reilly said. "We have auditions for singers, dancers, and actors."

Along with auditions in New York and St. Louis, they also break the performers into two categories; Equity (the actor's union) and

non-equity.

Once the shows are cast and auditions are over, practices begin. Since there are seven shows, sometimes there are multiple shows practicing at the same time. Rehearsals can run from three hours to an all day rehearsal.

"The Saturday before the show there is a midnight rehearsal to check all the lights and sounds," Hill said. "It's a lot of work but really worth it."

As the actors rehearsing songs, blocking scenes, and memorizing lines, there is much more going on to prepare for the shows.

"Even now the groundskeepers are getting the landscaping ready, construction is going on to make repairs, and designers are planning costumes, sets, lights, and sounds," Reilly said. "Once the season starts, it gets even crazier."

With all the hard work and effort going into the Muny, this season is sure to be a success. ♡

courtesy of the Muny

# Romance: through the ages

Romantic movies have always been a mainstay of the film industry. One student reflects on the silver screen's very best love stories from the last 70 years.

**[Kelly Moffitt]**

Co-Editor in Chief

Ahh, the genre of romance movies; it can bring tears of joy and sadness, swooning oohs or cringing blahs, and is responsible for a world full of theatres of women (and some men) wondering 'why couldn't you do that?' of their dates. Some are funny, some tear at your heartstrings, some are for girls' nights out, and some are for dinner-and-a-movie dates in. However, the realm of romance movies is a treacherous one, filled with enough candlelight and soothing violins to drive even the most ardent believer of love-at-first-sight to the raging madness typified in "Fatal Attraction." For your viewing pleasure, here is a list of what to watch, with who, when, for all those times you just want to snuggle down with the way you wish the world really was. No high school-romance was included in this list for the obvious reasons: a) they are mostly cheesy and b) they are even more unrealistic than these.

## 1940s Adam's Rib (1949)

When married lawyers Adam (Spencer Tracy) and Amanda (Katherine Hepburn) Bonner take on opposing sides of the case of a woman's murder of her husband, their marriage ends up taking a turn for the hilariously tense. This romantic comedy hits on both the profound and silly, making you wonder about the days when the world wasn't feminism-friendly and laughing at the ridiculousness of Hepburn and Tracy's antics.

♥ This movie is good for a family movie night, perhaps with your grandparents, who can tell you what it was really like back then.

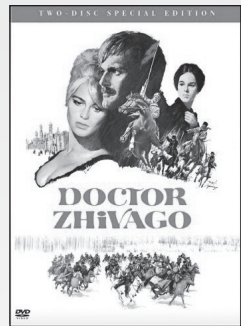
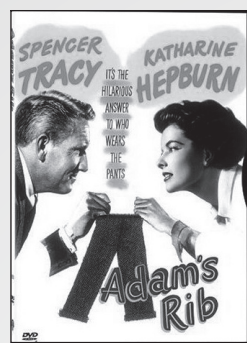
Runners-Up: Casablanca (1942), Rebecca (1940)

## 1950s Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954)

If ridiculous romances were a genre, this one would top them all...especially because it is a musical! Don't worry: it's not about a polygamous cult but rather a story of backwoodsman who captures a gal to have around the house to do his cooking and cleaning for he and his six other brothers. Unfortunately, his plan goes awry when the brothers end up wanting brides too and plot to get them with inspiration from the Romans who captured the Sabine women. All that drama with kick-butt choreography (including an especially catchy dance number which mixes ballet, axes, and insanely cheesy lyrics) makes this romance movie unforgettably inconceivable.

♥ This movie is for a large group (sing-a-longing for those with short attention spans) or those who have a fascination with plaid or wood chopping.

Runners-Up: Lady and the Tramp (1955), From Here to Eternity (1953)



## 1960s Doctor Zhivago (1965)

This Russian novel-turned-film is the epitome of bittersweet romance and is an amazing movie, even without the romance tag. Set amidst the chaos of World War I and the Russian Revolution, this epic follows the life of Dr. Yuri Zhivago as he balances the love of a faithful wife with that of Lara, his destiny. Walking the line between faithfulness and passion, warmth of soul and coldness of snow, peace and war, Dr. Zhivago is a classic that will rip your heart out and make you wish you lived in the Urals in an ice-covered castle.

♥ This is a good date-night movie, especially in the middle of summer when even though it may be 98 degrees outside, the ice of the Russian steppes makes you chill to the bone (and need to cuddle closer). Also good for history buffs, manly men (hello surviving in negative temperatures for weeks on end with nothing but your fur hat), and those select few balaika-enthusiasts out there.

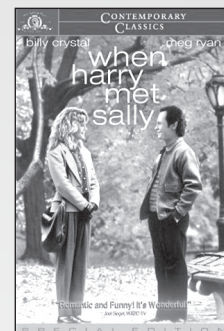
Runners-Up: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? (1967), Barefoot in the Park (1967)

## 1970s The Way We Were (1973)

The unlikely duo of Katie (Barbra Streisand) and Hubbell (Robert Redford) is oft cited in pop culture by realist-romantics. The two completely different backgrounds: Katie, an outspoken political activist with a cause and an "average girl" mentality and Hubbell, every prep school's dream as the tall, handsome, golden-haired jock with nary a care in the world. Yet somehow, despite their differences, they find love in one another (for awhile). With the amazing "Memory" by Streisand as its theme and an acting job so real it hurts, Redford and Streisand will leave you in that awfully-glad-to-be-unhappy place that is sometimes necessary in life.

♥ This is the best breakup movie known to woman-kind, to be watched with supportive girlfriends or by yourself, and preferably with a large box of Kleenex and chocolate.

Runners-Up: The Goodbye Girl (1977), Annie Hall (1977)



## 1980s When Harry Met Sally (1989)

What could be more romantic than shoulder pads and Billy Crystal singing along to 'Surrey With a Fringe on Top,' you ask? Nothing. That is what makes this film so delightfully out of the ordinary. Starting from a fateful road trip from Chicago to New York, lackadaisical guys-guy Harry (Billy Crystal) and anal-retentive little miss perfect Sally (Meg Ryan) begin a friendship that will last them through horrible double dates, breakups, and getting over someone, but little do they know it will lead them to a romance of their very own, bringing into question if their friendship can survive even that.

♥ This movie is a good one for someone you are comfortable with, be it a friend, a boyfriend/girlfriend, or maybe even a friend-you-wish-were-a-boyfriend/girlfriend (get the hint?)

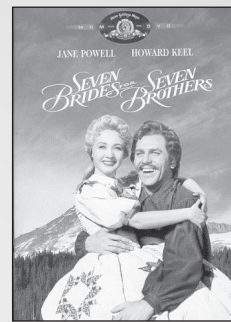
Runners-Up: Dirty Dancing (1987), The Princess Bride (1987), Working Girl (1988)

## 1990s Pretty Woman (1990)

Who knew that Julia Roberts and her beatific smile would cause a romantic revolution with this prince(ss) and the pauper story of a prostitute on Hollywood Boulevard, Vivienne (Julia Roberts), who meets up with a ruthless, wealthy businessman (Richard Gere) only to fall desperately in love. In this rags-to-riches tale you needn't be wary of a dose of reality because there is absolutely nothing realistic about it. But do we care? No! 'Pretty Woman' is every average-girl's fantasy: picked up by good-looking man with penthouse hotel room, given credit card to buy new wardrobe, taken to lovely opera house on arm of hot tuxedo-ed man...except for the whole prostitute thing, that might not work out so well. Anyways, Hector Elizondo, playing the helpful hotel manager, is in it, and that is always a plus.

♥ I would recommend watching this with your girlfriends as I doubt even the stoutest of men could hold up to almost two hours of ooh-ing and ah-ing over Richard Gere and how you too wish you could be flown off in a lear-jet at a moment's notice and wear diamonds! However, it is good for a healthy dose of girls' night with pedicures and singing-at-the-top-of-your-lungs to the theme song.

Runners-Up: Il Postino (1994), the English Patient (1996), My Best Friend's Wedding (1997), You've Got Mail (1998)

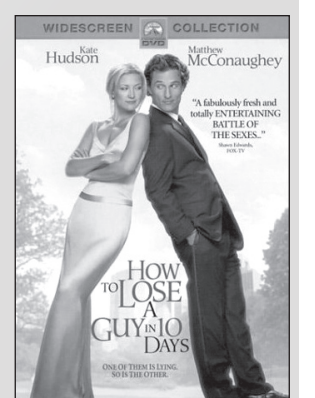


## 2000s How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (2003)

Not so subtly poking fun at the stupid mind games we play in relationships, this movie represents the epitome of why you shouldn't have a hidden agenda. The story centers around Andie Anderson (Kate Hudson) who works for 'Composure' magazine and is writing a story about how to drive a man away in 10 days to gain respect from her boss so that she will be allowed to write more meaningful stories. Meanwhile, advertising mogul Benjamin Berry (Matthew McConaughey) is trying to get a girl to fall in love with him in 10 days to prove a point to gain an advertising campaign. As fate would have it, they end up together, and spend 10 hilarious days trying to fool each other and miraculously falling in love. If that plot line doesn't get you think of the hot factor that Hudson and McConahey bring to the screen!

♥ Though this movie works well as a date movie, group movie, or girl movie (because it makes fun of both sexes), I personally like to watch it by myself. It's one of those movies you can just enjoy thinking of how you relate to it (aka all the times you've done something really stupid on a date).

Runners-Up: Must Love Dogs (2005), What Women Want (2000), Love Actually (2005), The Holiday (2006)







The Nikigator combines colorful sculpture with an inviting area for kids to climb and explore at the special exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Garden through Oct. 31.

Photographed at Atlanta Botanical Garden 2006. © Niki Charitable Art Foundation. Justin Larose / © 2006 Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. A Time Warner Company. Used with permission.

## Where the Wild Things Are

Colorful sculptures by Niki de Saint Phalle have invaded the serene setting of the Missouri Botanical Garden, enchanting adults and inviting children to climb and explore.

### [Mary Blackwell]

Editor in Training

Among the carefully manicured lawns and gardens, the serene fountains, and beneath the greenery, arises a sculpture of an overweight, flashy woman. Niki de Saint Phalle's artwork is not the type of exhibition usually featured in the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Contrasting with permanent artwork in the garden, which is mostly made of dark stone, many celebrating the human form, Niki's sculptures make the others seem drab and outdated in comparison.

Niki's sculptures fall into four themes - nanas (slang for women), black heroes, totems, and animals, although these themes often overlap. The artwork seems to be expressing joy, hope, or triumph. The animals are often exaggerated and comical, as none of the artwork is realistic.

The mosaic exteriors of the sculptures are made of stones, glass, mirrors, and fiberglass. The colors are rich and deep. The subjects range from lions to massive skulls, four to 18 feet tall.

When I visited the exhibit on a warm Sunday afternoon, the garden resembled a massive jungle gym. Children are allowed to touch, climb, and explore all the Niki artwork except the few fenced-off sculptures. One of the fenced-off pieces was a sculpture with four colored symbols representing Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism.

Another one of pieces that stuck out to me was a massive skull. While skulls are usually ominous and frightening, Niki's smiling, bright, interpretation of a human skull was anything but. The multicolored skull was hollow; the inside had glass as the material for the mosaic and a sort of bench on

the walls for seating.

Each of the Niki creations are tied together well, all 40 pieces. Many of the sculptures are set up in the fountains, but that is the extent to which the garden and the Niki sculptures intertwine.

Although the artwork is beautiful and captivating, it distracts from the natural beauty of the Botanical Garden. I don't remember noticing any of the plants, the trees, and the flowers. The exception being a few of the flowers with vibrant colors similar to the ones used in several of the Niki sculptures.

In my opinion, St. Louis is lucky to have the Niki artwork on display in the area, but I'm not convinced that the Botanical Garden was the right place to present it. Perhaps Laumeier Sculpture Park, an outdoor sculpture park in the St. Louis area, would have been a better location for this exhibition because visitors go to Laumeier to enjoy

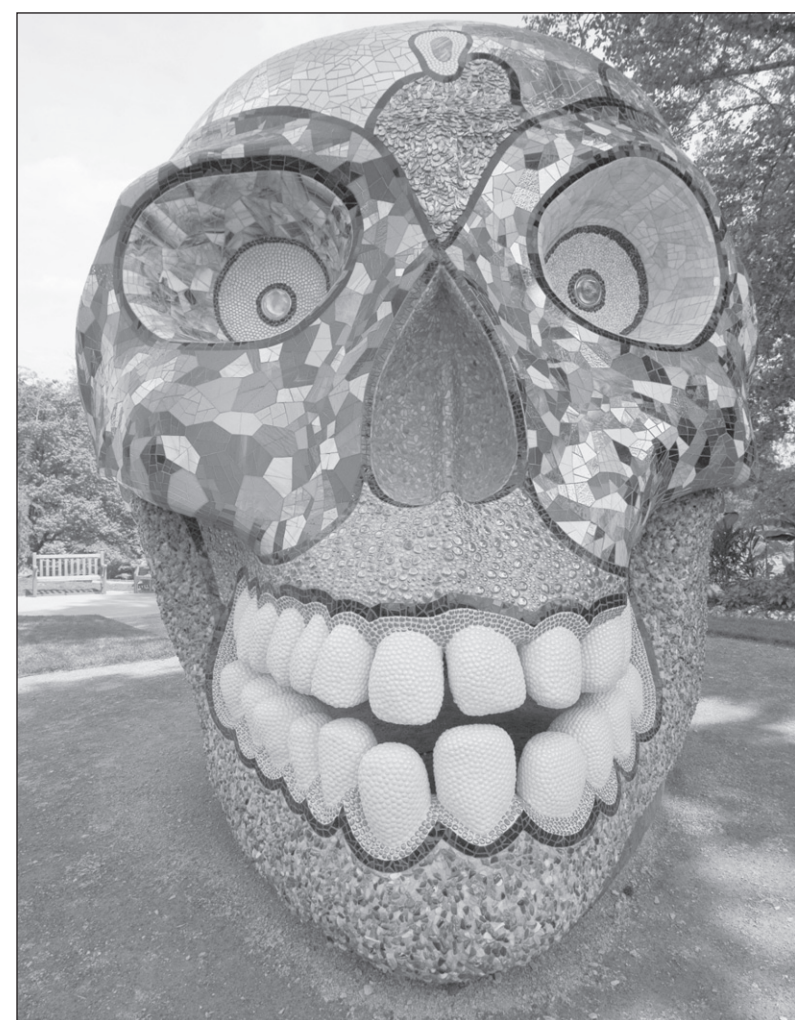
sculpture more than nature.

No doubt the art is more appealing in the natural light of the sun, the sunlight bouncing off the reflective surfaces, the greenery complimenting the color scheme, and the overall relaxed atmosphere of the outdoors.

But the sculptures distract viewers from the other artwork on display, and the natural beauty of the garden.

Besides the lack of emphasis on the nature aspect of the garden, I would strongly recommend an afternoon spent in the Botanical Garden to take in Niki de Saint Phalle's artwork if you're looking to unwind and relax. This exhibit attracts visitors of all ages because while older viewers may enjoy taking in the art and photographing it, children will enjoy climbing on and through the sculptures.

Niki art will be at the Botanical Garden until Oct. 31. ☺



Photographed at Atlanta Botanical Garden 2006. © Niki Charitable Art Foundation. Photo: Justin Larose / © 2006 Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. A Time Warner Company. Used with permission.

One of the most popular pieces in the Niki exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Garden, La Cabeza grins menacingly at visitors.

Despite catchy, popular tunes, second album deserves less praise than first



### [Sneha Viswanathan]

Editor in Training

Natasha Bedingfield's latest album, "Pocketful of Sunshine" is her second hit after her debut album, "Unwritten," and like its predecessor, is on the top 10 list of albums on iTunes.

When "Unwritten" was released, Natasha Bedingfield's voice and soulful pop style were new on the music scene. The same chords seem to strike all too familiarly, however, on her second album.

The topics of the songs on this new album not only seem like an exact copy of the themes in the first album, but are almost too well cut out for the R&B genre.

Most of the songs on "Pocketful of Sunshine" are love songs, but there is a mix of other subjects included, following the pattern of "Unwritten."

The title song of this new album is frequently belted out in hallways and out of cars with open windows. Its light, catchy, sing-a-long chorus makes it perfect for this purpose.

Most of the songs on the album are composed in the same manner, with easy-to-follow lyrics. Other tracks on "Pocketful of Sunshine", such as "Put Your Arms Around Me", "Love Like This," and "Happy", are equally danceable tunes that don't break from the standard pop genre.

The song "Happy" seems like a tribute to Bedingfield's trademark optimistic style introduced in the song "Unwritten". Bedingfield's more soulful

tracks include "Freckles", "Backyard", and "Soulmate". "Freckles" is a genuine self-reflection by the artist and uses the metaphor of freckles to describe the authenticity of physical flaws.

Similarly, "Backyard" acknowledges the loss of innocence through growing up. The chorus includes the lyrics, "My wand, your plastic bazooka/Your cowboy hat, my tutu." Bedingfield uses the cute imagery of toys well in this reminiscent tune to describe the passing of childhood.

"Soulmate" is one of the few melancholy songs on the CD, and despite its soulful melody, is repetitive and sounds angst-y with the beat added on to it.

This song would be more sincere if it hadn't been altered to make it a pop song. However, all these three songs show that Bedingfield has a strong voice and real singing talent. Overall, Natasha Bedingfield's second album deserves less praise than her first.

Although she maintains the positive vibe that is well known in most of her songs, her attempts at singing more solemn songs appear to be more focused on making those songs suitable for dancing rather than on communicating the subjects of her latest songs across to listeners.

Natasha Bedingfield is a singer with potential; however, she could focus her talent on her unique strengths rather than attempt to expand her musical style by appealing to the latest types of popular music.

"Pocketful of Sunshine" is a mediocre mix of the cheery tunes that Bedingfield's fans are familiar with and heavier dance-pop numbers. ☹

## Cyrano's, a romantic alternative

### [Kelly Moffitt]

Co-Editor in Chief

The real Cyrano de Bergerac, the French master of drama and dueling during the seventeenth century, was a man who created a myth of himself. Likewise, St. Louis' very own Cyrano's restaurant is destined to go down in the books as something somewhere in the delicious mist located between myth and reality, legend and fact.

Nestled into a corner of charming Webster Groves, at 603 East Lockwood, in a refurbished old building called DeSoto, this restaurant has a long history and is destined to have a long future. Over 40 years ago, the original Cyrano's was opened in the DeMun area in a small basement room, where delicious desserts, elegant coffees, and romantic atmosphere made the restaurant an ideal place for a date. It was the first St. Louis restaurant to serve European-style coffees.

Reopened in 2003, the restaurant has reintroduced itself as the ideal place for a quiet get-together among friends, special date, or rendezvous before or after a Repertory Theatre production (which is conveniently located right across the street).

Though I could go on about the foodstuffs, what must be said first is of the atmosphere of Cyrano's. The walls, a dusty pink, are adorned with ornate mirrors, plates, and small pieces of artwork. Small twinkle lights and ornate wooden pieces of furniture also grace the room. The tables, set with white tablecloth and simple candles, are perfect for close conversations.

Also provided is a small patio for warm summer nights (though there are heaters provided for the cool ones too). Fresh flowers and windows line two of the walls, giving the restaurant that hard to achieve small-but-open atmosphere. The lighting is dim, and be prepared to have to lean a little bit closer to hear the conversation.

The restaurant begs of times long ago when chivalry was a given and small get-togethers for more than a drinking binge were common, but within this coziness also lies the feeling of hip, up-and-coming-ness.

Though I have partaken of Cyrano's mostly for its lovely desserts, I have also had the chance to enjoy some of their entrees and appetizers as well.

I recommend the smoky chicken roll and spinach-artichoke dip (of which I am a diehard connoisseur) for

appetizers, though those of a more refined palate may enjoy the seasonal fruit and cheese plates.

The tomato bisque soup is a little creamy but those with a stomach for rich foods should enjoy this one. Miguel's Tapas Salad is delicious light fare and Cyrano's Salad has delectable raspberry vinaigrette.

For dinner or lunch, the chicken spedini with a side of spaghetti squash is a nice mixture of flavors and spices. Most of the sandwiches are hearty and their curried chicken salad stands up well in a city that knows how to make it.

The only downside to the meal part of the restaurant is that the portions are a bit small for the mid-range prices. However, there is a reason for these pint-sized plates: they allow you to save room for Cyrano's famously inventive desserts and gourmet coffees.

It's hard for me to approach this subject without a bit of nostalgia. Whenever my best friends who moved away come back into town we always get the same thing: the Bananas Cyrano. This creation is of the name flambées for two, which is made tableside with luscious bananas, brown sugar, and smooth French vanilla ice cream. The plate the sauce is made in actually is set to flame beside you! Though these flambé come in two other flavors, cherries jubilee and strawberries Cyrano, the bananas are the perfect combination of sweet, spicy, and creamy. Though this dish is the wow-ing 18.99, it is definitely worth it. Believe me, you can't leave Cyrano's without at least trying it once! Maybe twice! Three times, and you've got me beat!

Other deserts of merit include the World's Fair Éclair, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Carmel Brioche Bread Pudding, and gooey chocolate chip cookie.

If you are in a group I recommend pooling your assets and ordering three or four to nibble on and skip dinner all together.

I've never been to brunch at Cyrano's but I hear it is expansive and is served 11 am to 3 p.m. on Sundays.

Now beware—I've driven all the way to Cyrano's and found it closed, the times change weirdly. Sunday through Thursday the restaurant is open from 11 am to 11 p.m., but on Fridays and Saturdays, the time is extended until 12 am.

The service is impeccable, the waiters friendly, and the chefs all have exemplary pedigrees.

Watch out Cyrano de Bergerac! Cyrano's restaurant is destined to go down in St. Louis history as dessert legend, more famous than the original story. ☺



# Outdoor activities offer amusement for all age groups

[Meredith Redick]  
Editor in Training

As the magnolias bloom, and tulips open up to the sun, Claytonians venture out of their homes. In Clayton, springtime starts the outdoor activities that keep the city going during the summer months. Beginning in April, the City of Clayton and other organizations bring fun outside.

Last month, two of the most popular goings-on drawing people from Clayton were Washington University's Thurtene Carnival and St. Louis Earth Day Festival.

The Thurtene Carnival, which was held April 12-13, is hosted by a group of 13 junior students at Washington University and involves more than 50 student organizations. In the parking lot near Brookings Hall, booths and rides were set up to welcome attendees. The estimated attendance for this year's carnival was 120,000. Visitors bought tickets for food and rides, and enjoyed a show from the Black Repertory Theatre.

"It allows even older people to be little kids again and eat carnival food and ride the rides," sophomore Erica Blustein said. "It's a fun activity for families to do together."

Thurtene has been trying to move towards a more eco-friendly approach. The programs go along with the classic "reduce, reuse, recycle" idea and include local purchase of supplies and minimized waste.

Their attempts at going green can't compare to those of the 19th annual St. Louis Earth Day Festival, which educates and informs people about the environment in a fun-filled day in April. The festivities are free, but those wishing to contribute financially to the environmental effort can purchase everything from organic t-shirts to stationery made from elephant dung. Money wasn't necessary to enjoy the party, though; live music and dance filled the park and people at every booth were eager to speak about their causes.

"All the hippies were there," senior Joe Luckey said. "It's free, and it's definitely worth the time."

The only thing attendees needed money for was food: vendors set up booths holding a wide variety of delicacies, from foot-long "meat sticks" to crispy Indian food.

These events are just the beginning of Clayton's outdoor experience. The St. Louis Jazz Festival, Musical Nights in Oak Knoll Park, Taste of Clayton, and the St. Louis Art Fair are yet to come.

The first of these is music in Oak Knoll Park, located at the intersection of Clayton and Big Bend. Beginning on May 25 and continuing the fourth Sunday of each month, the park will become a venue featuring live music in the evenings. An opportunity to enjoy good music on a summer night, free of charge, is rare, but "Musical Nights" is just that. Participants are encour-



The St. Louis Jazz Festival on May 31 in Shaw Park will feature such headliners as Tito Puente, Jr (left), Cassandra Wilson, Chieli Minucci, Karen Briggs and Lao Tizer as well as food from area restaurants.

aged to bring their own lawn chairs and blankets.

Following the first musical night in the park is a full-fledged day of music in Shaw Park, with the St. Louis Jazz Festival on May 31. The festival features nationally recognized jazz musicians in an energetic array of tunes. From 12:30 to 9, this one-day occasion doesn't require open-to-close attendance but the tickets, starting at \$25, don't lend well to just "dropping in." The concerts are well worth the price tag, though. According to the official website, "The mission of the St. Louis Jazz & Heritage Festival is to stimulate awareness of the broad and diverse array of contemporary jazz music and to nurture and encourage the understanding and appreciation of jazz as a musical form." If you're into jazz, St. Louis Jazz Festival is the place to go.

For the many who are more interested in food than jazz, the Taste of Clayton opens up in Shaw Park on June 1. This happening is all about food. From 1:30 to

9:30, guests can purchase tickets for food. With treats ranging from hot funnel cake to The Melting Pot's famed cheese fondue, there's something for everyone here.

"Sometimes people have friends that showcase their food at the carnival, and it's another opportunity to see people and have fun in a community environment," Blustein said.

Before the dinner hour, visitors can choose from restaurants such as Bistro Alexander, Zuzu Handmade Mexican Food, and Il Vicino; after 6:30, dessert options open up from Hank's Cheesecakes, Fitz's Root Beer, and many more.

Live music and "inflated sports activities" for the kids make Taste of Clayton a worthwhile destination for lunch that day.

One of the most celebrated events in St. Louis doesn't happen until September: the St. Louis Art Fair. The 15th annual fair is planned for Sept. 5-7 in Clayton's

Business District on Forsyth Blvd. The festival offers many of the same foods as the Taste of Clayton, and live music is present throughout the day. The Art Fair is special, though, because of the hundreds of artists who come to showcase and sell their work. Even if you're not looking to buy, just seeing the amazing jewelry, clothing, paintings, and sculptures artists bring to the fair is inspiring.

"I usually go every year," freshman Sophie Newman said. "My favorite part is probably being with my friends, and eating the food."

An area just for kids is provided at the Art Fair for making wearable artwork and other crafts. Volunteers for this part of the fair are welcomed.

St. Louis summers can get hot and boring if you don't know what to do, but planning to visit these events is easy and gratifying. "Some of the memories and experiences that happened there are things I'll never forget," Blustein said. ☺



The Japanese Grill SanSai offers fresh, healthy alternatives for a quick lunch in downtown Clayton.

## SanSai provides satisfying menu

[Ken Zheng]  
Editor in Training

Scrumptious rolls of sushi pair perfectly with a hint of soy sauce and a dab of wasabi, bowls of Oriental salad topped with delectable chicken on a layer of rice are just a few of dishes served at SanSai Japanese Grill.

The closest restaurant located close to the intersection of Forsyth and North Central, SanSai is only a few blocks away from CHS. The chain of restaurants, based in California, prides itself in serving fresh and healthy food. They have "infused eastern world culture, food, and spirit with our traditional American lifestyle" with specially crafted dishes to tantalize the taste buds.

The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Upon entering, I noticed a friendly cashier ready to take my order and an array of choices to pick from including plates like the Shrimp and Chicken or Spicy Pork Loin. They also offer many salads, soups and sides, including the Oriental Salad, Seared Ahi Tuna Sashimi Salad, Miso Soup, Seafood Spring Roll, and Shrimp Tempura. SanSai also offers a variety of rolls available in half and full sizes with other specialty rolls as well.

While the meals could be ordered to go, my friend and I chose to stay and enjoy the setting.

The lights set a soft glow in contrast with the blinding light shining through a huge window. The floors were made of hardwood which was fitting considering SanSai is a Japanese restaurant. A few tables were made from what seemed like granite with bamboo chairs close by. There were several traditional Japanese pictures on the walls. The place felt Zen-like and calming. In the corner was a mounted flat-screen TV, which felt out of place and added to the background noise.

There were soft drinks to choose from as well as traditional hot tea and iced tea. I chose water with lemon wedges. The food itself was fabulous, but quite expensive.

My friend and I ordered the spicy chicken bowl with white rice and Oriental salad (there were three choices), half a California sushi roll at first. The order cost about \$12, and we chose to dine with chopsticks.

The chicken was succulent and juicy, layered with a thick dark-red sauce and sprinkled with sesame seeds. The salad consisted of fresh baby greens, roasted almonds, with their signature rice vinegar dressing. Each mouthful was heavenly.

The greens and meat lay on a bed of white rice with a fair amount of teriyaki sauce adding just the right amount of flavor to the bowl.

Each piece of sushi was also divine. The texture was soft and creamy, adding a light flavor to the heavy soy sauce. Ginger and wasabi were also provided. A six-piece roll was roughly \$4.

The crab in the sushi was expectedly fake, but had a certain authentic taste. The rice used was not grainy and seemed to be thoroughly cooked. The rice had just the right stickiness in my opinion.

No matter how good the food is, if I wasn't full at the end of the meal, then the food did not serve its purpose. The meal did have me going back for seconds. I decided eventually on the Salmon Roll, which was also incredibly delicious albeit expensive. That is probably my general impression of the SanSai, expensive but a very high quality on-the-go restaurant. I spent almost \$20 dollars for lunch there for two people.

Overall the environment seemed to be calm and stable, but the SanSai seemed to also be geared toward people on the go who wanted something wholesome yet appetizing. ☺

## Ludo blends darkness with pop

[Ugochi Onyema]  
Editor

The St. Louisan band Ludo is back for a second round with their sophomore effort "You're Awful, I Love You", which was released on February 26, 2008. The 12-song record, has an amazing variation of songs, ranging from songs like "Go-Getter Greg" and "Lake Pontchartrain" that you can blast through the speakers in your car, and songs like "Topeka" and "Streetlights", to which you have to listen intently to feel the full force of the message evoked.

All of the songs were written by Andrew Volpe, with the exception of the song "Topeka" by Tim Ferrell. The remaining three members of Ludo are Tim Convy, Marshall Fancullo, and Matt Palermo. Fun Fact: The CD was recorded at Seahorse Records here in Saint Louis. Another Fun Fact: Volpe's sister went to CHS.

If those two facts don't trigger your curiosity about the record, I don't know what will. I decided to give the band a shot based on these two tidbits of information alone, and boy, am I glad I did. I am now absolutely obsessed with Ludo. If you take the time to listen to the record, I'm sure you will too, regardless of whether you prefer genre of music is rap, country, or ethereal wave.

"You're Awful, I Love You" caters to everyone. If you're the type of person who appreciates more of the pop sound, then the track for you would be "Such As It Ends", but if you into more of the quirky and completely obscure stuff, I would suggest "Go-Getter Greg". I personally like to know what I'm listening to, so I of course played the CD about 200 times, you

know, just to be able to know whether the lyrics should be making me bob my head or turn my CD player off. Fortunately, I only had to do that once, and that was because that song was REALLY creepy, although all of the songs are a bit unorthodox. But despite that, I still have to award the "Scariest song ever" award to the most unorthodox song on the record, "The Horror Of Our Love". Driving home from school, I popped the CD into the player and skipped to the songs that I had yet to listen to. When this song began to play, I was glad that there was a calming, slow song. Until I actually listened to the lyrics: "I'm a killer, cold and wrathful/ Silent sleeper, I've been inside your bedroom/ I've murdered half the town/ Left love-notes on their headstones/ I'll fill the graveyards until I have you." For me, the song was a little creepy. But hey, if you dig the whole über-psycho stalker vibe that this song exudes, then this song is definitely for you.

The song that most people are familiar with is definitely "Love Me Dead", which also happens to be the first track. The lyrics in this are sometimes random, but that's the charm of the song, and the message is slyly woven into the song. It's impressive when someone can sing the verses "She knows just how to hold me" and "Kill me romantically, fill my soul with vomit/ then ask me for a piece of gum" without skipping a beat.

There are also a few pleasant surprises that come along with the record, the most pleasant of which is the extra track on the record that is played in conjunction with "In Space". "Boat Song", played acoustically, is unexpectedly mellow and a welcome surprise.

Ludo left me wanting more with this CD, and I would recommend "You're awful, I Love You" to everyone. So go buy it. I mean it. Go Now. ☺



Cover art from St Louis-based Ludo's new release: "You're awful; I love you"





The 2008 Prom court poses for a picture. This year's Prom queen is Nava Kantor, and the king is Whit Downey. The court is nominated based on academic achievement, and school involvement, and voted on by the Juniors and Seniors. Puhan Zhao



Junior D.J. Whiflock (left) and Jameel McCoo (right) dance exuberantly. Puhan Zhao



Senior Alex Phillips (left) and Sophomore Eve Brumley (right) prepare to enter the dance. Puhan Zhao

# PROM

# 2008

# Chocolát

The promotion dance took place on May 3, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency in Union Station. This year's theme, *Chocolát* was displayed prominently with a large chocolate fountain in the middle of the room, making the night very sweet, and a huge success.



CHS students throw up their hands as they dance the night away at this year's prom. Puhan Zhao



Juniors Natalia Birgisson (left) and Meredith McCay (right) enjoy themselves on the dance floor. Puhan Zhao