



Nina Oberman

## Students succeed in DECA internationals

Jonathan Shumway  
Reporter

It's the last round in the international competition of DECA, and two CHS students are in the top 10 in their division, with one contestant being number one.

Marci Boland teaches Marketing Research at CHS, and created a CHS chapter of DECA, an international organization promoting marketing skills, because of its connection to the classroom.

"The students were able to compete in the areas that they were studying in class," Boland said.

Just this year, two seniors advanced to the annual world competition in Anaheim, California. Senior Dylan Cockson advanced to the top 10 in the world for Food Marketing. Senior Mack Su was first in the world in Marketing Management. Su first took a marketing class as a sophomore.

"I was encouraged by Marci Boland to join DECA," Su said. "I participated in Marketing Management for three years, so I had the experience. This contributed to my success."

Out of the 25 categories for DECA, Cockson chose Food Marketing.

"I wanted to exploit a niche that no one was doing," Cockson said.

In DECA, the participants are given a problem or question, in which they are given 10 minutes to prepare a 10-minute presentation. From the beginning of Su's career he progressed in areas that allowed him to rank well.

"Working on my role-playing skills and learning to adapt to different situations helped enable me to get where I am," Su said.

Su's success is also largely attributed to Boland.

"Marci Boland is one of the best marketing advisers and teachers," Su said. "She played a large part in how I achieved what I did."

Boland gives credit to the hard work that both Mack Su and Dylan Cockson did to accomplish what they have.

"They have studied old tests, performance indicators, and practiced role plays," Boland said. "It is challenging. It takes serious preparation and planning, but the kids love the competition."

Su's success will be combined with

his other interests in the future.

"I want to use my marketing skills with my scientific interest," Su said.

Cockson has learned lifelong skills from DECA.

"I have learned how to become a better communicator," Cockson said. "Since there is not much time to prepare a presentation, it has made me think on my feet. When I advanced to internationals, I was shocked and really happy."

DECA has helped students to develop specific skills.

"DECA gives true life experiences for students," Boland said. "It provides ways to network and interact with kids and business people from around the country."

Boland said she was truly amazed.

"When they both reached the top 20 and the made it to finals I told them anything else is just icing on the cake," Boland said. "Then they both made it to the top 10, and I was amazed."

Both Su and Cockson encourage CHS students to participate in DECA.

"You may not be interested in DECA now, but if you try DECA, you will see how much fun it is," Su said.



Photo courtesy of Mack Su

The winners Mack Su and Dylan Cockson celebrate with teacher Marci Boland.

## Strip-search pivotal in defining rights of student and school

After a psychologically devastating strip-search, Savana Redding has brought her case before the Supreme Court. The decision could have huge effects on campus life.

Jackie Leong  
Editor in Training

Six years ago, 13-year-old Savana Redding was taken into a room, accompanied with the school nurse and another female school official, stripped down to her underwear, and searched. The context? Suspected of hiding prescription-strength ibuprofen against her Arizona middle school's zero-drug policy. The outcome? No contraband found.

However, the consequences are still being felt. On April 21, the Supreme Court heard the resulting case. Redding, now 19, claims that she suffered emotional trauma and stomach ulcers, and had to transfer schools. Though she is only seeking monetary damages, it has been almost unanimously agreed that the case decision, which will be released in June, could greatly affect life on campus.

The big question: Was the search justified or not? "If you say 'right', you're going to see a lot more strip searches," said American Government teacher Mark Bayles. "If you say 'wrong', schools become aware they could be sued, and they'll be more careful."

Being more careful isn't necessarily better, added Bayles, in the case that there is a legitimate threat that a school refuses to investigate in fear of costly lawsuits.

Redding's mother, whom the school had not notified before the strip-search, nor during the two-hour period in which Redding had been detained outside the principal's office, called the school, upset, the next morning. The principal allegedly assured her that it didn't matter because nothing was found. On behalf of her child, April Redding then sued on the premise that her daughter's fourth amendment rights were violated. The fourth amendment guards against unreasonable search and seizure.

Before this current case, the Supreme Court had defined students' rights under the Fourth Amendment in 1985. The case *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* involved a girl who had been caught smoking in a bathroom; upon searching her purse, not only cigarettes were found, but also marijuana and rolling papers. The girl sued claiming her rights had been violated and that the search had been therefore unconstitutional. Her eventual Supreme Court case drew a ruling that claimed students were under the protection of the Fourth Amendment against unreasonable searches; however, in the given case, there was a valid reason to search the student's purse given the school's obligation to keep other students safe, and the fact that the student had been recently caught with cigarettes.

Since then, this is the first case that again concerns the Fourth Amendment and a specifically targeted student. However, this decision goes one step further in the fact that it concerns a much more personally invasive search.

In the Redding case, the school said that at a dance earlier that year, a group of children, including Redding, had been

'unusually rowdy' and had smelled of alcohol. Redding had also been suspected of supplying alcohol at a party she had hosted in her home. None of this, however, had been officially proven. On the record, Redding was an honor-roll student with no prior drug charges against her.

The information that school officials acted upon is considered hearsay; one classmate with a pill pointed at Redding's best friend, who produced more pills and in turn pointed the finger at Redding. Though no drugs were ever found on Redding's person, there was a known plan that a group of students had been arranging to take the pills during lunchtime. Moreover, there was a recent near fatality concerning a fellow student who had taken such a pill.

"I'm not sure if there was enough evidence for this one," said Wydown Middle School principal Mary Ann Goldberg. "That 'hearsay twice' thing is not enough to do that [strip-search] to someone. If I had irrefutable eyewitness testimony from a number of children, then I would have the parent come up and help us, go through the problem together."

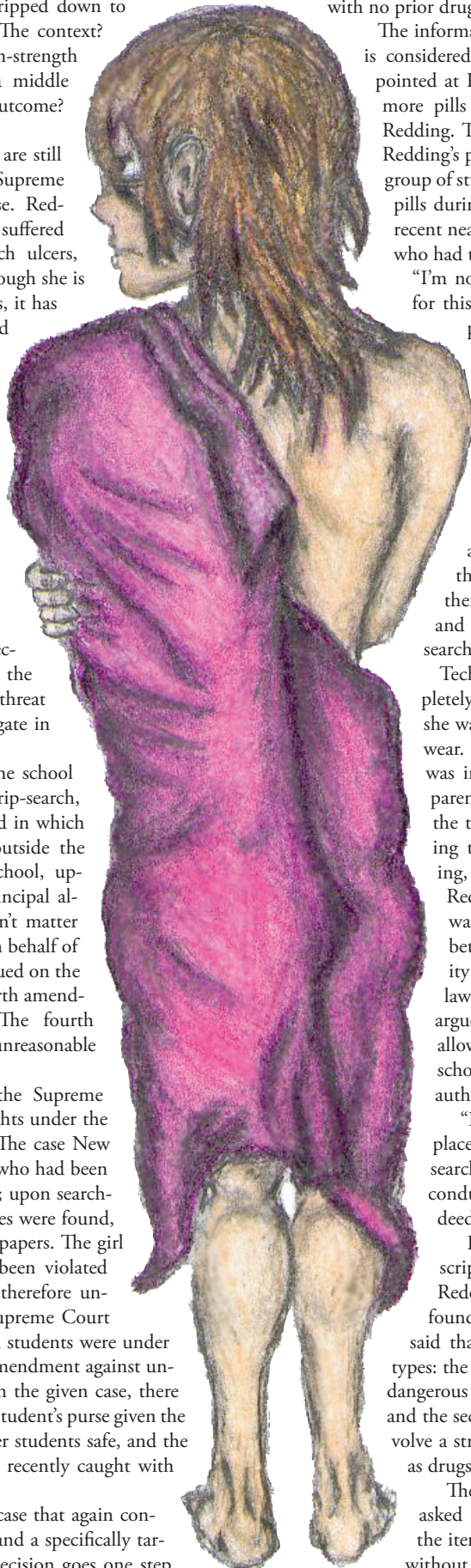
Goldberg says that the most she's asked for her students to do is to pull their pockets inside out and empty them. She says she refuses to go beyond, and that means no patting down or strip searches.

Technically, Redding was never completely "strip" searched due to the fact that she was never forced to remove her underwear. However, the fact remains that she was indeed strip-searched, and without a parent notified beforehand, nor present at the time of the search. However, according to the transcript of the actual hearing, Safford Unified School District v. Redding, a distinction during the case was made, concerning the difference between strip searches and bodily cavity searches, where Matthew Wright (the lawyer on behalf of the school district) argued that cavity searches would not be allowed- but only because he feared that school officials did not have the medical authority to do so.

"People do hide things in very private places," Bayles said. "How extensive a search are you going to let the authorities conduct?" He observed that things are indeed found during such searches.

In a further argument in the transcript, Adam Wolf, a lawyer representing Redding, asserted that since nothing was found, the search was unreasonable. He said that searches can be divided into two types: the first being a "basic" search for a "non dangerous article" (which he did not define), and the second type of search, which would involve a strip search for a dangerous item, such as drugs.

The Supreme Court justices, however, asked how one could distinguish where the item was hidden, or what the item was, without already having found it in a basic search. Would this then warrant a strip-search if the safety of others were involved?



All Sehzadeh



Meng Wang

Superintendent Don Senti is preparing to retire in 2010 after 15 years in district. The district has hired a search group to begin the process of hiring his replacement.

## District begins search for new superintendent

Fontasha Powell  
Senior Managing Editor

The Clayton School District is in the midst of an intense search for a new superintendent.

Dr. Don Senti, the district's superintendent, announced on July 3, 2008, that he would retire in 2010, weeks shy of his 64th birthday.

Senti will have served in the Clayton School District for 15 years. Senti said he decided to retire after having realized his age through a random occurrence. "I was driving down Highway 40 and I was pulled over and got a ticket," Senti said. "The officer told me I was 63 and I said 'no, I'm not,' and he told me to do the math. I realized that I approached 65 [retirement age] and that it would be a good time to announce my retirement. I also wanted to give the School Board two years so that they'd have plenty of time to establish a process for replacing me."

The process of hiring a superintendent includes a nation-wide search organized by a firm, but also includes various focus groups consisting of teachers and administrators who will voice their input. Although Senti will not be a part of the actual decision-making process, he is familiar with the hiring process and

is helping the district set up the method for hiring.

Board of Education President Omri Praiss expressed his gratitude for Senti providing a two-year hiring period in a school district-issued press release.

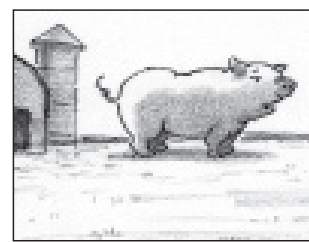
"The Board is extremely grateful to Don for providing the District with two full school years to find the School District of Clayton's next leader," Praiss. "We plan to conduct a national search. Part of that search process will involve gathering input from our stakeholders in order to understand what qualities this community wants in their next superintendent. According to the district website, the school board has unanimously selected the search firm of Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates (HYA) to conduct a nationwide search for a new superintendent. HYA has earned a national reputation representing hundreds of school districts, with a primary emphasis on smaller, high-quality suburban districts."

CHS Principal Louise Losos is also part of the selection process for the new superintendent.

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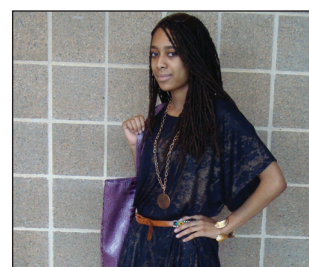
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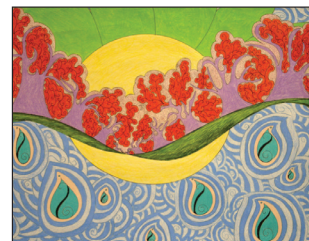
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# Missouri legislature bans teens from texting while driving

Martha Burke  
Reporter

As texting has swept the country it has begun to affect our nation's drivers, too. On May 15 Missouri legislators officially passed a law banning anyone under the age of 21 from texting while driving. This law also applies in Illinois.

The bill proposed by Sen. Ryan McKenna was altered and now applies to those under the age of 21. It previously applied to drivers of all ages.

In a survey conducted by AAA, 46 percent of 1,000 teens ages 16 to 17 admitted to texting while driving. AAA also found that the risk of car accidents increased by 50 percent for those texting while driving.

In a poll conducted by Harris Interactive, 89 percent of Americans said they would support a law against texting while driving outlawed. In another survey 91 percent of Americans believed that people texting while driving are as dangerous as those drinking while driving.

Missouri won't be the first state to ban texting while driving; Illinois already bans cell phone use for those under the age of nineteen.

"Personally, I would be inclined to cite an individual that is

observed texting and driving in a manner that is causing a safety hazard," Clayton police officer John Zlatic said. "Individuals that are involved in motor vehicle accidents in which it can be proven that they were engaged in texting will also be cited."

The problem in texting comes from taking your attention away from the road, which, according to Zlatic, is a factor in many car accidents.

"Most automobile accidents are caused because of inattention, i.e. using a cell phone, applying makeup, spilling a drink, or being distracted by children," Zlatic said.

So what can teenagers do in a nation where texting is so commonplace that there is even a National Texting Championship? Zlatic said that teens should get off the road if they need to use their phones.

"Glancing away from the roadway is a dangerous practice and could result in a reduced response to changing driving situation," Zlatic said. "Cell phones can be distracting and police officers urge drivers to pull over in order to make their calls."

Zlatic also recommends hand-held devices to keep eyes on the road. "Cell phones can be installed to be hands-free, thus relieving the driver from removing his/her hands from the wheel and his/her eyes from the road," Zlatic said.

The law will go into effect on Aug. 28, 2009.



Noah Eby

# Clayton schools look for new superintendent

## New Superintendent, 1

The process began with several days of meetings with students, parents, staff and community members in late April and early May. A survey was distributed to those participating in the focus groups and to all Clayton parents and staff.

The focus groups, public meetings and survey results, combined with individual interviews with Board of Education members, will provide HYA with the information needed to develop a Leadership Profile of Clayton's next superintendent.

Once approved by the Board of Education, the Leadership Profile will be used to identify and evaluate potential candidates. HYA will conduct a closed search, which means that the names of applicants and finalists will remain confidential throughout the search process.

The website says: "A closed process is routinely used in school districts across the country to fill high-profile superintendent positions. The confidentiality maintained in the process allows a search firm to encourage and recruit candidates who might not have applied if their interest was made public. The tentative search calendar calls for the Board of Education to announce its finalist before the end of 2009."

"I participated in one of the focus groups organized by the search firm," Losos said. "This is the first time for me. The superintendent is the only hire for a school board. Every other hire is made by the Superintendent or his designees, so it's incredibly important. They are trying to get input from as many different constituencies as possible in order to find the best match for the school district."

Specifically regarding the high school,

Losos is searching for a wise superintendent.

"Personally, I would like [to hire] someone I can learn from," Losos said. "For the high school, I want someone who can acknowledge our strengths, and work with us to become even better. His or her focus, direction, vision will greatly affect what we [the high school] do and how we do it. It's the most important hire that is made."

Although Senti served in the Parkway School district for six years before he came to Clayton, he said that he was initially drawn to Clayton because of the close community feel.

"I was superintendent of Parkway before I came here," Senti said. "I was more of a public relations person there, but here, I work directly with the parents, the students and the teachers. I had 22,000 students at Parkway and I had more employees there than students here at Clayton. I was attracted by the quality of the Clayton schools and the kids and parents who are part of it. I just really loved the small town atmosphere of smaller school district."

Senti was also drawn to Clayton because of the high expectations both students and teachers promulgated.

"When I came here people said that the parents at Clayton were going to be pushy and that everyone expects a lot of the schools," Senti said. "I said

'that's great, that's wonderful!' Since I've been here, the high expectations and the quality of education has not gone away. Many of our kids could have gone to private schools, but they're here. We have over 60 kids who pay tuition to go to a public school district, \$10,000 a year for elementary and \$15,000 a year for middle school and high school. That is the type of reputation we have, and need to keep."

Senti has been involved in various large projects within the district, including extending the VTS (Voluntary Transfer Student) program, having a student publications policy added to the official district policy and the addition of the Center of Clayton to the high school.

"In terms of things that happened after I was here, I was really involved in the addition of the Center of Clayton and really getting that started," Senti said. "Plus the Fine Arts wing, the music rooms and the new Commons at the high school that was part of that bond issue. I'm very proud of it."

It is believed by most that Senti contributed significantly to improving Clayton. Losos talked about the VTS program.

"I think one of Senti's lasting marks will be in the championing of the VTS program for Clayton and all of St. Louis," Losos said. "He has been at the forefront throughout, believing in the students, believing in [Clayton's] underlying philosophy."

“Our district is for sure the best in the state of Missouri and one of the top in the country, we need to strive to get better and not just relax.”

Don Senti  
Superintendent of  
Clayton Schools

# Lyrics for school song chosen

Caroline Stamp  
Editor in Training

For as long as anybody can remember, Clayton has used "On Wisconsin" as its school song. Even though it was played at every football game, most students and parents didn't know it was Clayton's school song and just looked at it as another song the band played.

With 2009 being the 100th year of Clayton and the class of 2010 being the 100th graduating class, it was finally time to get a school song that we could call our own.

At the end of last year, the music department held a contest for students to write a new school song. Sophomore Cooper Minnis was chosen as the winner with his song "Greyhound Pride."

"I thought our school needed to be represented by an original song," Minnis said. "Especially since we are approaching the 100th graduation."

Once the school had a new song, the music department decided to hold another contest for students to compose lyrics to the new song. The lyrics of freshmen Lauren Hill and Isabella Jacobs were chosen.

"In choir class one day we were told to write lyrics just for fun," Hill said. "But then we just thought we should submit it, too."

The new school song is played at

every home football game as the team runs out of the locker rooms. Now the song has lyrics the school can sing along to.

"We worked on the song for about two days," Hill said. "The words just started coming to us as we were listening to the song."

Many other high school and college songs represent the school and what it is all about. The new lyrics do the same for Clayton.

"We want the lyrics to portray a school that is confident in its students and a team that has fun and wins," Hill said.

The prize for writing the winning lyrics was a cash prize of \$200. Hill and Jacobs split the money. Both hope students

will learn the lyrics and sing at games.

"I think it will be cool to have a song students can sing and always remember it," Hill said. "Just like the elementary school songs."

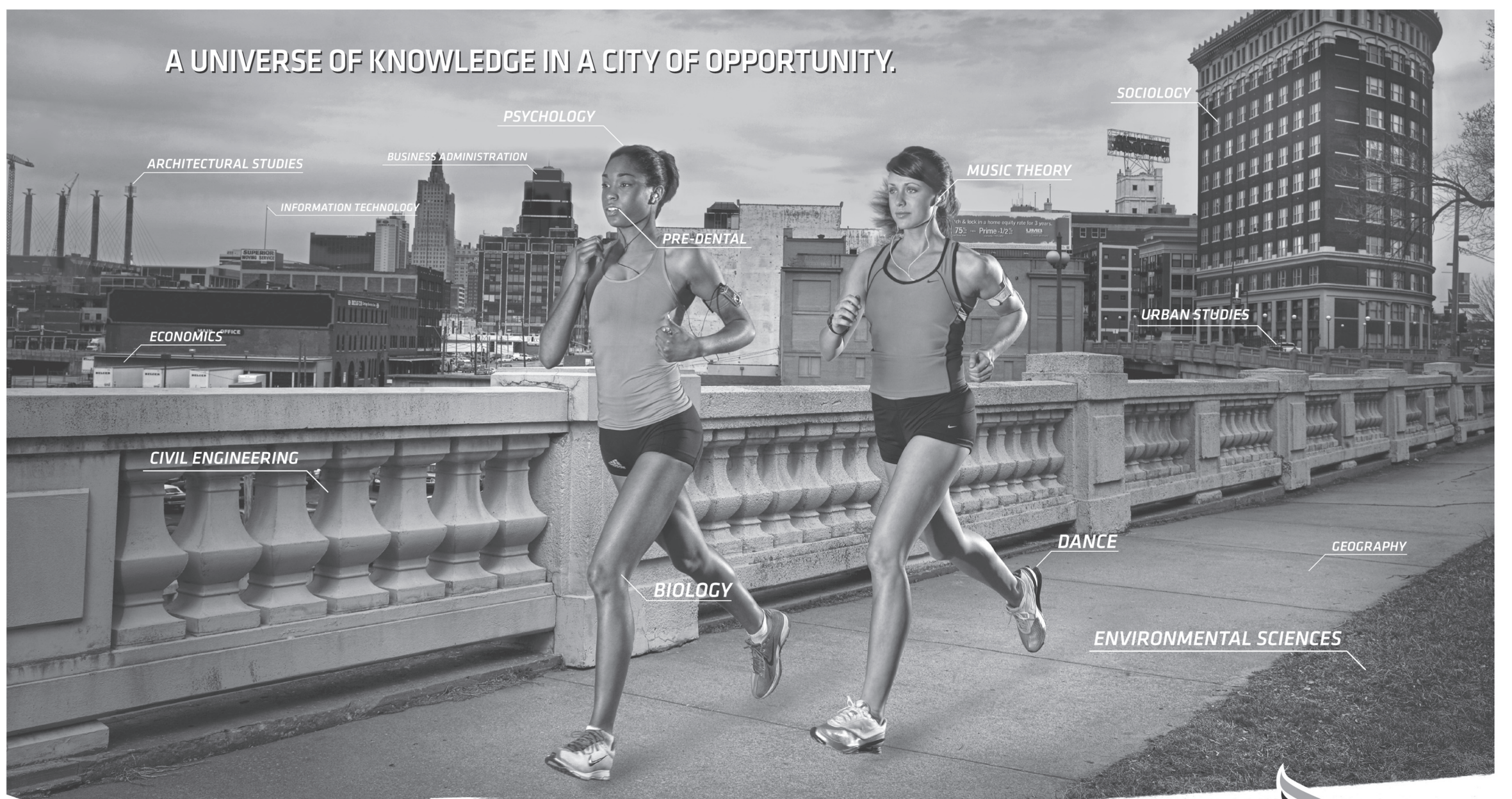
Now that the winners are chosen and the song is official, Minnis, Hill, and Jacobs will always be known as the ones who wrote the school song.

"It feels really good to know our lyrics will be there forever," Hill said. "It's more of an honor than anything."

The song will be played at football games, the homecoming parade, and some of the home basketball games.

"Hopefully the song will stay for another 100 years," Minnis said.

Lyrics:  
Go Clayton Greyhounds we're  
the CHS orange and blue  
We'll all join together to cheer  
the team that's tried and true.  
When we hit game time we will  
be victorious  
So stand CHS, stand and cheer  
with us.  
Hounds!



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# CHS takes precautions as H1N1 virus spreads

Chelsea Cousins  
Editor in Training

The 2009 outbreak of the Influenza A (H1N1) virus, also known as the swine flu, has been recognized as a global epidemic. Although the source of the virus is unknown, more and more cases are being discovered across the United States.

The illness is affecting people all over the world and has infiltrated Missouri, too. Clayton High School is taking serious precautions.

"It's important for people to educate themselves on this pandemic because I feel students need to know what's going on in the world around them and how it may affect them personally," senior Alana Miles said.

Some students at Clayton High School are not concerned about the danger of contracting the flu. However, other students are wary.

"People who have no idea about the swine flu might not be as worried about it as others," junior David Goss said.

It is obvious that different students show different levels of concern with the swine flu, however, a majority of them feel strongly about the issue.

"I think students should take the time out to inform themselves on the H1N1 virus because it's a prevalent issue and you could learn ways of preventing it," junior Jennifer Golden said.

The swine flu is defined in many ways.

"Basically, this particular flu is a virus," school nurse Sharon Parker said, "which is a variant of the Influenza A virus."

In a newsletter that was sent home at the beginning of the month, principal Louise Losos also carefully explained the circumstances that follow this recent outbreak of the swine flu. She also explained that "our current situation does not warrant school closure."

"There is a chance, however, that if swine flu rates increase, there will be a good enough reason to close school," Miles said.

There is a very thin line between traces of the swine flu in other parts of the U.S. and the chances of the virus hitting Missouri. At this point, Clayton's best course of action is to follow the schools student illness policy, which states that children with a temperature of 100 F or greater should be kept at home.

"If the swine flu virus made it all the way to Missouri it would be dangerous to have school," Goss added, "but the chances of Clayton shutting down the school for a period of time is very low."

Word of actions being carried out throughout the district with regard to the virus have manifested gradually and at this

point more and more people are speaking up.

"I am aware that the Clayton School District has a plan," Parker said, "I believe at one point there was the idea of teachers teaching online, but now I don't think there is any chance of administrators closing the school."

As of now, CHS is planning to follow the Center for Disease Control's current recommendation that if a confirmed case of the H1N1 flu is reported in a school, we will close that school until further notice.

"Personally, I think that schools should only be closed if a significant group of people had or showed symptoms of the swine flu," Golden said, "because closing school earlier will mess up a lot of things and at this point, students just want to get school over with."

Despite this major pandemic, our school administrators understand that this renovation may be challenging for Clayton families and ask that we plan ahead just in case. Many students aren't aware of the affects that people are dealing with.

"In the long run, I think school would only be closed if a huge number of students got the flu," Parker said, "or if too many teachers got it and there weren't enough subs to go around."

Although the H1N1 virus is one of the top new stories of today, students feel that this virus also pertains to them as a student body. There is no doubt that students should be aware of what kind of illness they are dealing with.

"Even though the swine flu is being recognized globally, it is also being carefully monitored at school," Miles said, "and I think students should realize that this virus is harmful to everyone and affects everyone."

While it is clear that this Influenza A virus is a potentially dangerous virus to develop, students seem to be alert.

"A common result of the swine flu is death and I think that people should know what all they're putting on the line of not getting checked out," Golden said.

Our school nurse pitches in for a heads up. "Common symptoms that students may start to feel may be a high fever, body ache, runny nose, coughs, and even some headaches," Parker said.

There are also many precautions that can be taken to keep our peers healthy. At CHS, students voice what they feel should be done.

"I feel that people who think they show symptoms of the H1N1 virus should go get checked up and be very hygienic," Miles said, "that way they can help ensure that they don't spread it."

Additional symptoms of the H1N1 virus include a fever, sore throat, chills and often fatigue.

"I suggest that people wash their hands a lot," Goss said,

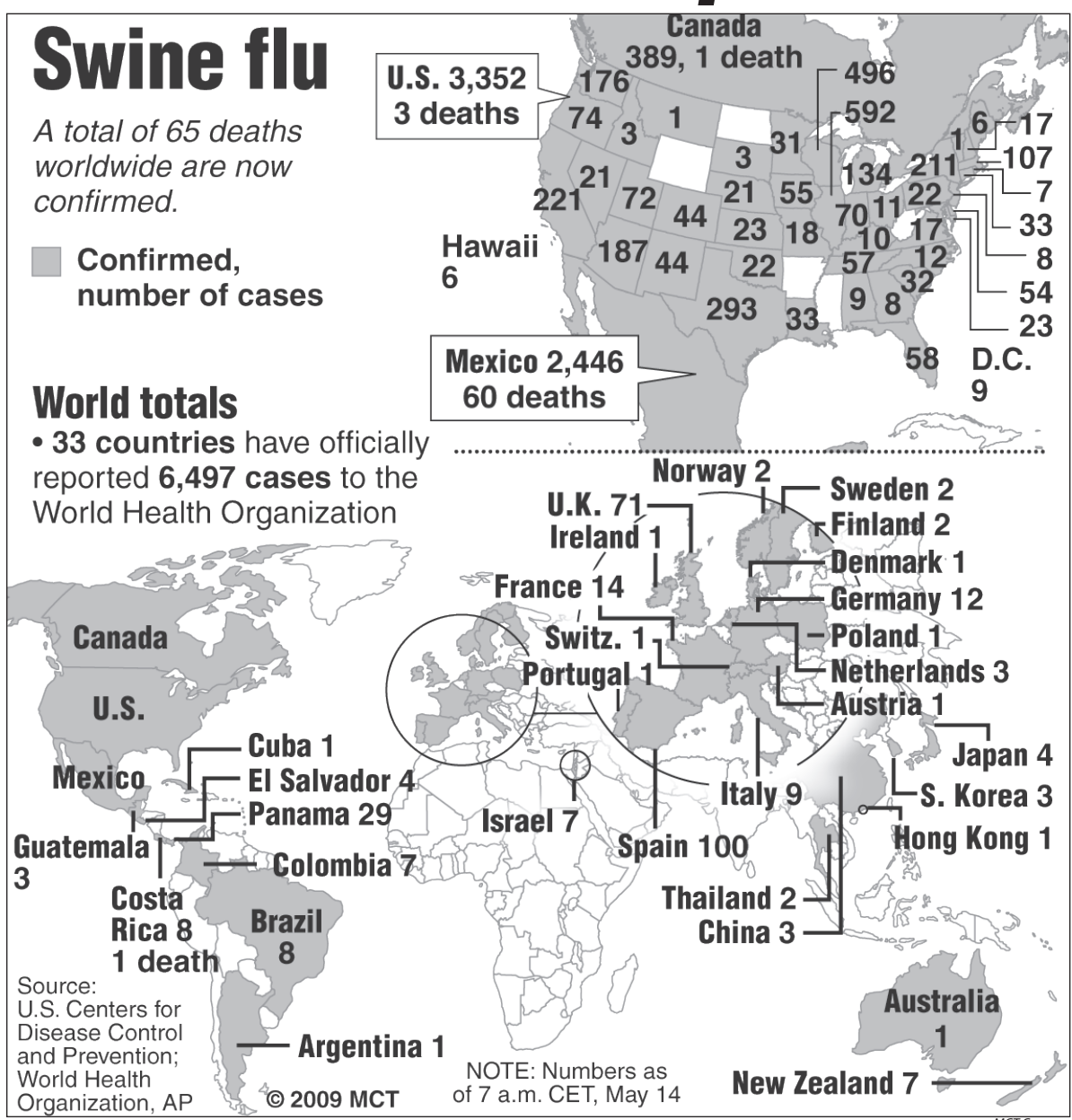
## Swine flu

A total of 65 deaths worldwide are now confirmed.

Confirmed, number of cases

### World totals

• 33 countries have officially reported 6,497 cases to the World Health Organization



"and make sure you don't start showing any of the symptoms that may result in the swine flu."

Dr. Losos also insists that students should refrain from touching their eyes, nose, or mouth due to the simple fact that germs may spread easier that way. It is up to our Clayton com-

munity to ensure that this issue doesn't spread further.

"If you're that sick then you shouldn't be coming to school anyway because no one wants to be around your germs," Golden said, "especially because of the virus that's going around,"

## Stingray exhibit at Zoo interactive, fun

Grace Cohen  
Reporter

Friendly and cute usually aren't words attributed to stingrays, but not so at the new exhibit at the Saint Louis Zoo. "Stingrays at Caribbean Cove" is a temporary exhibit open through Sept. 30 that lets people interact with the stingrays.

There are 28 cownose rays and seven southern stingrays gliding in the 17,000-gallon warm saltwater pool. Before entering visitors must wash their hands to make sure no foreign substance contaminate the rays environment. The educators around the pool explain how to properly pet the rays, "Place your palm flat down in the water and be patient; let the stingrays do the work."

The stingrays at Caribbean Cove have their stingers clipped, similar to how humans have their nails clipped. They can't bite because their teeth are up inside their mouth, making it a completely safe environment for zoo visitors. Educators around the pool warn the visitors "caution you may be splashed."

According to the St. Louis Zoo website, "Cownose rays and southern stingrays are related to sharks and skates. They have a flat body, long pointed fins and a long whip-like tail. Stingrays are known for their stinger, but they are actually very docile creatures."

Zoo visitors may get a chance to feed them, depending on the time of day. The

pool is 20 inches deep and provides an easy way to feed, touch and be touched by the stingrays.

The exhibit comes from "Living Exhibits," a San Diego based corporation that puts together and manages hands-on exhibits for zoos, museums and aquariums. Care for the stingrays is overseen by a full time supervisor from "Living Exhibits".

In addition to providing St. Louis Zoo visitors a chance to see and interact with stingrays, the exhibit is meant to raise awareness of the dangers facing rays.

The St. Louis Zoo website states that, "Though the cownose rays and southern stingrays are not currently endangered in the wild, other species of stingrays are. Stingrays and other ocean animals are often accidentally caught during commercial fishing for other fish. It's important that consumers purchase seafood from suppliers that farm or fish in ways that will ensure the long-term health of the world's oceans, rivers and lakes."

"Stingrays at Caribbean Cove" is located between Lakeside Cafe and The Living World. Admission is \$1.50 for Zoo Friends members and \$3 for the general public. Children under two are free and admission is free the first hour the Zoo is open. Food for feeding the rays is \$1.

This is one summer activity where shades aren't required to enjoy some rays.



Kids interact with stingrays at the St. Louis Zoo's new exhibit, "Stingrays at Caribbean Cove".

Grace Cohen

## EPA recognizes significance of global warming

Preeti Viswanathan  
Editor

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made an official statement last month that greenhouse gases are a definite factor contributing to climate change, and that global warming is in fact occurring. They have declared carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases as endangering public welfare.

While extremely fundamental, this statement is a milestone for progress in environmental protection, and the Obama administration is the first to support this statement. During the Bush administration, the EPA never officially acknowledged global warming as a true and dangerous phenomenon.

Under the Clean Air Act, this formal declaration allows the EPA the authority to regulate greenhouse gas and toxic chemicals emissions. For instance, cars might be required to be more fuel-efficient and the level of carbon dioxide emissions in industrial plants might be restricted. However, Congress can write its own climate legislation that could either bolster the actions the EPA wants to take or overrule them.

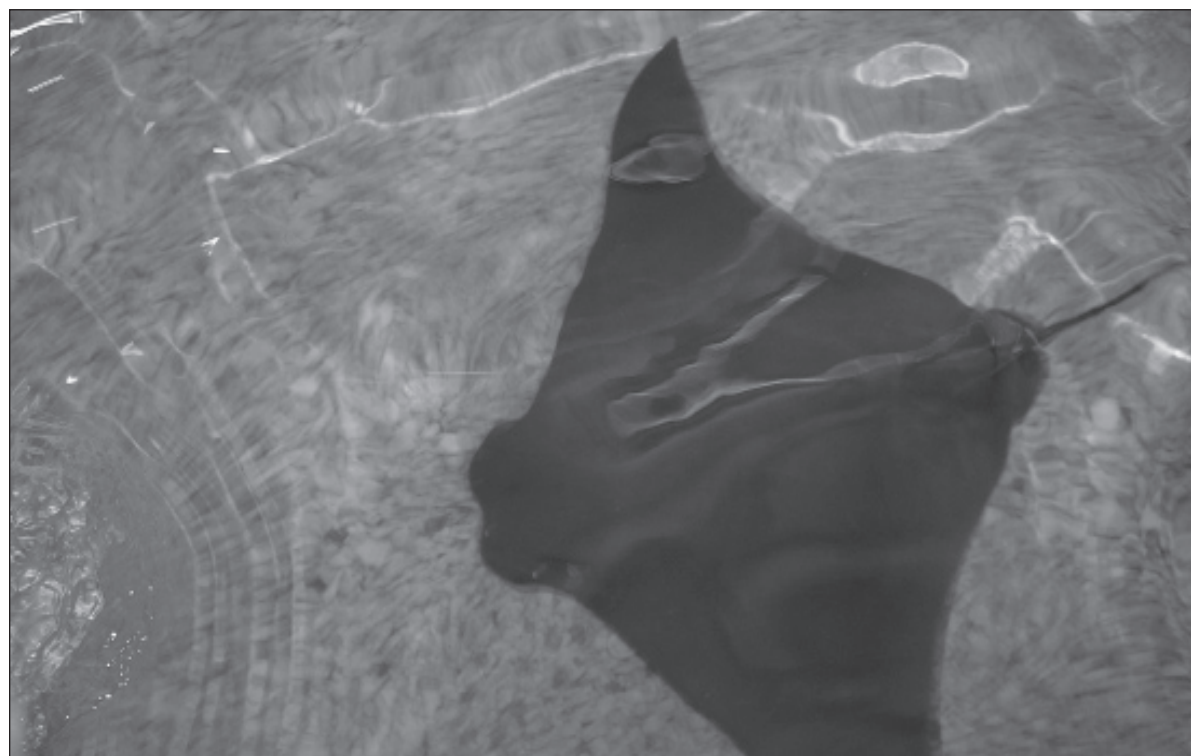
For environmental activists, the statement is a relief. The United States has recently been criticized by other industrial nations for not complying with measures that would reduce the amount of air pollutants.

However, transportation companies and other manufacturers who emit pollutants are worried that regulations might cost jobs and money, especially because of the recession.

While this means positive changes could ensue on the environmental front, other sectors could be harmed if Congress agrees with prospective EPA regulations. Critics say that the EPA's decisions could impact the entire economy negatively with inflated energy prices and job losses in those industries.

EPA administrator Lisa Jackson said in a public statement that, "This finding confirms that greenhouse gas pollution is a serious problem now and for future generations. Fortunately, it follows President Obama's call for a low-carbon economy and strong leadership in Congress on clean energy and climate legislation."

While the details of the possible regulations are unspecified, the regulations will aim to delay and reduce the impact of global warming.



Stingrays at the new exhibit, "Stingrays at Caribbean Cove", swim freely.

Grace Cohen



Taylor\*Tokyo



Gabrielle\*New York



Lindsey\*New York

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# New FDA ruling allows those 17 and over to buy OTC 'Plan B' pill

Noah Eby  
Editor in Training

Last month, the Food and Drug Administration said that it will allow 17-year-olds to buy the Plan B "morning after" pill over the counter. The April 22 decision was in compliance with a federal judge's ruling that Bush administration officials had put politics over science in their decision to restrict the pill.

In his March ruling, U.S. District Judge Edward Korman criticized the agency under the Bush administration. He ordered the FDA to give 17-year-olds access to the pill and evaluate whether their other age restrictions should remain in effect.

"These political considerations, delays, and implausible justifications for decision-making are not the only evidence of a lack of good faith and reasoned decision-making," Korman said in his ruling.

The Plan B emergency contraceptive contains high doses of birth control drugs and can reduce a woman's chance of pregnancy by 89 percent if taken within 72 hours after unprotected sex. The drug does not interfere with an established pregnancy.

CHS health teacher Melissa Hobick said that the pill is not to be taken lightly.

"It is not like taking something easy like an Advil, it can be very hard on a body – emotionally and physically – to take," Hobick said. "There are usually side effects that can last for many days after taking the pill. This is a serious drug."

Hobick, who supports the FDA's decision, has had several experiences with students using the morning after pill. She said that the pill can comfort women, but that this could lead to reckless sex if taken advantage of.

"If something were to go wrong, then it can give some the peace of mind of knowing there is one more step, but at the

same time it is not something that should become a regular experience just because someone is having sex," Hobick said. "People need to realize [that] if you are having sex, then you better be ready for the consequences of your actions."

The FDA's decision has received a mixed reaction from the nation. Contraception and women's rights advocates have endorsed the agency's decision. Cecile Richards is president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

"[The FDA's announcement] is a strong statement to American women that their health comes before politics," Richards told "The New York Times."

Proponents also argued that the pill should be made available because it is a safe and effective way of preventing an unplanned pregnancy, which could reduce the number of abortions.

Still, anti-abortion activists claim that the drug is comparable to an abortion pill because it can prevent a fertilized egg from attaching to the uterus. However, recent research suggests that this is possible but unlikely.

Conservatives also criticized the ruling, calling it a blow to parental supervision of teens.

Parents should be furious at the FDA's complete disregard of parental rights and the safety of minors," said Wendy Wright, president of Concerned Women for America.

Opponents also pointed out that the availability of Plan B could reduce the consequences of unprotected sex and encourage promiscuity. Hobick said that she hopes this is not the case.

"I hope teenagers know this is the last line of defense and should only be used in extreme emergencies," Hobick said.

Though the FDA has agreed to comply with Korman's decision, the FDA said that the drug will not be available to 17-year-olds OTC until Plan B's manufacturer submits and receives approval of an appropriate application. ☺



Caroline Stamp

Math teacher Kurt Kleinberg's Integrated Math III class prepares for finals during first hour May 22. Data has shown similar test results between the integrated math curriculum and the traditional courses.

## Integrated Math holds up under scrutiny

Despite some students' perceptions, students in both Integrated Math and traditional math curriculum score similarly on tests.

Mary Blackwell  
Editor

Since its introduction into CHS during the 2001-2002 school year, the integrated math program has provided a unique learning experience and stirred up controversy.

One complaint of some CHS students on the integrated track is a lack of preparation for standardized testing.

"It helps you a lot for the first 30 questions of the ACT, but after that you don't know what's going on," junior Zach Cavallini said.

The integrated curriculum gives students a taste of different areas of math such as trigonometry, geometry, and algebra each year, covering more challenging material in each subsequent class.

"You spiral over the content year after year," Integrated Math IV teacher David Kohmetscher said. "You wrap back around and dig deeper, learning more details and harder problems."

The integrated program centers around the idea that mathematical concepts are more easily remembered when applied through problem solving. But for students such as junior Rebecca Swarm, this method of learning is not conducive to test taking.

"I had trouble on the math sections of the standardized tests because in the IM courses, rules and equations are not strictly memorized as much as they are used in the context of solving real world like problems, where as the ACT and SAT just give you numbers," Swarm said. "So it is like using math in two different contexts."

However, the integrated math system was created in order to avoid the mindless memorization that may be more beneficial for test taking.

"The research we looked into supported the fact that the integrated system is beneficial," Kohmetscher said. "In traditional sequences, you're just memorizing and not learning the why and how."

In addition to learning from a more contextual basis, integrated students are regularly assigned standardized test practice worksheets (STPs).

"STPs in theory help prepare for standardized tests because they force you to remember old problems and equations in the same context that you will be asked to use those skills on standardized tests," Swarm said. "But in reality, most students don't even look at the STPs until about two nights before they are due."

But the intent of integrated teachers in assigning STPs is more to keep various math skills sharp as opposed to prepar-

ing for standardized tests, although they are designed with test preparation in mind. STPs are given senior year as well, which proves their purpose as a tool to jog the memory rather than an aid for testing.

"We don't have any significant evidence to support that test scores are lower in the integrated program," Kohmetscher said. "All the data we've collected here indicates that we've seen similar test scores in both tracks."

The average ACT math score for CHS students in Integrated Math IV as seniors was 23 while the average score on the math section of the ACT for students in the pre-calculus/discrete math program was 24 in the class of 2009. Similarly for the class of 2008, both students in the integrated program and students on the pre-calculus/discrete track scored a 24.

Despite suspicions of integrated students, their math curriculum is similar enough to the standard course to receive similar results.

"When you compare content, the coverage is just in a different order," Kohmetscher said. "It's pretty much the same between the two but the honors program is going to have more covered."

Which math track a student has chosen is only one of the factors involved in standardized test-taking results.

"I know people in the integrated system that have done poorly on standardized tests, but I also know people who have done really well," Swarm said. "I think that it is just like any other test; some people do well and some do poorly."

The math department has attempted to address the problem of inconsistencies in math programs by specifically addressing the issue of standardized testing in relation to the integrated math program.

"We purposefully reorganized both sequences to make sure we had covered everything," Kohmetscher said. "The last time we looked at the requirements, the only thing we saw that we hadn't covered was conic sections.

And rarely if ever is the conic section seen on the ACT."

Students have found various levels of success in this unique math curriculum.

"When I got to this point, it was too late to change back," junior Sam Blumenfeld said. "But if I could do it over, I would go in the regular program."

Although integrated math does not offer honors, as the traditional track does, students are able to enter the integrated system at different levels.

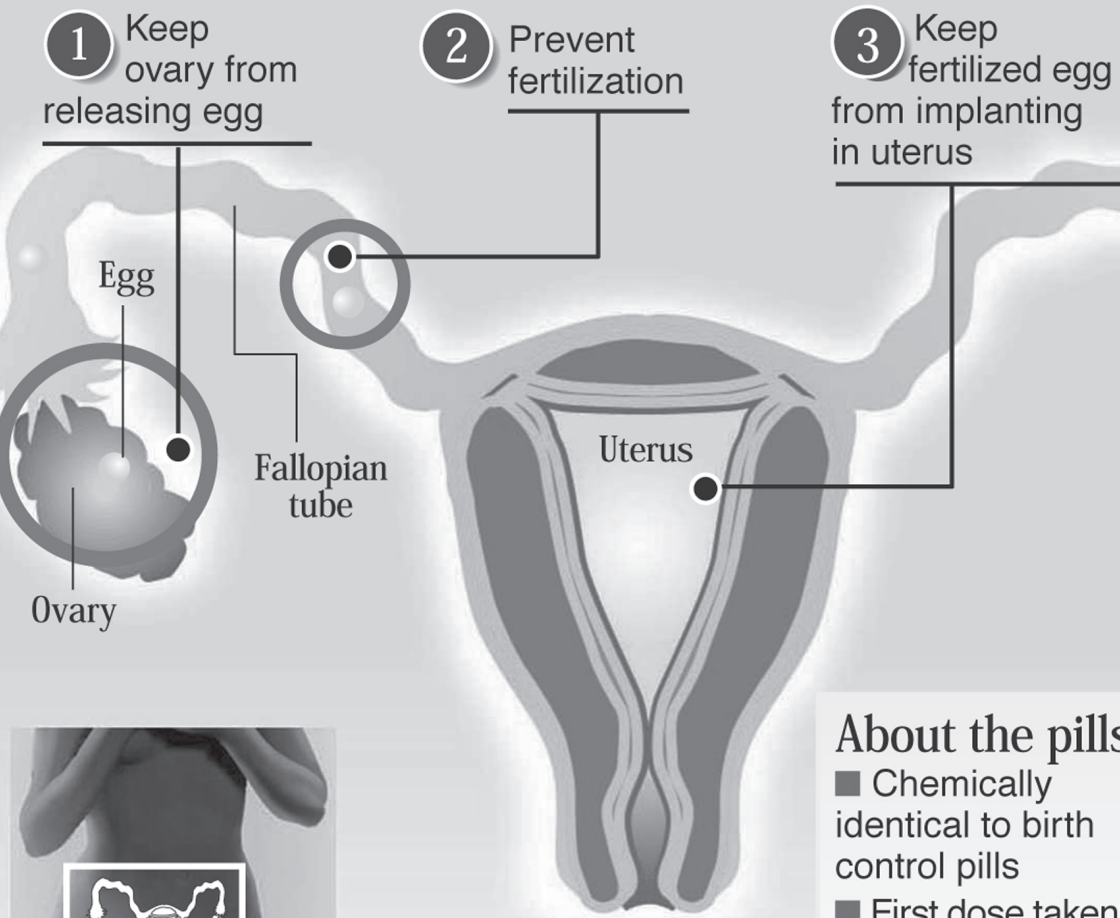
"Overall my experience with the IM program has been pretty positive," Swarm said. "For standardized test purposes, however, it has been very beneficial to have been placed in integrated math two as a freshman." ☺

“The research we looked into supported the fact that the integrated system is beneficial. In traditional sequences, you’re just memorizing and not learning the why and how.”  
Dave Kohmetscher  
Math Dep’t Chair

## 'Morning-after pill'

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently allowed emergency contraception, the so-called morning-after pill, to be sold without a prescription to those 17 and older.

### Three ways pills can prevent pregnancy



### About the pills

- Chemically identical to birth control pills
- First dose taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex; second dose 12 hours later

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Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute

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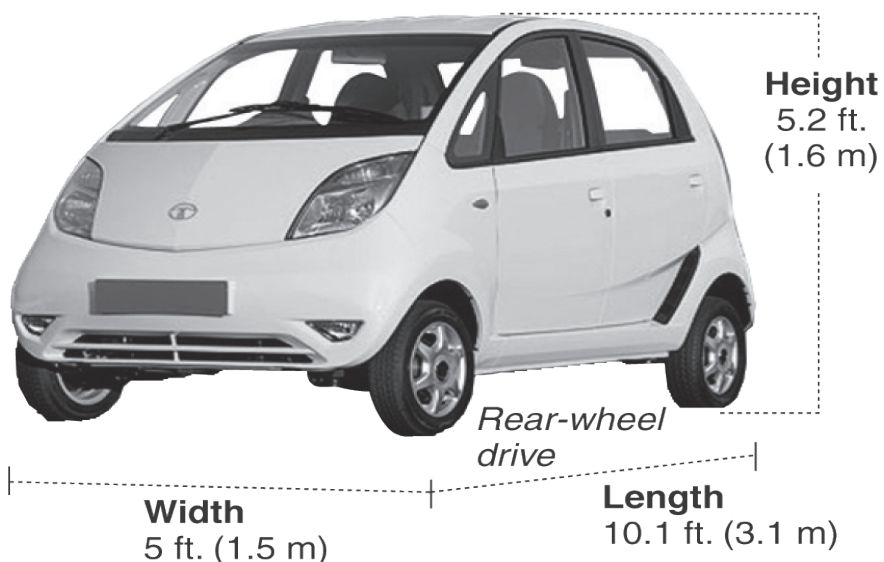


## Cheap Tata Nano

World's cheapest car, Tata Nano, costs \$2,500; it will be launched in Mumbai, India, March 23.

### People's car

- Can seat four people
- Easy access due to high seating positions
- Simple dashboard, minimum fittings



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**Engine**  
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**Fuel consumption**  
50 mi./gal. (20 km/l)

Goes on sale in India in April 2009

© 2009 MCT  
Source: Tata Motors (photos)  
Graphic: Staff

## Actors express themselves in end-of-year showcase

Katherine Greenberg  
Editor in Training

This year's Senior Showcase was the culmination of many years of learning. The seniors in this year's showcase picked scenes that displayed who they have become as actors over the years. Drama teacher Kelley Ryan directed the showcase, and it was a short play with many scenes.

"This was the tenth year that we have had a showcase," Ryan said. "In the last few years I have been going to the Humana Festival in Louisville to get ideas for the showcase. At the festival the interns put on short plays that are comprised of many scenes that they've picked and that is what we are doing here."

Senior actress Rebecca Singer will be attending Syracuse University next year and will be studying acting.

"The showcase is a chance for seniors to perform one last time before we graduate," Singer said. "We do a lot of songs and monologues that feature the seniors but underclassmen are also involved in the group scenes too."

Senior Jasmyne Adams also performed in the three scenes in the showcase.

"This year's production had some really cool aspects to it," Adams said. "In the first scene a strobe light was used and it created a really cool effect. I also really liked how different all of the scenes were, some were light hearted and some were more serious."

Senior Mariah Smith has performed in many of the CHS productions in addition to the showcase.

"I played two roles in the showcase," Smith said. "I played a nun in the scene from 'Doubt', and then I played an angry black woman in a short scene so I got to play an interesting pair of roles."

Students spent two weeks rehearsing for their show in their drama class.

"One of my favorite things about this show is that we are so focused on the seniors and their strengths and weaknesses as actors," Ryan said.

Smith found the showcase to be a good last chance to do things she has not been able to do in the past.

"With the showcase, we worked on the scenes independently in terms of blocking and interpretation," Smith said. "I really think that showcased all my abilities as a performer. Also, my favorite part of the showcase was performing with Susie Wirthlin because we haven't acted alongside each other since sophomore year, and I think we've both grown a lot since then."

Ryan describes the camaraderie behind the scenes as a family.

"We have a real close group of kids," Ryan said. "Some kids have been doing the productions for four years and some have just started, but we have a very nice mix."

Adams got involved in theater to try new things and meet new people.

"One great thing about being in the productions is that I made a lot of friends that I otherwise wouldn't have," Adams said. "It was a relaxed atmosphere with a lot of fun times spent making friends and there is a real sense of pride when you're a part of such a well put together show."

Junior Meredith Redick has seen many CHS productions. "One thing that was different about this year's showcase was the amount of people in the scenes," Redick said. "In previous years the shows have not had as many underclassmen but this year there were a lot of underclassmen in group scenes. It really helped to add more interesting variety to the show."

Smith will be attending college in the fall and is already missing what she will be leaving behind.

"I'm really going to miss Ms. Ryan, we're really close and I've learned a lot from her," Smith said.

Ryan has grown close to many theater members because of the trips that they have taken outside of school.

"I feel very close to many of the seniors because we have spent so much time together," Ryan said. "They have spent time in my office, babysitting, and lots of trips. More than missing their great performances I am going to miss the personal relationships that I have formed with all of them."

## World's Cheapest Car

### Is the Tata Nano going to be a success due to the failing economy?

Jocelyn Lee  
Reporter

At the debut of his company's new car last year, Ratan Tata, the chairman of the Tata group, compared the release of the car to the first landing on the moon. Although probably not quite that revolutionary, this Indian car, called the Tata Nano, is bound to leave its mark as the world's cheapest car.

The Nano was first introduced in January of last year and was supposed to be released by the fourth quarter of 2008. However, after over six months of production delays, the Tata Group has announced that the Nano will be out in showrooms on April 1 and the first deliveries to customers will begin in July.

The major delays are due in part to a land dispute that occurred at the main production plant in East India, which led to violent political protests. As a result, the Tata Group shut down the plant and has been building a new factory in the western state of Gujarat, according to The New York Times.

Despite the delays, the Nano has received a huge amount of hype. The Nano has been called "The People's Car" because it will allow a far greater number of people in India to drive. After Tata promised a starting price of 100,000 Indian rupees, or approximately \$2,000, for the car, there has been discussion about how the inexpensive car will affect the auto industry.

"The Nano is a refreshing new way of car manufacturing,

one which targets the bottom of the pyramid," said Deepesh Rathore, an auto analyst with Global Insight, in a New York Times article. "This is going to be the largest market segment in the future, especially in this tough economic climate."

Because of the current economic situation and transportation in India, such a cheap car is expected to have an extremely high demand. Most people in India cannot afford to drive a car, and motorcycles are often used as an alternative way to get to work and school. According to a CNN report, the Nano will provide a safer form of transportation than a motorcycle.

However, the Nano is not nearly as safe or as complex as most cars on the market. The engine is a small 624-cc 2-cylinder, and airbags and antilock brakes are not included. On the base model, power brakes and power steering are optional.

Many auto analysts say there will be both a great deal of praise and criticism from customers once the Nano has been released.

"I think it will live up to what they promised, but it will not live up to what some people may imagine," Indian auto analyst Murad Ali Baig said in a CNN interview. "If some people imagine this will be a golden chariot - no, it won't."

The Tata group has announced that there are plans to sell the Nano in Europe in 2011 and that an American version is being developed as well. The models sold to other countries will be different from the original model sold in India with added conveniences.

“This is going to be the largest market segment in the future, especially in this tough economic climate.”

Deepesh Rathore  
Auto Analyst with Global

## Court to weigh in on strip searches

### Strip-search, 1

There is a chance that the Supreme Court could simply dismiss the case without giving a clear-cut decision on whether future searches are warranted or not. Because of this possibility, plus the premise of Redding's claims (emotional distress), added to heated public interest on both sides of the case, Bayles believes that the Supreme Court may attempt to rule the "safe" way by "sidestepping" the Constitutional issue and instead address the case by qualified immunity grounds alone.

Qualified immunity protects government officials (this includes public-school teachers) from being sued for damages if it can be proven that they did not violate "clearly established" law. The qualified immunity doctrine exists for the purpose of allowing government officials to do their established jobs (for example, protecting students) without the fear of being sued for doing so. According to the oral transcript of Redding's case, the Supreme Court could rule unclearly by only concentrating on qualified immunity.

Why does Bayles think an unclear ruling is realistic for the Redding case?

"This is a girl who is claiming her life is ruined and is asking for money payment," he said. "People are naturally suspicious of those kinds of nonphysical, potentially exaggerated claims."

Ruling clearly in one direction or the other could potentially let either side exploit their new rights.

"If the Supreme Court decides that schools can't strip search, where do you think everyone will be hiding the contraband?" Bayles said. On the other hand, if the decision went the other way, it could lead to "fishing expeditions" on the slightest bit of suspicion, and abuse. All in all, he said, "It's a give and take." There must be a balance between one person's dignity and the number of students they could affect with something such as handing out pills.

Goldberg, however, sees the decision as a guide only. For instance, if the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the schools,

she doubts that it would radically change her guidelines.

"We would have a discussion and probably have a policy put in place, similar to how we respond to corporal punishment," Goldberg said. "We choose not to do that. We choose not to follow that [corporal punishment] even though by law it would be permissible for us to do."

Goldberg prefers to focus on the student, making sure that their rights, dignity, and self-esteem aren't skimmed on.

"Sometimes, because it's a he-said, she-said, all that hearsay stuff," she said, "part of it is trying to clear that kid of the suspicion, so that all the rumors go away, so that we can safely have the student back with all the other students and say, 'There's nothing here. There's nothing that you need to worry about.'"

But in a situation that is not just hearsay, what is a school to do? Goldberg's policy does not extend beyond Clayton, and other schools may have radically different approaches to threats- like a strip search. The repercussions of the Supreme Court's final decision could have a larger effect on other U.S. schools, a fact that the public seems to have realized. According to Bayles, there have been numerous amicus briefs submitted both in support of the schools and of Redding.

"It's going to have a big application whichever way they go," said Bayles. "The lines are drawn very distinctly."

According to Bayles, there are two questions everyone has agreed upon: Is it reasonable to search students, keeping in mind that the law states that they have fewer rights because of safety concerns? And if so, how extensive can that search be?

Goldberg favors a more methodical method rather than jumping to a strip search. The student's rights are foremost in her policy.

"I believe in treating people in a dignified way, respecting them," Goldberg said. "To strip search anyone for any reason, especially a middle school child, or a high school child, sometimes I think you have to question the purpose, why it's being done."

“To strip search anyone for any reason, especially a middle school child, or a high school child, sometimes I think you have to question the purpose, why it's being done.”

Mary Ann Goldberg  
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# Male athlete of the month: lacrosse senior Terry 'Lethal' Ellis sets career points record

Evan Green  
Editor

Last season, Terry Ellis tore up the competition with such frenzy that he was dubbed "Lethal", and the nickname has stuck ever since.

Ellis netted 41 goals and 34 assists last season, setting the single season school record for points in just his second season playing the sport. Last season, Ellis also set a school record for points in a game with 10 and points in a playoff game with nine.

"My best personal game was definitely when against Rockwood Summit last year when I had 10 points," the two-time first team all-state senior attacker Ellis said.

Last season, the Hounds lost in overtime in the state championship game (Ellis had six points in the game). The most exciting moment of the season actually came in the semifinals, when Ellis scored the game winner in double overtime and the fans rushed to the field to congratulate the team after their come from behind victory over Pembroke Hill.

This season, however, the team finished with a record of nine wins and eight losses (as well as a first round playoff loss to Eureka), but was hampered by injuries.

"The biggest difference between last season and this season for the team is basically that we had a lot of injuries this season," Ellis said.

With several injuries to key players (including fellow senior attacker Brigham Wheelock), opposing teams were able to focus more on Ellis this season than last season.

The interesting thing is, this actually helped the offense more because it opened the field for essentially a power play while Ellis would be double teamed off to the side.

"With people treating me differently this season, I just sort of stood there at times on offense," Ellis said.

When Ellis was not "just standing there", he compiled 24 goals and 22 assists, good enough for second on the team in points behind first team all-state sophomore attacker Josh Goldstein.

"Lethal really exemplified team leadership," Goldstein said. "I mean he really lead by example and not just talking, and when we really needed goals, he would score."

While Ellis has performed extremely well, he still believes that he has several aspects of his game to fix before continuing on to play college lacrosse.

"I still need to improve on my shooting, my offhand, and I need to get bigger," Ellis said.

While Ellis thinks that he still needs to improve, he has obviously been doing some things right.

"I've done a good job this season of clearing the ball, that's something that I wanted to improve and did," Ellis said.

Before the high school season, Ellis toned his game by playing club lacrosse for St. Louis Samurai, allowing him to come into the high school season already in shape.

The most amazing thing about Ellis' domination the last two years is the fact that he only started playing lacrosse his sophomore year. In those three seasons, Ellis compiled 75 goals and 59 assists, good enough for second all-time in career goals and assists for the Hounds, and first all-time in career points by a Hound, truly lethal statistics.

Even though Ellis has risen to stardom on the lacrosse scene, his personality and overall kindness have never faltered. To sum it up, here is a kid who practices all day, every day at his sport, is kind, talented, and a great leader. That just goes to show what an amazing person Ellis is, and not just in the athlete sense.

To any Greyhound athlete that hopes to be great in the future, just look to Terry Ellis as the prime example, for he is the true definition of Greyhound pride. ☘



Senior lacrosse attacker 'Lethal' Terry Ellis fends off a defender in a recent home game. Ellis finished with 46 points on the season.

# St. Louis set to host 2009 MLB All Star game at Busch Stadium this summer



The Cardinals faced the Pittsburgh Pirates on Opening Day of 2009 at Busch Stadium. Busch Stadium was opened in 2006, and the Cardinals won the World Series at home that season. Busch Stadium will now host the 2009 MLB All Star Game and Home Run Derby on July 13 and July 14, 2009. This is the first All Star game played in St. Louis since 1966.

Dawn Androphy  
Editor in Training

In a city like St. Louis that many normally consider to have an uneventful existence (though not true as evidenced by the recent NCAA Men's and Women's basketball Final Fours that the city has hosted, the NCAA wrestling championships, and the NCAA hockey championships), events such as the upcoming All Star Game can provide a serious boost to the local economy. What used to be an event that only spanned an afternoon has, over time, ballooned into a week long event that will inject tens of millions of dollars into the regional economy.

After an event like the Women's NCAA Final Four which brought in an estimated \$20 million in direct spending according to an estimate by the St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association (RCGA), it should be expected that another sizable athletic event like the All Star Game will also have a substantial impact.

The impact of national events being hosted in St. Louis is not just an ephemeral benefit to the economy. In addition to the direct effect of hotel, cabs, and restaurant costs, there will be a large ripple effect on the local economy that will last longer as those who benefitted spread the wealth by continuing to spend.

St. Louis RCGA Chief Economist Ruth Sergenian is optimistic about the outcome of the upcoming All Star Week being hosted in St. Louis.

"I did an economic impact estimate for the entire All Star Week and its accompanying events and that estimate was a total of \$60 million," Sergenian said. "This includes both the direct and the ripple effects."

Sergenian estimates that the All Star Game will have a greater impact on the economy than the Women's Final Four.

"The All Star Game is the kind of thing where families will be coming in to experience the activities," Sergenian said. "There is going to be, for instance, a free concert in addition to the actual All-Star Game. The Women's Final Four

gets a very dedicated group of people that come to follow it, but it just doesn't match the large audience of the All Star events."

Local businesses such as J. Buck's Restaurant noticed a considerable effect on their business as well. Manager of J. Buck's Clayton branch Seth Womack credits this boost in customers to the restaurants' sports affiliation.

"We are looked at all across the country as a place for sports fans to go whenever they come to St. Louis," Womack said, "We expect to be getting a lot of sports fans from all across the country."

Womack also noted that downtown restaurants would likely have the greatest boost after his observations during the Women's NCAA Final Four.

"There was absolutely a large effect on our business [in Clayton]," Womack said. "But there was an even greater effect on our downtown location, which is just a few blocks from the Scottrade Center."

Despite the economic motives for bringing large-scale sporting events to St. Louis, the All Star Game won't just benefit the region economically. Baseball fans in St. Louis are excited about the All Star Game for much different reasons.

"I'm really looking forward to the All Star Game," said freshman Andrea Stiffelman. "It's exciting to have such a big event in St. Louis."

The All Star game will be held at Busch Stadium on July 14, 2009 at 7. This will follow the Home Run Derby that is taking place on July 13.

While the final list of the Home Run derby participants has not been officially announced, St. Louis' own Albert Pujols will participate for sure. For a man who routinely hits balls well out of Busch Stadium, the Home Run derby should be no different for the clear cut fan favorite.

Hopefully, Pujols can bring home a winner as the late, great Jack Buck would say. In doing so, Pujols would provide a much needed distraction from the current economic downturn to the people of St. Louis. ☘

# St. Louis sports fans: forget the recent troubles, the future is bright

Just two years ago, St. Louis had officially dropped to a predominantly meager sports town in terms of its area teams. Yes, fans always went to Cardinals games, but that was about it.

In the span of those two years, the entire St. Louis sports scene has completely changed (although it could not have gotten much worse), and nothing could signify that change better than the Blues' recent joy ride into the playoffs as a six seed, only months after being last in the Western Conference.

With a revived Blues team came new energy to St. Louis, as the once storied franchise has now come back to where they belonged. That, of course, is playoff hockey; a place where the Blues once held their own for literally a quarter of a century.

Even though the Blues were swept in the first round, the team showed great promise for the future, especially the young stars that consist of Patrick Berglund, David Perron, Brad Boyes, and a new fan favorite, TJ Oshie.

The young team finished the regular season strong, finishing with the best second half record in the NHL.

As the Blues have returned to postseason glory, so did several area colleges. The University of Illinois football team has steadily improved under wonder coach Ron Zook. As well, the University of Missouri enjoyed an extremely successful two-year run under the guidance of quarterback Chase Daniel and wide receiver Jeremy Maclin.

The Tigers' recent gridiron glory included two straight trips to the Big 12 title game, as well as two consecutive bowl victories.

Luckily, the football Tigers' success carried over to the basketball court as coach Mike Anderson has led the team back from the dead that was created seemingly overnight in terms of how ex-coach Quinn Snyder left the program in disarray.

Coach Anderson's fun to watch run and gun offense has put people back into the seats at Mizzou Arena, and the Tigers even went undefeated at home this season, won the Big 12 tournament, and had an amazing ride in the postseason all the way to the Elite 8.

There is, however, one blemish on the St. Louis rapport. That would be the Rams of course. On one hand, the team did

pick second in the draft two years in a row, showing just how poor the team has performed recently.

But even the Rams' fortunes seem to be looking up. Just this past month, the team completed a mildly successful draft, taking the safe and smart pick, drafting offensive tackle Jason Smith out of Baylor University.

While many fans wanted the Rams to be flashy and go for USC's (University of Southern California) quarterback Mark Sanchez or linebacker Rey Mauluga, I actually agree with this pick for the Rams.

In drafting Smith, the team now has a player that will actually hustle on every play and a young man that seems to know that the team comes first, a much better attitude than many professional athletes have exuded in recent years.

And finally, there are our beloved St. Louis Cardinals. The last two years have been below par by our standards, however, fans must remember that this was a rebuilding stage as the team had to learn to move on from fan favorites Jim Edmonds and Scott Rolen.

While I disagree with the team essentially wasting two years of Albert Pujols' prime in order to rebuild, I am happy with

where the team is at now.

In keeping Ryan Ludwick, reviving Rick Ankiel's career, and allowing Colby Rasmus to prosper in the minors until now, the team has a solid outfield core for the next several seasons. As well, the team has developed strong starting pitching in Adam

Wainwright and Kyle Lohse while waiting for the dominant Chris Carpenter to return, the team has held itself together.

Even the usually hated bullpen is young and talented, giving fans reasons to excited for in the likes of Jason Motte and Chris Perez, both of whom hopefully can become the closers of the future.

This is a Cardinal team that is built for the present and the future, and that showed in the Cardinals' early season hot streak, when they won nine out of ten games at home.

In summary, the last two years have not exactly been pleasant for St. Louis sports fans, but the present and future are very bright.

This is exactly how St. Louis should be, as sports dominance has officially returned to a sports crazy town with some of the best sports fans in the country. ☘

## Turf Tales



Evan Green



# Female athlete of the month: sophomore lacrosse player Erin Bax

Maddie Bullard  
Editor in Training

Erin Bax is a driving force on the Clayton High School varsity girls' lacrosse team. It's obvious to anyone watching that Bax's level of play and intensity are a step above the rest.

"Erin works very hard the entire game and brings a lot of positive energy to the field," junior team captain Anna Krane said.

Bax's continuous hard work throughout the season has paid off - she has scored 43 goals on the season, the most of anyone on the team; this is also good enough for ninth in the area. Bax also has seven assists, another top team number.

However, Bax's favorite part of the game is not just scoring. "What I like most about lacrosse is the strategy aspect of it," Bax said.

Krane agrees that Bax is not only valuable as an offensive weapon.

"Her best attribute is probably her intensity on the field," Krane said. "She does not let up and really challenges the opposing teams with her ball handling skills."

"The accomplishment I'm most proud of is stepping up this year after we lost basically our starting line-up from last season," Bax said. Even the older girls on the team have noticed how Bax has stepped up.

"She has really stepped up to fill gaps left by seniors who graduated last year," Krane said. "She has really improved her shooting and has become an offensive leader."

"Erin's stick skills are amazing," Senior team captain Hannah Slodounik



Andrew Dowd

Sophomore sensation Erin Bax drives toward the cage during a recent game against Webster. Bax is ninth on the area leaderboard with 43 goals this season.

said. "But to be a good lacrosse player you need a natural athletic intuition on the field."

Unfortunately, Bax's personal effort has not been enough to pull the team out of a losing streak. The girls lacrosse

team has finished the season with only three wins. Bax still enjoyed the season despite the team's losing record.

"This season was surprisingly fun considering we didn't win much," Bax said. "The girls were really fun and I enjoyed

playing the games."

She is also looking forward to a stronger season next year.

"I think we have a good foundation to be really successful next year," Bax said. "Now that we've played together for a season, I think we won't need to do much more to improve."

Bax also hopes to beat Ladue next year, and to have a more balanced record. She also has personal goals for her next lacrosse season.

"In the future, I hope to improve my defense because I think that's a really important part of the sport that is ignored a lot," Bax said.

Bax first began playing lacrosse in middle school, and she soon learned to love the fast-paced and skill-centered sport.

"I decided to play lacrosse first in middle school because I thought it would be cool to play a sport that not many people knew much about," Bax said. "I thought it was really fun, so I continued to play in high school." Bax is, and will continue to be, a very valuable asset to the girls' lacrosse team in coming years. She is only a sophomore, and has two more years to play improve even further. Slodounik sums up how valuable Bax is to the team: "When she's off the field, you know it, and you just want her to get back on, fast."

Slodounik was very impressed by the Bax's performance this year, and looks forward to great things from her in the future. "Her aggressive, but level headed nature is also what helps make her a fantastic player," Slodounik said. "When Abby [Eisenberg] and I talk about her, we usually just conclude with 'Oh my God, she is so amazing!'"

## Soccer craze hitting America

The "World's Game" has evaded the states until recently and the St. Louis area could get a team within the next couple of years

Tom Evashwick  
Editor in Training

To the majority of the world, football is not defined by interceptions, touchdowns or fumbles. To the majority of the world, football is defined by yellow cards, goals and saves.

While it is highly unlikely that soccer will ever be known as football in the U.S., it is gaining popularity among the American people.

The recent World Cups, along with the 2008 European Championships, have been credited with raising the American awareness of the sport.

"The 2002 World Cup was what really got me interested in soccer," varsity soccer player and sophomore Christian Wolfgram said. "I didn't really know many of the teams, but I still liked watching it."

The 2006 World Cup was the first time that a soccer event was the most watched event of the year in America. Even the soccer video game series, FIFA, has attracted more soccer fans within the Clayton High community.

"It was actually the video game series that first got me interested in soccer," junior Joe Evers said. "After the game, I started paying attention to the real thing."

More currently, the Champions League, a tournament featuring the top teams in Europe, has been nationally televised. Teams such as Lyon, Real Madrid, Liverpool and Bayern Munich were in the tournament.

"The [semi-final] game between Barcelona and Chelsea was incredible," Wolfgram said. "There was so much intensity between the two teams, and the finish was fantastic."

After being behind for 93 minutes, Barcelona scored a goal in injury time to win on the away goal tiebreaker.

"It's games like those that get me excited about soccer," Evers said, "and I know a lot of students have become fans as well."

Manchester United defeated Arsenal 4-1 on aggregate to advance.

The tournament final between Manchester United and Barcelona will take place on May 27.



Helen Wiley

Since David Beckham started playing in the MLS for the LA Galaxy in 2007, more and more soccer games have been televised nationally each year.

The soccer surge around St. Louis was what fueled a bid for our own expansion team in the MLS.

After being chosen as one of the four finalists for a team along with Portland, Vancouver and Ottawa, St. Louis' bid for a team was denied. Portland and Vancouver were awarded teams.

"I was really disappointed that we didn't get a team," Evers said.

St. Louis is expected to submit a bid

for a team in 2012, the next expected expansion date.

"I am so excited about [the possibility of] getting a team," Wolfgram said. "Everyone knows that we are the best soccer city in America. We should have a team as soon as possible."

The St. Louis Athletica, the Collinsville-based team, is one of seven teams playing in the inaugural season of the Women's Professional Soccer.

"I know that haven't been doing so well," Wolfgram said. "But I think it's a step in the right direction towards getting an MLS team." ☺



Courtesy of the Hayes Family

The Lady Soccer Hounds celebrate their 1-0 district win over Rosati-Kain on May 21. Olivis Hayes scored the only goal in the game.

## Lady Hounds win districts, 1-0

Christian Thomas  
Reporter

After an up and down season, the girls' varsity soccer Hounds proved themselves by winning the district championship 1-0 against Rosati-Kain May 21.

Assistant coach Erin Castellano said the game was exciting, with co-captain Olivia Hayes scoring the game's sole goal.

"The energy on the field the first half was nervous, certainly," Castellano said. "But we were confident that Paul and Eric had scouted the other team well and that our game plan would be effective once we settled in."

Team co-captain Kate Wheelock was thrilled with the win. "The whole day I had only thought about what it would be like to win and not to lose, so it was exactly what I wanted," Wheelock said.

Castellano said the girls played a great game. "The plan was to get one first and then lock things down - which is exactly what we did," she said.

Head coach Paul Hoelscher credited the team leadership with making the difference, saying that Diane Martin, Lisa and Tracy Einstein, Olivia Hayes and Kate Wheelock had given their all to the program for four years.

"There have been other years when we've deserved to win, but it just didn't work out," Hoelscher said. "They've put in so much time and effort, so they definitely deserve this."

"We made a lot of changes this year like bringing in a lot of new faces and trying to play a new system," senior forward Olivia Hayes said.

Hayes has been a four-year member of the program and will continue her career at Truman State next season. Recently, Hayes set the career scoring record passing 100 goals in close to 80 games in four years.

"Also, at the beginning of the season we had so many people out. At one point, only half the team was able to fully play,"

freshman defender Amanda Wagner said. "Recently, everyone has been healthy and we can really see how we play as a team."

The roots of the win began during the off-season. The team worked out frequently after school in order to promote team chemistry and work on individual skills. A large amount of time was spent running in order to get the team in shape and save time at the beginning of the season.

"In my own time, I ran 2 to 3 miles every other day, did 10 minute sprints every three days, and ate healthy," Wagner said.

On top of physically preparing for the season, Hayes also did her best to mentally prepare.

"Since I am a senior I knew I needed to lead the team this year," Hayes said. "There is a huge gap in the ages of the players as well as varsity experience. I knew I needed to help the younger players get more comfortable and learn new positions."

"I played at a more competitive level which helped prepare me for what is to come," Wagner said. "However, I am still playing with older girls whose skill level is higher than mine."

The goals for the remainder of the season.

"It is my last high school season, and I don't want to take any games for granted," Hayes said.

Hayes said she has loved watching the team grow and being part of a program.

"I cherish everything I have learned from my teammates and coaches and I know our team is going to finish strong," Hayes said.

Wagner said she is proud to be a part of the varsity team. "We are like a family and push each other to get better," Wagner said. "We have something that most teams don't, a hunger. A hunger for a win, a goal, or even a 'good-job' from the coach. I am disappointed the season is almost over because it seems like it just started."

The girls' soccer Hounds will play sectionals May 28 at Soccer Park. ☺

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# Carpenter returns to bolster Cardinals pitching staff

Sam Jacus  
Editor in Training

The question entering the season was how well Chris Carpenter's health would hold up throughout the season and that has already been answered this season.

Only a few weeks into the season, former Cy Young winner Chris Carpenter went on the disabled list with a strained left ribcage muscle.

This injury is not the type of injury that many felt would keep Carpenter sidelined. Many felt that he would be sidelined but for an elbow or shoulder related injury due to his previous injuries.

"Carpenter keeps getting hurt so I wasn't too surprised when he did, and I don't think anybody else was really surprised," junior Erin Murray said. "He will come back, and he will be amazing, but sadly he will probably get hurt again."

While Chris Carpenter was hurt, people questioned how the team would respond to his loss. That question was answered by the performance of players like Adam Wainwright and Kyle Lohse.

"I think they responded well to the loss of Chris Carpenter," Murray said.

"Lohse and Wainwright really stepped up even though they were expected to do well this season anyway."

Many people expected Carpenter to have trouble with his elbow after receiving Tommy John surgery, known by doctors as ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction on July 24, 2007. However, the temporary loss of the team's ace of the rotation did little to affect the quick start the Cardinals have had this season.

Since Carpenter got hurt on April 15, 2009, the Cardinals have emerged with a better than .500 record and are in contention for the National League Central title. This great start to the season can be attributed to an offense like that of the 2004 Cardinals who reached the World Series.

The offense can be credited to players like Ryan Ludwick and young players like Colby Rasmus as well as a few others stepping up their game and showing the Cardinals organization and the league what they can do.

Hitting has not been the only strong point of the season. The Cardinals' pitching has also been strong with only small lapses so far in the young season. The Cardinals have the seventh best earned

run average as well as the second most saves in the National League. The pitching will only get better with Carpenter set to return May 20 against the Chicago Cubs.

The injury bug has already bitten the Cardinals though with more players going on the disabled list. The players that are taking Chris Carpenter's place on the disabled list are Rick Ankiel, Ryan Ludwick, Jaime Garcia, and Troy Glaus.

Overall, many students feel that the Cardinals' future is looking bright with the only direction they can move being upward.

"Cardinals' fans need to stop being band wagon fans and saying that the Cardinals are horrible just because they are in a rut," Murray said. "They will come back strong once everyone gets off the disabled list and Carpenter's return will show this."

Others feel that they will improve but question whether they will salvage the season.

"I feel the Cardinals will do well but I have no idea how they will do in the long run because of how inconsistent their play is," freshman Will Rosenfeld said. ☺



Chris Lee/St. Louis Post-Dispatch/MCT

Chris Carpenter pitches in the second inning during a home game against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Thursday, April 9, 2009.

# Clayton junior defies athletic boundaries, explores horseback riding



Evan Green

Junior Kelly Dufour rides at the Ridgefield Arena. She has been riding for nine years.

Jjeoma Onyema  
Editor

At CHS, most students spike, goal, dive, or slam-dunk. Junior Kelley Dufour, however, jumps. Starting at the age of eight, Dufour is an accomplished horseback rider and continues to advance in the sport.

"It's been a family thing for a while," said Dufour. "But when I first watched my cousin ride, I immediately loved it."

Dufour specializes in English Riding, which features a flat English saddle without the style seen on a Western saddle or that of an Australian Stock Saddle.

This style ranges from classic dressage to horse racing. Dufour specifically participates in the 100 jumpers.

She also rides constantly to prepare for shows.

"I usually ride five to six times a week, and I get in between 5 to 12 hours of horseback riding each week," said Dufour.

She has a horse named Hans, whom she has had for four years.

"The relationship between the horse

and the rider is important because the partnership goes hand in hand," said Dufour. "Both the rider and the horse must be in sync to do well, and to make a good bond, the rider has to spend a lot of time with the horse to connect."

She's also been riding at the Ridgefield Arena for four summers.

"Moving to a different barn can be hard sometimes because you miss riding with certain people and that really impacts friendships in shows," said Dufour. "Also the trainers focus on different things and different styles. For example, my new trainer focuses on getting on the details, and that's not what my old trainer worked on the most."

Before a horse show, Dufour gets in extra lessons; she also cleans the horse, the equipment, and leaves a day or two

before the actual show.

The shows are usually two days long, and like all shows, a lot of goes into it so it can be successful.

**“**I usually ride five to six times a week, and I get in between five to 12 hours of horseback riding each week.  
**”**  
Kelly Dufour  
Junior

"The horse arrives at the show mid-Friday," said Dufour. "Once I arrive I start doing what is called schooling, which is riding while not being judged. I do that for four or five hours. Then I get up early the next day to make sure everything is in order. I present my horse and then we start the show according to class."

The classes range from beginners, who work on walking and cantering, to 6'6 levels and the experts, who compete in the Olympics and world-famous grand prix.

Dufour is in the junior 3'6 class. Dufour has won many ribbons and awards. Her greatest accomplishment was win-

ning the Medallion last year, which she's always wanted to do, but her all time goal is to go to the Medal finals and participate in a Grand Prix, which is basically a show with the highest bars and the most skilled jumpers. Moreover, she finds them very alarming and challenging but exciting.

Though a skilled equestrian, Dufour still has fears about her performance.

"I always fear that the horse might get sick or I don't have all the details in place. I take horseriding seriously and devote a lot of time into it, but sometimes, the worst case scenarios still occur."

During times of frustration, Dufour looks up to Olympic equestrian B. C. Madden for inspiration.

"When I was younger," said Dufour, "I was inspired by the older riders at my barn but as she progressed in my skills, I looked up to her now because she is so skilled and her style is very graceful."

Either way, Dufour has an acquired gift with horseriding, one that is not only unique to the Clayton athletic community but to the entire equestrian world. ☺

The United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization works to preserve areas they consider naturally, geographically and culturally valuable. Through the World Heritage Project a group of people can propose to this organization a location which would be protected from unnecessary building and pollution, and preserved as heritage for posterity. By visiting the website [www.svizzera-pesciatina.com](http://www.svizzera-pesciatina.com), about the Svizzera Pesciatina area in Italy, people can vote to support the inclusion of this uncontaminated area in Tuscany in the list. Simply getting hits on the website from America would certainly help the project. Click on the British flag in the left corner to see the site in English.

## Help preserve the Svizzera Pesciatina in Tuscany! Go to [www.svizzera-pesciatina.com](http://www.svizzera-pesciatina.com) today!

The more often you visit, the more it will help our cause.

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Clockwise from right: Susie Wirthlin dances alongside sophomore Ian Miller as Tiger Lily in the CHS production of Peter Pan. Tracy Einstein and a buddy show award-winning smiles at the Arts Fair. The Clayton Greyhounds play a rousing game of football, of which many senior players participated. Alana Miles and junior Maggie Lanter assist each other to score against Whitfield. Adam Banks attempts to sway voters for Peppers King; he succeeded and was crowned during the dance. Kate Wheelock passes the ball to a fellow field hockey player. A group of seniors take time off from school work to celebrate Halloween. The Boys Varsity soccer team celebrate a goal by Ben Hillman. Even in their junior year, the senior girls were able to pump up the pep at the homecoming parade in 2007. Max Freedman, Preston Newell, and Matt Haslam pay homage to the fashions of the 1980s for senior/sophomore dress-up day during homecoming week. Mary Barber easily controls the ball in a one-on-one moment during the Lady Hounds' game against Vashon.

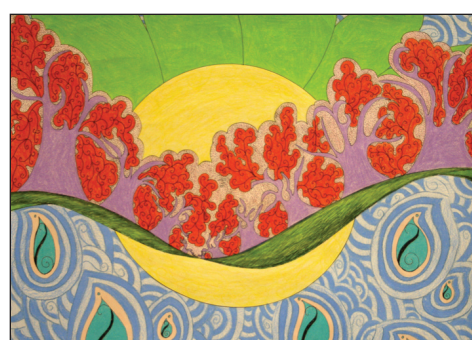
Photos courtesy of Nichole Burton, Julia Reilly, Jessica Shen, Puhon Zhao, Andrew Dowd, Izzy Fratt, and Scott Shapiro.



## AP ART: Final Portfolios

AP Art students have worked over the course of the school year to produce portfolios that best reflect their unique artistic vision.

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May 26, 2009

## Medical mission trips help and educate those in need

Payton Sciaratta  
Reporter

Every year, some students and staff at CHS spend part of their summer working in foreign countries taking part in mission trips.

Some go for medical work, while others go for tutoring and helping children. No matter the cause, the CHS family is helping to change lives. In mid June, senior Aaron Prais will be visiting two remote villages in Honduras.

"I'm going as a volunteer, so I will do pretty much anything they want me to do," Prais said. "I will most likely work the registration desk, taking people's height and weight, or the pharmacy organizing medicines."

Next year, Prais will be attending Northwestern, where he plans to work in the medical field.

"I wanted to get a big taste of the medical field," Prais said. "Every aspect of it, and the ups and downs of being a doctor."

However, Prais is not the only student at CHS going on a medical mission trip. Freshman David Rhodes will be traveling to Belize this summer through Saint Joseph's Hospital in Lake Saint Louis.

"I'm mostly going, not to build a church, but to help the less fortunate," Rhodes said.

Bill Smith, a Saint Louis mission trip organizer and promoter, has been attending the Belize Mission Trip for five years now. He has been on nine mission trips there. He will also be traveling with Rhodes this year.

"The trip is a three phase trip," Smith said. "One phase is construction, building Catholic churches in the villages."

Smith explained that there were two main reasons for these churches.

One of the reasons was to give the people a place to pray, close by in their village. The second reason was to provide a hurricane shelter. These churches, unlike their houses made out of primarily straw, are made out of concrete blocks.

The second phase of the trip, as Smith described

it, was dedicated to children.

Smith described the second phase as usually teaching the children about hygiene. The group usually brings the kids soaps and toothpastes to educate them.

"They have added a new part to teaching," Smith said. "Now, we can tutor and help kids with their lessons."

One thing that Smith tries to do is give the children some sort of idea as to what they are and where they are in relation to the world.

Smith explained that the children that live in Belize have no perception as to the magnitude of the world.

"They don't know what the world looks like, even what Belize looks like. So we try to take them maps and globes," Smith described. "They don't know what the human body looks like, things like bone structure, and where the heart is located. We try to take them posters of human bodies and skeletons from doctor's offices, so that we can teach them things that they have no experience with." And the last phase of the trip is medical.

"If we have actual doctors on the trip, we will set up clinics, but if not, they go to schools," Smith explained. "There, they will give each kid pills that kill off parasites."

Each member of a mission trip hopes to achieve something while they are away.

"I would hope to have a really awesome experience," Prais said. "I want it to make me more enthusiastic about being in the medical field. When I show up for school, I want to have a passion for what I will be learning."

Although Prais wants to accomplish something internally, Rhodes is working on the opposite.

"It will give me more of a global perspective," Rhodes said. "I have never helped people while traveling, and it will not only affect me, but the people I help."

These mission trips impact the lives of students at CHS, as well as the lives of others all around the world. 🌐



TOP: Workers in the Toledo District began the construction of a church in Nov. 2006. ABOVE: Four boys in Belize have just finished church service.



Dee Blassie guides freshman Andrea Hermann in an assignment. Blassie has served as an inspiration to many students during her career at CHS, helping to motivate and engage them with her optimism and bubbly personality. She announced her retirement this month.

## Blassie announces retirement after eight years of teaching at Clayton

Nina Oberman  
Editor

In an office bejeweled with local, state, and national awards, Dee Blassie rarely pauses to take time for herself. Her single focus is on improving the lives of her students, and she has met tremendous success in her eight years at CHS, which will come to an end with her retirement this spring.

"Mrs. Blassie is one of the few people you find that always smiles," freshman Mahria Jackson said. "She has a bubbly personality. No one can replace her."

Blassie's famous wardrobe, which includes over 500 pairs of shoes and a different bright outfit every day, sets her apart from other teachers. Yet she is unique not only in the way she dresses, but also in her approach to students.

"Mrs. Blassie brought and energy and excitement to everything she did," principal Louise Losos said. "It was always about the kids, about 'setting them up for success.' If a kid needed that extra hand, or that extra push, Mrs. Blassie was always there."

For Jackson, Blassie changed her perspective on CHS.

"When I first came to Clayton, she helped me with the rules," Jackson said. "She said that Clayton doesn't discriminate, that it's a place of opportunity. She said to come to me whenever you have a problem and if I can't help you, I'll go out and find the answer to solve your problem."

Blassie values above all the relationship she builds with her students. She believes that every success story begins with attention, care, and deep compassion.

"Getting to know the student, always greeting them with a smile, figuring out what their strengths are, even going to see them play a sport," Blassie said. "They really like when a teacher goes and watches them, because it means she really cares."

Freshman Dedra Cross especially appreciates her interest.

"She tries to get you involved in the school, and she lets you know she's really proud of you when you do get involved," Cross said.

Always bringing out the positive, Blassie can rarely be seen

with a frown on her face. Her students thrive on this optimism.

"I've never seen her really mad or upset," freshman Kasey Griffin said. "If she's upset about something, she'll say it, but then she'll say something positive you could do about it."

Blassie's cheerfulness translates into her contact with parents as well. They are an integral part, she says, of the three-part team: the student, teacher, and parent.

"I like calling their parents, and I always try to call about something positive," Blassie said. "If I need to call for something negative, I know I have their support."

During her time at CHS, Blassie has helped to create a subject-specific Learning Center system and established the Teacher Action Plan. While the first guarantees students specific attention in their least strong subjects, the second allows for her to keep tabs on students who are struggling and give them that extra push. As Jackson describes it, she has a "whole booklet of people" whose grades she checks and re-checks every day.

"It's just so great to be able to help people," Blassie said. "I think when I see a struggling student become a rising star, and I see all those habits change, and I see them coming in on their own to get the support they so richly deserve, that to me is the best memory."

While she will dearly miss her students, who have been her reason for living for eight years at CHS and 24 years at Parkway, Blassie is looking forward to having the time to spend with her family.

"I feel like I spend more time with my Clayton family than I do with my own family," Blassie said.

Blassie feels lucky as she looks back on the experiences she has shared. This summer and fall, she is hoping to come back to work part-time with the incoming freshman.

"I want to thank everyone for the wonderful memories," Blassie said. "That's something people can't take away from you: the memories that have been created at Clayton High School in the past eight years." 🌐

## Annual Shakespeare Festival supports and entertains community

Taylor Stone  
Editor

With summer and the promise of well-deserved boredom just around the corner, one would need to look no further than St. Louis itself for entertainment. The Shakespeare Festival, particularly, offers an enjoyable and memorable alternative to tedium.

The festival's ninth production is the comedy "The Merry Wives of Windsor," boasting a unique setting and theme: 1920s USA. The production alternates back to a comedy, accordingly after 2008's tragedy "Richard III".

The comedy centers on the character of Falstaff, a knight who travels to Windsor in urgent need of money. Humorously, Falstaff resolves to remedy his situation by courting not one, but two wealthy women. They cleverly foil Falstaff's plans, unleashing a series of pranks, ultimately teaching Falstaff a lesson while learning the importance of forgiveness.

The Shakespeare Festival, located in Forest Park, boasts an extensive, successful history. Founded in 1997, its eight productions have hosted over 340,000 people of all ages and backgrounds, from the St. Louis bi-state region and beyond, including 34 states and 16 countries. Its productions have been honored with 15 Kevin Kline nominations and three Kevin Kline Awards.

Managing Director Marilyn Spirt

acknowledges the complexity and magnitude of putting on such a large production.

"I would say that parts are definitely a full-year process," Spirt said. "A play has to first be selected by the festival's artistic committee and artistic director and the director of the production itself is selected shortly afterwards. We usually choose a nationally acclaimed director."

The "Merry Wives of Windsor" director is Jesse Burger. Burger is the founding artistic director of Red Bull Theater in New York, where he has directed performances such as "Pericles," "The Revenger's Tragedy," "Edward II" and produced the ongoing OBIE Award-Winning "Revelation Reading" series. He also directed "Two Gentlemen of Verona" at Utah Shakespearean Festival last summer and "Richard III" at Denver Theatre Center in January.

Burger not only qualified for his position because of experience, but also because of knowledge.

"We prefer to find directors that have both directed Shakespeare plays before and have directed in outdoor theatres. The most important thing is sound in a Shakespearean play, and a director must be familiar with the unique listening experience of outdoor settings."

However, the details of planning the productions span beyond just the director.

Shakespeare festival, 18



Dee Luo

## News Briefs

### Farewell Celebration for Herr Cody

The farewell celebration for Glenn Cody, German teacher and head of World Languages for the Clayton School District, will be held on May 31, 2009 in the CHS Commons. Tickets for dinner are \$20 for students and \$30 for all others. Everyone is welcome to attend this farewell event.

### Informational Meetings on Food Allergy Policy

Due to the growing concern over allergic reactions, the district is developing a policy regarding the management of food allergies. Informational meetings have been scheduled to explain the new policy. The final two meetings are scheduled at Meramec Elementary on May 28, 2009 and the Administrative Center on June 2, 2009.

### Proposition S to Face Recount

A petition requesting a recount for the School District of Clayton's Bond Issue was filed on May 13 in the St. Louis County Court.

### State Solo & Ensemble Festival

Congratulations to the Choir, Band and Orchestra students who received a superior rating at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival: Philip Zhang, Danny Steinberg, Jacob Goldsmith, Jack Holds Sam Oliveri, Christian Wolfram, Will Hayes, Brian Fleischer, Nina Oberman, Allie Lake, Jeremy Bleeke, Abby Williams, Adam Banks, David Denlow, Katherine Thompson, Jon Matheny, Wolfy Gaidis, Josh Fagin, Jack Holds, Isabella Jacobs, Chi Zeng, Nick Oliveri, John Holland, Ian Miller, Chi Zeng, Meredith Redick, Rebecca Singer, Elle Jacobs, Henry Myers, Aaron Prais, Ken Zheng and Elle Jacobs.

# Heifer International aids impoverished families

Meredith Redick  
Editor

Give a man a cup of milk, and he'll drink milk for a day. Give a man a goat, and next thing you know he's passing out goat kids to all the neighbors.

Heifer International prides itself on this unconventional method of fighting poverty. The charity organization uses goats—and sheep and honeybees and a plethora of other creatures—to forward its goal of creating sustainable communities around the globe.

Heifer International was founded by farmer Dan West in 1944. According to Heifer International's web-site, West was laddling out milk to half-starved children when he famously remarked, "These children don't need a cup, they need a cow."

Since then, Heifer has evolved into a far-reaching humanitarian effort with visible results and a powerful message.

"The vision of Heifer International is a world of communities living together in peace and equitably sharing the resources of a healthy planet," Heifer Village Outreach Coordinator David Prater said.

Heifer is making progress towards this seemingly insurmountable goal.

The organization allows people to donate money that does not buy food or clothing for impoverished people, but something better.

"Since 1944, Heifer has helped 9.2 million families in more than 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance through gifts of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture," Prater said. "The impact of each initial gift is multiplied as recipients agree to 'pass on the gift' by giving one or more of their animals' offspring, or the equivalent, to another in need."

This unique practice makes Heifer different from other charities, in that it focuses not only on the immediate needs of the world's impoverished, but their futures as well.

But Heifer is not only for the poor in countries across the globe. In fact, Heifer works in 28 states to alleviate the worst cases of poverty in the US.

"There are Americans who are direct beneficiaries of our project," Prater said. "Poverty does not share the same face in all corners of the world. Many people in the US, including myself, have seen the effects of poverty firsthand, but often we don't recognize it because it is right in our neighborhoods, cities, and towns."

Prater notes that the 'pass on the gift' idea is powerful even outside the realm of Heifer.



Cows like these are donated to impoverished families in over 125 countries to eliminate global hunger and strengthen communities.

"I think this practice has a great amount of validity outside of Heifer and has great application outside of Heifer," Prater said. "Empowering somebody to give something, when that same person previously had nothing, is a powerful way to strengthen communities and human relationships."

Indubitably, Heifer's work has changed millions of lives—both directly and due to the mandatory 'pass on the gift' program.

"The clearest example of how Heifer changes lives is a young woman named Beatrice Biira, the subject of a children's book, 'Beatrice's Goat,'" Prater said. "Beatrice's family is from Uganda, and her mother was the only living parent. Beatrice's mother could not afford to send Beatrice to school. Beatrice's mother was part of a Heifer project and received a dairy goat. Because of that one animal, Beatrice's mother earned more money than she ever had before. By selling excess milk at a local market, Beatrice's mother made a new living for herself and could afford to send Beatrice to school in Uganda. Today, Beatrice has graduated from a college in the US and is earning

her Master's Degree. And it's because of one goat."

Livestock is only one part of Heifer's holistic approach to fighting poverty. In addition, Heifer addresses the issues—gender equality, HIV/AIDS, and agroecology—that are entwined in the heavy knot of poverty.

"It is imperative that Heifer address these issues in our projects," Prater said. "We address gender equality because women make up a high percentage of the world's rural poor. We work to provide a support network for HIV/AIDS victims, because families are destroyed by that disease. Through agroecology we ensure that the land is used for food production and sustaining lives in communities. It really is much more than just giving a gift of an animal."

With such ambitious goals, Heifer has realized the importance of spreading awareness about the cause.

"In April, Heifer celebrated 'Passing on the Gift' Month," Prater said. "This ambitious global campaign brought together Heifer supporters and communities around the world dedicated to ending hunger and poverty in earth-friendly ways.

Heifer's education programs, like Heifer Village or our Global Education Resource Kit, are part of Heifer's efforts to prepare a new generation of leaders to take on the challenges of extreme hunger and poverty.

The Heifer Village, the construction of which began in 2005 in Little Rock, Arkansas, will be almost a cross between a museum and a playground in which kids can begin to understand the challenges that await for the next generation in solving world hunger and caring for the earth.

Raising consciousness about Heifer comes closer to home, too. Senior Susie Wirthlin participated in a Heifer program in the summer of 2008. The program gave talented theatre students the chance to learn about Heifer and to design performances to raise awareness about the global poverty epidemic.

"We didn't know anything about Heifer when we came, and when we came home we wanted to tell people about it," Wirthlin said.

The program, which included three days in simulated poverty, had a great impact on Wirthlin.

"The big difficulty was, surprisingly, not living in poverty," Wirthlin said. "It was more coming to terms with how selfish we really were. It was really difficult to not feel horrible about ourselves at first. But it doesn't matter because now we know, and we're aware. Their message is just so uplifting."

Indeed, Wirthlin's experience inspired her to donate to Heifer's "Where Most Needed" fund, which puts money towards helping whoever needs it the most.

Heifer's options for donating are numerous. While gifts of a water buffalo, a llama, or a pig are more expensive than the average Christmas gift, donors can send a fluffy flock of chicks to Cameroon for \$20 or a hive of honeybees to Uganda for only \$30.

Prater notes that even small gestures can have an enormous impact—both on the impoverished family and the donor, the giver of the gift.

"I think there are immeasurable ways that Americans benefit from hunger," Prater said. "For one, when people give they are changed. A gift creates a bond between donors and the final recipient. Sometimes it's difficult to think about a \$20 check actually making a dramatic difference in someone's life. But it can, and with Heifer it does. I think once people recognize the power of that gift, they're changed for the better."

Wirthlin is in agreement.

"Remember that you are doing good, and you can't solve all the world's problems at once," Wirthlin said. "Even though it's such a broad problem, the little sacrifices and contributions make a tremendous difference to these people." ☺

# Pulse 'Smartpen' earns status as an invaluable educational tool

Nina Oberman  
Editor

Never miss a word.

The Pulse Smartpen's slogan could be truer to its function. The latest in educational technology from Livescribe, the pen is an invaluable tool for students and journalists, acting not only as a recorder, but also an organizer.

At first glance, the gadget appears to be a somewhat-larger-than-usual ballpoint pen. Its case, however, holds far more than just ink. The pen is equipped with a tiny camera that digitally stores every word you write on specialized dot paper. You can then easily upload your notes to either a Mac or PC, and share them with friends or classmates.

The pen also holds a microphone that records voice distinctly, syncing the speaker's words directly with the notes you jot down. Later, when you want to hear what someone said about a particular subject, all you need to do is tap on the paper where you wrote a word or two. Their exact words at that moment in time will automatically play back.

The pen has a small OLED display and a USB connector that allows for both uploading and charging. What goes on inside this little aluminum tube is essentially a mystery to me—but it has proved a valuable tool for both studying and interviewing.

As AP (Advanced Placement) tests approached, the amount of information seemed overwhelming and impossible to sort through. However, I was able to search my notes for key terms on the computer, and then go back to those places to review what my teachers said. The spoken word ingrains in our minds so much more permanently than the written one, and re-hear-

ing specific pieces of a lecture helped enormously.

During an interview, there are always certain key quotes that stand out. Rather than going through an entire recording to sort those out, I was able to note them with the Smartpen, and access them later with only a tap. The recording guarantees accuracy and the dot paper ensures accessibility. In the playbacks, background noise is never an issue. Superfluous sounds are canceled out, and I have never had trouble discerning a speaker's words.

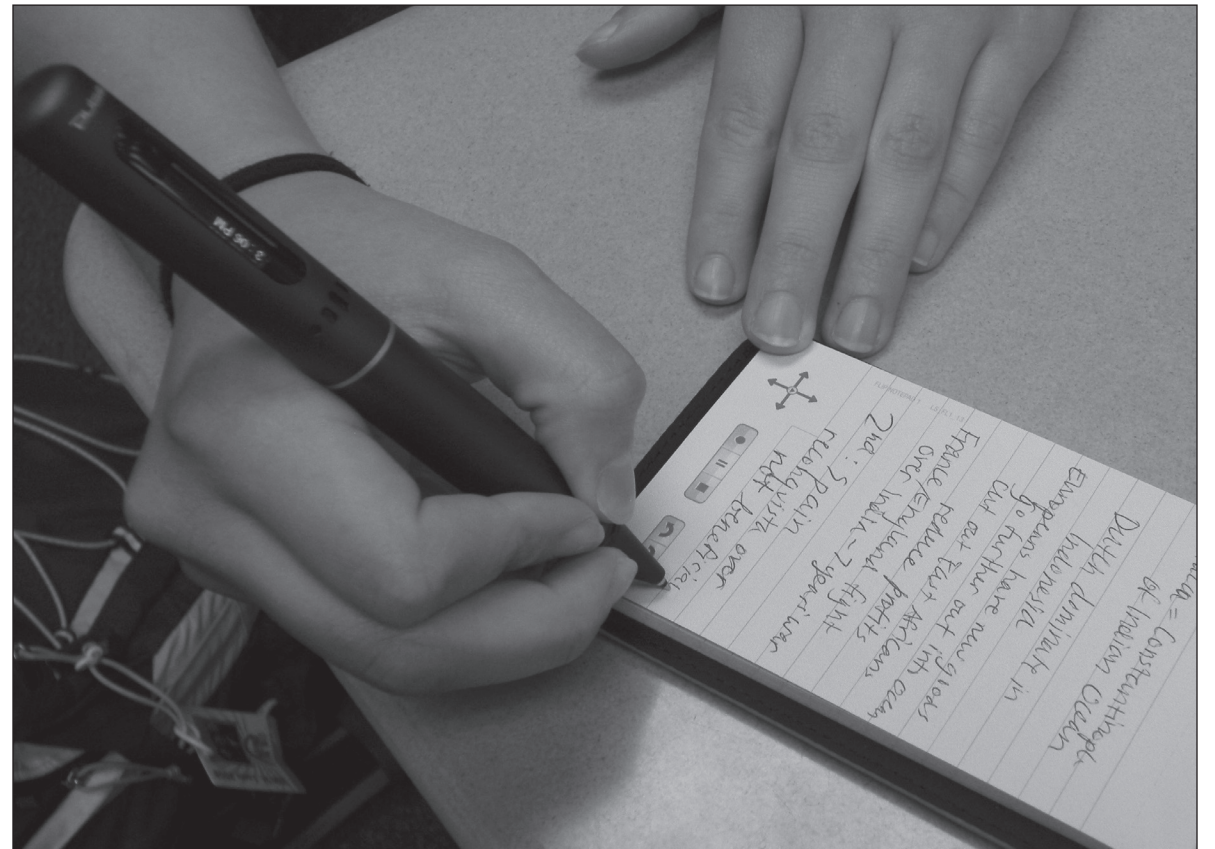
In addition to note taking, the pen also serves as a calculator, a translator, and a musical instrument: you can draw your own piano on the dot paper and play away.

The Smartpen is without a doubt the perfect graduation gift for college-bound seniors—save, perhaps, a laptop. Especially in college courses where the material will be rigorous and the classes sometimes large, having this level of documentation is a tremendous aid. In addition, you can share your notes online with your friends, who may be eternally grateful if they were absent or need extra study materials.

The pen comes with its USB dock, Livescribe desktop software, a starter notebook, a case, and ink cartridge refills. The price is steep, with the 1 GB model costing \$149 and the 2 GB \$199. However, there are discounts available for college students, and from personal experience I would say that it's well worth the cost.

With the Smartpen, taking notes isn't only more efficient; it's also more engaging. Knowing that your notes will be so accessible and thorough drives you to make them as clear as possible.

You never miss a word. ☺



Junior Nina Oberman uses her Pulse Smartpen. It boasts features such as a microphone, a tiny camera, calculator, and a USB connector.

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# Student describes unique life

Bianca Vannucci  
Reporter

In many high schools kids come and go relatively unnoticed. Often one hears of a new kid they never see, or finds out someone is in their class whom they had never spoken to before. Sometimes these kids are worth of attention.

To anyone walking into a classroom, Elle Flinn would just be your average teenager. With brown hair, brown eyes, medium height, nothing about Flinn's appearance immediately catches the eye. However, Flinn has one of the most peculiarly unique stories to tell.

Elle Flinn was born on May 13 1994 and she's a junior at CHS. No, this isn't a joke, though someone her age would typically be enrolled in the freshman class.

At the start of second semester her parents' jobs moved the family to Clayton from New Zealand, where she had been partially home-schooled and then enrolled in a public high school.

In fact, Flinn has already graduated from the thirteen grades of schooling required in New Zealand. After having

been home schooled up to the seventh grade she entered into a high school, interacting with people years older than her.

Flinn, although grateful for her years of home schooling, she has enjoyed her experience in public school.

"I always liked interacting with people," Flinn said. "People at Clayton are really friendly."

Even though this is her first experience of school in America, Flinn has also spent six months in a school in Japan, making her completely fluent in Japanese, as well as Maori, French, and English.

When hearing of her past many people tend to assume Flinn only focused on schoolwork. This, however, is far from the truth.

"I was intending to be a professional skier on the New Zealand national team, but I didn't have enough access to slopes," Flinn said.

Since her day consisted of extra-curricular activities, Flinn also spent time on ballet, and gymnastics, which she eventually gave up to focus on piano.

Flinn laughs when people comment on her variety of interests, or when she hears herself referred to as a genius.

"I'm not a genius, I just learned the same things faster," Flinn said.

Despite her modesty, after being around Flinn for a while, little pieces of information make their way out. For example, Harvard not only accepted her in their college as a fourteen year old, but also actually sought her out, and was turned down.

This is because Flinn will be attending the University of Otago upon her return in New Zealand in a few weeks. She is planning to focus on forensics science, a subject she excels in.

Ultimately, Flinn feels that her experience was positive at CHS.

"I've enjoyed my time here but I miss my friends at home," Flinn said.

It's strange to think of how many of those kids that enroll at CHS near the middle of the year could have such interesting life experiences to tell about. Elle Flinn's story should be a lesson to high school students that there is a lot to learn from those around us. ☺

## 5 Fun Facts About New Zealand

1. Bungee jumping was invented in New Zealand.

2. New Zealand gained independence from Great Britain in 1907.

3. The official languages are English and Te Reo Maori.

4. New Zealand is amongst the top five dairy exporters in the world.

5. New Zealand was the first major nation to have universal suffrage. In 1893 it became legal for all male and female citizens to vote.

# Personal finance class proves rewarding for future life

Despite the fact that this required course eats up one class period, testing out could hurt students' futures.

Kara Kratcha  
Editor in Training

With hectic schedules and a myriad of classes to take in the short four-year high school period, students may attempt to bypass as many unsavory required classes as possible, whether by taking an online course, summer classes, or by testing out. However, in the case of Personal Finance, not sitting the class may not be the best option for students in the long run.

Personal Finance meets every day, is a semester long, and is taught at CHS by Marci Boland. The class is required for all students in order to graduate.

Students can expect to learn about "payroll deductions, taxes, budgeting, insurance, investing, saving, and The Federal Reserve System in Personal Finance," says Boland. "These are all major topics that each student is going to need to know to be a productive citizen."

Still, CHS students may consider much of the Finance curriculum common knowledge and would prefer to test out. The class, though, may not be

as simple as it sounds. Junior Melissa Kopp, who is currently enrolled in Boland's class, finds the class informative.

"Some of the things we learn in common knowledge, but a lot of it is not," says Kopp. "A lot of people go through their life thinking they know how to save and invest their money correctly, or how to use a credit card. But a lot of those people end up in debt, and it's because they didn't have certain information, or they weren't as smart as they thought."

Although Personal Finance takes up a valuable class period in the Clayton student's schedule, the benefits of taking the class far outweigh the costs by addressing real economic problems.

I did hear that the number of students

graduating from college not knowing essential budgeting and investing skills was alarming, says Boland. Also the amount of debt that the average person carries on a credit card is absurd. People just do not understand finances.

Kopp agrees. "I do think the skills we learn in class will be useful later in life," she says. "I especially am thankful for the information we've learned on how to invest money in many different places. Now I know how to save big bucks over a long period of time."

As for the work load, Boland says that little homework is assigned and that class time is usually given to complete assignments.

"I think that the students learn so many important life skills," Boland says.

I think that the students learn so many life skills. I wish that the students would take the class and not try to test out of it.

Marci Boland  
Business teacher



Juniors Hannah Klein, Evan Green and Alex Kasnetz in their Personal Finance class.

Junior or senior year, unless they already have an extensive knowledge of how finances work, students can look forward to a semester of practical information for their future... without testing out of Personal Finance.

# Summer programs enhance academic and social scenes

Sneha Viswanathan  
Editor

From the nation's capital to one of the nation's best-known hospitals, CHS students participate in a variety of programs over the summer that cater to their specific interests. Many of these programs help them focus and develop the academic and extracurricular interests of their choice while simultaneously allowing students to travel and sightsee.

"The summer program that I attended was NSLC, the National Student Leadership Conference," said junior Will Schedl. "I definitely think it was worth the cost because of the great people there and the great program. We were in Washington D.C., and I love that city, so that alone was enough. The program was cool too, but the best part of it was D.C. and the awesome people that I still talk to today."

High school summer programs held

at colleges also prepare students for college life and a college schedule. Summer programs also help students narrow down their interests and their plan for future studies.

"I'm participating in a summer art program at the Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, D.C.," said junior Katie Johnson. "It helps us work on portfolio development, so hopefully that'll help me get some knowledge about art school. It'll help me decide whether I really want to go to art school or not."

"It [NSLC] was held at American University, and it definitely helped me get a good feel for college life," Schedl said. "We were on campus just like we took classes at the university and slept in dorms and everything. We got meal cards to get food daily, and I realized that I could not do the laundry even with step-by-step instructions."

Programs inviting students to stay at universities offer the benefit of making friends from all over the country, but often require expensive payments.

"[Some of the] pros are that it didn't conflict with school, obviously, so that was nice, but also I got to see American University with a bunch of kids my age instead of a bunch of kids, some six years older than me, so that gave me a better view of college life as well," Schedl said. "The con was that it was expensive. My parents were willing to pay for it last year, but in this economy, we decided that it would be better not to do it again."

Although NSLC offers a wide variety of course offerings, Schedl said that some courses are far more popular than others. The interest level of courses tends to be unevenly divided.

"My personal opinion, and the opinion of most of the supervisors, was that 'Journalism and Mass Communications,'

the program that I was in, was by far the most fun and interesting," Schedl said. "The people in COM, as we called it, seemed to be more easy-going and fun than the other people in other programs that were going on at the same time as COM, and yet were still dedicated. It was really nice to have a dedicated, but still easy going and interesting group, which is really pretty rare. I haven't done a ton of programs like this one, but I have done one other, and this was, by far, superior. I made a lot of great new friends that I would not have otherwise, and overall I just had a great time."

No matter what the focus of the program is, many programs are competitive and their slots fill quickly. The payoffs of programs depend on individual students' specific experiences and abilities.

"People who do summer programs don't get too lazy over the summer; it keeps you busy and it helps you prepare

for college instead of slacking off," Johnson said. "If your portfolio is pretty well developed, it probably won't be as interesting as if you're doing random things and need more focus for your portfolio. We get to work with college art teachers. I applied to a couple of other programs but they were full so I ended up going to Corcoran."

Despite the economic recession and the difficulties it creates for families who cannot afford the costs of traveling, some summer opportunities don't require any payment. Some students gained enjoyment and knowledge from such local programs.

"I participated in the Barnes Jewish Hospital Summer Youth Outreach program," said senior Tianxin Ku. "The most important thing was the exposure I got talking to the doctors and nurses and technicians, basically asking them questions; they could answer anything, and

that was pretty cool. Most people had very good knowledge of their jobs and were available to answer my questions."

The availability and convenience of transportation also has a significant effect on students' overall enjoyment of summer programs.

"It [the program] started at 8 a.m. and since I took the Metro Link I had to get up at 7 a.m. every day, so the transportation wasted a lot of time," Ku said. "Another con is that sometimes they don't know who to pair you up with and that's always a bad thing. Sometimes there's a long waiting period to meet with your shadower. It was really fun; I learned a lot but it wasn't like school. It felt more like a profession while shadowing doctors."

Schedl had a more positive experience with transportation. "Cruising around D.C. in a comfy air-conditioned charter bus wasn't terrible either," he said.

## A Student Perspective

### Defining greatness: Burn out or fade away?

Music legends "seal their greatness" in different ways

Schuyler Longmore  
Editor in Training

Ever since rock and roll has existed, scatterings of the greatest and most popular musicians from every era have lost their lives too young. They have created a pop music prototype for how to burn out and be remembered. They are mourned and remembered for their short careers, but they always, and unfairly, are recognized over those who faded away. Death is tragic, but it's not a surefire indicant of musical greatness.

In the musically opinionated and talent heavy movie "High Fidelity," Jack Black's character, Barry, asks, "Is it in fact unfair to criticize a formerly great artist for his latter day sins? Is it better to burn out or fade away?"

The question is asked to the storeowner and self-proclaimed music snob, Rob (John Cusack) regarding the middle-aged man's intentions of buying Stevie Wonder's album, "I Just Called to Say I Love You." Barry crudely criticizes the man's poor music taste, then digs deeper into the preceding question.

And so, contextually, Barry is asking whether Wonder's 1970's originality represented by, "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours", "Higher Ground", and "Superstition" must be dismissed for Wonder's 1980's pop leanings and sentimental lyrics in songs such as, "I Just Called To Say I Love You." Is Stevie Wonder's legitimacy as an important contribution to modern music compromised by his sell-out reputation? Possibly, but that is not a matter worth discussing. More intriguing is the subsequent question, "Is it better to burn out or to fade away?"

Neil Young first spoke, "It's better to burn out than to fade away," in the 1978 song, "Hey Hey, My My," which spawned the ensuing question. Encompassing all aspects of pop culture, the question most clearly and habitually pertains to music.

A tradition, it would seem, in the music world is the pattern of young talent to explode onto the scene with a new and promising ability to contribute, only to die young and "burn out," leaving sad fans to wonder what they might have made of their careers. The list of those who lived fast and died young is unfortunately long including: Keith Moon, Notorious B.I.G., Tupac, Buddy Holly, and Bradley Nowell. The doomed "27 Club," includes artists who have died at the age of 27, including Jim Morrison, Brian Jones, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, and the most true-to-the-question victim: Kurt Cobain.

After achieving great commercial success with Nirvana's first album, "Nevermind" (#19 on Rolling Stone's Top 500 Albums of All Time, and the only album from the 1990's in the top 20), Kurt Cobain found himself paralyzed with the angst and pressure of stardom. Cobain took his own life on April 5, 1994 after dealing with depression and incoherence with the mainstream fans who enjoyed his music, but didn't understand

the message.

With tragedy, Cobain sealed his music permanently in time. Most importantly, Cobain restated Neil Young's existential motto in his suicide note saying, "It is better to burn out than to fade away."

Not surprisingly, debilitating drug problems and overdoses caused the majority of these young deaths. So it is fair to say that it's not always the human mind that plans for its own greatness to be sealed away in time. Is it not the sad fate of drug abusers to suffer for their vices? I would argue that when people burn out and die young it is not an accurate determinant of their greatness, but rather a lack of supporting information.

Would these young talents have ended up having the endurance to continue brilliant careers? Some would and some would not. Not to suggest that early death is an easy way to long-standing fame, because it is generally not intended. It is a matter of staying power, and the ability to produce interesting material time after time.

These musicians do exist. Madonna for example has shown her durability as pop music royalty. In the early 1980's Madonna came out with three studio albums, which to date have sold 5 million, 10 million, and 7 million copies respectively, never achieving less than platinum. Then there were three platinum albums in the 1990's, and three more in the 2000's.

It is rare, but it is possible. Madonna has never failed commercially, but more significantly, she has endured three decades of changing music styles. All across the popular music spectrum musicians have proved their unwavering ability to produce well-received music across multiple decades. These include

Metallica, Elton John, and the Rolling Stones to name a few. The list of one hit wonders and fade away artists is longer and more far ranging than the burn outs and lasting artists, but fading away is not always musical failure. Success is all relative, and it is fitting that artists can't always bridge changes in style and the music of choice.

Many successful disco artist of the 1970's faded out of recognition as the 1980's brought new music styles, and the late 1960's berth protest rock music couldn't sustain itself in the politically weary 1970's "Me" era. We will most likely see the current hip-hop acts of our 2000's fade away in the next decade as new styles arise and dwarf the previous popular music.

Fading out is unavoidable at times, and acceptable in some cases: it is always preferable to early deaths and the reoccurring burnout mentality.

As poignant as these unexpected deaths have been, they must not be used as an accurate deciding factor of greatness. You must strive not to burn out, and not to fade away. Aim rather for extended greatness, and place a catalog of extensive prominence on the world so that you can greater influence and impress those who are truly appreciative of talent.





Courtesy Industrial Light & Magic/MCT Campus

The cast of "Star Trek" works hard to live up to the expectations of their fan base

## 'Star Trek' appeals to die-hard fans and new comers alike

Elle Bullard  
Senior Editor

The advertising campaign for the new blockbuster hit Star Trek mainly focused on the universal appeal of the movie. They claimed that the film wasn't just for fans of the original Star Trek series.

I knew that this was a good thing when I told my dad that "I mean, I know who captain Spock is." I have never seen a full Star Trek episode. Unlike my parents, I did not grow up watching the show, and I did not have a good background going into the movie.

However, although I am not the most erudite Star Trek fan on the planet, I was not only able to follow the plot of the movie but was able to enjoy it as well.

The original Star Trek was a T.V. show in the 1960's. The series followed the crew of the starship Enterprise as it patrolled the galaxy on behalf of the Federation, a kind of peace-keeping body in space. The original T.V. show included personalities as Spock and Captain Kirk, who have become deeply integrated into American popular culture. Originally, Spock was played by Leonard Nimroy and Captain Kirk was played by William Shatner. The ever logical, part-Vulcan Spock and the rugged leader Kirk were joined by characters such as Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy, the fatalistic doctor, and Montgomery Scott, the eccentric scientist/techie.

Ironically, the actual series only aired for three seasons. After its termination, it spawned a cult following. Numerous movies and companion T.V. shows were made to continue the original series' story of Star Trek.

The new movie, Star Trek, is a prequel to the original series. It follows Kirk and Spock, along with the other various characters, as they meet for the first time

on the starship Enterprise. Kirk is cocky, reckless, and quick, still shadowed by the early death of a father he never got to know. Spock, half human and half Vulcan, is torn between a world of emotion and one of uncompromising logic.

Both end up at the Cadet Academy-Kirk from his native Iowa, and Spock after refusing acceptance into a Vulcan Academy. They immediately clash when Kirk beats Spock's "unbeatable" test. At the Academy, we are introduced to other members of the cast, such as the feisty linguist Uhura (who, in the original series, was one of the first black characters on T.V.) and a disoriented doctor "Bones." The characters are thrown together when a distress signal is intercepted from a Vulcan ship. What ensues is a wild ride through space that proves to be exhilarating and visually stunning, a well-acted and thought-out reboot of the original series.

Heartthrob Chris Pine plays James Tiberius Kirk in this new installment of Star Trek, providing a refreshing spunk to Kirk's personality that perhaps is not as evident in the original series. Heroes star Zachary Quinto plays Spock and plays the part perfectly.

The entertaining script and the fast-moving pace of the film will keep any audience engaged. The advertising campaign was right—this movie isn't just for Star Trek fanatics, but for anyone who wants a diverting escape.

Although the movie is just the beginning of the Enterprise's expeditions, it is slightly nostalgic for the original series, especially after Spock and Kirk become a team.

Hopefully this Star Trek movie will be remembered as the revival done right and—with any luck—the Star Trek series will continue to boldly go where no man has gone before. ☺

## 'The Soloist' is not the traditional inspirational movie

Maddy Bullard  
Editor in Training

"The Soloist" was one of those movies you think about after you leave the theater. It's a film that truly makes an impression; it interests and even confuses.

The film is about Steve Lopez (Robert Downey Jr.), a down-and-out journalist who recently suffered a head injury in a bicycle accident. Still somewhat groggy and disoriented, he meets Nathaniel Ayers (Jamie Foxx), a schizophrenic street musician, by a statue of Beethoven in the park near where he lives.

Lopez is fascinated by this colorful, chattering man, and soon learns that he is a Juilliard alumnus, who originally played the cello. Now Ayers is homeless, living on the streets and playing a violin with two strings.

Jamie Foxx's portrayal of Ayers is incredible. One of the greatest aspects of the film is the flashbacks, showing Ayers's childhood, attachment to music,

and eventual deterioration at Juilliard. Foxx transports the audience into the tortured, frightened, and at moments, deranged mind of this brilliant musician.

Foxx is not the only bright spot in the film; Downey makes the dynamic of begrudging friendship, and eventually compassion and even love, work. He does a perfect interpretation of the cynical journalist, who seems just not to care—and then he surprises immensely by transforming into a compassionate, but conflicted character.

As the film continues, Lopez writes a column about Ayers, and an enchanted reader mails a cello to the newsroom.

Their relationship is strengthened when Lopez brings Ayers the new cello. Lopez, in an attempt to help Ayers get his life together, makes him come to the Lamp neighborhood of L.A.

I was truly affected by the portrayal of the homeless, the colors and the music intertwining to create a haunting and almost mournful feeling. The scene was so vivid, and seemed starkly real. Even

though there was no back story to any of these characters, they still pulled at my heartstrings.

Lopez continues to write about him and attempt to help him make a new life for himself.

Eventually, however, Lopez's efforts backfire. His columns bring attention to the homeless neighborhoods of L.A., and the mayor creates a new campaign to clean up these areas. When Lopez visits Lamp community again, the police are swarming around, arresting anyone in their way.

Lopez tries to get Ayers an apartment, but Ayers is reminded of his apartment at Juilliard, where he first began to hear voices. The scenes showing Ayers's first schizophrenic episodes are compelling. The combination of tempestuous music, intensely whispering voices and intimate cinematography show his distress and confusion perfectly. For Ayers, the idea of living by himself in an apartment is terrifying.

When Lopez finally feels he can't handle a friendship with Ayers, he gives

the musician some papers to sign about his condition. When Ayers sees the word "schizophrenic," he pushes Lopez to the floor, insisting, "I do *not* have a schizophrenic mind!"

This scene is also powerful and convincing. Downey's fear is palpable, and Foxx shows his versatility, switching the mood from carefree and almost childlike to sinister and alarming in a flash.

Lopez decides not to give up on Ayers after all. He calls Ayers's sister, who has missed Ayers since he left Juilliard after developing paranoid schizophrenia. Lopez and Ayers are reconciled, and the film concludes with a sense of justice.

The film ends with reconciliation, but the ending is not cliché. There is no reassurance that things will get better, that everything will be OK, or that Ayers will be cured of his disease. The only thing that is for certain is that a steadfast friendship has been forged. That's the beauty of this film—for all the complications, all the conflicts and problems, it's still a simple story about the strength of compassion and kindness. ☺



Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. give stunning performances in "The Soloist."

Used with Permission from Dreamworks

## '17 Again' lacks content and acting, appeases Efron fans only

Caitlin Kropp  
Reporter

Those eyes! Those lips! That perfectly-coiffed hair! Omigod, it's Zac Efron!

Okay, so maybe I didn't hear exactly that, but I did hear plenty of shrieks when I went to see the movie *17 Again*, starring "High-School Musical" alum Zac Efron. Despite its all-star cast, *17 Again* falls below the line. With a shaky plot line and several creepy moments, this film was not one I enjoyed seeing.

The movie opens with a scene of the young Mike O'Donnell, played by Efron, shooting hoops without a shirt. Cue the shrieking. Young Mike has it all, even a potential basketball scholarship, but he throws it all away to settle down with his pregnant girlfriend, Scarlet.

Fast forward 20 years into the future, where Mike is suddenly middle-aged, played by Matthew Perry, who is in dire need of his morning espresso. Things have gone down the tubes for Mike, as he is working at a mediocre job, has no relationship with his children, is in a messy divorce with his wife (Leslie Mann), and is living with his geeky, super rich best friend Ned, played by Thomas Lennon. After being passed over for yet another promotion, Mike goes back to his old high school to reminisce about his "glory days." It is here that he meets the school janitor, who can only be described as a combination of Santa Claus and a Sith. Soon enough, Mike tumbles

into a wormhole/river tube, and, behold! He is 17 (again).

After a strangely funny bit where Mike must convince Ned of who he is, complete with a light saber fight, Ned and Mike don't know what to do. At a loss, they decide to enroll Mike in his high school, so he can live the life he never had. The rest of the film consists of Mike trying to fit in and, at the same time, be a good father to his two children, who go to the same school.

As far as plot lines go, this film was not the best. Riddled with plot holes (wouldn't the kids recognize dear old Dad from old pictures?) and luke-warm emotions, *17 Again* can barely stay afloat. The director seems to have realized this, as he attempts to make up for it by placing Efron front and center, with enough good lighting to make someone forget what it is they are watching.

In addition to the half-baked plot, there are enough cringe-worthy moments to make me want to go hide behind my seat. The dancing scene with Efron and Mann is awkward enough, but the bits just keep coming. Soon, Mike has to fend off girls left and right, all the while playing the champion for abstinence. A

bit hypocritical, as he got his own girlfriend pregnant at 17, but who's keeping track, right? The supposedly emotional scene where Mike attempts to get the students to not have sex was so bad that I nearly choked on my popcorn, I was trying so hard not to laugh. But, the final indignity comes when Mike has to fend off a surprisingly persistent advance by his own daughter, played by Michelle Trachtenberg. Although the film is rated PG-13, that was not enough to deter pretens wanting to see Zac Efron. They were probably scarred from the things in this film. In my opinion, this constitutes poor planning on the director's part.

“The acting is poor, the plot is flimsy, and the cringeworthy moments are almost too much to bear, but the film as a whole is okay.”

The acting does not fare better than the plot. Although Efron certainly has star appeal, his acting is a little lacking. He can deliver his happy, easy-going lines without a hitch, but things get messy when it comes to other emotions that don't involve smiling. His "emotional" scenes are not convincing at all. Despite what he is saying, there is just something too calculating behind those blue eyes to make one believe he is really about to cry.

The one bright spot of the film is pre-

sented in the character of Ned (Lennon). Hilariously geeky, Ned is an internet billionaire, living in a huge house decorated with memorabilia from "Star Wars", "Lord of the Rings", and various comic books. He eats Captain Crunch for breakfast; he sleeps in a cruiser from Star Wars; he speaks Elvish. Thomas Lennon gives a brilliant performance, making me actually look forward to his scenes throughout the movie. If it weren't for Efron, Lennon would completely run away with *17 Again*, and we would be all too happy to oblige.

Eventually, Mike realizes that he would have picked the same thing all along, and reunites with his wife. Also, he gets his son on the basketball team, gets his daughter away from her soon-to-be-in-jail boyfriend, and sets up his best friend with the principal of the school. And he builds a better mousetrap. Ah, if only, if only.

Overall, I give *17 Again* three stars out of five. The acting is poor, the plot is flimsy, and the cringe-worthy moments are almost too much to bear, but the film as a whole is okay. Lennon more than makes up for the failings of his fellow actors, and the message is cute enough to work. Normally, I would have given this film a lower rating, but there is a danger factor that comes with critiquing a Zac Efron film. If I value my life, and possibly my sanity, I will not give this movie a bad review. I do, and so my final verdict is a three out of five. Happy? ☺



Zac Efron stars in "17 Again," giving a poor performance that only stays afloat due to his charm and good looks

Leonard Ortiz/Orang County Register/MCT Campus

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# Shakespeare Festival faces challenges, evokes change

Shakespeare festival, 13

"Each year a new director is selected, who chooses the design team which includes a costume designer, set designer, and composer for the music," Spirt said. "We often even have a choreographer because sometimes fight scenes are required for certain plays."

In addition to the director, the rest of the artistic team also demonstrates impeccable qualifications. For instance, Tim Case, set designer, is the head of theatre design and technology at the University of South Dakota while John Wylie, lighting director, is the head of design tech at Webster University. Other members of the team are Sara Jean Tostetti, costume designer, Paul Dennhardt, fight director and Scott Killian, original music.

After the artistic team is assembled, they must attack even more tasks.

"All of this organization, including cost, is put in place by December or January," Spirt said. "Auditions then occur in both St. Louis and New York, with the local cast selected first, depending on the director. The last details come together roughly by April 20, then rehearsals begin starting April 20 and the actors are ready to perform by May 20."

"The set is first constructed in an indoor facility. The design team first meets in St. Louis, and from that meeting they create the general ideas for the set and formulate the cost of the design."

However, the Shakespeare Festival has undergone some major changes compared to previous years.

"We're really lucky this year to have some improvements. This year, the space is going to be hugely different"

These huge changes have resulted from the "Shakespeare Glen Site Improvement Plan". In addition to giving the Festival site a new name: Shakespeare Glen, The Forest Park Advisory Board unanimously approved the plan which enacted improvements such as drains, the Missouri limestone wall with a berm behind it to provide a more level area for

the stage, and permanent electrical connections.

These improvements are aimed to abolish the past need for industrial generators, which burn quickly through fuel and to reduce long-term construction and operating costs.

In addition, the hillside is being graded to direct the drainage and increase seating comfort and visibility. The improvements were completed fall 2008.

Spirt supports the improvements and the long term benefits they will have on the Shakespeare Festival.

"The improvements will not only improve the space for the audience but also improve the area permanently for both the festival and the park," Spirt said.

Although the improvements to the festival's location will be beneficial, the play itself truly defines the setting.

"Merry Wives' is a comedy, which is really just what the city needs," Spirt said. "It's about love and laughter and acceptance, enforcing the acceptance of Falstaff and his wayward ways."

Though the comedy's original setting is England, the artistic team has morphed the production to be locally colorful.

"Set in the 1920s in Windsor Missouri, loosely dated around the fourth of July, you can really see some similarities in the set to St. Louis," Spirt said. "There are plenty of references to the city such as the 1904 World's Fair and the Farris wheel."

With a unique theme and setting, "The Merry Wives of Windsor", the vibrancy of the period will certainly be apparent.

"There will be some 1920s period music associated with the festival," Spirt said. "There might even be a bit of the Charleston."

However, creating a vibrant 1920s atmosphere proved to be difficult with the harsh economic times in the USA.

"The festival was put on a diet, like everyone else," Spirt said. "Budgets were significantly cut and we are now doing things very carefully. We are still doing what is necessary to bring a fabulous festival to the city, but it definitely has no frills."

"With the exception of 'Jeff the Jug-

gler' and the MCs, all of the people participating in the 'Green Show' are doing so free of charge," Spirt said.

The 'Green Show', before the main attraction, features entertainment such as Juggling Jeff, Josh Routh the Fire-Eating Clown, The Kingsbury Ensemble, CO-CAdance, Missouri History Museum performances, strolling performers, and a mini-play that introduces the characters and plot.

Elimination of the festival's frills continued beyond the 'Green Show'.

"We also simplified the set, while last year the set was huge," Spirt said. "Many people, however, have been kind in giving assistance. We were also able to have free actor housing for those actors traveling in from out of state, which was difficult to find. The production truly is a challenge every year, particularly this year, because the festival is free. Next year will be just as challenging."

Regardless of financial troubles, the Shakespeare Festival continues to be vital to the development of the St. Louis community.

"The festival is important on so many levels for the St. Louis community," Spirt said. "No English poet contributed as much as Shakespeare to literature in the western world. Even now, we quote him every day. He is truly in the vernacular of our culture, impacting us civically, educationally, and culturally."

The act of participating in such a communal event is a benefit in itself to St. Louis.

"Having the community come together is great, it really helps the educational playing field," Spirt said. "The festival brings people out away from their TVs and video games, something that is particularly important this year. In many ways the festival brings people back to basics."

Truly, the Shakespeare Festival harvests a distinctive atmosphere that ultimately improves the St. Louis community.

"There's a magic and camaraderie about the community coming together at the festival, sitting together, sharing stories, and picnicking," Spirt said. "It really enhances the quality of life not only for individuals but for the city itself."

"The Merry Wives of Windsor" is performed at 8 p.m. nightly in Forest Park, May 20 through June 14 (except Tuesdays). The pre-performance 'The Green Show' is presented at 6:30 P.M. All shows are free. ☺

# Summer Fashion

Bright colors, ruffles, sheer fabrics, and tribal jewelry celebrate the whimsy of summer dress.

Rachel Nevels  
Reporter

With the recent cool, rainy weather, it may seem too soon, but summer is almost here. That means it's time to shed some layers, and add some summer style into your wardrobe. Everything from sheer fabrics to ruffles to destroyed denim is coming into style, and everything from jean jackets to hobo bags are making a major comeback.

Thus far, one of the most popular trends has been ethnic tribal pieces; everything from shoes and shirts, to jewelry and pants -- channeling your inner tribal goddess is key to looking your best this summer.

Many magazines have editorials explaining how to incorporate these styles, such as Bazaars March 2009 editorial "Global exotica."

Another great style element the tribal shoes imply is the statement piece. Statement pieces are a very bold trend to try out this summer. Fancy stiletto shoes with beads, feathers, strings, ruffles and daring fabrics all make up the elements of this summer's sexy statement shoe. Although these styles are big with designers this season, a few great knock offs can be found at Bebe or even Bakers Shoes.

"Many tribal inspired pieces go great with gladiator flats and cute shorts (not supper short) for the summer," sophomore Grace Brumley said.

And if anyone should know something about bravery as far as style, it's CHS own Grace Brumley, who had a significant amount of stylish clothing in this year's student run fashion show.

Other great statement pieces are oversized bangles and large exotic bib necklaces seen in magazine spreads from Teen Vogue to Instyle. The bib necklace is an urban-chic makeover of the ever-so popular choker necklace from the '90s.

"It looks great with really bold colors, but can even be put with a cute black dress on a weekend," junior Chelsea Hesterberg said. "There's even a really cute yellow-stone one from Vera Wang that I like."

If you can't grab a Vera Wang bib necklace by summer, buyer-friendly places like Forever21 and Urban Outfitters carry very stylish ones as well.

Don't call it a comeback, but Hobo bags, and the jean jacket are back. The hobo bag contains its original bohemian approach, while the jean jacket takes a turn down trendy lane.

Designers have added symmetrical shapes to the jacket, along with shoulder pads for a rock inspired look, or even quarter length bubble sleeves for the city-girl look. Trendy boutiques such as Ziezo in the loop, Paperdolls found downtown on Washington Avenue, or The Time Boutique, also on Washington Avenue.

If you haven't seen a girl walking down the street in baggy jeans with a multiple folded cuff at the end, you must be hiding under a rock. The "boyfriend" jean, made popular by celebrities such as Katie Holmes and Vanessa Hudgens is a major trend.

"The boyfriend jean adds edge to a girly top and ins just plain comfortable," Brumley said. "The boyfriend jean can be worn in countless ways. They look great rolled up at the bottom with strappy sandals and a tank, as well as a loose shirt, tucked in with a belt." Brumley added about her personal favorite this summer.

The Boyfriend jean can be found in stores such as Target, or even places like Dillard's and Splash. But in order to make the look more original and natural, professionals suggest an old pair of your mom or dad's jeans, maybe even your own folded loosely up to the ankle.

Another Denim trend is the destroyed or ripped skinny jean. This trend has made a comeback with the help of designers like Yves Saint Laurent, and Dolce&Gabbana, but can be found conveniently at stores like Hollister Co., Splash, and Dillard's. True Religion, Rich Girl, and Joe Jeans are brands to look for in these stores.

"Distressed jeans are simple and chic at the same time, and look great with booties, a loose tee, and a vest," Brumley said.

Of course summer isn't summer without swim wear. Simple floral patterns on skinny bikinis give a hippy vibe, as well as mix and matched tops and bottoms, which give an urban flare. Both of these styles can be found at H&M for great prices, allowing you to extend your swim wardrobe.

As you fall in love with trends this summer, remember one thing; nothing lasts forever. Try and make your wardrobe stretch into the fall, and maybe even winter months of next year. With the economic crisis, keep in mind many other things you can spend your money on, and buy affordable trends with maybe one splurge on your favorite item. ☺



All photos by Caroline Stamp  
Top, junior Hannah Klein, middle, freshmen Fatimah Austin, and bottom, junior Kelley Dufour show off their spring wardrobes including florals, chunky necklaces, and bright colors. Left, sophomore Ruthie Polinsky models her metallic, ruffle sandals. Trends such as jeans jackets, boho bags, and tribal apparel are also popular this spring.



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# CHS Film Festival students have the upper hand

Simone Bernstein  
Editor

Eighteen films, 50 audience members and six categories. The first film festival at Clayton High School was held on Sunday, May 3, 2009. Twenty films were submitted to the festival and 18 were accepted.

David Hoffman, Instructional Technologist at CHS, created the film festival along with CHS English teacher Katie Storms. Student Director, Nate Townsend, and his assistant, Ryan Shields also worked to establish the film festival.

"The film festival gives students an opportunity to showcase their talent and creativity," senior Krishna Vemulapalli said.

While visiting another high school, Hoffman found the inspiration for this festival.

"I visited a school district in Seattle last year that has an annual festival and knew that it was something we could do in Clayton as well," Hoffman said.

Hoffman created the film festival because he noticed many students were interested in film-making.

"From working with Ms. Chappuis and Mr. Meyers in their Film in American Society class I saw there was a lot of student interest in film-making," Hoffman said.

There six categories in the film festival included animation, dramatic narrative, comedic narrative, music video/art film, documentary and news feature. The judges only received film entries in dramatic narrative, comedic narrative, documentary and music video/art film.

At the festival awards were given out to the best films in each category. The award for overall best in festival, best dramatic narrative, and best comedic narrative went to sophomore Austin Vondras for his films. Other awards were given to junior Jake Leech for his film "Xenophobia", junior Ben Petrofsky



Students, teachers, and parents are awaiting the start of the 2009 Clayton High School Film Festival.

Puhan Zhao

for his film "Vengeance", senior Drew Snodgrass for his film "Lost", senior Elliot O'Dea for his film "Can't Stop" and junior Alexander Grayson and senior Nathan Crall for the film "Personal Target". Honorable mentions went to junior Allie Lake for her film "We Have Problems", junior Nick Van Almsick for his film "Intruder" and junior Orion Wilkinson for his film

"The Needle".

"Some of the films were much more sophisticated than I expected," Hoffman said, "I was very impressed with the amount of thoughtfulness and hard work devoted to the making of the films and I also found the variety of work very interesting."

Each film was judged by 16 students and teachers. "I judged all of the films," Storms said, "It seemed like every single student who submitted a film really enjoyed the art of film making. All of the film makers put time into their films, and it showed. I loved the enthusiasm, and I am looking forward to the next festival. I am also excited about showing all of this year's films at the Hi-Pointe Theater this summer."

Junior Allie Lake created the film "We Have Problems," which won an honorable mention.

"I created a music video because for me, music has more of an emotional effect than words alone," Lake said, "I thought that the particular heartfelt Sufjan Stevens folk song I chose, coupled with visual footage, would be a powerful way to convey my message of teen and world problems."

Some students entered the film festival with minimal skills or experience in filmmaking.

"I decided to enter the film festival because I wanted to try out a new creative outlet," Lake said, "I didn't have much experience, and I didn't have a clear idea of what I was going to do, but I just felt like I needed to communicate some sort of message through the medium of film."

Inexperienced students can improve the effects of their film by talking with Hoffman or other students.

"Just be creative and explore the area of film that suits you best," Lake said, "There are no boundaries. However, a lot of the judging is based on special effects and professional-looking cinematography, so inexperienced filmmakers may want to talk to Mr. Hoffman or other students for advice about special effects and movie-editing programs."

The film festival next year will be held on May 2, 2010. Add the CHS Film Festival to your list of cinematic showcasing CHS students. Soon Cannes and Sundance Film Festival applicants might be competing with the budding and imaginative students in the CHS Film Festival. ☘

## 'Hairspray' is praised for increasing success on Broadway and at the box office

Taylor Stone  
Editor

Fused with flamboyant characters, authentic-sounding 1960's pop music, and even a dash of social criticism, "Hairspray" boasts vibrant supremacy over shows lacking that colorful fusion.

Sadly, the musical's last performance at The Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis was April 26. "Hairspray" was performed at "The Fox" from April 24 through 26.

The musical was based off of the 1988 film of the same title. Marc Shaiman provided music, while lyrics were provided by both Scott Wittman and Shaiman himself. In 2002, both men received Tony, Grammy, and Drama Desk Awards for their work in "Hairspray". The stage book was written by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, who shared the 2002 Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical.

The musical truly possesses an impressive record. In its first year on Broadway, the show earned eight 2002 Tony Award awards out of 13 nominations, including Best Musical and Best Original Score (Music and Lyrics). The musical also was awarded nine 2002 Drama Desk Awards out of 13 nominations as well as awards from various other organizations such as Critics' Choice Theatre Awards, Theatre World Awards, and Evening Standard Awards. The London West End production was nominated for a record-setting eleven Laurence Olivier Awards, winning for Best New Musical and in three other categories.

Though "Hairspray" played its final show on Broadway Jan. 9, it has had lasting success, having enjoyed U.S. national tours and numerous foreign productions. It was also adapted for a 2007 musical film.

The story is set in 1962 Baltimore, Maryland. Tracy Turnblad, a "pleasantly plump" teenager, harbors a love for both her hometown and "The Corny Collins Show", a local TV dance program featuring teenage performers. Longing to be on the show, Tracy goes against the wishes of her shy and plus-sized mother Edna Turnblad and auditions for the show, only to be scrutinized by the thin, blonde show member Amber Von Tussle and the show's producer Velma Von Tussle, Amber's equally blonde and villainous mother. However, Tracy stands by her

dreams at her school dance when she impresses Corny Collins himself with her hip dance moves and ideas of the integration of blacks and whites in the show. When Tracy is admitted into the show, she becomes a celebrity over night and competes for Miss Baltimore Hairspray with Amber and even catches the attention of Amber's boyfriend, Link Larkin. However, Tracy launches a campaign to integrate the show after seeing the injustice imposed on the African-American performers and must battle to save her dream.

The musical can be accurately described in one simple word—entertaining. The show combined humor, dance numbers, and songs that inspired toe-tapping and humming in the St. Louis audience. The musical truly was an experience rather than a performance, as audience members felt part of Tracy's journey—whether it was a march for civil rights or just a dance number. The atmosphere of the production was highly energetic, much like Tracy's personality, with colorful sets and costumes embodying the overall tone. With a bold characterization and unique plot, the show was composed with humor including 1950s and '60s historical references.

The largest highlight of the entire production was the lead actress, Brooklynn Pulver, who had performed the role of Tracy in several countries such as Japan and China. Pulver showcased impressive vocal talent and bubbly energy in songs such as "Good Morning Baltimore", "Without Love", and "Welcome to the '60s". Pulver seemed to take her role to a new level and demonstrated obvious likeability. Pulver truly established herself as the star, not taking a backseat to other impressive minor characters, holding the weight of the show on her own back.

Another highlight of the show was Drew Davidson, who played the role of Wilbur Turnblad, Tracy's father. Eerily, he sounded almost exactly like Christopher Walken, who portrayed the same character in the film version, which is a compliment indeed.

Another notable performance was that of Lisa Linette, who played Motormouth Maybelle, host of "The Corny Collins Show" on "Negro Day" and owner of a downtown record shop. Linette easily was the most talented, at least vocally, in the entire show. In songs such as "Big Blonde and Beautiful" and "I Know Where I've Been", Linette displays both immense vocal skill and a distinct addition of depth to her character. Another highlight was Ariel Tyler Page, playing the wicked Velma Von

Tussle. Page was the picture-perfect villain, down to the last evil laugh. With composure similar to "The Wicked Witch of the West", Page's energy combated that of Tracy Turnblad herself. Page shows her fangs in songs such as "(The Legend of) Miss Baltimore Crabs".

One actor who was less than satisfying was Jerry O'Boyle, who played Edna Turnblad. While O'Boyle and Davidson together were hilarious in songs such as "(You're) Timeless to Me", by himself he was not as vivacious as the character of Edna deserved to be. Matthew Ragas, who portrayed Link Larkin, Tracy's love interest, seemed bland compared to the other actors and their dynamic performances. However, Ragas may be unfairly judged, especially because he is doomed to be compared to Zac Efron, who brilliantly played the character in the movie version.

As an entity, the cast of "Hairspray" was brilliant. It would be impossible to list every single actor and the extent they contributed to the overall energy of the production. Each minor character added to the vibrancy and enthusiasm of the performance.

The production itself was exceptional down to the last detail. The scenic design by David Rockwell, costume design by William Ivey Long, and wig and hair design by Paul Huntley were brilliant. The authentic '60s atmosphere was solely because of the bold colors and light designs, as well as the gaudy wigs. Flashing, colorful lights, ridiculously high hairstyles, as well as the beautiful costumes truly made the production a gem.

The true star of the musical was the songs themselves. At the end of the show, when the cast was bowing and audience members stood for a standing ovation while they thunderously applauded, Tracy herself, Brooklyn Pulver, instructed everyone to dance along with the final song, "You Can't Stop the Beat". What's remarkable about this moment is that audience members promptly agreed, dancing in their seats and the walkways.

The music and overall production of the show has undeniably created a magical experience for audience members, successfully immersing viewers into another time period and creating a new, active form of entertainment. Truly, the beat of "Hairspray" really can't be stopped. And really, who would want to? ☘



philmartin/hairsprayontour.com

Tracy Turnblad, the "pleasantly plump" teenager, struggles through some of the same issues as many teenagers do today. With her positive attitude, Turnblad takes the stage and delivers believing nothing and no one can get in her way.



The newly built patio of My Daddy's Cheesecake can be viewed by many at 6451 Clayton Road, a new cafe that welcomes all customers.

Nicole Burton

## My Daddy's Cheesecake:

The newest hot spot with the meals and treats to prove it

Gabrielle Lachtrup

Reporter

My Daddy's Cheesecake at 6451 Clayton Road is a warm, inviting sort of place—cheery, family-friendly, filled with all types of sugary goodness—and the franchise won't ever let you forget it.

The head of Daddy, a smiling, mustachioed visage akin to the guy from the Monopoly games, is plastered everywhere, from the food labels to the kitchen equipment to the overhead curtains. He even gets his own bottled water. Where the little man has yet to be printed or sewn, such as the cash register, stickers of him are slapped prominently where customers can see them. Such is the nature of My Daddy's Cheesecake—pleasant and innocuous, but also hyper-branded and ultimately generic.

In its favor, Daddy's has a great menu selection: they offer breakfast, lunch, and nominally dinner. For breakfast there is an entire menu section devoted to omelets, as well as muffins and other heavier carbohydrates. Lunch and dinner offer a whole host of options; everything from turkey honey wraps to grilled Caesar salads to three kinds of soup are offered. The main focus, however, is on the dessert, with three large cases devoted exclusively to them: one for cheesecake, with flavors like Forbidden Fudge, Praline, and Berry Swirl, one for items

like fruit tarts and lemon bars, and finally one with "drier" baked goods such as bagels and iced cookies.

Ironically, the highlights tended to be the "healthier" menu items. Particularly notable was the potato soup, which had an excellent creamy, chive-y flavor. Though the tagline claimed it had a "touch of pepper" there were no detectable spicy notes in the dish at all. Very rich and filling, its only detraction were the chunks of potato themselves, which were severely overcooked. Instead of providing bite to the dish, they practically melted into the soup itself.

The tuna salad sandwich and accompanying Caesar salad were good and mediocre respectively. To their credit, they both utilized fresh lettuce and tomatoes, however, both were overly sweet (the Caesar from the dressing, and the salad; from the mayonnaise) and neither had any particularly outstanding qualities.

Unfortunately, neither dessert lived up to the standards set by the main meal, and in fact; the cheesecake was perhaps the worst item we sampled from the menu. The key lime cheesecake had a sweet if overly soft crust and a serviceable flavor, probably as close as one can get to real "key lime" filling in the landlocked Midwest. However, it was topped with a thick layer of saccharine white and green icing that distracted from the tart flavor. Far worse, words fail to quantify the precise nature of the green goo squirted across the plate as decoration, though the appearance alone was described both as "radioactive-looking" and "reminiscent of alien secretions."

Indeed, the comparisons might well have tasted better: said goo had a sharp, artificial flavor with an oddly oily aftertaste. Between the top layer of icing and the bottom layer of God-knows-what, the pie could only be rendered edible by turning it on its side and mashing it with a fork.

Finally, the cinnamon bun had a good, slightly spicy flavor, and, unlike its sloppier, gozier cousin the Cinnabon, kept its icing under control. Unfortunately, it was also rather stale.

While it had relatively good ambiance and an enjoyable soundtrack playing in the background, on the whole Daddy's was just that: relatively good, and relatively enjoyable. Nothing in particular stood out, and, like the smiling man who represents it, the restaurant proved to be at once pleasant and utterly bland. ☘







The globe at the front of the school represents the world-class education that has been emblematic of the Clayton School District.

# CHS facing conflicting educational philosophies

The graduation of the class of 2009 marks the end of 100 years of education at CHS. As we look to the next 100 years, and as the school moves into a new chapter of its story, we must pause to assess where we are right now as an institution. What is the current direction of education at the high school, and is it heading down a positive path?

As many teachers have acknowledged, change has come to CHS over the past several years. While some of the changes have been the result of district-wide initiatives, others have been school-specific, and still others have been combinations of both. As with all change, some has been for the better and some for the worse.

Since Dr. Losos has taken leadership of the school, a significant effort has been made to ensure that no student "falls through the cracks" in terms of academic failure. Working, amongst others, with learning center director Dee Blassie and Academic Director Josh Meyers, Losos has implemented an intervention system that provides an increased level of lucidity and transparency for all teachers involved with the student. This new system is still in its early stages, and has been met with mixed results as it gets rolled out, but is commendable nonetheless.

Another change that Losos spearheaded was the requirement that freshmen take full schedules. Met with skepticism, some saw this as an attempt to limit open-campus for new students. However, the open campus policy remained unchanged at all grade levels. As for the full-schedule requirement, parents of students with all As and Bs can choose to opt out for the second semester. On the whole, Losos' attempt to ease the transition from middle school to high school by building an additional study period into the day shows good intentions.

The final Losos initiative to be discussed here – the one that has probably made the most significant difference to the majority of the student body – is the new tardy policy, which lays out specific, uniform, consequences for the entire school population.

Generally supported by the teaching staff because it successfully encourages timely attendance, students lashed out at this policy, claiming that it was overbearing. In the end, though, there is no real case against it seeing as arriving to class on time is not an unrealistic expectation.

Critics of the principal amongst the student body would take these last two changes as evidence that Losos is violating a major tenet of what makes Clayton unique – the trust in the student body by the administration to make good decisions without the need for specifically delineated punishment.

While this was much more the policy in pre-Losos days, we must remember that Losos is running a school that is physically and demographically different from that of her predecessors.

The addition of the Center has turned CHS into a large school, for better or for worse. Additionally, the student body has grown by nearly 50 percent since the '90s, from around 600 to now 900 students. Finally, No Child Left Behind has placed new levels of accountability and pressure on administrators and teachers to demonstrate annual yearly progress on standardized tests, so in some ways student achievement is now higher stakes than ever before. In light of these changes, Losos has tightened discipline, and it would be difficult to argue against changes that really shouldn't affect students who are doing what they are supposed to be doing in the first place.

While the changes already discussed were primarily decisions that Losos has made and implemented, there are other changes being felt at the high school that are the result of district-wide initiatives. These new movements represent nationwide education trends, and Clayton has bought into them as well. There are two in particular that have had or will have a significant impact on teachers and students throughout the district.

One of these initiatives is the shift toward Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) as a professional development model. The other is a goal to have curricular learning outcomes consistent by grade level across all elementary schools and between all like-classes in the middle and high school (a horizontal alignment), and coordinated as an organized progression from kindergarten through senior year (a vertical alignment).

These initiatives are both in relatively early stages, and it is not entirely clear at this time how they will affect the district. The general idea behind Professional Learning Communities is that teachers should be taking advantage of each other's expertise to continually improve student learning. To meet this goal, teachers of similar classes (so, for example, all English I teachers) would get together during a late-start day and compare student achievement on similar work from each class.

One goal of the PLC process is to create a common portion of assessments so that student achievement in each class can be compared, and teachers can see what they need to be working on to improve.

This professional development model has essentially replaced the former one, in which teachers could attend single-day workshops with experts in the field to continue their own personal learning. The problem with this model in today's educational climate is that the results cannot easily be tracked and quantified.

With PLCs, teachers can collect data showing that one set of students performed better on a certain concept than another set of students. It makes com-

parison easier, but it doesn't necessarily offer much in the way of new and different knowledge or practice for teachers. The trend toward acting on "data-based" decision-making is national, and while it may provide teachers with certain benefits and opportunities for collaboration, it has also almost entirely eliminated workshop-based PD—a loss that many teachers regret and consequently a negative change.

Somewhat related is the district goal to align curriculum, using the program Build Your Own Curriculum (BYOC) to facilitate the process. BYOC is an online repository for curriculum that would replace the cumbersome binders that used to house curricular documents.

Uncertainty and speculation still surround the program because it has not yet been rolled out to the entire district. If used appropriately, BYOC could be a positive change by modernizing an outdated storage system. If used inappropriately, however, BYOC could increase the uniformity and standardization amongst the teaching staff that Clayton has always fought.

BYOC would be appropriate if each teacher could tailor his "page" to fit the individual needs of his class. It would be inappropriate to force all teachers of a certain class or grade level to cohere to one set of curricular documents. It would be appropriate for teachers to pick and choose what they want visible on their page, apart from goals and learning objectives. It would be inappropriate to mandate that all teachers post lesson plans on the website, where anyone could see them and where overbearing parents could encroach even further into the academic lives of both their children and their children's teachers.

The district is currently at a crossroads in terms of educational philosophy. It must decide whether or not it still stands for teacher autonomy and trust, or whether it needs to demand accountability from every sector of the classroom, and thus threaten the teacher-administration relationship that once made Clayton so unique. Yes, Clayton is responsible for showing annual yearly progress, but is that really mutually exclusive from a progressive attitude in terms of teacher treatment?

For CHS specifically, recent changes that have prompted concern or skepticism have been driven by district initiatives. Those implemented by internal administrators, while departures from old philosophy, are not necessarily inappropriate for the school and demographics that we are dealing with today.

The trajectory of the school, then, still remains largely in the hands of Central Office, which must decide what it stands for in terms of educational philosophy, and how it will respond to the circumstances of a national educational paradigm shift. Hopefully, while navigating this new territory, our district administrators will not lose sight of what makes us "Clayton." ☘

# Letters to the Editor Article on race stirs controversy

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter to the Editor as an addendum to the article "The State of Race in Clayton" in the Globe dated April 28, 2009.

I want to first appreciate the Globe staff for their hard work and effort to produce such an outstanding newspaper that includes making courageous decisions about content. The easy choice could be to avoid topics like "Race" and all its multifaceted dimensions. The topic of "Race", no matter how it is brought into focus, will stimulate a host of perspectives and emotions. I commend the Globe staff for keeping the topic "up on top of the table" for examination.

I am clarifying a few points raised in the article in particular some of my thinking and statements quoted. There is always a risk in making broad generalizations about any group of people no matter what characteristics define a certain group. People in the U.S. of African heritage, as with any group, can be discussed in monolithic terms as a way to understand their identity and culture. When I used the term "targeted group," which is a term used to define and understand the system of oppression and the nature of its operation in the U.S., I was referring to people in the U.S. of African Heritage.

The effects of the Racism and Classism on this group vary by individual. I did not mean to imply that all African heritage people in the U.S. have been affected in the same way. Each person, family and community has raised their children and in a myriad of ways so some members of the "targeted group" because of Racism come into schools not as well prepared as other racial groups. I apologize for implying all African Heritage folks experience oppression similarly.

The other point in the article that was misleading is that I alone was the person who made some changes to the way in which 8th grade students would make their transition to the high school, particularly in terms of their class schedule. I did not do this.

It was an institutional decision made by all involved, the principals, counselors, and parents. This pilot initiative was a result of the diligent work of the high school staff on the African American Achievement committee. The details of the decision to make changes were not specifically made by consensus, but in theory there was a shared understanding by the committee. I had no part in implementing the details. I do not claim full credit for this initiative, but only claim the collective credit with my colleagues involved at the time.

Another issue that seems to come to surface in the article is how can we solve the "achievement gap"? A whole new article could be written just about what is meant by the "achievement gap". I won't address that topic in this letter, but would challenge the community to take that on at some point.

One way that it seems to be defined is by standardized test scores. I know that is a reality in the American public school system. I think it is such a limited way to define academic achievement. But if it remains necessary to do so this form of measurement shows without a doubt there is a gap. No matter what the score range and from where the scores are recorded a gap exists between Whites, Asians, Hispanics and Blacks. That alone indicates that the gap needs to be narrowed. This implies to me something has to change with all dimensions of education: Political, Economic, Curricular, Social and Psychological to end "The Gap".

The African American Achievement Committee at the High School has taken this on in a major way by focusing one of our school improvement goals to raise test scores and diminish failures among our African American students. This is a complicated matter and there have been several directions we've taken to meet our goal.

One of the ways that we sought to address this issue is by working with students, teachers and parents. With each group, our focus is on those aspects that will improve academic achievement. We are examining pedagogical practices, curriculum and our relationships.

My focus has been on relationships between students, teachers and parents that includes looking at the assumptions and beliefs we bring to our work from our families, heritage and culture. All three factors are important (pedagogy, curriculum and relationships). I do not take the position nor have I claimed that one part of this work will end the gap in academic achievement. I believe all of them will, over time, contribute to successful academic achievement.

The high school is working on changing all three parts and there has been progress, set backs and reevaluations about what works and adjustments made to continue moving to meet our goal. The high school staff is an incredible group of educators. We've taken on AAA goal with integrity, honesty and certainly not without some conflict. I know we might not all agree on the steps to reach our goal, but we have been willing to try new ideas, challenge each other and assist each other when we get stuck.

My intention has been on how we can build relationships that can heal the damage we all suffered from Racism. The healing is the foundation of the bridge upon which we learn

to transverse our differences and separation in order to create ways that allow all young people access to good benefits and resources to insure their academic success. We must do this together. We have been working together at the high school to do this. We all have a stake in this outcome.

Sincerely,  
Russell Vanecek,  
CHS Racial Dialogue Coordinator and Art Teacher

Dear Editor:

I wish to respond to the April 28 article on "The State of Race At Clayton." I had just read a wonderful, uplifting op-ed by David Brooks in the *New York Times* ("The Harlem Miracle," May 8, 2009), commenting on the success of the Harlem Children's Zones charter schools in New York City, which, based on a "no excuses" philosophy, had managed to make progress in closing the white-black achievement gap. Then I read the Globe article, which offered one excuse after another for the gap.

I was particularly offended by Mr. Vanecek's comments. It is downright insulting for Mr. Vanecek to argue that the key explanation for the gap is "a structure of racism, in which one group is 'targeted' and one group is the 'agent of oppression.'" Mr. Vanecek, how dare you call me a racist and an oppressor! Your chutzpah is beyond belief, especially given the fact that I and others in Clayton have spent a fortune subsidizing the education of de-seg kids, giving them a Cadillac education with Clayton reimbursed well below the \$15,000 per capita expenditures we spend on our students.

Is there still racism in America? Of course. But Mr. Vanecek seems oblivious to the fact that we just elected a black President, and the previous two Secretaries of State entrusted with the foreign policy and national security of the country were African-American. Sadly, there are some folks who, even if both the President and VP along with the entire Cabinet and the entire U.S. Supreme Court were black, would still be complaining about systemic racism in America.

Regarding the need for more diversity workshops, Don Senti had it right when he said that these are largely irrelevant to the "gap" issue. What might be more relevant are some of the measures used in the Harlem charter schools, but these are probably too politically incorrect to be adopted in Clayton.

What is really confusing to me is that some of the staff quoted in the article seem to be talking out of both sides of their mouth, on the one hand voicing black student concerns that "we don't want to be treated differently" (i.e., black students want to be held to the same standards as white students), yet out of the other side of their mouth arguing that

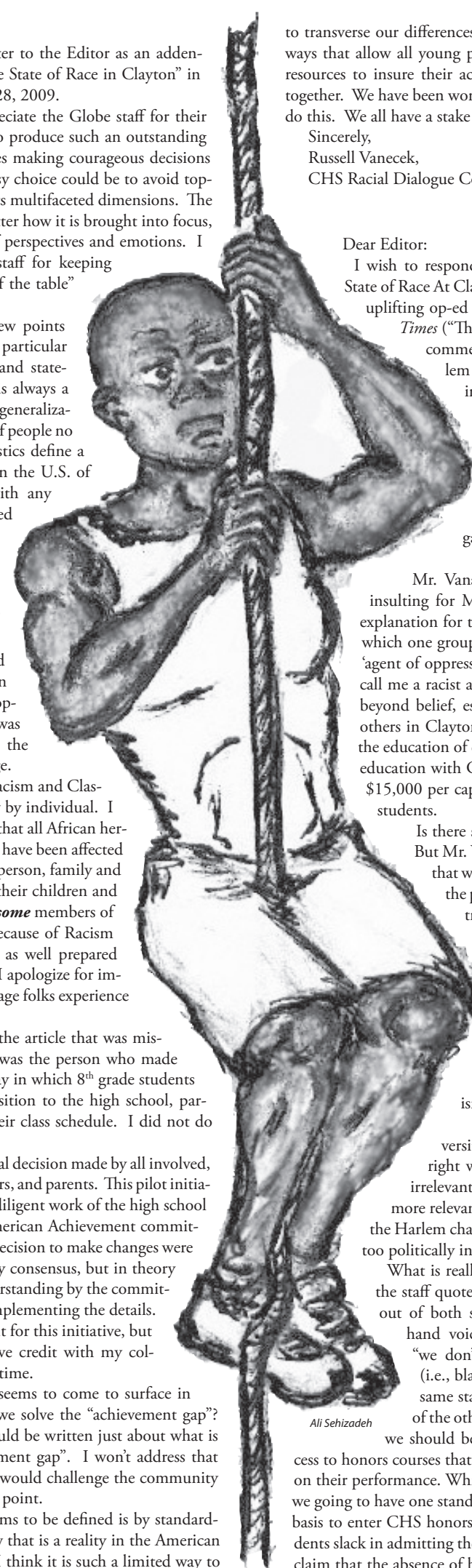
we should be giving black students special access to honors courses that they in fact have not earned based on their performance. Which is it? Make up your mind – are we going to have one standard for both whites and blacks as a basis to enter CHS honors, or are we going to cut black students slack in admitting them? Does anyone seriously want to claim that the absence of black students in honors courses at CHS is due to racial discrimination on the part of the staff? Really? If the problem is that black parents are unaware of the "parental request" option, that seems odd given the district's efforts to make the policy known to all parents.

I found it disgraceful when a couple years ago, for the first time in the history of the district, race-based admissions decisions were made as the administration overruled staff recommendations regarding 9th grade honors course placements in order to promote more black participation in honors; then, even though the administration maintained that these students were fully deserving as honors students, special support services were provided for black "overrides" that were not provided for white "overrides."

If the former were so gifted, why the need to hold their hand in honors courses? Who are the racists here, those of us who want to treat white and black students equally or those who have differential standards? In any event, the CHS honors program should not be a laboratory for race relations or a proving ground for late bloomers; black underachievement should be addressed in K-8, not in the high school honors program, where one risks undermining the academic challenge and integrity of the program by admitting unqualified students.

I am sorry if my words offend anyone, but you cannot offend anyone more than calling Clayton taxpayers "racists" and "oppressors." I agree that one of the greatest, most important challenges we face as a society is to improve African-American student achievement. I have repeatedly applauded Don Senti and the district for trying in recent years to focus more on assessment and extra support services for African-Americans in reading and other subjects in the early grades and for acknowledging the reality that for decades we were failing these kids even as many staff were content to claim what a wonderful job we were doing at "diversity." However, if we stand any chance of successfully addressing "the gap," we need to dispense with the bromides expressed in the GLOBE article and rethink both the causes and cures of the problem.

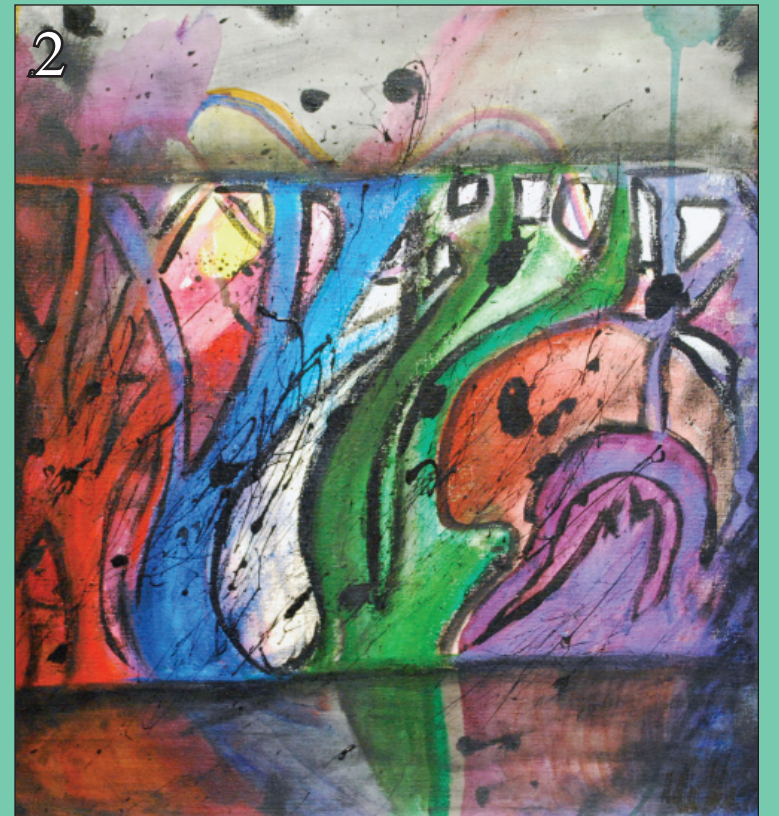
Sincerely,  
J. Martin Rochester,  
Clayton Resident



Ali Sehzadeh

## AP Art students dazzle with unique talent

Student portfolios reflect originality and skill as artists express their unique visions through a variety of mediums



“This year was the first year that we got to choose what we wanted to do. We had a lot of freedom and so I really learned to express myself.”

Tom Maxim, Senior



1. Jessica Morse, “Self Portrait” 2. Matt Johnson 3. Sonja Petermann  
4. Tom Maxim, “Meramec” 5. Tom Maxim, “Center Pool” 6. Sonja Petermann

