



District struggles to meet Bush's 'lofty goal'

1185 students. Eight subgroups. Five schools. Two subjects. One assessment. And with the Missouri definition of proficiency above grade level, which children in Clayton are left behind?

michellealderson

The federal No Child Left Behind law has set a lofty goal to begin with: that every school receiving Title I funds across America will produce 100 percent proficient students in math and English by 2014. So when this year's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results came in, subsequent of the 2004 MAP testing, few were surprised to see Clayton under the state-mandated bar once again.

The district hardly needed AYP to remind it of its widely discussed "achievement gap," but the statistics still came. And while the figures show significant improvement from last year in the black (non Hispanic) and free/reduced lunch subgroups compared to 2003, the fact still remains that both areas are far from the 2014 goal.

"One test doesn't tell us everything about achievement in any way, shape, or form," Assistant Superintendent Mary Jo Liberstein

said. "What it does do is it gives us information on how our students are doing, how our curriculum is doing to meet students' needs, and if our curriculum meets the state-wide standards."

This year, the writing was on the wall. None of CHS's African American students made proficiency in mathematics; at Wydown, only one student in the subgroup made it. The free/reduced lunch subgroup at the high school scraped a pass through a Confidence Interval, but the middle-school equivalents were not so lucky.

"All the way through, our African American students are not doing how they need to be doing in mathematics, especially as they move into middle and high school,"

Liberstein said.

The possible solution? CHS

The process is very in depth and personal.

Janna Smith said.

The process is very in depth and personal.

The idea behind NCLB is a very good one. All children should be getting the education they need. But to say that's going to happen across the country in the next ten years...

-Mary Jo Liberstein

Wydown is making efforts to aid their struggling students as well.

"[Wydown has] reconfigured staffing, so now they have a math specialist and an English specialist to help students who are not doing as well in those ar-

reas," Liberstein said.

Assessment, 2

newsbriefs

2004 Gallup Award
The Quill and Scroll Journalism Honor Society awarded the CHS Globe its second consecutive Gallup Award for journalistic excellence this fall. The publication received 967 out of 1000 possible points, its highest score so far. The Globe also rated 'All American' with four marks of distinction by the National Scholastic Press Association.

Doctorate Awarded

English instructor Rebecca Taylor received her Ph.D. after defending her dissertation "Robinson Crusoe and the Reproduction of Singleness in England's Long Eighteenth Century" on Aug. 27 from Washington University.



Board Decision

In a 5-2 decision Sept. 22, the Clayton School Board approved the master plan for Gay Field improvements. The plan will allow the Friends of Clayton Athletes to raise funds for the project

Assent	5
Dissent	2

provided that the Board handles all bids for contracting and no moves are made until funding has been deemed sufficient to see

the project through. No donors may represent organizations selling products inappropriate for high school students, such as alcohol products. The name "Gay Field" will not change, but donors may name new lockers or bleachers after themselves. Opposition to the plan was led by Elkin Kistner, who represented the Clayton Gardens and Gay Field Neighborhood Association.

Vote Simulation

Mark Bayles of the social studies department is actively preparing for Kids Vote, a vote simulation for underage high schoolers. "We'll be rolling it out soon," Bayles said. The action begins Nov. 1.

English on the Run

English teachers Rachel Harris and Matt Balossi ran the Lewis and Clark 13 kilometer half marathon in Saint Charles Sept. 19. Over 3 thousand runners attended the Sunday race; Harris brought her boyfriend, and Balossi took his wife. Balossi complains of consequent muscle pain.

for more briefs, see inside sections

MetroLink slows traffic, commerce



Rachel Kodner

Construction workers continue to work on the metro link station at Forsyth in Clayton. The prospective date of completion was delayed by a year as a result of court disputes and cost increases. Local businesses and their customers suffer from the traffic tie-ups and parking shortages. "People will come in, get their food to go, go back out and there's a police officer writing their ticket," Crazy Bowls employee Allisa Simril said.

corilefkowith
kellymoffit

Because of MetroLink's continuous presence in the Clayton traffic snarl, the Clayton community remains divided over whether the project will prove to be worth the time, money, and inconvenience it has caused.

The MetroLink has been covered in controversy from its beginning and with the delays even more questions have been raised. The delays started this summer with cost increases, termination of the core engineering companies and court cases.

The four engineering companies, making up the Cross County Collaborative, were accused by Bi-State of mismanagement and fraud. Court cases have arisen with three of the four core engineering companies because Bi-State claims that they have wasted precious time and money. Finding where the fault lies for the cost increase and delays is the true reason for the court cases.

"Bi-State is pushing the blame on the CCC," said a member of the Coalition for Responsible Transit (CoRT), Tom Currier.

With the upcoming election and the introduction of a new proposition for increasing tax revenue, Bi-State is desperately trying to keep a good reputation in the community.

"Bi-State is trying to put themselves in a good light," Currier said, "They want voters to think they should give them more money."

With the new cost of the MetroLink extension, estimated at \$550 million, Bi-State needs the money to finish construction by 2007.

Bi-State's problems have delayed and changed MetroLink construction, greatly affecting the Clayton community. By building the station on Forsyth, Bi-State has created problems for the businesses on Forsyth. Parking issues and street closures are causing trouble for many of the businesses, such as Crazy Bowls & Wraps, that are close to the station construction.

"People will come in, get their food to go, go back out and there's the police officer standing there with their ticket," said Crazy Bowls & Wraps employee Allisa Simril.

"We don't always get flyers in about street closures before the street closes either," Simril said.

These uncertainties have left businesses frustrated with Bi-State.

Cathy Farroll, Cross County Project Communications Manager, believes this problem will be solved in the near future.

"There is a lot of pressure for more parking in Clayton," Farroll said, "I think MetroLink will improve this problem since it will be easier to get to Clayton without driving a car there."

The lack of parking and many other factors have businesses worried about the future.

By delaying the construction along Forest Park Parkway, Bi-State has also disrupted Meramec Elementary School. Bi-State does a good job of keeping construction limited to after school, leaving Meramec a quiet learning environment. However, because of the after-school construction, Meramec's safety policies have had to change.

"We had to change policies for children going

MetroLink, 2

insidescoop

global.....	2
local.....	3
life.....	4
people.....	7
in-focus.....	8
sports.....	9
forum.....	11
arts.....	13
hootenanny.....	15
rear end.....	16

Homecoming, festivity themes set

racheldickens

Flying carpets, halls adorned with nautical decorations and larger-than-life toys will be merely a fraction of the festive elements of Clayton High School's Homecoming 2004.

Last year's Homecoming theme, a fusion of various musical genres, produced both creative and impressive results. Included genres were reggae, hip-hop, classic rock and disco. This year's theme, however, is Disney movies.

In anticipation

of Homecoming, the themes were revealed just after the start of the 2004-2005 school year. The senior class was assigned "The Little Mermaid," the juniors received "Aladdin," the sophomores "Toy Story" and the freshmen "Finding Nemo."

In order to select an overall theme, student government representatives from the senior, junior, and sophomore classes met and discussed possible ideas.

"We had two meetings before deciding on a Disney-themed

Homecoming," sophomore class Secretary Molly Dubro said. "[At the first] meeting, we brainstormed different ideas and at the second we made our final decision."

After choosing Disney movies as the overall theme, a variety of sub-categories were available for class officers to decide upon. These sub-categories govern each class's float at the Homecoming parade as well as their display in the commons during spirit week.

"Jensen [Smith],

Matt [Pearson], John [Buse] and I looked over our options repeatedly," Dubro said. "In the end, we chose Toy Story because we felt it was the best theme for the sophomore class."

This year's festivities include spirit week, Sept. 27-Oct. 1, a bonfire on Friday, Oct. 1, a football game Saturday, Oct. 2 and the Homecoming dance, also Oct. 2. For further information regarding Homecoming, consult www.chs.clayton.k12.mo.us or call (314)-854-6600.

This Year's Nominees...

Freshmen:

Reshara Brown
Abby Minton
Erin O'Neal
Kathrin Nowotny

Sophomores:

Keely Brooks
Morgan Deutch
Stacey Lawrence
Adira Weixlmann

Juniors:

Stephanie Cooper
Erica Jantho
Caitlin Ly
Kelly Ostapowicz

Homecoming Court

Michelle Alderson

Shatara Ford

Emily Fowler-Cornfeld

Sara Johnson-Cardona

Emily Luten

Jenny Riscall

Ruth Singer

Close Up offers chance to witness history in making

carolinebleeke

It's the celebration of democracy and stable government, accompanied by centuries-old tradition. It is the beginning of a new cycle in American politics—the inauguration of the President of the United States. And this January, CHS students will have the chance to experience it.

The Close Up Foundation is a national program that sends students to Washington, D.C. throughout the entire year. Led by academic director and history teacher Josh Meyers, the Close Up Club of CHS provides sophomores, juniors and seniors with the opportunity to visit the nation's capital and see firsthand how American government functions. This year, CHS was lucky enough to be selected by Close Up to go during the week of the presidential inauguration.

"In Clayton's 25-year history of doing the Close Up trip, we have never attended inauguration," Meyers said.

The trip, which will take place in January of 2005, will focus on the event.

"The whole trip will be tailored toward the electoral process and obviously the inauguration itself," Meyers said. "Students will actually be at inauguration. Granted, they may be way in the back, but they will be there."

In addition to attending the ceremony, students will have the unique opportunity to attend an inaugural ball held for Close Up students who come to Washington D.C. from all around the country.

Getting the chance to meet other politically-aware and -active students is one of the best parts of the Close Up experience.

"Clayton kids get to make friends with students from all over the country," Meyers said.

In addition to the inauguration elements of the trip, students will be able to travel Washington D.C. and visit the various museums, memorials, and historical sites, as in previous years.

During previous years, CHS students also got to meet with a Missouri senator and representative. Unfortunately, it might not be possible to meet a member of Congress during the '05 trip.

"Because it's so close to inauguration, the congressmen may be too busy to meet with us," Meyers said. "But the experience of inauguration will definitely make up for that."

The most significant deterrent of going during inauguration is the increased cost of the trip. While a normal Close Up trip costs about \$1300, this year the cost is up to \$2000. This drastic increase is caused by a variety of inauguration-related factors, including high demand for air travel and hotel space, as well as special access.

"It's important to understand that since we're getting access to special places this year, it's going to cost more," Meyers said.

Another downside of the trip is the problem with heavy security.

"Security will definitely be an issue," Meyers said. "It's going to be really, really tight."

For the avid government fan, however, these negatives are greatly outweighed by the excitement and opportunities associated with seeing first hand the next president being sworn in.



courtesy of Josh Meyers

The Supreme Court is one of the many government buildings that Close Up students will see. This year, for the first time ever, students will be in Washington D.C. for the presidential inauguration.

"Every student who goes absolutely loves it," Meyers said. "I've had several repeat offenders: students who had such a great time they decided to go again."

Applications for the trip are due to Meyers no later than Oct. 1. Unfortunately, freshmen are not taken on the Close Up trip because a week of school is too much to miss during the first year of high school. Although any upperclassmen can apply, the trip is most highly advocated for sophomores who have not yet taken an American government class.

"The Close Up trip enriches their government experience and ends up being very advantageous to the student," Meyers said.

LiveStrong yellow bracelet craze raises money, hits CHS



rachel kodner

Juniors (left to right) Chris Peck, Alison Byrnes, Emily Morian-Lozano and Chelsea Smith flash their yellow LiveStrong bracelets.

miharlan

This summer a small rubber yellow bracelet engraved "LIVESTRONG" was created as a fundraising method for the Lance Armstrong Cancer Foundation (LAF). Initially the bracelet did not sell well, but it suddenly and unexpectedly has become a popular item.

Lance Armstrong wanted to sell the bracelets after his fight with cancer in 1996. One year later, in 1997, Armstrong began his foundation.

Although LiveStrong has nothing to do with the Tour de France, many cyclists advertised the bracelet during the tour.

"At first we were unable to sell them," Joe Itale, optics eyewear manager at Galyans in Westfield Shopping mall said. "However, after Armstrong won the Tour, the bracelets became popular."

In many sports stores, the bracelets went from not selling to selling 3,000 in one week, especially during the end of July and early August.

The popularity of the bracelets is beneficial to the LAF. Each bracelet is sold for \$1, no tax, and all the profits go to cancer research.

"Now we are all out of stock because each store only got one shipment," Itale said. "It was not anticipated how many bracelets would sell."

Armstrong's goal was to sell \$6 million worth of LiveStrong bracelets, though this amount has

nearly doubled to \$11 million.

The LiveStrong craze has reached CHS. Students wear the yellow bracelets in almost every CHS class.

"I wear my LiveStrong bracelet often," sophomore Laura Hill said. "I have also gotten some for several of my friends."

Hill's pastor became very involved with the LiveStrong fundraiser.

"My pastor was in the Tour de France," Hill said. "He ordered 250 bracelets and they are being sold at my church."

Hill made sure she bought hers at her church where all the money goes to the LAF.

"If you buy the bracelets off Ebay the money does not go towards cancer," Hill said.

Currently on eBay.com the LiveStrong bracelets are being sold by private individuals for more than a dollar, and none of the profit goes to cancer. Because stores are out of the bracelets, eBay may seem like a last resort, but it is not.

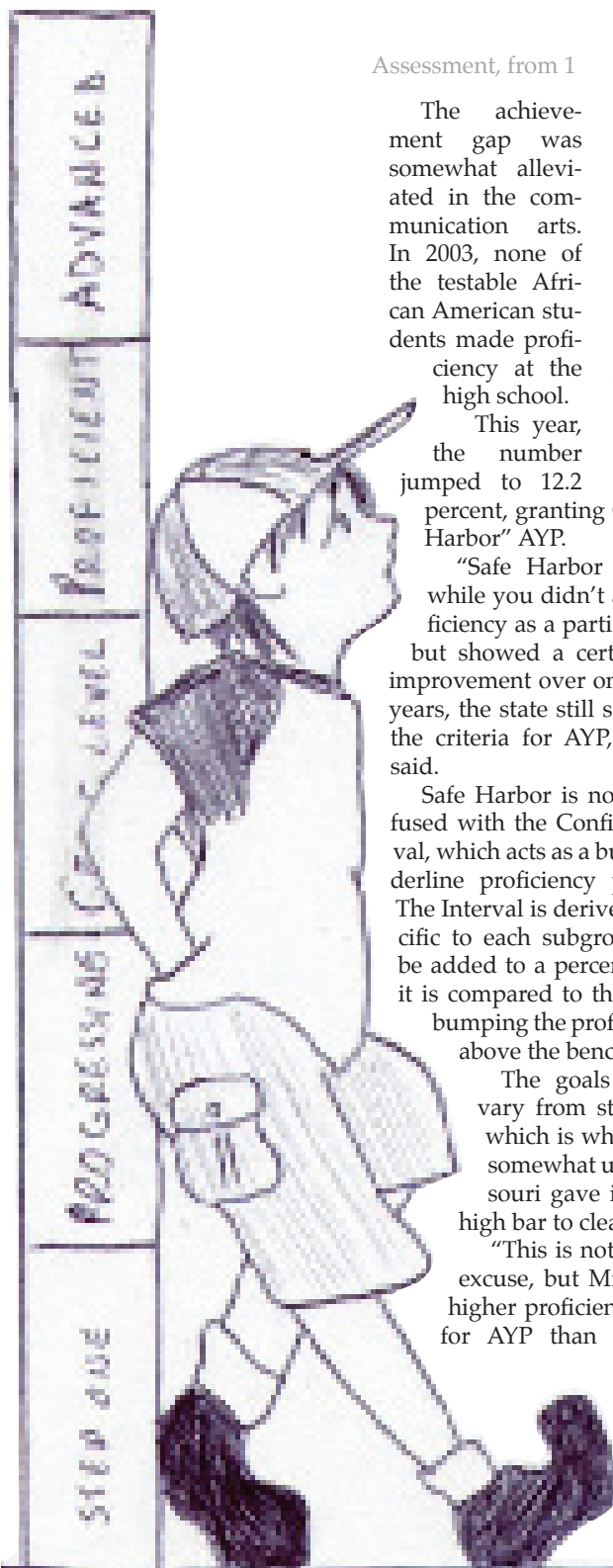
"The best place to get information and buy the bracelets right now is weariyellow.com," Itale said.

The LiveStrong craze is an opportunity to wear fashionably the trendy yellow bracelet and support cancer research. Soon more LiveStrong items will be on sale.

"LiveStrong ball caps and tee-shirts will probably be sold soon," Itale said.

In addition to the LiveStrong bracelets, there are also pink JudyRide bracelets to help fight breast cancer. The Impact Team will be selling raffle tickets for the bracelets to raise money for breast cancer research during lunch the first week of October.

Missouri's NCLB testing bar high to clear



Assessment, from 1

The achievement gap was somewhat alleviated in the communication arts. In 2003, none of the testable African American students made proficiency at the high school.

This year, the number jumped to 12.2 percent, granting CHS a "Safe Harbor" AYP.

"Safe Harbor means that while you didn't achieve proficiency as a particular group, but showed a certain level of improvement over one or several years, the state still said you met the criteria for AYP," Liberstein said.

Safe Harbor is not to be confused with the Confidence Interval, which acts as a buffer for borderline proficiency percentages. The Interval is derived to be specific to each subgroup and can be added to a percentage before it is compared to the state goal, bumping the proficiency level above the benchmark.

The goals themselves vary from state to state, which is why Clayton is somewhat unlucky. Missouri gave its schools a high bar to clear.

"This is not to make an excuse, but Missouri set a higher proficiency standard for AYP than some other

states," Liberstein said. "Our definition of proficiency is actually above grade level."

"Grade level" on the MAP tests (scored one to five) is defined as a three. The standard set for Missouri is a four or more.

"Each state had the ability to define its own level of proficiency," Smith said, "as long as the federal government approved it. The MAP calls its level three 'nearing proficiency,' but [at one of the meetings] someone commented that level three is actually grade level. So originally, we thought that the level three would be proficient. But they decided to keep level four—which is technically above grade level—and maintain high standards in Missouri."

The bar will not get any lower, either; according to AYP, schools must meet the steadily increasing percentages every year until 2014—when, theoretically, all schools will be "built up" to universal, 100 percent proficiency.

"It's a lofty goal," Liberstein said. "The idea behind No Child Left Behind is a very good one. All children should be getting the education that they need. But to say that that's going to happen across the country in the next 10 years is a very lofty goal."



A John Kerry bumper sticker is pasted on one student's car.

jamie sachar

Students get involved in politics

martingregory

With the presidential elections rapidly approaching, CHS students have begun to take an increasing role in politics.

"With the United States having problems in Iraq and at home, it is clear that we need a change in office," senior Ryland Ort said.

Many people agree with his statements, for Clayton is a very liberal community. Last year, senior Shatara Ford took the lead in bringing the Democratic Party to CHS. She, along with senior Lizzie Weiss, started the Clayton chapter of the Young Democrats. The Young Democrats, started in 1932, now has chapters in all 50 states and Puerto Rico and Guam.

"The goal of the Young Democrats is simply this: Get students in the Clayton community, whether they are old enough to vote or not aware of the political world and encourage them to get involved because every voice matters," Ford said.

This year, the Young Democrats have gotten off to a slow start. However, some juniors have taken the lead in becoming politically involved. Max Groswald, Max Fischlowitz-Roberts, and Charles Wolford have started a club called Students for Kerry.

"We all have a common opinion in that we dislike Bush and think he should be replaced," Groswald said.

The club basically will only be in effect for 40 days or so, until the election is over.

"There will not really be a whole lot to do after the election," Groswald said.

Some students have decided to get involved more deeply. Senior Joanna Firestone is an intern with the Democratic Party's office in the area. She is a floor manager, meaning she takes care

of some of the money that comes into the office. She also teaches new interns how to make phone calls in support of Kerry most effectively. Firestone has been very busy; an intern is required to work a minimum of 20 hours per week.

"It can be difficult to balance working with school," Firestone said. "Basically, there is not time for TV anymore."

While many people are fanatically Bush, Firestone has a much less hostile opinion.

"I am against what has happened under the Bush administration," Firestone said. "I am not necessarily blaming Bush for all that has happened, but it is clear that this country needs a change."

Firestone cites health care problems, loss of jobs, and security issues as her main concerns with the Bush administration. However, the war in Iraq has been what has gotten many more young people involved. The perceived threat of a draft has caused some concern among students.

Not everyone in Clayton is liberal. Although they tend to be hard to find, there are some Republicans.

"Kerry has not even announced his views," Junior Tony Russell said. "How can anyone prefer him to Bush?"

History teacher Bill Mendelsohn agreed to sponsor the Young Democrats last year, and is sponsoring the Students for Kerry club. He declines to share his political opinions with students in class because he feels it is not his place to do so. However, he loves to see young people become involved in politics.

"I believe it is important for young people to get involved in politics regardless of their beliefs," Mendelsohn said.

Late start days come to CHS

Teachers find change helpful, yet student are complaining

rebecca katz

Downtown Clayton experienced significantly less traffic at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 15 as many CHS students slept in. It was the first late start/early dismissal day of the year, and high school students did not have to report to class until 9:20 a.m.

Last year a new calendar was approved by the school board which converted two Fridays, which were once full days devoted to professional development, into 10 days during which school would start an hour later for middle and high school students (but end at the normal time) and end an hour earlier for elementary school students (but start at the normal time).

I hope that inconveniences will be minimal. But I also hope and believe that that parents will understand that the system provides the best possible circumstances for our teachers.

- School Board President Vic Frankel

and cohesive manner," said Ann Marie Snodgrass, math teacher and chair of the Professional Development Committee.

In previous years, teachers found that they didn't get as much as they would have liked out of professional development. In the 2003-04 school year, steps were made to change and improve the system.

"Last year it was decided to have PDO's, or Professional Development Options, in which teachers went to five different two-hour meetings a f t e r school," s a i d Snodgrass.

"Afterwards the Professional Development Committee took a survey of teachers to see how they felt about PDOs. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, especially in regards to the sustained learning over time that the PDOs provided."

However, there were problems with the new system, especially for coaches who had difficulty attending the after-school meetings

because they conflicted with team practices.

Consequently the new calendar of meetings was drafted and adopted.

The newest system is entitled Professional Learning Communities. Teachers split up into 22 teams. Each team contains teachers from only one department, but they discuss even those classes that they do not personally teach.

"Some history teachers discuss World History I, some discuss World History II," principal David Skillman said. "However, many of the teachers who discuss World History I do not actually teach it themselves."

Discussion ranges from how the curriculum operates in the classroom to how to increase student achievement. Including teachers who teach many different levels in the same discussion group is beneficial because teachers end up teaching the same students as they grow older and can give advice on how to maximize their learning experience. It also helps work out gaps in lower level curricula that are important in more advanced classes.

Despite the benefits for teachers, there is widespread dissatisfaction among students over the new schedule.

"It was better last year when we had full days off, rather than just an hour or two at a time," sophomore

Rebecca Blackwell said. "You can't even do as much in an hour or two as you can in a full day."

Other students had similar reservations.

"I would much prefer to have a day off," junior Laura Tetri said. "Although if I can't I suppose it's okay to be able to sleep an hour later instead."

Nevertheless, there also are benefits in the new system for students.

"It is well known that high school students could use more sleep, which was one of the reasons for the change in start time from 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. three years ago," Snodgrass said. "The late start gives students a chance to have an extra hour of sleep 10 days a year."

Many students still believe that having full days off are preferable.

"You can sleep longer when you have full days off also," Blackwell said. "In any case, I would simply rather have two days off than be able to sleep an hour longer for 10 days."

The new schedule may also present difficulties for some parents. Having to drop children off later or pick them up earlier can cause conflicts with work.

"I hope that inconveniences will be minimal," school board president Vic Frankel said. "But I also hope and believe that parents will



Erin Blumer

understand that the new system provides the best possible circumstances for our teachers."

The new schedule was initially proposed by principal David Skillman, who got the idea from a school in Chicago which was visited by both him and a number of teachers.

"[The school] had a schedule similar to our current one, except

there was a shorter meeting every two weeks," Skillman said. "The teachers liked the idea of having time in short enough segments that people could get something done."

Despite its unpopularity, the new schedule may be beneficial to students.

"If teachers have to time to work on things that they teach, I think it will benefit more students in the classroom," Skillman said.

A-Program causes debate

jami goodfellow

CHS' new "A Program" is on the minds of many students; especially those who want to skip class.

For the past few years, students at CHS have faced few consequences for skipping class, but the "A Program" may change the situation altogether. The program allows a student to skip only five classes before they receive three weeks of study hall during all of their free periods.

"The program is designed to provide structure for those who abuse open campus," Assistant Principal Dan Gutchewsky said. "It also gives parents who don't want their kids to have open campus an option."

A number of students have already been "A-listed," through their parents' choice and as a result of skipping class.

"At first there were 18 or so students," Gutchewsky said, "They were all parent requests, and all freshmen. The parents can take them out at any time, and about half of the original 18 are no longer in the program."

The students who get "A-listed" by skipping class however, cannot be removed from the program so easily.

"At least four students have been assigned due to attendance reasons," Gutchewsky said.

Despite this, the school has made some agreements and schedule changes with the regular skippers. A number of students have arranged for their day to end after fifth hour in order to lessen their chances of skipping.

Gutchewsky and Associate Principal Mike Musick created the "A Program" this summer after a number of committees looked at school life.

"They examined school life and culture, and what we could do to help students who are at risk," Gutchewsky said. "There were a lot of concerns about attendance and tardies."

Gutchewsky created a plan to provide the structure needed.

"I presented it to Mr. Skillman," Gutchewsky said, "We tweaked it and showed it to the faculty. It was a welcome surprise."

The faculty applauded it when the plan was unveiled.

Despite the overwhelmingly positive reaction from the faculty, many students dislike the "A Program."

"I think it's a scare tactic," senior Michael Goldsticker said. "Realistically there is no way they can provide space for everyone who starts skipping second semester. What happens when everyone starts skipping their detentions? They can't make people not graduate after four years because they skip five classes and then won't go to detention."

Gutchewsky responded to the students' comment.

"It's a work in progress," Gutchewsky said, "Its going to be changed according to our needs."

Celebrate 2004 brings wide range of activities with much success

gilahoffman

Thousands of St. Louisans came downtown this summer for a wide range of activities, most commonly River Splash.

River Splash was one event in the Celebrate 2004 range of activities. Celebrate 2004 is part of an organization called St. Louis 2004. The "Celebrate" part was produced by Premiere Productions. These summer activities were commemorating the 100th anniversary of the World's Fair, the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition and the future of St. Louis.

Celebrate 2004's premiere event was New Years Eve in Forest Park, starting with the giant Ferris Wheel in Forest Park and continuing with an evening of different concerts from rap to hip-hop to rock. All the museums and the zoo were open until 1 a.m. An estimated 125,000 people came to this event.

This summer, a wide range of events took place downtown, including Eats Bridge and River Splash. Eats Bridge was dining on the weekend on Eads Bridge with various restaurants. This occurred during the six weekends of River Splash.

By far, the most successful event was River Splash. This six weekend free concert series, included concerts by Liz Phair, Steel Pulse, The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Los Lobos and a magnificent finale by BB King.

Each night at River Splash, a fantastic firework and water show was produced at the river. The water screen, 150 feet wide and 75 feet tall, was made in the river and pictures of St. Louis history were projected onto it.

"It was the first time any one has ever done it on a moving body of



courtesy of Celebrate 2004 Organization

Thousands flock under the arch for a free concert at Celebrate 2004. Plans have already started for next year's activities

water, like the Mississippi," Keith Alper, the executive producer of all the Celebrate 2004 events said.

"The fireworks were the best I have ever seen," freshman Chiara Corbetta said. "Even better than the fourth of July."

"All the events were even more successful than what we thought they would be—the crowd size, crowd behavior, diversity and people's acceptance of this idea," Alper said. The question now is whether we will be seeing River Splash in 2005. Alper says that they are definitely considering it but it would cost \$5 million. He also commented that the insurance is very expensive because of terrorist levels, and that the price has increased ten times since last year.

"I think months ago people thought this would be a one time event, to celebrate 2004, but the momentum really picked up," Alper

said. "We had great weather, great acts and great attendance. Everyone starting saying, 'hey, St. Louis is in this Renaissance and why stop this if it's a one time event.'"

This year Celebrate 2004 was very fortunate to have three great sponsors, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Express Scripts and the Danforth Foundation.

Several Clayton High School students attended River Splash and said they loved every part of it.

"It was really crowded and hard to get close to the stage but you could hear it really well because it was projected around the arch," senior Kevin Pauly said.

Freshman Sarah Zimmerman also had a great experience.

"It was great hanging out with friends and picnicking, while trying to hear great music and watching great fireworks," Zimmerman said.

Attendance bigger than ever, brings about changes

krystalbell

An increase in paid tuition students, and voluntary transfer students boosted CHS enrollment to a record high 917 students.

This year the school board brought back a policy that allows students from outside the school district to pay tuition to attend Clayton schools. "The money from these students helps the school district and the

students are easily accommodated into the existing student body," Assistant Principal Dan Gutchewsky said.

Clayton High School currently has 17 private tuition students.

Despite the increase in enrollment, there has been only a few problems. Gutchewsky mentioned how lockers are maxed out. Class sizes have gone up by one or two students, hallways are

crowded, and room utilization has increased.

"In seventh hour we are literally using every classroom space," Gutchewsky said. "Electronic music room has moved to the back of the choir room, and film class now meets in the orchestra room."

"I'm glad for the increased numbers," guidance counselor Steve Urbach said, "the more opportunities I have to help to students."

The only challenge he sees is convincing students not to drop out of classes. But other faculty members have different challenges.

Librarian Cindy Menkhus and Lauran DeRigne, librarian assistant, noticed other changes, such as the space in the library decreasing, more classes being held there, and in increase in the number of books

being checked and more teachers utilizing their technology.

"But it's not that big of a difference from last year," DeRigne said. Faculty members are not the only ones seeing changes.

"I think it's good that we have more people because it gives everyone a chance to make new friends and meet more people. But it's a bad thing because there aren't enough lockers for everyone," junior Brittany Metcalf said.

Freshman Brittany Cunningham thinks that class sizes are a lot bigger but she's said that's okay because it gives students more opportunities.

"That also means that the hallways are crowded and it takes forever to get up the stairs," Cunningham said.

Class Sizes

by the numbers...

- 209 freshman
- 264 sophomores
- 221 juniors
- 232 seniors



Junior Amy Hill listens to her iPod during art class. Students bring their iPods to class to use during independent study time and free hours. Apple iPods can store as many as 10,000 songs so the variety of music is endless

Invasion of the Machines

I-Pod mania hits the right note

maxryan

The newest trend at CHS this year is the iPod, the new creation from Macintosh. The original iPod debuted in 2000, and is now in its fourth generation.

"iPod's are extremely popular here at Clayton," senior Lauren Borges said. "I think that although many people already have them, the popularity of them will continue to rise." "I believe iPod's are so popular because they are easy to take places," junior Ben Root said. "Also its nice to be able to put all of your compact discs, and download songs legally, not having to lug a huge book of cd's everywhere."

Why you wonder, do so many students at Clayton High School have this obsession with iPod's?

"I believe many kids at Clayton use iPod's because they are just very easy," senior Jacob Rothbaum said. "The ability to take your whole music library anywhere you want is incredible."

The need for music all throughout the day is a need many students call fill through iPod's.

"I listen to my iPod all day," senior Lisa Elbert said. "If I don't bring it to school with me, then I listen to it while I do my homework and before I go to sleep. If I do bring it to school, then I listen to it during my free periods, between classes, and sometimes during class if we are doing work alone."

When walking up to senior Ted Carstensen, I scream his name, trying to get his attention, but he can't hear me, he is too busy rocking out on his iPod.

"I listen to my iPod all day long," Carstensen said. "I bring it with me everywhere."

Carstensen has an iPod hookup in his car, which allows him to use his iPod literally everywhere.

"It is awesome. It allows me to listen to unlimited music, and not have to worry about changing cd's while driving, therefore creating a safer environment around me."

While many are enjoying the iPod's, there comes a choice when deciding to purchase one. There are many different styles to buy the iPod, in regular or mini, and with different size hard drives. The iPod mini, which comes in many different colors, is 4GB and allows for a maximum of 1,000 songs, costing \$ 249. The regular iPod is white, and comes in 20GB and 40GB drives. The 20GB iPod can hold up to 5,000 songs, and costs \$ 299, and the 40GB iPod, holds 10,000 songs, and costs \$ 399.

"Although iPod's are expensive, in the long run they could actually cost less than using a cd player," Elbert said. "By not spending any money on cd's to create mixes, you could be saving up to \$30 a month, which after month's of making cd's could add up to a greater price than an iPod."

"I believe iPod's are better than cd players because they allow more freedom to create multiple playlists," Root said. "You do not have to deal with keeping track of where your cd's are and having to take time to put different songs together on cd's."

With Macintosh upgrading the iPod yearly, this new trend should continue to sweep through CHS, as more students join the iPod craze.

Blogging provides easy way to stay in touch

isaackatz

Before the Democratic primary elections earlier this year, former Vermont Governor and long-shot Howard Dean leaped to the front of the crowded primary pack using 21st century means of communication – the Internet. The official Howard Dean Weblog, or blog, kept supporters up to date and helped reel in campaign donations. Dean eventually lost the primary to Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, but his use of the Internet set a standard.

When the war in Iraq first started, one Iraqi recorded his daily thoughts on life in Baghdad over the Internet and quickly gained a massive following; a recent collection of his entries in book form became a bestseller.

When the Republican and Democratic National Conventions met recently, political "bloggers" - who have, for example, toppled Trent Lott – were among credentialed media and delivered a unique (and, of course, intentionally biased) point of view on the happenings.

Recently, bloggers caught CBS anchor Dan Rather red faced when they questioned the validity of documents implicating President Bush in evading drug tests during his National Guard Service.

But blogging – in essence, an online, more public version of a diary – has reached far beyond the political sphere: people as diverse as grandparents, professional athletes (Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, for example) and, of course, high schoolers are active in the latest Internet craze.

"I first heard of blogs in elementary school and I started a few all throughout middle school because it was something to do while I was bored," Yue Pang, a freshman at CHS last year before moving to New Orleans, said. "I keep one because it's a good way to archive my life quickly."

"I can't remember when I first heard about blogs, I believe it was around my fifth or sixth grade year," sophomore Rebecca Blackwell said. "I started my Tabulas account last year."

Tabulas.com is one popular blogging site. Blogger.com is possibly the most popular, but is skewed toward older and more political bloggers. Livejournal.com, which is particularly dominated by teenagers, has had 4.5 million people register; nearly 2 million of those are currently active.

A blog is different from a traditional diary. Not only is it generally public, but readers can comment on individual posts. A blog can become an outlet for feedback on daily events – some say even a personal therapy session.

"The main difference between a blog and a diary is simply that other people read your blog, where as a diary is writing only for yourself," Blackwell said. "I use my blog to share my feelings, but I can't help but remember others are going to be reading it as well."

That lack of privacy can be tempting to some but to others. Many blogging sites, such as Livejournal and Tabulas, allow bloggers to restrict access to certain posts to certain users.

"I keep my journal very private - only certain online friends whom I can trust are able to view my entries," one junior said. "I would feel very offended if someone I didn't know read my diary, or if my parents or brother were able to read my entries. Keeping an online journal is a good way for me to express my feelings towards various issues or events without offending someone I know in real life. I feel that everyone needs their space from 'real life' peers."

"I don't keep my blog a 'secret' from anyone," Pang said. "They're obviously free to spread the link around."

"I put very personal things on my blog because I highly doubt anyone but my friends, who already know me, will really care about my blog," Blackwell said. "I have no reason to believe anyone would want to check out my blog, as there are thousands much more interesting than mine. Unless you know me the subjects of my blog are really rather unexciting."

"I realize that people I don't want intruding do read some more private entries I want my friends to see, so those are just made friends-only," Pang said.

Ultimately, online journals are often simply a way to connect with others – sometimes with people hundreds of miles away.

"I keep one because it's a good way to archive my life quickly," Pang said. "It's a link to friends I don't see very often."

"My main reason for keeping a blog is really to keep in touch with my friends," Blackwell said. "I have many friends that I don't get to talk to very often, either because I have no classes with them, or they don't go to my school. A blog lets me keep up to date with them and keeps us all in touch with one another."

IM'ing proves popular as afterschool activity

nava Kantor

The first thing that many CHS students do when they get home from school is rush to the computer and sign on to their instant messenger services. The convenience and excitement of these "chat" programs have caused them to rise in popularity tremendously over the last few years, and are taking up hours of students' time.

Are these programs detrimental to schoolwork and other activities? Why are they so dominant in teenage lives?

There are currently four main IM programs: AOL/ AIM, Yahoo Messenger, MSN Messenger, and Trillian. Each has unique features and downsides: AOL is the largest, Yahoo has excellent video/audio features, MSN is great at connecting to other devices (such as cell phones), and Trillian allows for us-

ers of all other programs to talk to its own users.

Junior Donna Iken prefers AOL as her IM system.

"This is really bad," Iken said. "I spend at least an hour and a half online, including online research for school."

She usually talks to out-of-town camp friends and people from school. However, she says that she prefers the phone to instant messaging when she needs fast, reliable contact.

For freshman Annie Rogers, AIM is ideal. She said that it's easy to use, but sometimes takes a while to connect. Rogers talks with people who she doesn't know but whose screen names are given to her by friends.

"If I'm bored, I'll IM them. It's fun," Rogers said.

Rogers, who spends one to two hours a day online, says that her parents sometimes turn off her computer if it gets too late or she has homework to do. She prefers instant messaging to

other methods of contact.

Both Iken and Rogers agree that instant messaging can slow down their homework and that they often type a paper or do other important work while chatting online. It can also interfere with their sleep.

"IMing is like three-way calling, but you can talk to way more people at the same time," Rogers said. This expediency is a big draw for instant messengers. Another bonus is that the user can respond at any time, and, that anyone, even shy people, can participate and feel part of the action.

IMing seems to have taken the place of something else teens might have done 20 years ago: hanging out in the neighborhood together, playing basketball at the local school, listening to music together, etc.

But IMing and those things really aren't so different. The concept behind them is the same: high schoolers just want to hang out and have fun, whether it's virtually or in person.



Finger Fitness

Text messaging a growing trend in school

hillarystuckey

Senior Grace Clark is part of one of the fastest growing trends in technology. Last month she sent 1,043 text messages last month and spent \$47.

"After the bill came I had to change my plan to unlimited texting," Clark said. "It is so much fun and has become the new phone call."

Many CHS students use text messaging and have found that it is a fun way to talk and still able to pay attention to the lesson in class. Text messaging is quiet and discreet if users know how to use it, almost like a high tech way of passing notes, sometimes to friends across the room, sometimes to those across the country.

"Yes, I use text messaging in class," junior Ida Samuel said, "as well to people that live long distance, at home and when my phone has bad reception."

Clark said the number of her text messages went up after best friend left for college this fall, but she also likes to text message friends and family here.

"My dad and I text message each other a lot," Clark said. "He even likes to use abbreviations."

Sprint PCS says that text messaging is a global phenomenon that has changed the way people communicate. It is also known as a "typewriter" which create short messages and can send these messages to almost any phone in the United States.

Even though it may take a little longer than calling someone on the phone, it is fun way to communicate. This may be done in places that people are not always able to talk such as in public, at the movies, or even communicating long distance.

"Some people don't enjoy receiving my text

messages because they feel if I have something to say just call," Clarke said. "I don't agree because sometimes you can't talk. I feel that I have really good communication with text messaging."

What types of things do students talk about when they are texting?

"I text first thing in the morning for homework, the latest gossip, and just the simplest things," Samuel said.

The cost is a big drawback for some people. Freshman Ben Kirchner would like to use text messaging more frequently.

"I use it, but it costs me too much money so I don't use it that much," Kirchner said.

To try to persuade more customers to become text messengers, the phone companies are offering special plans to entice people to try the new technology as add-ons to regular plans. Cingular offers 100 messages for \$2.99 per month or 750 messages for \$9.99. T-Mobile has 300 messages for \$2.99 and 1000 messages for \$6.99. Other companies offer similar plans.

To use text messaging quickly some students use the text "lingo." This makes the message short yet easy to read. (See box on side) Clarke doesn't seem to really like the lingo.

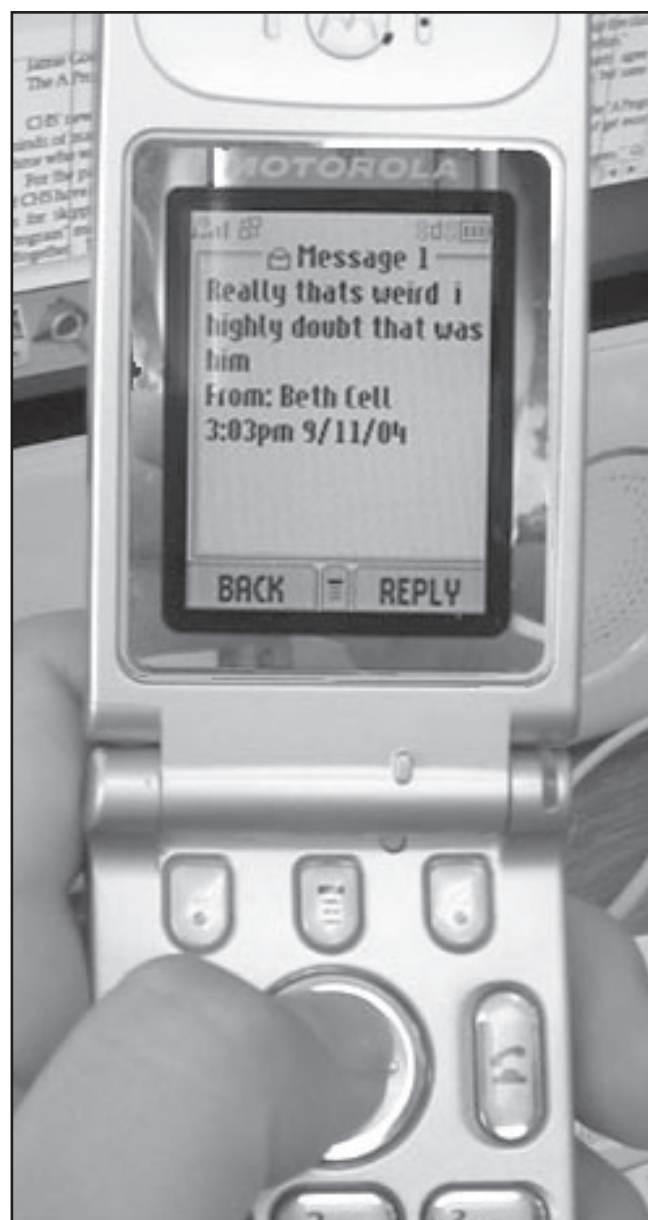
"I don't like abbreviations. They look stupid and immature," Clarke said.

Clarke has become such a skilled texter that she types quickly and still writes in complete sentences.

Even though some users may not be as heavy a user as Clarke using about 30 text messages a day, it is still a growing trend among teens, especially with the plans that are being offered for unlimited use.

Clarke and Samuel said that they love using text messaging.

"Sometimes it is just fun to be sneaky in school," Clarke said.



Practice makes perfect as students adjust to the smaller keys on their cellphones. While more time consuming than a conversation, text messages allow the ease of email for fast communication.

Language camps combine learning with fun

meghanbliss

¡Hola! Guten Tag. Bonjour. These types of phrases are commonly heard by CHS students during the school year in their foreign language classes, but they are rarely used during the summer except for an occasional conversation in English with borrowed phrases from other languages. Foreign language summer camps are changing this trend.

Several CHS students attended foreign language camps this summer as well as past summers.

Students who choose to attend foreign language camps have a variety of different options and are attracted to language camps for different reasons. Some students thought language camps would be fun and others wanted to improve their foreign language skills.

"I couldn't go to the camp I usually go to last summer because I didn't have time to go away all summer," junior Jocelyn Wagman said, "my friend Jenn Pierce had been to Spanish camp for a few years, and was going back, so I decided I would go with her."

No matter a student's reason for going to a foreign language camp, students and teachers alike saw the advantages of their stay after their return to the CHS classroom.

"Depending on the camp, the advantages vary," Spanish teacher Teresa Schafer said. "There are wonderful camps here in the United States that show fabulous improvements for students who attend them. Some students have skipped two levels of Spanish. But there is certainly an advantage to attending a camp in a foreign country because of the cultural interaction."

Freshman Elaine Faddis attended a German summer camp in the United States and felt that her experience was worthwhile.

"German camp was really helpful because all the counselors only talked to you in German," Faddis said. "It was really helpful with developing accents and it almost feels like you are in Germany. In ways it is almost better than being in Germany because they won't let you speak in English. It is better practice because it lasts 24/7."

Students who attend language camps tend to enjoy their experiences. Despite learning foreign languages, students also feel that their experience is different from school.

"Spanish camp is not like school, it really is a lot more like camp," freshman Liza Schmidt said. "You learn Spanish by playing games and it's more fun than school."

The German camps that students have attended are set up similarly.

"Camp is split up into activities so it isn't really like school," Faddis said. "You have a teacher, but it is all in German, there is no English. There is also a program where you can work with families to learn German."

Most camps have a different options and formats including a high school credit program.

"CHS doesn't offer credit," Wagman said, "But I went for a credit session because you learn more Spanish, you still learn even if you don't go for credit, but there is a different



courtesy of jocelyn wagman

format and you don't take classes."

The variety of learning environments set up at foreign language camps attract a variety of different people.

"I met all kinds of people from everywhere," Faddis said. "A lot of the counselors were from Germany, my teacher was from Russia, and there were a lot of campers from Minnesota, Wisconsin and California, but you meet people from all over."

Wagman found the same variety of people during her summer at Spanish camp.

"All different types of people go to Spanish camp, any stereotype is false," Wagman said. "I was worried at first, but

there are a lot of different people, some kids are sent by their parents and others really like it and keep coming back. It is camp and it is fun even though it is learning."

There are many advantages to attending a foreign language camp or spending time abroad. Students acquire better language skills, meet new people and are opened to a window of opportunity after learning a second language.

"Language camps open windows to a new world and once students have had that sort of experience they cannot be the same person again," Schafer said. "There are so many advantages and students will have a lifetime of repercussions and their life will be completely changed."

Sophomore Jennifer Pierce puts on a skit with friends. Pierce and junior Jocelyn Wagman attended Spanish Camp together this summer.

Summer offers opportunity to explore academic interests

rebekahslodounik

Most people think of summer as a time to relax, a time to take a break from school and homework.

While some students were vacationing and enjoying their time off, others are hitting the books. Students chose to focus more on subjects that they were interested in or curious to learn more about.

Junior Jessie Kissinger attended Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. Interlochen offers classes taught by university and college instructors, professional performing organizations and guest artists. Each applicant must choose which major to study - either creative writing, dance, music, theatre arts or visual arts.

"I chose to work more on dance because I really wanted the chance to focus on it, and it helped a lot," Kissinger said.

Kissinger had four classes a day and rehearsed for an hour at night.

There were two sessions, a four-week or an eight-week camp. Campers stayed in cabins and befriended people from all around the country and the world.

"I liked being surrounded by people who

were very focused on their art, with the same interests as me," Kissinger said.

Perhaps one of the best things Kissinger gained from her experience at Interlochen was confidence in the future.

"I realized that I am ready to go to college," Kissinger said. "I feel comfortable by myself."

Like Kissinger, junior Erin Blumer also participated in a fine arts camp. Blumer attended the Missouri Fine Arts Academy at Southwest Missouri State University. She attended 3-D and 2-D design classes for three weeks.

"I learned everything from oil painting to fabric design to building lamps," Blumer said. "It helped me to think twice about the medium I use."

Blumer's experience helped her to find a new outlet in her art.

"I especially liked learning to draw in pen," Blumer said. "When I go to Starbucks I draw the people around me. They're my unsuspecting victims."

Senior Evan Sadler took a five-week course on Fourier Analysis, a branch of mathematics.

Sadler's decision to take the math course was simple.

"I have a passion for math. I like to keep things related to that all year round," Sadler said.

Sadler attended class for 1-1/2 hours, four days a week, with one other student. Professor Marcus Feldman, from Washington University, offered the class at Block Yeshiva High School.

"The course solidified a lot of things I had done and helped me to apply things I had already learned," Sadler said. "It was a big step in the level of material and helped me to advance in the study of mathematics."

Other students chose to take courses at local colleges and universities. Senior Claire Saffitz enrolled in a fashion design course, specifically designed for high school and college students, at the Art School of Washington University. The course introduced key components of a fashion designer's career.

Saffitz feels she learned a lot from the class.

"Before taking fashion design, I couldn't picture myself as pursuing a career as a fashion designer, but now I think I can," senior Claire Saffitz said. "It gave me the confidence to choose a major in college."

Saffitz also took an American Government course over the summer through Clayton High School. The class met from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. for three weeks.

Though the class was intense because it was condensed, Saffitz is glad she took it during the summer.

"I got the requirement out of the way without the pressure of five AP courses," Saffitz said. "It allowed me to focus more energy on learning the material."

Director of the Library Media Center and Director of Summer School Marci Pieper also agrees there are benefits to enrolling in summer school.

"For most students, summer school offers a chance to make up some credits they need, but others use summer school to get ahead which means students can take classes that they would not normally take," Pieper said. "It's a good thing because Clayton's course offerings are so varied."

Last year 299 high school students participated in Clayton's summer school program, with approximately 500 students total.

Next year, Clayton plans to expand the curriculum to include math, science and special interest classes.

Jobs teach value of hard work

rebeccawall

Many CHS students worked at various jobs over the summer. The jobs ranged from the most typical to the obscure.

Sophomore Molly DuBro worked for her mother catering parties. "I got paid \$7.50 a hour," she said. "I think that is good for people my age."

Sophomore Margaret Meyer earned \$10 an hour grooming horses on a farm near Union, Missouri.

"The work was pretty hard," Meyer said. "There was one horse that kept trying to kick people and it scared me. I like horses though. Still, I wouldn't have ever taken that job if I hadn't gotten paid \$10."

"It was fun to go to parties and see the different houses and decorations," DuBro said. "I helped unload the trucks and helped cut and clean. Sometimes I would rearrange tables and bus dishes."

Other CHS students were employed by Washington University. Junior Emily Morian-Lozano worked in the engineering department doing office work. She made \$5.50 an hour, which didn't seem low to her.

"Basically, I got paid to go out to lunch and walk around campus," Morian-Lozano said.

Some students opted to volunteer over the summer instead of getting paid for their labor.

"Because I was too young to return to camp as a paid counselor I was a CIT," sophomore Rachel Dickens said. "It was very rewarding because the kids were nice and I made friends."

Sophomore Babe Liberman agreed.

"I was a counselor at the New City School camp and had 4 and 5 year-olds," Liberman said. "I didn't get paid, and sometimes the kids were really obnoxious. Overall though, it was

pretty fun and I plan on working there again next summer."

According to sophomore Andrew Davidson he practically volunteered.

"I got paid less than \$5 dollars an hour to walk around Clayton and put green bags on trees," Davidson said. The green bags kept the trees, which were saplings, from drying out in the St. Louis summer heat. Despite the low pay Davidson didn't dislike his job.

"It only lasted about a week," Davidson said. "Because it was so short I didn't have time to get really sick of it."

Having a summer job helped CHS students fill up their summers and make some money at the same time.

"At first I didn't really have that much money," Meyer said. "After a while, though, the dollars really started to add up. Basically, I had enough extra money to buy whatever I wanted, within reason. The job taught me to value the money I had worked hard to earn."

All people interviewed agreed that their summer jobs were a positive experience.

"If I have the chance to work again next summer," Meyer said, "I will definitely take it."

"After a while, the dollars really started to add up. Basically I had enough money to buy whatever I wanted, within reason."

- sophomore margaret meyer



courtesy of marci pieper

Juniors (front row) Caroline Renfro and Sarah Powers and seniors (back row) Julie Bernstein and Marcus Deem participate in American Government this summer. American Government is a popular class offered as part of the CHS summer school program.

Seeing beyond the 'C'

unusual experiences offer a unique perspective on Clayton lifestyle

Brightening their day with colors

sarahshumway

Throughout my 13 years of schooling, the idea of the United States being a world superpower and the most affluent country in the world has constantly been discussed and shoved down my throat. Okay, I always thought, I understand. I get the point. But I didn't. In fact, it wasn't until I lived without a shower, heating, toilets, or running water in an isolated Peruvian village, that it really clicked. To say the least, staying up in the Andes 12,000 feet above Cuzco really made me understand why I should be grateful for the lifestyle I've always taken for granted.

I'll start with nail polish. Whenever I used to think of nail polish, I simply thought of a cheap beauty product that made my nails more attractive. Not anymore.

One day our group had finished building a greenhouse earlier than expected, so our humanitarian leader told me to interact with the village children. I knew these kids would appreciate anything that was given them. They wore shoes made out of worn tires, played soccer with a battered ball in the dirt, and ate roasted guinea pig on a spit. They curiously stared at our group wearing dust masks and 4-5 layers of clothing for protection against the Andean dust and cold.

I decided that any element of American culture would fascinate them. I saw some girls and remembered a couple bottles of nail polish I had in my suitcase. As soon as the bottles flashed into view, their eyes lit up. Boys, teenagers, and the village elders also came hurrying over to see this novelty they had never even imagined before. I sat down at a table and a throng of hands snapped out, eagerly hoping that their fingers would be painted first. Never anticipating this reaction, I tried to say that I could only paint one hand each. I quickly set down to work, but it seemed to me as if I would never be finished.

Then I saw why. Some children would have one hand out and immediately when their fingers were done, they would stick the other hand out and pretend they hadn't had their turn yet. I finally saw a boy mistakenly show his other hand that had already been painted, and he cracked a mischievous smile. Other kids would have their hand done, but because they were so fascinated with this new form of entertainment, they would immediately scratch off the polish and run back to the table again, eager to re-live the excitement.

I ended up doing about 4-5 layers of nail polish on about 40 kids in an hour and a half. A village elder even gestured to me that he wanted each nail done a different color. He was totally enraptured by a colorful liquid that dried in simply a minute or less. After that extended nail

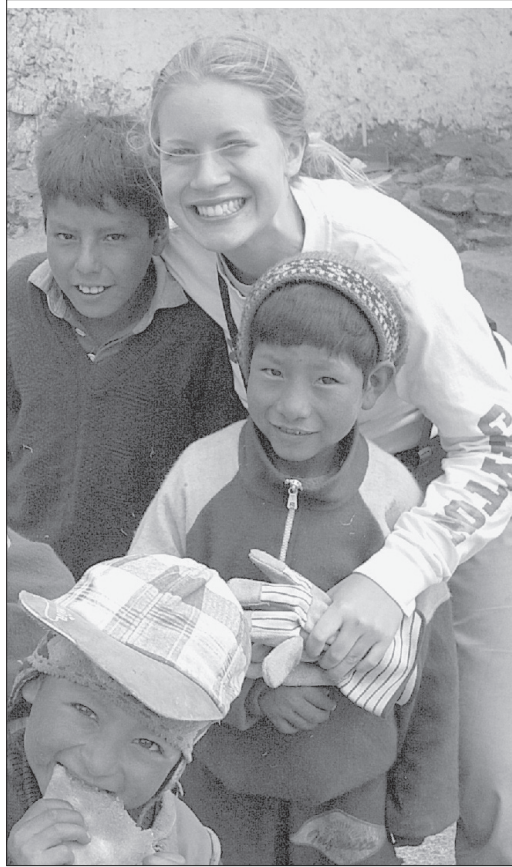


photo courtesy sarah shumway

Above: Sarah poses with Peruvian children

painting session, I wondered about how such simple things made these people so happy.

The experience showed me how much people appreciate and take joy in the little things when they have little else besides the basic necessities. I knew the children could easily entertain themselves for days with nail polish, when I could barely stand it for an hour and a half. But when I showed them more and more varieties of polish on their fingers.

Suddenly, they had to get the purple shade, or the silver color. The polish on their nails wasn't enough to satisfy them. It really threw me back, it totally illustrated what people turn into when they find out they can have more. The kids who had been initially satisfied painting their nails with one color, suddenly felt like they needed to push others out of their way and squeeze into the front to have nails of each color. I was first somewhat irritated by the kids' behavior. But after thinking about their conduct, I realized that my own culture was no different. We Americans have more than enough everything to satisfy our basic needs. But instead of being content and satisfied, all the other nail polish varieties appear into view. Suddenly we need something

bigger, faster, cheaper, anything that is better than what we had initially. But in reality, we all would have been just as well off if we just accepted having nails of all one color.

I also remember seeing other sides of Peru that made me intensely grateful for what I did have. Walking around Cuzco and Lima, it saddened me to see children suddenly jump in front of me and beg me to buy their bracelets, water bottles, post cards, anything that could earn them a few sols. A simple "No" was never enough. We would walk into a restaurant and the vendors would wait outside for us, until they could bombard us with their wares again. It always made me wince to see their poverty-stricken faces sink when I didn't buy their item, or when boys eagerly asked me if they could shine my battered flip-flops. I felt so ashamed and guilty for my lavish lifestyle.

Worrying about college and scholarships now seemed so trivial when seeing children tugging my arm, begging me to buy some gum for food to eat. I decided that even though I might not have everything that everyone else seems to have, I was going to be happy with what I do have. Maybe I don't own the most expensive car in the Clayton parking lot, but I am really glad I have a running vehicle that works. Not all my classes particularly interest me, but I'd rather be there than poking and begging tourists to buy postcards.

Peru was an incredible, eye-opening experience, but after 12 days of viewing intense poverty, and living in an environment so foreign to me, the United States never looked so appealing. My feeling of elation and joy were indescribable when our flight from Lima finally arrived in Atlanta. I wasn't in St. Louis yet, but still, the happiness to be back in my mother country overwhelmed me with gratitude.

No more being helplessly surrounded by desperate market vendors. No more wearing flea collars at night in disgusting, flea-infested hotel beds. But as I drenched and soaked myself in the pure joy of returning to my homeland, the thought of all the lessons I also would have to carry with me filled my thoughts. I could never take my lifestyle for granted again. Enjoying the simple things of life, whether it was painting my nails, or relishing the summer sunset was a must. And now, I appreciated a flushing toilet, clean silverware, and drinking water in their entirety. I am going to be satisfied with one nail polish color, instead of trying to search for all the different varieties I could choose from. And now when people mention that our country is indeed the richest, powerful, and free nation the world had ever seen, I will really understand what they are talking about.

Discovering Peace

ivannayang

Not being a native Claytonite, to me, the words "Clayton bubble" have always been more hearsay than an experienced phenomenon. However, I realized how deeply ingrained I was in the metropolitan lifestyle while on a road trip this past summer.

Our destination was the Oregon coast, but one cannot drive through the West without being lured off the road to deeply forested national parks, or stopping by towns proclaiming World's Best Chili, Endpoint of the Lewis and Clark Trail, or Home of the Onion/Tomato/Peach Festival. The reminders of each unplanned stop accumulated in our suitcases. Each souvenir was carefully picked out at gift shops, and each inevitably drifted underneath clothing and toiletries, a foreshadow of their soon-to-be forgotten existence when their novelty wore off.

More memorable is the drive through Big Sky Country in Montana and Wyoming. City-dwellers who carefully plan every centimeter of space for efficiency forget that there are still largely uninhabited places in the United States where going to the grocery store is a bi-monthly event. There, ranches are set amid a backdrop of orange and yellow crested badland, and cattle graze on sagebrush covered slopes by the interstate.

As I looked out from the car window, I could not help but wonder how those who chose to live miles from a town or city coped with the sense of isolation that must drift over them from time to time. Surely, late at night when the blackness is thick enough to cut through, these ranchers must wish for a streetlight, the reassurance of a lamp in a neighbor's window, or the barking of a dog. Or, perhaps it was only I who felt out of place. Maybe the ranchers saw isolation not as an estrangement from social structure, but the need to be with oneself, a desire molded into their genes.

The drive from western Wyoming to Washington State was marked by winding roads. Often, the highway treaded higher and higher up a particularly steep hill, my hearing altering with the increasing altitude. Small ledges jutting out from the mountain served as roadways on these climbs, and a wayward turn could spell disaster for an unheeding car. The splendor of backwoods America was on full display as the curving roads wound alongside forests and rivers. We passed Indian Reservations filled with trailers as well as monumental houses standing alone atop a cliff or barely hidden behind trees. The difference reminds me that even hundreds of miles from home, where agriculture is king, there is still the discrepancy between the haves and the have-nots.

Closer to the coast, we exchanged shorts and t-shirts for jeans and windbreakers, and passed through the inland sunshine towards an overcast ocean. This coast was a wilder, more archaic place, nothing like the sunny white beaches of Southern California or Mexico. The waves crashed violently onto stone obelisks, and only an intrepid swimmer would dare dive in for a swim. Behind the Silver Surf Hotel was a grassy yard leading up to the ocean. The afternoon of our arrival, I made my way to a wooden bench overlooking the sea, lured by its mesmerizing rhythms. The waves were insatiable retrievers, rolling back to the beach in continuous cycles. Despite the biting wind, I didn't want to go inside; these moments of absolute calm are so hard to grasp in the bustle of everyday life.

Rising early one morning, I rushed down to the beach to comb the sand for treasures. I found only broken shells and colorful rock, offerings of the early tide. That night, I ventured to the beach again to take a last look at the ocean before my departure the next morning. A fog mired the ocean as I descended the boardwalk to the beach, and I seemed to enter a dream. In the dark, the water was black, tinged with slivers of silver. High tide meant the waves lapped at my feet, and freedom was the wide expanse before me, rhythmic in its motion. This was the image I would remember amid the frantic pace of the school year, the vision I would reach for late at night while wading through papers and projects. Like Dorothy, I was far away from the familiar sights of home, but I didn't want to tap my slippers together just yet.

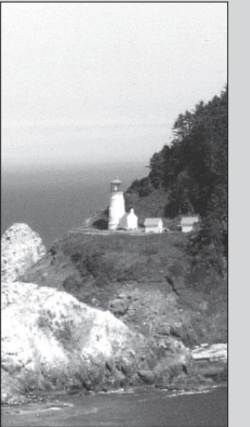


photo courtesy ivanna yang
Above: a lighthouse on the Oregon coast

Learning lessons from the Outback

carolinebleeke

Ayers Rock is the landmark of the Australian Outback. Rising 346 meters above the flat desert shrubs, the natural monument is impossible to miss. Bright orange like the rest of the Outback, one would have to be blind not to see it. Ayers Rock is a tourist magnet, drawing people all the way from St. Louis, Missouri, the other side of the world.

If an alien were to descend into Australia from high above, I am sure he would laugh at us silly humans, spending 15 hours on a cramped airplane to come see a rock. Granted, it is unusually large and uniquely colored, but such characteristics do not stop it from being a rock.

On the morning we visited Ayers Rock, we were in definite agreement with the alien. The temperature was a chilly 37 degrees and as we blew on our hands and stomped our feet into the orange dust, the big rock in the distance was the last thing on our minds.

At the beginning of our 9.2 kilometer hike around the circumference, designed so we could admire the tall orange walls from every possible angle, we practiced our speed walking, experimenting against the laws of nature to see if we could outrun the frosty temperature.

When the sun came out and forced us to peel off our layers of sweatshirts and windbreakers, we chatted idly, pausing for photographs along the trail.

Whenever we saw knots of hikers stop and stare at a rock forma-

tion, or a strange coloration in the rock, we would stop and crane our necks upwards, pretending to hold deep and meaningful conversations about the significance of a pile of boulders or a cluster of long black scars on the rock walls.

As the morning stretched on, we began to march mechanically, crumpling our empty water bottles, wishing for water. We began to converse about food, what American treats we missed the most. Soon that got too painful, so we just hiked.

Any significant changes in scenery aroused our attention. We were enthralled by the smallest tree amid the rocks and the tiniest trace of gray amid the orange. We would strain our eyes for signs, using them as landmarks. If we made it to the next sign, we could stop and rest. If we made it to the next, maybe the end would be in sight.

Then new signs began to appear. Please do not take photographs: this is a ceremonial site, the signs read. Thank you! We giggled and snapped pictures of the signs, souvenirs of our Outback experience.



Above: Ayers Rock, known as Uluru to the aborigine people

photo courtesy caroline bleeke

We wondered what would happen if we took the exotic signs away. Fueled by new conversation material, we talked ourselves around the trail.

As we finally collapsed onto our bus, anxious to get back to Ayers Rock Resort and juicy Aussie burgers, we were informed that we had one last stop before lunch. Our bus pulled up to a low flat building and we piled tiredly off.

In a small orange clearing a man and a woman were waiting for us. The man was pitch black and the woman was pale with dark hair pulled tightly back. The man's face was squished and squinty from staring too long at the hot sun and his hair was thick and coarse. His name was Wally and he was an aborigine, a native. The woman next to him was his interpreter. Wally gestured for us to sit on the ground, and we did so tentatively, afraid of staining our jeans with the dust. In the distance we could see the top of

Ayers Rock. We looked away.

Wally spoke quickly and excitedly in a language foreign and harsh. The woman's voice was slow and low, her tone stern beneath the Australian accent. Through the interpreter, Wally talked to us about the customs of his people.

With pride in his voice he told us about how the boys learned to hunt before they were 13, about the shells girls carried on their heads to hold water.

Wally told us stories about the Outback, tales of his native land passed down from his ancestors. He talked of Blue Tongue Lizard Man, using his adventures to teach us the aboriginal moral code.

As we sat in the blistering sun, Wally's voice transported us to a mystical place of the past, a land of spears and spirits.

Then Wally began to tell us about Uluru. Uluru is sacred to my people, Wally said. But tourists do not understand. They walk all over

it and litter and take what they shouldn't. They do not respect our ceremonies and beliefs. They do not understand.

We sighed sadly and shook our heads, sympathizing with Wally. Stupid uncaring tourists, we muttered, standing high on our moral pedestals.

They call Uluru Ayers Rock, Wally said.

His words pushed us off our pedestals, back into the hypocritical world where we belonged. Red with embarrassment, we saw the shallowness of our actions.

When you are American, it is easy to overlook unfamiliar cultures and traditions. It is easy to see the tourist value in a sign and not its crucial message.

What did you learn outside of Clayton?

“

Life in Clayton is nothing like life elsewhere. Spending an extended period of time outside the 'Clayton Bubble' makes me more aware of different cultures of other places.

- junior nisrine omri



“

The concept of time was much different in Tanzania and the typical student was much different than at Clayton. Overall the students were the most respectful kids I will probably ever teach. You notice more about where you live, and you remember how lucky you are.

- anne elling, on her teaching experience in Tanzania



”

New and Returning Faces to the CHS Staff

Fatema Alibhai
Math



Elizabeth Caspari
French



Michele Ferber
English



Greg Kramer
Industrial Technology



Melissa Lewis
Physical Education



Cornelia Petermann
German



Sarah Reiter
Science



Brian Schroeder
Campus Supervisor



Lesley Summers
Spanish



Doug Verby
Science



Julie Geissler
SSD



Gloria Lubber
SSD



Ron Steinschriber
SSD



Chris Umthum
SSD



Making the Switch

Former WMS teachers ease into challenges of CHS

kellylane
melaniegoldstein

Along with the 185 freshmen that made the switch from Wydown this year, two teachers are also making their CHS debuts. English teacher Jennifer Sellenriek and math teacher Heidi Shepard are both beginning their first years as high school teachers in Clayton.

The first day of high school can be terrifying for anyone, but not for Sellenriek, who has already mastered the switch twice in her life.

She survived her own high school experience, where there were many rules and very few intellectual conversations between the adults and students.

As Sellenriek makes her second switch, from middle school teacher to a position in the high school English department, she exudes a philosophy exactly the opposite from that of her high school teachers.

Sellenriek taught at Wydown Middle School for nine years and loved teaching there, especially the World Religion unit and eighth grade's 90-minute blocks.

While middle school was a good fit for her, she wanted a change and to experience something different.

"There are some pretty exciting things going on at CHS," Sellenriek said. "Like the class sophomore year that is taught in conjunction with the history class. I think that is really neat."

She was drawn back to CHS and is absolutely thrilled about the new environment. On the other hand, no switch comes easily.

"Like anything new, a certain amount of the work is just about change," Sellenriek said. "I feel really busy right now. I feel like I am teaching in a hurricane getting everything in. It's a busy job, but it feels really rewarding."

The position is rewarding in many ways. For one, Sellenriek is teaching students she has had in the past.

"It's fun to start with a rapport, to know what we each have in common, what we don't have in common," Sellenriek said. "My juniors who had me in seventh and eighth grade are probably like 'Oh no, it's Ms. Sellenriek.'"

Not only is Sellenriek a blast from the past for the upperclassmen: many freshmen have had her as a teacher two years in a row.

"I like having her as a teacher," freshman Daniella Depke said. "It's one less teacher I have to be perfect for. She knows how I learn so I don't have to go through all the steps for her to get to know me."

As the familiar face from around town, or Wydown as it is, Sellenriek bypasses most of the awkward early stages in the year and can dive right into the curriculum.

As a conferenced English teacher, Sellenriek teaches three classes a day: two freshman sessions and one junior American English class. The rest of her schedule is free for one of the things she loves best: student writing conferences.

"Having the conferences I have had about kid's writings even in the first round of conferences are more sophisticated than the conferences I was having last year with eighth graders," Sellenriek said. "Sitting down and talking to individual writers about their writing is an extra perk of working at CHS."

Sellenriek's style hasn't changed much, but with the elevation of grade level she has raised her expectations.

"It's funny because eighth graders think, 'I'm going to get to the high school and there aren't going to be any rules, and it's going to be a wild

party the whole time,'" Sellenriek said. "I think at the high school it's about expectations. We expect you to act in a reasonable way, and if you don't, here are the consequences. Whereas at the middle school we expect you to act in the same way, but we give you more guidelines to get there."

After 11 years of teaching, Sellenriek still has the fire and love for her job that she has had from the beginning. Each school year, and with each progressive grade, she challenges her students to analyze literature in a more sophisticated way.

"Ms Sellenriek is a great high school teacher because she has a high level of thinking," freshman Melanie Pauly said. "I think at the high school maturity level the ideas are easier to grasp."

Though the school year is just beginning, Sellenriek is already learning important lessons, along with the freshman class she is traveling with.

"A lot of what I am learning is what students have to go through between the transition, and I think me being in this position is valuable for Wydown and Clayton," Sellenriek said.

As she is learning lessons through this change, Sellenriek has one lesson she wants to leave all her students with, whether or not they remember the semi-colon.

"I want my students to know that they can use the power of language to make a difference," Sellenriek said. "What they write can change people's minds."

Shepard teaches a different subject than Sellenriek, but she faces the same challenges. Shepard also just began her first year at CHS, where she teaches Integrated Math I and II.

Shepard has been teaching for 19 years, and, before coming to Wydown, taught at Blue Springs High in Kansas City and Lafayette High in Rockwood.

"I'm enjoying it. I taught high school a long time ago so I'm just going back to where I started," Shepard said.

Shepard adds that in high school students feel the extra level of stress of doing well because of SATs and college prep. High school students are much more independent emotionally than her middle school pupils were.

"That's why I like freshmen and sophomores; they still partially rely on us," Shepard said. "In middle school, you look to adults for comfort and safety. In high school, your peer group becomes your safety. Here we work more on academic things whereas at Wydown I was doing much more counseling."

Shepard added that her teaching style hasn't changed at all in the transition to high school because it is mostly personality driven. However, she does expect more in terms of homework completion than at Wydown. She said that her students at the high school have a different reaction to her teaching.

"The high school kids get my jokes and sarcasm," Shepard said.

She added that the new curriculum has affected her home life in that she must do more prepping. At Wydown, Shepard taught the eighth grade math curriculum for several years so she knew it almost by heart. Because she taught the same curriculum for so long, Shepard thinks she needed to make the switch.

"I needed to make a change to give my students the best of me. I needed that newness," Shepard said.

Teaching students she had before has some benefits.

"It's much easier not to have to learn 20 new names when I already know several students,"

"A lot of what I am learning is what students have to go through during the transition, and I think me being in this position is valuable for Wydown and Clayton."

- english teacher jennifer sellenriek

"Seeing a kid's enthusiasm keeps me going. It's kind of fun to follow my kids and see them grow."

- math teacher heidi shepard



Former WMS English teacher, Jennifer Sellenriek, helps a student. This school year marks Sellenriek's first at CHS. Sellenriek teaches two freshmen English classes, as well as a junior American Literature class.

Heidi Shepard, formerly a math teacher at WMS, explains a problem. Shepard teaches Integrated Math I and II. Although Shepard has taught high school students before, this is her first year at CHS.



albbie minton

Shepard said.

Despite her immediate success and happiness at CHS, there are some aspects of middle school teaching Shepard misses.

"I miss the team. Sometimes math wasn't their strength and I would know about their other subjects so I could praise them about something else," Shepard said.

However, Shepard seems to be getting along wonderfully at CHS. Fellow math teacher Mike Rust said Shepard has been a valuable addition to the department.

"Her knowledge and insight of the middle school student and math curriculum has helped freshmen make a smoother transition from the middle school to the high school," Rust said.

"Additionally, she has helped the members of the department better understand the transition from the 8th to 9th grade."

Shepard's goal for the year is survival.

Making it to the end of the year with finals and homecoming and everything else," Shepard said. "My one goal for every student is for them to feel more confident in their knowledge of math and their capabilities. To acknowledge that they can do it and feel better off than they did in the beginning. Anything you're feeling we feel too. I like teaching. My good days so outnumber my bad days. When you see a kid's enthusiasm; that keeps me going. It's kind of fun to follow my kids and see them grow."

Despite anxieties of change, freshmen begin to relax

katherineweiss

The first day of high school. It is a day most Clayton freshmen have been dreaming about since they watched their first episode of "Boy Meets World."

The start of high school sparks a lot of anxiety and excitement. But after two weeks most freshmen found themselves feeling right at home, as if they've been going here all their lives.

Even so, the differences between middle school and high school are obvious. The major difference between the two schools that most freshmen kept coming back to was the freedom. Clayton freshmen found that they weren't as closely monitored in high school as they were in middle school.

"I enjoy being able to have gum in class," freshman Maggie Renshaw said.

In middle school, if gum was found, teachers awarded students with lunch detentions.

Freshmen also like the open campus.

"I think it makes everyone feel more independent," freshman Emily Anderson said.

Most freshmen eat lunch at nearby places like Bread Co., Straubs and Subway.

Besides all the extra privileges and freedoms, most freshmen still look back on their middle school years with fondness. In fact some people even miss things from Wydown.



Rachel Kodner

Freshmen study outside in the quad. Although many 9th graders feared the high school homework load, most feel that middle school prepared them well.

"I miss a lot of the teachers," freshman Laura Bliss said. But what most freshmen say they miss most is being the "top dogs."

In fact, younger students expected to be a prime target for bullying. That hasn't happened, according to several freshmen, but some can see why seniors might want to partake in bullying.

"I think that bullying is stupid and pointless but I can also see how it could be stupid and fun for the seniors," freshman Jacob Blumenfeld said.

If bullying turned out to be a false fear, the extra workload that comes with high school proved to be false as well.

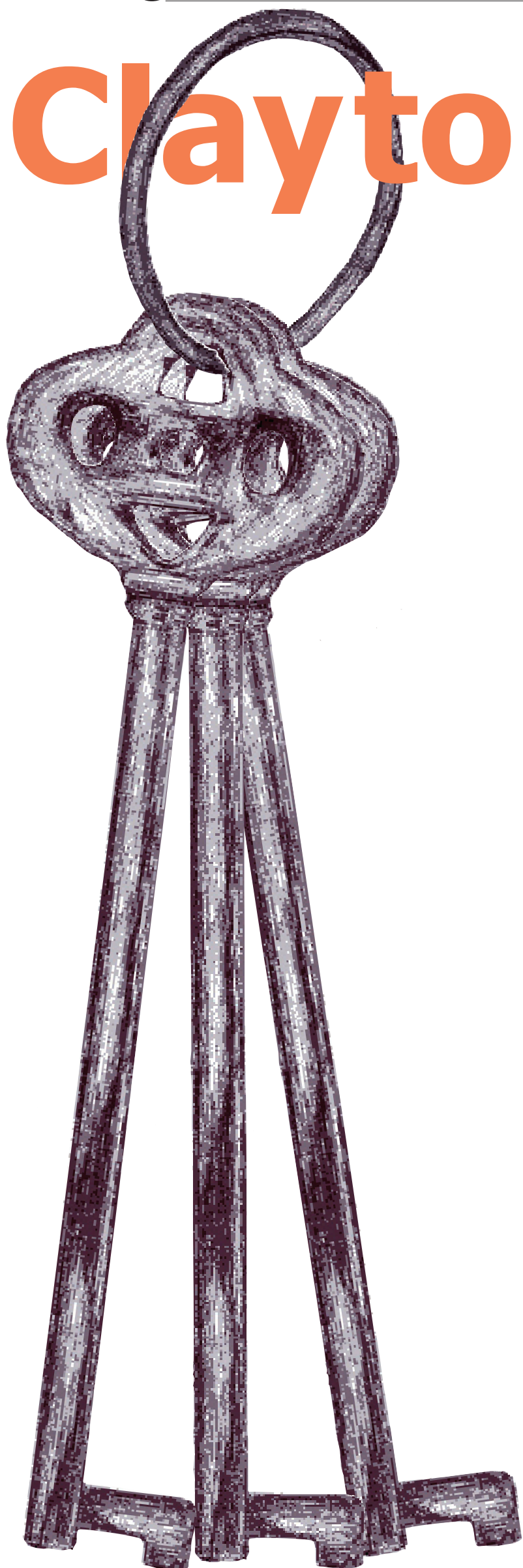
"It's not that hard. It's not that different from the work in middle school," freshman Laura Shoemaker said.

Although there is a significant increase in work, most of the teachers have done a good job easing the students into all the work.

"For some students it is a big leap, but most students seem confident and well equipped," freshman teacher Debra Weins said.

So as the school days go on, most freshmen begin to worry less and enjoy the experience more.

Clayton's key issues



As the 2004-2005 year opens, the School Board, administration and community face issues that will drastically alter the district for years to come.

micahfredman

Last year many issues emerged that came to dominate the discussions of the Clayton community. Government funding for the Voluntary Student Transfer (VST) program was abruptly cut by drastic amounts, the Clayton School Board met mid-year to revise too low budget assumptions and the year came to a close with students at Clayton High School walking out of classes to support the continuation of diversity in the Clayton school district.

Nearly all of the issues that emerged last year were never resolved. This year, the school board, administrators, teachers and the community are determined to decide the fate of these key issues once and for all.

"In terms of the big issues, there are probably three," Principal Dave

Skillman said. "The VST program I think is the most important and how that will impact us all. I think second to that are budget developments and decisions for 2005 and 2006 and third is basically the athletic complex which is the artificial field and lights at Gay Field."

Skillman believes there is a fourth issue connected with the VST program.

My position is that the Voluntary Transfer Program is one of those great situations where the financial well being of the district and the desire of the district to have diversity are in harmony.

- Board Member Steve Singer

"Tied into that VST thing - that first issue - is that combined with the African American achievement gap," Skillman said. "So there are sort of two things with- in that topic. You could make that a fourth issue if you wanted."

Other administrators feel that there are additional important issues facing the district. History teacher and Leadership Council

Chair Josh Meyers added the new technology system as a major issue.

"To me the VST program and the budget are the two key ones, and if there is a third, it would be the new data management system that we have," Meyers said. "Students are going to be very interested when they find out what this stuff can do."

School board member Steve Singer noted that this year's issues are really a continuation of issues from years past.

"In many ways they are the same issues that faced us last year," Singer said. "Many of them never got resolved."

The first issue the school board faced was the new field and lights at Gay Field which were approved by a vote of 5-2 on Sept. 22.

"It is controversial because people like high schools but they don't necessarily like them in their backyards," Clayton Superintendent Don Senti said.

Skillman believes the new athletic complex is a good addition for the high school and Clayton community.

"Having an opportunity for healthy activity for teenagers on a Friday evening is definitely something I'm for," Skillman said.

Board Member Lily Katz voted against the athletic complex at Gay Field.

"There were three reasons I voted against the Gay Field project," Katz said. "First, I am against night practices for both the players and the coaches; second, I think that if the private organization that is planning to fund the project does not come up with enough money, there will be pressure on the board to partially fund the project; and thirdly, I have a small concern that it will negatively impact the neighbors of Gay Field."

The new technology system is another issue that has already been decided upon.

"The major reason for that shift would be that the data management system we had before wasn't really good, to be honest," Meyers said. "It wasn't very user-friendly, and it wasn't nearly as powerful as the one we have now which is called Power Schools."

Power Schools is an Apple product being used across the country.

"The key component that parents and students want to know about is the parent and student access," Meyers said. "That's the major difference. When grades, missing work, tardies and absences are entered into a computer grade book, they are automatically sent to a server. From that server, administrators can access them, other teachers can access them, the learning center can access them and the Special School District can access them. It does a great deal to inform various populations of the progress of the student. Additionally, there are other things that it can do with data that our old system simply couldn't do."

Meyers foresees a mixed reaction to the new program among students.

"I know that some students are going to think this is Big Brother, and I know other students are going to think it's real cool because it allows them to be able to see how they're doing or the work they're missing on a day-to-day basis," Meyers said.

The technology piece will be made apparent before winter break because starting second semester, parents will have the option to have unlimited access to their children's grades, attendance and so on.

"Parents will be informed of that probably in Nov. via principal's newsletter or other forms of communication," Meyers said. "They will have the opportunity to come and sign up, and then once that happens, starting the first day of second semester, that's a go."

Aside from the new technology system and the new athletic complex, the issues are more intertwined and a bit more controversial.

"The board really made a one year commitment to the voluntary transfer program," Skillman said. "We committed to take kids for this year, so we'll have to decide what we're going to do beyond that."

According to Senti, VST and budget decisions will dominate the discussion at the fall school board meetings.

"Last year, the board decided to delay making a vote on whether to accept new VST students in the future until we did a thorough study of our finances," Senti said. "So at virtually every school board meeting this fall, we're going to talk about the budget."

Singer described the process of determining the district budget.

"In the fall, the board sets budget assumptions and then based on those assumptions the district builds a budget from the ground up," Singer said. "Each of the principals has a component that they build, each of the curriculum departments have a component that they build and so on. That all gets coordinated by Paul Fedchak, our chief financial officer, and he then comes up with the budget and makes a presentation."

Last year, the budget assumptions were off, so the district had to revise the budget mid-year.

"They went back to the principals, teachers and coordinators through the leadership council, and each school was given sort of a dollar target," Singer said. "High School you have to cut this amount, Meramec this amount, and they came up with ideas of what they wanted to cut to minimize the impact on students. Those ideas were presented to the board, and we gave them some feedback and had some suggestions. So it was really a combined effort of the board and the teachers and administrators."

The board hopes to have decided on these issues by Dec. 2004, but the decisions will not be easy.

"We will be talking about class sizes, about staffing levels, about full-day kindergarten - which is free in Clayton and it's not free basically anywhere else - about your English teachers only teaching three periods and about all those things that have been part of Clayton for years that are relatively expensive," Senti said. "We're just going to go down the list and talk about them to see whether the school board wants to keep those items and at least determine how much they cost."

Although the goal for all board members and administrators is to have as little impact on students as possible, if students and community members look around they can see the effects of the budget cuts.

"There have been reductions in campus supervisors and reductions in learning center staff," Skillman said. "There's been a little tighter look at staffing in general and department budgets have been tightened too. It has impacted everybody. Not drastically, but if you look around a little bit, you'll see its effects."

Singer believes that the continuation of the VST program, in addition to its benefits in terms of diversity, falls in line with the financial interests of the district.

"My position is that the Voluntary Transfer Program is one of those great situations where the financial well being of the district and the desire of the district to have diversity are in harmony - and that's been my position for a while," Singer said. "Even at the lower funding level, I believe it's in the district's best interest to keep the program going for as long as we can keep it going and to keep accepting kids into the program. In

Voluntary Student Transfer



The school board has decided to postpone the vote on accepting VST students for 2005-2006 to Dec. 2005 in order to have time to take an in depth look at the district's financial situation.



When or if the VST program terminates, the VST students that are in the district will be allowed to continue in the district until graduation.



The school board's settlement agreement called for an end to accepting new VST students in 2008-2009. The agreement can be changed but without funding at the federal or state level, a change is unlikely.

Budget



Determining what to cut in order to meet the budget is a combined effort between the school board, teachers, department heads and administrators. The common goal is to have a minimal impact on the quality of education.



The 2004-2005 school year is the first year ever that the district's total revenue is lower than the revenues of the previous year.



Near the beginning of every school year, the district makes budget assumptions. Last year, the budget assumptions were off and each school in the Clayton district was forced to make cuts mid-year.

Technology



The district has adopted a new technology system called Power Schools. Power Schools is an Apple program being used in schools across the country.



The system allows parents, students, counselors, teachers and administrators to see grades, missing work, absences, tardies and more on a daily basis.



Parents will be get more information about the program and have the opportunity to sign up before the end of first semester. The program will be up and running with the start of second semester.

Gay Field



The new athletic complex consists of lights and a turf field at Gay Field.



On Sept. 22, the school board approved the new athletic complex by a vote of 5-2.



"Having an opportunity for healthy activity for teenagers on a Friday evening is definitely something I'm for."
-Principal Dave Skillman



"I think if the private organization that is planning to fund the project does not come up with enough money, there may be pressure on the board to partially fund the project."
-School board member Lily Katz.

addition to the financial well-being of the district, I believe it's valuable to increase the diversity of our students. I think that's got a lot of positive components."

Senti believes the VST program is a valuable component of the district as well.

"I think the desegregation program is wonderful, and I wish it would continue into the foreseeable future," Senti said. "But the settlement agreement called for it to end in terms of taking no new students in 2009-2010. Unless somebody can come up with some significant funding, in probably the federal government or the state government, I doubt that it will continue beyond that time."

Whatever happens with the VST program and the financial issues of the district, Senti believes that this school board deserves a round of applause.

"I think that this board is getting a little less credit than they deserve," Senti said. "When I first came here, the school board wanted me to be a leader in the whole region as to keeping the whole program going and making it work. I worked with Dr. Danforth to keep the program going even after the federal judges said that we were out of it. I don't

know that this board has the same level of enthusiasm, but on the other hand, this board did agree to keep all the students that we've got at half the funding. So that's something."

Senti also believes that it is extremely important for the students of the Clayton school district to take an active role in such a pivotal year.

"The students certainly weren't shy last spring when it came to the Voluntary Transfer Program and also to the lights for that matter," Senti said.

"So I think students should continue to come to board meetings, voice your opinions, stay informed and talk to your parents about what you think about these issues and what you would like them to do when it comes to school board affairs," Senti said.



Caleb Haydon -
Male Athlete of the
Month
-Page 10

passingshots



joshgoldstein

Green justified despite playoff implications

To play or to pray, that was the question that faced Los Angeles Dodgers' first baseman Shawn Green this past weekend. Green, one of ten Jewish players in the majors and the Dodgers' second best slugger, was forced to choose between playing against the arch rival San Francisco Giants on Sept. 24 and 25 or observing the Jewish high holy day of Yom Kippur.

Green agonized over his decision for weeks, but eventually decided to participate in Friday night's game and sit out on Saturday.

"This is something I have been struggling with a lot," Green said. "I talked with family and friends and received advice from a million different people. Ultimately, it came down to what my heart was telling me to do. My reasoning is everyone approaches religious worship in their own way and goes about it differently. I feel like playing one of the two games is the most consistent with my belief as a Jewish person."

Religion is an extremely personal matter in which everyone must decide for themselves their own level or degree of observance. However, some people, including San Diego Padres announcer Jerry Coleman, failed to understand Green's position.

"You've got 24 other guys out there," Coleman said. "I know religion is important, but I think there comes a point where you can say to God, 'Give me a break.'"

Even though Green's Dodgers are in the middle of a heated playoff race with the Giants, Green does not have a responsibility to justify his decision to anyone but himself.

In this situation there are no right or wrong choices, but Green should be commended for following his heart. When religion is involved, the heart is always the best place to search for answers.

First and 10; Hounds open new season

stephengreenberg

Clayton Football has made several radical changes this season. A new head coach was installed for the first time in 27 years and for the first time in 75 years, some of the team's home games will be played under the lights on Friday nights.

Larry Frost decided to leave his post as head football coach this summer in order to take over the reins at Kirkwood High. Associate principal Michael Musick stepped in as the new coach, but he is no stranger to the gridiron.

"Growing up I played little league football," Musick said. "I then played football for Lafayette High School. After Lafayette, I played college ball at Culver Stockton. Right out of college I became a defensive coordinator under Larry Frost and continued in that role for 23 years."

The players have responded well to Musick as a head coach.

"Musick is a great coach," senior lineman Martisse Hill said. "He understands the plays and realizes we have other obligations outside football but still pushes us to our full potential."

Other players have similar opinions of Musick.

"Musick gets along with the students very well," senior center Will Wilson said. "He is a very outgoing and friendly person."

Musick developed an appreciation for Frost's coaching during their 23 seasons together.

"Frost is the only head coach I have worked under," Musick said. "He is a friend and a mentor to me. He taught me how to teach the game and keep it in perspective and to care more about teenagers than winning football games."

Musick does not plan to implement many on-field changes.

"I told players in the first meeting that our X's and O's schemes



rachel kodner

Senior Jarius Byrd runs the ball during the Hounds' season opener against Soldan. CHS won the game 42-0 and is currently 3-1. New head coach Michael Musick has been proud of his team thus far. "We want to create a sense of tradition and pride among our athletes," Musick said. "Clayton has had a long tradition of winning and I want our players to maintain that tradition."

are very similar," Musick said. "Also the overall goal of the football program is to put the football in the hands of the best athletes as often as possible. Lastly, we want to be very strong defensively."

The players agree with Musick's assessment.

"We have pretty much the same defense and offense as last year," Hill said. "We still prepare making one game plan at a time and using the scouting tape. The same work ethic is present in practice as when Frost was here. However, one key difference is that Musick puts more emphasis on the little things such as funda-

mentals."

There are also other differences between Frost and Musick.

"Musick has worked us a lot harder," Wilson said. "There is more conditioning and the results are showing on the field."

Musick will also be implementing more variety on offense.

"We have different personnel, so there will be some changes," Musick said. "We will throw the ball a little more. We averaged less than five passes per game last year. This year we feel we can throw the ball more and better."

Musick also understands the importance of Greyhound pride on the football field.

"We want to create a sense of tradition and pride among our athletes," Musick said. "Clayton has a long tradition of winning and I want our players to maintain that tradition," Musick said. "I also want to use the past for our players to learn from. Frost was more subtle with excellence from the past. He was always more focused

on the present."

Several changes in the field house at Gay Field focus on that tradition.

"The players painted the field house to change the look," Musick said. "Also when the players walked in they could feel that last season was behind them. We also created a hall of fame to in the field house to honor players from previous years and show our players the tradition of Clayton football."

Most of the players appreciate the hall of fame.

"It is a form of motivation giving credit when credit is due," Hill said. "Wall of champions is a great idea, and I will use it as a source of inspiration."

Besides changes in coaching, the field house and offensive philosophy, there are still more changes in store.

"Concordia has allowed us to use their field," Musick said. "We are still waiting for the school board to vote on lights at Gay Field."

The change to night games has

been a welcome one.

"High school football is meant to be played on a Friday night under the lights and is better than Saturday afternoons," Musick said. "The crowds are bigger, louder and there is more electricity in the air."

Team members are also excited about the lights and the new site.

"It is kind of sad we are not playing a lot of games on Saturday afternoon," Hill said. "However, if someone is not familiar to Clayton such as visiting fans, the old CBC field is easier to find because it is a more centralized location. Night games are also very exciting and something to look forward to."

Other players agree with Hill.

"I like the idea of night games but would like a lighted Gay Field more," Wilson said. "I think there will be a lot more people at the night games than the Saturday afternoon games."

The response to the football team's changes has been positive and should help lead the Hounds to victory in the 2004 season.

"Musick is a great coach. He understands the plays and realizes we have other obligations outside football but still pushes us to our full potential."

- Senior Martisse Hill



micah freedman

Senior Brittany Lipsey spares no quarter when attacking an opponent from U-City. "It is sometimes awkward to be pushing girls and being aggressive with them," teammate Jack Altman said. "But it is okay because the girls are pushing and being aggressive right back."

Water polo team sets, scores goals

dakinsloss

The water polo team is beginning another season of intense play hoping to improve on their sub-par season last year. Led by head coach Dave Jimenez and team captain Jamie Grasse, the team hopes to string some wins together this season.

Grasse has set her sights on scoring a point or more every game and beating Melville and Fort Zumwalt this season. She also looks forward to having fun and preparing for the future.

"We want to set a base for next year's players," Grasse said.

Grasse leads the varsity team consisting of seniors Sze Suen and Brittany Lipsey, junior Aaron Jay and sophomores Jack Altman, David Redick and Charlie Klein. There is also a junior varsity team for the first time in Jimenez's six years of coaching.

"The future is bright," Jimenez said. "We have so many more players this year."

A unique aspect of water polo is that boys and girls play together on a coed team.

"It is sometimes kind of awkward to be pushing girls and being aggressive with them," Altman said. "But it is okay because the girls are pushing and being aggressive right back."

Water polo is a ferocious sport.

"Throw every sport into the pool and add biting, kicking, scratching, punching and risk of death and you have water polo," Grasse said.

"The game is very, very tough," Altman said. "It is the most difficult sport."

Players have to swim through the water and pass the ball between team members. It is also difficult to catch and throw the ball while treading water.

Grasse, Altman and Jimenez predict University City and Melville to be the main rivals as the team battles in nearly 20 matches throughout the year. The team expects to do well and even better in upcoming years.

Despite a recent 13-9 loss to University City, the team's attitude has not changed.

"We hope to win but mainly water polo is about having fun," Grasse said.

"Throw every sport into the pool and add biting, kicking, scratching, punching and risk of death and you have water polo."

- Senior Jamie Grasse

Cross country team hopes to break the tape, win districts

mathorn

When people think about fall sports, football and soccer are usually the first to come to mind. But cross country is also in full swing, with hopes that both teams can reach the state finals this year.

The Hounds jump-started their season at the First Capital Invitational by finishing fourth out of the eleven teams that participated.

"We had five guys that broke 20 minutes, which is pretty good," senior Michelle Alderson said.

Led by captain Dov Salkoff, the men's team has the highest expectations of making state.

"We haven't had a boys' team make state in five years, but with the strong group of returning and incoming runners this year, we believe that we have a real good chance," head coach Chuck Collis said.

"The team seems excited about the upcoming season," Salkoff said. "We feel like we have a real good shot at state this year. You can tell by the excitement of the runners at practice."

But the girls' team also boasts strong runners. Alderson, sophomore Abby Lawer, senior Lizzy Weiss and junior Lexi Wirthin all have state potential.

"I believe we have a strong group of girls coming back and a good group of incoming girl runners, so I believe the girls' team has a shot at state as well," Collis said.

Alderson has observed differences in the team's preparation this year.

"I see a different mentality at practice this year, the girls have stepped up the pace," Alderson said.



abbie minton

Senior Michelle Alderson competes in a meet at Jefferson Barracks, one of the most difficult terrain-courses the Hounds run all season. "Your team is what keeps you going through all the pain," Alderson said. "They keep you focused."

But runners cannot go to state on paper alone; it takes hard work to achieve the ultimate goal.

"I expect my returning runners to run 20 to 30 miles per week in the summer," Collis said. "In season we alternate long slow pace runs and short fast pace runs. We also visit meet sites the day before a meet to get used to the course."

"While there is no hand eye coordination or plays involved, conditioning and endurance are more critical in cross country than

in other sports," Alderson said. "Your team is what keeps you going through all the pain. They keep you focused."

Collis agrees about the importance of the team.

"A team effort is what shapes the attitude of the whole group," Collis said.

Hopefully the teams will stay focused and bring something that has not been brought to Clayton for a long time, a cross country state championship.

Male Athlete of the Month Caleb Haydon

maxshapiro

Caleb Haydon has been a soccer standout since his early years. The former CYC soccer player has turned into one of the best players on this year's Greyhound soccer team.

Haydon started playing competitive soccer in the fourth grade when he joined a CYC team. Haydon now is playing on one of the top select soccer teams in the area, the Gateway Strikers.

Haydon went to Metro High School his freshman year and played on the varsity team. He then moved to Clayton at the beginning of his sophomore year.

Haydon was not allowed to play on the varsity squad his sophomore year because he transferred schools, but he made a large impact on the junior varsity team and moved up to varsity his junior year.



Haydon is now in his final year at Clayton and is already making a great impact on the season.

"He is one of the best players on our team," junior Jack McClellan said. "He makes our team so much better. I can't imagine life on the soccer team without him."

Haydon doesn't take all the credit though.

"We have a lot of strong players this year," Haydon said. "Bill Sherby is really good and Andrew O'Neal has also contributed a lot of goals for our team, and they are just some of the guys that have helped us win

this year."

Haydon really enjoys playing on the Clayton soccer team and has maintained a good friendship with the coach Paul Hoelscher.

"Paul has improved my game a lot," Haydon said. "He really pushes me to be a better player and to work as hard as I can."

Even though the Greyhounds only have a 4-5 record this year, they came up with a big win over John Burroughs in early September and have set their sights on state this year.

"At the beginning of the year we made goals as a team," Haydon said. "We want to get back to the district finals where we lost last year."

New players on the team look up to Haydon as a player and believe he can lead the team back to a winning record.

"Caleb is an awesome player," freshman David Sherby said. "He has made me feel welcome on the team as a freshman and is just an all-around great soccer player."

Haydon has already talked to several college coaches about playing after high school. He is looking at schools in the Midwest and in the Carolinas, but wherever he ends up, he surely won't have any trouble finding the back of the net.

Female Athlete of the Month Emily Fowler-Cornfeld

maxwellryan

As the softball team heads into its first year playing in the fall season, they have a strong arm to rely on in star pitcher Emily Fowler-Cornfeld. Fowler-Cornfeld has led the Hound's to a 9-3 start, amassing wins over Westminster, Jennings and a 4-3 thriller against Ladue in which she struck out the final three batters to win the game.

"She has been incredible for us this season," senior catcher Brittany Davis said. "She is what ultimately allows our team to run our team and every time she is on the mound, we believe we have a chance to win."

16 games into the 23 game season, Emily has amassed incredible stats, she is the area strikeout leader with 170, 17 more than the nearest pitcher. She also leads the area in strikeout to walk ratio. Fowler-Cornfeld is also among the top 10 pitchers in complete games with twelve, total wins with nine, shutouts with four and saves with three.

After throwing the ball around, Fowler-Cornfeld decided to give softball a try, and began her career in third grade playing in the Clayton Parks and Recreation league. She began playing select softball at the age of 13 when she entered seventh grade. She joined the Illinois Force, a select team located in southern Illinois, she experienced an unbelievable feat while being one of the star pitchers on the team.

"Over the summer we won the under-18 fast pitch softball national championship," Fowler-Cornfeld said.

As Fowler-Cornfeld continues her successful softball feats for Clayton and her select team, she begins her search to find a college, which will allow her to have a good combination of competitive softball and challenging academics.

"I have been recruited by some schools, but my top three choices are Bucknell, Dartmouth, and Cornell."

With Fowler-Cornfeld on the mound the Hound's are in good shape and so will whatever college is lucky enough to have her on their team.



Field hockey team corners opponents

The varsity field hockey team defeated Whitfield to open the season and has not looked back since.

jackmcclellan

Girls line the edge of the circle that surrounds the goal. One girl, standing just to the right of the goal, takes her stick back to strike the ball. The girls on the outside lean forward with anticipation.

The ball is struck, and what happens next is almost too fast to see. The ball shoots across the circle, only to be rocketed back in by a girl standing on the outside. Everyone rushes the goal, overwhelming the defense. The ball bounces around, is deflected, and slides past the goal as it bangs with a "crack" against the wood in the back of the net.

This is a corner, something the Clayton field hockey team has been working hard to perfect, and something that they point to as a key to their success so far this season.

"The impact that we have placed on corners is something that is helping us out this season," senior captain Emily Luten said. "We are awesome defensively and offensively and have scored at least half of our goals on corners."

Clayton has been working hard on corners and just about everything else this season.

"We all put everything we have into every game," Luten said.

The field hockey team is off to a great start this season. At 7-3-1, they have played and beaten some very impressive teams. According to the girls, these wins show just how well they communicate as a team, and the tight bond formed by each and every girl. The team boasts about its closeness as a unit and how that has helped them maximize the talent they have.

"Since we are so close, when we

"Since we are so close, when we are out there, it's not that we are playing for ourselves anymore. We are playing for our teammates."

- Senior Emily Luten



The varsity field hockey team prepares to score on a corner during a recent game. Corners helped propel the Hounds to a win over rival Whitfield to open the season.

are out there, it's not that we are playing for ourselves anymore," Luten said. "We are playing for our teammates."

Leigh Mehlman agrees.

"We pump each other up when we pass in the halls," Mehlman said. "We have a lot of team spirit."

This team chemistry is no accident. Before the season, all the girls on the team had a discussion

about the expectations.

"We decided at the beginning of the season that no previous friendships mattered, like if you were better friends with one girl or disliked another," Luten said. "We decided that we were starting fresh as a team and we were all equal no matter what grade level people were in or their skill level."

Their preparation and team-

work was put to the test early in the season and it passed with flying colors. Whitfield, one of the field hockey team's biggest rivals, was also their very first game of the season.

"Beating Whitfield was a huge accomplishment, because it hadn't been done in a very long time," sophomore Anya Fisher said. "Showing such a competitive school that Clayton was serious this year made the win very enjoyable."

The Hounds have not had a lot of recent success against Whitfield, which made the win that much sweeter for this year's team. Ruth Singer scored in the first half, but the score was equalized and the half ended with a 1-1 draw. The second half, however, saw the girls pull ahead on a goal from Gussie Matthews and the team held on to make that the game winner. Assists on the goals were from Luten and Mehlman.

For as big as that win was, the MICDS game had almost as big of an impact on the team. Unfortunately, the impact of that game did not lead to another win.

The Hounds lost 5-0 to MICDS, made even worse by the feeling

that had the girls played their best game, the outcome would have been much different.

"We had a difficult game," Fisher said. "MICDS does have many respectable players, but our heads and recent playing skills weren't there that day, and as the game went on it was difficult to keep up."

A good sign for the season is that the girls are looking ahead and learning from this game, and not dwelling.

"We learned from it to help us for the next game," Fisher said.

"We still haven't reached our peak as the great team that we know we can be," said Luten. "We saw a part of it in the beginning of the MICDS game and we get better every game we play. I think that we can go as far as we want as long as we try our best and play our game like we've been practicing."

The girls have already bounced back from the MICDS loss by beating Marquette 4-1 in their next game.

The remainder of the season looks to be a good one for Clayton Field Hockey. They appear to have a formula worked out for the season, and it equals success.

Cardinal fever sweeps CHS, St. Louis

benweixlmann

The 2004 baseball preview issue of Sports Illustrated states that the St. Louis Cardinals were projected to finish third in the National League Central division.

That was April, this is September, and the Cardinals are steamrolling the rest of the Central while garnering the best record in baseball.

With three qualified MVP candidates, there is reason for optimism about a World Series berth, and eventual championship for the Cards. As of Sept. 20, 2004, the Cardinals were leading the National League in batting average, hits, runs and RBI.

However, the offensive production hasn't been the only part of the Cardinals that has led them to such a torrid season. Pitching has been a crucial factor in their success.

With Cardinal pitchers leading the league in saves and walks per inning pitched (WHIP), the pitching rotation is looking to run full throttle into the playoffs.

So why are St. Louis Cardinal fans so psyched? Simply because the additions of Larry Walker and the success of former Cardinal pitcher Rick Ankiel have bolstered the confidence of the team and fans into a new territory.

"General Manager Walt Jocketty has done a great job compiling his team this season, and using his budget wisely to get players such as Larry Walker, Julian Tavarez, Ray King and Jason Marquis," sophomore Bob Maylack said. "With solid pitching and an explosive offense, I have high expectations for this team."

For St. Louis fans, anything but a World Series ring would be a disappointment.

St. Louis annually tops the charts in terms of attendance, but lately, many new fans have turned out to see the Redbirds play.

Since May 27, the Cardinals have hovered around a .740 winning percentage. Additionally, on Sept. 18, the Cardinals clinched the NL Central division.

In an interview compiled by sportswriter George Von Benko, Cardinals outfielder Reggie Sanders stated that, "I think this could be

the best team I've ever played on."

The additional fanfare has been crucial for the club's success was well.

"The Cardinals have always had the best fans in baseball since their inception in 1894," Maylack said. "Fans have always packed the stands, but this year with the amazing baseball, it has been another experience. Every time I go to the stadium I get this intense feeling that the fans of Cardinals baseball are hyped for a World Series."

Fellow Sophomore Charlie Matthews echoed this sentiment by Maylack.

"This season's Cardinals have turned St. Louis into the ultimate fan town," Matthews said. There are plenty of people that have started to pay attention to the Cardinals during the past couple of months due to their success. People have been attending games just to see the awesome display that the Cardinals put on for the crowd day in and day out. It's really quite amazing what the Cardinals have done."

Maylack and Matthews are examples of Cardinals fans that are utterly impressed with the amazing season the Cardinals have played. Maybe next season Sports Illustrated won't overlook this powerful ball club and respect this Midwestern market as a primetime threat for a dynasty. Hopefully, a World Series championship will be enough to convince Sports Illustrated to give the Cardinals their due in the future.



Volleyball digs conditioning program

martingregory

America watched volleyball on television during the Olympic games this summer. Now, it's playing live in Stuber Gym. The CHS volleyball team made its debut this fall, helped along by some returning coaches and a new training program.

The Lady Hounds have changes going on this year, according to assistant varsity coach Christine Strahan.

"We've brought up a few sophomores this year," Strahan said.

Strahan also said that the girls have much more hustle, and they are fast to get the ball.

But, perhaps the biggest and most influential change has been the addition of coach Chris Carroll's conditioning regimen.

"It was a big change because we did a lot more conditioning this year," Strahan said. "The girls are faster and they don't let the balls drop."

The girls reinforce that opinion.

"We ran hills in Shaw Park and did some plyometrics," senior Nicole Salvato said. "We did shuffling and diving on the floor. We also played beach volleyball, and ran mile runs."

She also adds that it was the best workout yet because it got the team ready for the games, where they definitely could see some improvement.

In contrast to the changes, one strength of the team is something that has remained the same: the coaches.

"It's nice because the coaches already knew everyone and they came prepared knowing what we needed to work on," Salvato said.

The team also has some big games coming up this season and are working hard get their record above .500.

"Principia is a game that the girls get excited about," Strahan said.

The team is holding their own despite some

injured players. Senior Liz Schilli has a knee injury but is finishing the rest of the season before having surgery. Sophomore Chelsea Fischer has a hairline fracture on her wrist that will keep her sidelined for about two weeks.

"We're looking forward to getting her into some games," Strahan said.

Having sophomores on the team also proves to be added stress.

"Our team this year ranges from sophomores to seniors and is the first year we have all been together, so we are really working to mix things up and work together," sophomore Katie Magraw said.

"The sophomores are definitely talented enough to be on varsity," Salvato said.

As the volleyball season progresses, the team will face many other hardships, but it looks as if they are ready to take them on. Only time will tell what the volleyball team's future holds for it.

globestaff
04-05

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And with that, we of the Globe staff invite you cordially to enjoy our nationally renowned newspaper. Ciao!

-the Globe
"We have issues."

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Family ties us to life all around

Ever since I can remember, I have traversed across the country to family reunions where old family stories are retold about ancestors from Iceland, England and France. Although I have not been able to know all my ancestors, each of them has made a different contribution to my life. I have red hair like some of them. I like music and the Tetons because of them.

Not many teenagers have had the chance to live with a blind grandpa. He is like a living book directly recounting his memory of people and events long past and forgotten. For the past two years, my Grandpa Shumway has lived with my family and shared his story with us. He has a sweet disposition and is an example of perseverance although he has lived the past 60 years without the use of his eyes. Despite his handicap, he can play many instruments, type, ski and gives professional-like magic shows.

After being blinded six weeks after D-Day in France, he began to play the violin again to help his fingers regain mobility. He continues to play although his repertoire is limited. Occasionally, he asks me to tune his violin and tell him about my personal study and the magic I make by slightly shifting my fingers to make a vibrato.

Since I was about five, I wanted to play the violin because I wanted to be just like him. Whenever he came to visit when I was a child, I was always pleased to play "Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star" and other simple tunes while playing dress up in his old army suit.

Although I am now more confident as a violinist and practice in the privacy of my room, he still enjoys hearing me. He continues to motivate me and tells me that I am amazing. Because he has been blind for so many years, he has learned to see others beyond visual boundaries. He sees the person inside others by looking into their heart.

For the past few summers I have spent time south of Jackson Hole in the Teton Mountain Valley. Most of my time has been spent outdoors in the middle of the forest or admiring the mountains on early morning runs or kayaking down the Snake River.

Every time I squint to look at the snowy peak of the Grand Teton, I think of my Great Grandpa, Lester Bagley, who was the Assistant Secretary of Interior under President Eisenhower. He helped make the area a National Park so it could be preserved for future generations. I have never met Lester, but I gained my love of the Tetons from him and the legacy he left behind him.

While on a backpacking with a group of girls this past summer, we hiked to a mountain lake within the Teton National Park. We were surrounded on all sides by the moun-

tains. The reflection of the green mountains was beautiful at sunset but I decided to hike up it the next morning so I could see the full views of the mountains around us.

About 8 a.m., I was still determined to see the full view although it had stormed throughout the night. No path led up the lush mountain, but I was convinced that I would have no difficulty. I was wrong.

While climbing I had a large rock roll over my hand, grabbed mangled roots to pull myself in eroding soil and had ants crawl all over my body when I rolled a little bit down the hill. I was determined to see the top, even if I died trying.

Thirty minutes later, I was almost to the top when I was stopped by a cliff a half mile from the top. Unfortunately, I did not bring rock climbing gear with me to get up the last stretch of the mountain. I was also without water, panting and on all fours.

As I turned around to see the view, I was amazed at the sights around and below me. Knowing that I could go no farther without water or rock climbing gear, I disappointedly turned to look at the mountains surrounding the cliff. I never was able to go the last half mile to see the final view from the top. As I looked down the mountain, I could see the path I had made with rooted plants. In the distance I could see the morning fog was starting to break, and then lift from the snowy mountains. The crisp morning air seemed to echo in a rapturous silence as I stood alone. The beauty of the mountains seemed to create a new sense of peace within me.

As I descended from the mountain top, I was heartbroken to leave the beauty I saw behind. When I was on the opposite side of the lake looking at the deceiving green mountain, I could barely see a small path winding up it.

However, I realized that beauty can be found everywhere. Sometimes one must forge their own path to find it. The path may be dangerous and treacherous at times, but the reward at the end is great.

The person I am today is because I am a composition of many people—some I know well, and others who have passed on. Many before me have paved paths that I can now follow. Both of my grandpas have given me my love of the violin and the Teton Mountains.

At times I will need to create my own path to find the real me inside. It will be necessary to take the lessons and passions of others who have given me glimpses of many other peaks to climb. I am excited for the new trails and adventures ahead, but next time I will bring the rock climbing gear...



annalishumway



Annalise Shumway joins a group of friends for exploring and antics in the same Teton Mountains that her grandfather Lester Bagley once helped to incorporate into a National Park when he was Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

courtesy of annalise shumway



America should be united in support for gay marriage

America was founded on the principle of equality. However, when Thomas Jefferson inscribed the immortal words of the Declaration of Independence, specifically, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," it only applied to white men.

Over time, Jefferson's doctrine of equality has expanded to include men and women of different races, religions and ethnicities. But despite years of reform, people of different sexual orientations have been shamefully omitted from America's list of equals.

Homosexuals in the United States are denied the basic human right to marry. Instead of paving the way for reform, a homophobic backlash has ripped across America, threatening to concretely ban gay marriage in the form of a Constitutional amendment. This amendment was strongly endorsed by President George W. Bush. In addition, on Aug. 1, 72 percent of Missourians voted in favor of an amendment to the state constitution banning same-sex marriage. These amendments have put an irrevocable stain on America's record of protecting freedom and equality for all.

Proponents of the same-sex marriage ban that allowing gay people to marry will threaten the institution of marriage. February Bush predicted that "severely from its cultural and religious roots on the good influence of society," homosexuals are not the first group "threaten" the institution of marriage.

However, of people to African Americans were not allowed to marry until after the Civil War ended. In addition, interracial marriages were not allowed everywhere in the United States for almost two centuries. When Thurgood Marshall was appointed chief justice to the Supreme Court, he moved to Virginia to await his confirmation. However, his marriage to an Asian woman was unrecognized by the state. It was not until later that year, after Marshall was confirmed, that the nation's highest court guaranteed interracial marriage in the United States.

Despite warnings in the past similar to the President's, when African Americans and then people of different races were granted the right to marry, the institution of marriage has not only survived but has also remained sacred in the United States.

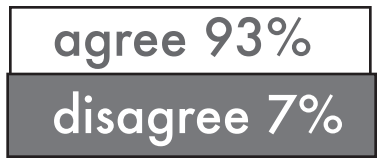
Allowing gay people to marry will only strengthen the institution of marriage. The only qualification for marriage is love, but love is not finite. Love comes in many shapes and colors and is not limited to heterosexuals.

While alternatives to same-sex marriages, such as civil unions, have been offered by opponents of the Constitutional amendment, they fall horribly short. Civil unions could potentially guarantee homosexual couples equal inheritance rights and benefits to heterosexual couples, but they still would not provide equality. Having to define heterosexual couples under one umbrella and homosexual couples under another is inherently unequal.

Same-sex marriage has been legalized in many foreign countries including Holland, Belgium and most of the Canadian provinces. Now it is time for America to follow suit in living up to its reputation as the "land of the free."

We need to provide an example for the rest of the world by preaching acceptance, by fighting ignorance, and by proclaiming, in one loud and clear voice, that we do not live in a straight America or in a gay America; we live in the United States of America.

staffeditorial



Despite ugliness, negative ads persuade

When I turned on my television to watch *Seinfeld* the other night, I was bombarded with advertisements from several politicians running for office this coming November. I saw ads for all levels of national and local elections. Having seen several of them in a row, I quickly noticed some differences in the styles of the campaigns.

Some did nothing but endorse their candidate's qualifications and addressed their positions on the issues held important to them. Others used a comparison between the candidate being promoted and their opponent. But some—quite a few, actually—were just downright cruel and unethical.

Of course, I expected this, especially considering how close the presidential race is expected to be in the fall, but the level of distortion can be sickening sometimes.

The ads on television got me thinking about what the most effective political ad is like, and I came to the sad-but-true conclusion that the dirtier and more scandalous the advertisement is, no matter how unethical, the more successful it might actually be.

All it takes is one little false rumor or association for the career of a candidate to be tarnished forever. Take the 2002 state-level elections, for instance. A prime example from this time would be the senatorial election in the state of Georgia, where it was Democrat Max Cleland (the incumbent) against Republican Saxby Chambliss. The Chambliss ticket argued that Cleland was not patriotic enough and did not support President Bush's homeland security efforts. It seems like a pretty good attack advertisement, except for the fact that Max Cleland is about as patriotic as one can get.

He lost both legs and an arm in Vietnam and is rightly considered a war hero by those who originally elected him. It seems a bit ridiculous to use an ad discrediting Cleland's patriotism when the man lost three of four limbs fighting for his country, right? But the ad goes further than to call him unpatriotic. The ad compared Cleland to both Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, and put side-by-side photographs of the three to visually aid their cause. So not only did they call

Cleland unpatriotic, but they compared him to our country's greatest enemy at the time and the leader of the 9/11-causing terrorists. And Saxby Chambliss won the election.

During the 2000 presidential election, it was George W. Bush and John McCain competing for the Republican nomination for president. But somehow the rumor got out via a phone poll that John McCain had fathered an illegitimate black child, which of course was ridiculous, but as soon as the rumor was out, it was hard to stop.

The problem with this rumor was that John McCain and his wife had actually adopted a Bangladeshi girl who had dark skin and frequently made appearances at events with him, making the rumor seem more plausible to those who weren't aware of this. Of course, we know how this election turned out.

I'm not arguing that these were the only factors in the losses of Max Cleland and John McCain, but it was attack advertising such as this that aided their opponents to victory.

Sadly, it seems this kind of campaigning works best in our society, and we find ourselves being roped in by the seemingly alarming allegations in the ads. Even for candidates that I support, when I hear something that's supposed to be disturbing about them in an advertisement it takes me a few seconds to dismiss it altogether.

It is for this very reason that attack propaganda works so well. One can think to themselves that it's probably all distortion and lies, but there's always that suspicion lurking in the back of one's mind that can ultimately sway opinions on election day.

Despite how boring they may seem in comparison to exciting attack ads, I'm always pleased when I see an ad that simply praises its candidate for their qualifications and opinions on the issues, even if I do not agree with these opinions. There are fewer and fewer ads like this these days, it seems. However, when I see one like this, I grow somewhat forlorn because I'm always wondering if their opponent has an ad comparing them to Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden in the works as we speak.



alisonspasser

Thumbs Up

- Cardinals
- New Clubs
- Teachers from Wydown
- School board passing new field and lights
- Less homework because of homecoming

Thumbs Down

- New speed bumps
- "A" program
- Lack of field space
- Rams
- Lack of playoff ticket availability
- Always being tired

Open Mic: The joys of duct-tape

I stepped off the 1942 loading dock, attempting to look inconspicuous. Warily, I joined the throngs of people milling about. The crowd swept me off my feet, their excited chatter pushing me along the cobblestones. Sights and smells foreign to me assailed my senses. My clothes and mannerisms attracted a few furtive glances, but mostly I was left to myself. Recalling the map I had studied before traveling, I made my way through the city.

The building was nondescript brick. Faded black and white paint spelled out Johnson & Johnson Permacel Division. Purposefully, I entered.

"I have an appointment," I checked my watch quickly, "for ten minutes ago." The hassled secretary glared at me. Follow me. I did. Large machines hummed and ground behind glass doors. The room we approached was labeled *Design Team*. My heart bounced like a pinball as the handle turned. With my hands shyly behind my back I approached the lone desk. A man sat, hunched over, scribbling on the air above a mass of papers, concentrating on the thoughts which filled the empty space. He was young, quiet looking, and yet charismatic. Warm eyes finally lifted, surveying me curiously. Yes?

"I'm sorry for being late, sir," I stumbled. "Time travel, you know, the continuum channels were bottlenecked..." my words met with a blank stare. What is that? I was spinning my bracelet nervously, a lazy creation of duct tape I had sported all summer. Funny he should notice.

"It's something I made, with your product actually." My product? He sat back in his chair, beckoning me to do similarly. Thus I fell into conversation with the inventor of duct tape.

After general introductions, I informed my new acquaintance that I lived within driving distance of the self-appointed "duct tape capital of the world." The more we spoke, the more I was made aware of the impassable time gap. But he was amiable, and acted as oblivious to his ignorance as possible.

"Duct tape absolutely revolutionized our

society. You have no idea! I was researching, in preparation for this meeting, and I found a website, ducttapeforpeace.org, and their key phrase is 'seeking a better tomorrow through the sensible use of duct tape today.' And that's in response to our 'duct tape and plastic cover' method of protection against terrorist attacks." My voice rose in pitch. He just stared, a quizzical smile playing at the corner of his mouth. At my break for breath he rolled his chair over to a door I hadn't noticed earlier. Sticking his head through, he called to some people. Hey boys, take a rest, come meet this girl. They filed in jovially. We shook hands all around. The office felt as if it were halved in size, now that five or so men had come in, leaning against the walls, sitting on the desk.

This is my team, he explained. We've been working together trying to make that. He pointed. I slid my bracelet off and passed it around. Each man commented on it, fingering it, peering at the thread structure. Why's it silver? One of them asked.

"We use duct tape for everything now. Not just in the army. You can get it in all different colors. They made it silver after the war when the tape started being used in housing construction. You know what I read somewhere, 'God may have made the universe, but it's held together by duct tape.' It's true too." The men were amused. Little of what I was saying must have made sense, and yet my enthusiasm was a point of entertainment for them.

"There are scholarships for duct tape prom outfits. Red Green said once: 'It's amazing what you can accomplish with a little imagination and a wad of duct tape.' I don't know who he is either, but at any rate, his quote embodies my sentiments completely. I've used duct tape to fix hundreds of things, shoes, backpacks, chairs, anything really. I've made bracelets, taped up my field hockey sticks, and sealed packages. I've labeled things, and kidnapped friends. I've removed warts, and shut people up when they

got too loud. I live in a highly disposable society. Duct tape is the best way I know to counteract our wastefulness. It gives a whole new meaning to recycling. I can fix anything now. Oh!" I reached into my purse, searching for my wallet. A wave of fear spiked my body temperature as I realized I had traveled through time without my flight license. My worry was quelled as I found and extracted my wallet, contents present. I massed the home-made duct tape thing to the mousey-looking man beside me. He rolled his shirt-sleeves up and put on a pair of glasses. Fascinating! He exclaimed. The versatility...another muttered. I caught the eyes of the team leader. Why did you come visit us today?



Laura Johnson

"As opposed to tomorrow or yesterday?" He chuckled. No, as opposed to visiting someone more influential. Why not Newton, or Aristotle? Why not Shakespeare?

"Oh, well I'm visiting them next week. And I can read about them any day in my school textbooks. But you guys aren't in there. Considering how helpful you have been to me, I figured it worth my while to meet you, to thank you personally. While the universe may be an exaggeration, you certainly keep my life together." Not used to giving so much flattery, nor receiving it, we all stood about awkwardly for a second. Mouse-face snapped his suspenders, killing the moment. What else do you use it for?

"This past summer I taped up a screen door. A girl I stayed with held the bottom of her car together with it. We've patched tents. I even tried waxing my legs, but that didn't work as well as I had hoped. I've fixed binders, and taped up posters. We patched our leaking canoes and closed coolers. I realize duct tape doesn't explain gravity, or human behavior, but for what it is, it's pretty cool." At a loss for more intelligent words I stopped, looking around the group. The man in the back corner crossed his arms, laugh-

ing. I thought we were just making something to keep ammunition dry.

"So you thought. But it will be much more. Just wait." I parted with friendly handshakes, leaving them my bracelet as a token of their success. Once outside I wove my way back to the loading dock, the sun beaming down, dust particles dancing. Lighthearted, I skipped past the shuttle conductors, tipping my hat to the nun in the first row and the punk rocker beside her. Spinning around the poles in the aisle I hummed some Eric Clapton, watching the light years tumble by outside the windows.

A little finger poked me. "Where did you go?" the wide-eyed six year old peered into our cardboard-aluminum foil-duct tape spaceship.

"I visited a factory from 1942." She looked at me dumbly, shadows of inexpressible emotions passing behind her face.

"Ok, my turn now. Let me in. I'm going to a castle, with princesses!" I stepped deftly out, avoiding the precariously attached wings. As always, my imagination astounded me. What I could do with a few leftovers and some duct tape...

Attention Clayton High School: Do you have something to say? Well, here's your chance! If you want to be next month's guest columnist send us your stuff to the Globe office so your voice can be heard.

"Let the bible belt come and save my soul...."

Life lessons learned en route home.

Driving down Ladue road, one rainy Monday afternoon, I had a hard time trying to focus. The ambitious girl, who took life by the horns and always got what she wanted, just couldn't get her way for once. My chest was tight, my head hurt and I could not seem to understand why I no longer had control. In attempt to relax, I turned up the radio, and listened in on one of my most cherished songs. After going through a soul-searching conversation with myself, followed by some brutal advice I received from a dear friend stating that: "it's life, get over it," I now understand the meaning of John Cougar Mellencamp's "Story of Jack and Diane", and I find it unnerving.

The lines "... Life goes on, even after the thrill, of living is gone..." take on a daunting meaning when you realize the thrills of life mentioned in the song are the high and free school days of the two main characters, who eat chili dogs and go behind the trees for a good time. We have all had our days like this: our days as children with no responsibilities but to ourselves, and each other. I guess Mellencamp's whole point to the song is that the free adolescent days recollected eventually end, and that life goes on for these two people, if they are together, or not. They remain in the place that once was the setting of their thrills, which occurred solely because of their youth and the freshness of the

world that comes with youth.

There is no thrill in their lives afterwards, the song implies, so what does that make of their lives now, when they are going on without the thrills? The dreams of Jack becoming a football star make it even more dis-
tressing. Not tragic really, or wasted, just lost. Maybe that is supposed to

happen. As I listened more closely to the song with tears rolling down my eyes, I realized that this song isn't for those forty-somethings that want a bit of nostalgia for a short moment. This song is good for teenagers in my position: the ones at the crossroads. These teenagers are us seniors who are forgetting all about being a kid, with their eyes dead-set on college. The song is a warning: don't take life too seriously that

you have no time to live it, don't take the simple times for granted, and don't plan life too far in advance expecting to stick to the blueprint to your utopia. Rather, enjoy adolescence- well what's left of it and roll with the punches. We must all and come to terms with the realities and responsibilities of adulthood. I thank my buddy John Cougar for helping me out on a rough Monday. As a token of my gratitude, I pass on this message to every teenager, not just the college-bound, but even the freshman just embarking on their final days: "Hold on to 16 as long as you can, changes come around real soon, make us women and men".

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The REAL Deal

Shatara Ford



STUDENT

Late start buys no time

Four-day weekends! Five-day weekends! Remember those?

Each school year has six holidays in which school is canceled, from Labor Day to Memorial Day. Last year, about one fifth of all weeks during the school year were shortened due to holidays and teacher development days, excluding exam weeks. This year, just one sixth of all weeks were less than five days. That's a drop off of 17 percent.

Why? The two annual staff development days have been eliminated and replaced by the so-called "Late Starts." School starts an hour later every other Wednesday for 10 weeks. An equivalent number of hours of teacher development are crammed into the mornings before school on these Wednesdays, from 7:30 a.m. until 9:10 a.m. Classes begin at 9:20 a.m.

Seventeen percent—a small difference, some would say. But one of the days off school eliminated is the day before Thanksgiving—so much for traveling across the country to visit relatives. No more five-day weekend. The former teacher development day was in February—last year the only free day from President's Day to Spring Break.

Perhaps long weekends are just luxuries. Perhaps five days is too long to spend digesting turkey. But the aim of the Late Start days is misguided. The idea of teachers truly "developing" at 7:30 o'clock in the morning when worrying about lesson plans, homework, grading tests, conferences, helping individual students, and the rest of the daily grind is, to me, preposterous. You don't learn, reflect, change, and develop when the rest of the day is waiting

for you.

If anything, staff development on school days belongs after the final bell has rung, when no other work looms ahead. In fact, when the option of splitting teacher development into two hour time slots first came up last year, the development took place after school, not before. But that, of course, conflicts with teachers who coach sports, sponsor club activities, pick up their own children from school, and have other commitments taking up their time after 3:01 p.m.

Teacher development belongs on its own day, when staff can lay aside other work and focus entirely on reflection and growth. If day-to-day minor tweaks to, say, teaching certain topics are needed, different teachers that teach the same courses should have built-in corresponding free periods to discuss those needed adaptations.

A supposed side benefit of the late start program is the extra sleep it gives students once every two weeks. But just recently the entire school day was shifted twenty minutes later! How much extra sleep is needed? And isn't the problem when students go to sleep, not when they wake up? If even more sleep is necessary, why not start at 10:00 a.m.? Or noon? Why have school at all?

Ultimately, however, the real problem may lie in the equivalent of two full days of school used for staff development. After all, teachers belong in the classroom; only through trial and error and actual experience can they find out what works, what doesn't, and adapt appropriately. To put it another way: teachers learn to teach by teaching, not by being taught.



Isaac Katz

It's for the best, really

On Wednesday, September 15th, experienced my first day of bliss. Waking up at 9 am was indeed heaven, with no worries in the world because it was a late start day. As a sophomore starting my days at 8:20am instead of the former 8am, I felt no affect. I did not understand what twenty extra minutes did for me. I got no extra sleep and got out of school later than I would like.

With these awesome late start days, I get up to an hour more of sleep time. Yes, I sacrifice no school days, but we all sacrifice just a little. The teachers' sacrifice by shortening their class periods-- and we all know how precious their class time is.

I must admit- I do have first and second hour off, so late start days don't affect me as much considering I would wake up at 9 every day, anyway. Late start days are indeed helpful to a Clayton High School student. We don't have to get out of school any later and teachers get to have more time to do the staff development day activities that they never had the time to complete. Shouldn't the happiness of our teachers be what really matters?

Staff development days are important as well as needed. Teachers are pleased with the extra time they are now given to discuss issues around school and find solutions for them. Changes around

school will now only become better, but faster. Although it is true that because this is now done before school teachers can not completely focus on that task at hand due to the day ahead of them, two days just isn't enough. Instead of 14 hours of development, our teachers now get up to 20.

As we quickly approach our next day of late start- do not frown, but instead: think of your most cherished teacher having a hearty breakfast with co-workers. Your favorite teacher coming to work at 7:30am having important discussions with your best interest at heart. While you think about you beloved teacher, take some time to think of me as well. Me, waking up at 9, watching The Today Show in my pajamas and slowly getting to school in time for my first class at 10:44.

What do you think?

Jon Brengle, 12

"I like the late start days because I get some extra sleep."

Lana Stynick, 12

"They are okay, it's nice to get shorter class periods but I want my days off!"

Björk gets vocal on 'Medúlla'

sambakken

The first article I ever wrote for the Globe, as a freshman, was a review of Björk's 2001 album "Vespertine." On that record, the Icelandic chanteuse crooned delicately over a spider web of tinkling music boxes and intricately programmed beats. Since first reviewing the record, my opinion has not changed. It was a joyous, ethereal record, but it was a little safe by Björk's standards; on it, the singer seemed to retreat into her own cozy fantasy world.

Appropriately, now, at the dawn of my final year of high school, Björk has dropped a new record, and it's a whole other story. The big deal is that the new album, "Medúlla," is made entirely of human vocal sounds, bar the rare synth or piano flourish. Computer programming and manipulation also play a big role on "Medúlla," so the album isn't as radical a departure as one may gather from that description. What

sets it apart from Björk's other records, however, are its mechanics: angelic choirs, fluid beats, and guttural moaning/grunting provide the foundation for the sound of "Medúlla." A prestigious cast of supporting characters lend their voices to "Medúlla," including beatboxer Rahzel (of the Roots), avant-metal vocalist Mike Patton, British art-rockers Robert Wyatt, and Inuit throat singer Tagaq.

Upon listening to "Medúlla," I was relieved to discover that Björk had departed the idyllic fantasy world of "Vespertine," however pretty it may have been. The world of "Medúlla" is dark and alien, punctured occasionally by shafts of light.

The record opens with "Pleasure Is All Mine," a slow, minor-key groove over which Björk croons seductively while Patton and Tagaq make bizarre vocal noises in the background. It's a slightly unsettling way to open the record but is strangely enticing. "Pleasure Is All Mine" is followed by the brief

solo a-cappella piece "Show Me Forgiveness," which showcases Björk's perfect intonation and crystalline tone.

The pensive mood is broken, however, by "Where Is the Line?" a dizzying assault on the ears (a good thing, in this case). A brief a-cappella intro by Björk gives way to a complex manipulated beatbox rhythm provided by Rahzel. In the background, the Icelandic Choir sings dissonantly while Björk frantically moans "Where is the line with you?" and "I want to be elastic."

From there, the album alternates steadily between calm a-cappella choir pieces and moody electronica. From the former category, "Sonnets/Unrealities XI" is a standout: an E.E. Cummings poem set to a sparkling melody and sung by Björk and the Icelandic Choir. Also notable is "Vökuró," a hymn-like choir piece sung in Icelandic.

Of the beat-driven songs, the ultra-dramatic "Oceania" is particularly compelling for its choir chart,

which has the London Choir performing vocal dive-bombs while Björk paints a picture of "stingrays floating across the sky."

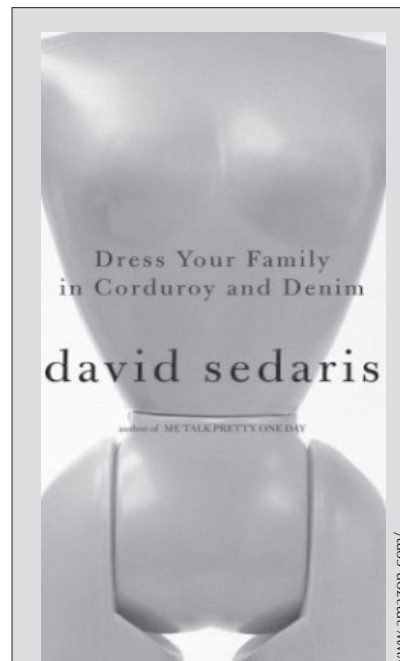
The record's emotional peak comes in the form of "Desired Constellation," in which Björk wails against the sparest musical backdrop of clicks and drones, flaunting her lyrical prowess on lines such as, "With a palm full of stars/ I shake them like dice/ And throw them on the table/ Repeatedly until the desired constellation appears."

Occasionally, "Medúlla" collapses under its own conceptual pretensions. "Ancestors" consists of Björk and Tagaq make wordless vocal spasms over nebulous piano plinkings. It's a pointless avant-garde exercise that helps perpetuate the myth that Björk's music is weird and unlistenable.

Once "Medúlla's" final track, the clubby "Triumph Of a Heart," has ended, however, it's clear that Björk is determined to push her music to its logical limit. For that, we should all be thankful.



www.amazon.com



www.amazon.com

Sedaris' family is funnier than yours

sophiaagapova

When I first picked up "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim" by David Sedaris, I had high expectations for the book. From the reviewers on amazon.com, to my friends at school, almost all who read the book had found it incredibly hilarious, many professing to have laughed out loud while reading it. I was looking forward to a very humorous read.

"Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim" is written almost like a memoir; it is a collection of humorous stories of everyday occurrences involving Sedaris's many strange family members. There's aunt "Monie" who eats pork chops for dinner every night and has a separate room in her house devoted to her second husband's successes in hunting, Sedaris's brother who tries in vain to make his daughter's electronic phonetics game say dirty words and Tiffany, the author's sister, who trains her parrot as an "emotional cheerleader."

"Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim," published in June of 2004, is Sedaris's fifth bestseller and is much like his previous collection of essays "Me Talk Pretty One Day." Apart from being an essayist, Sedaris is also a playwright, commentator for National Public Radio and winner of the Thurber Prize for American Humor.

After reading the book, it is quite clear that the author has a talent for making his readers see the ordinary in a different light. The majority of the stories in the book were about something to which the reader could relate, but had probably never found quite so humorous before. Reading the book was similar to having a friend tell you what he or she thought was a funny story about their family, except this time it was actually funny.

The stories in the book, which seem to be randomly organized, together build to show the humor in everyday life and people. The interesting stories, coupled with Sedaris's obvious comedic talents make for a well-written and interesting book.

Although I did not find "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim" to be quite as humorous as it was portrayed by others, meaning that I didn't ever actually laugh out loud, the book had its share of humor and also contained something I had not expected to find. I put down the book with a sense of enlightenment, a sense that the book wasn't written purely for comedic effect; it was a reminder of the importance of family and how a person is shaped because of their childhood experiences and family members.

Wicker Park is wicked good

rachelharris

The trailer for "Wicker Park" was awfully misleading. I got the impression that it was about a guy and a girl who were dating. Then, some crazy woman comes and kills the girl and the guy goes in search of what happened to her. Boy was I wrong.

"Wicker Park", directed by Paul McGuigan, is the story of Matthew (Josh Hartnett), a young Chicago investment banker who falls in love with a girl named Lisa (Diane Kruger). Lisa suddenly disappears from his life the day after he asks her to move with him to New York. Two years later, he's soon-to-be engaged to a woman named Rebecca (Jessica Pare) and is about to go on a trip to China. While at business dinner, he catches a quick glimpse of a woman who resembles and sounds like Lisa. With the help of his friend Luke (Matthew Lillard, who gets all the funny lines), Matthew

drops everything to track her down.

After a long introduction to all the characters and the situation at hand, the movie's point of view changes to that of another character, Alex (Rose Byrne). The movie starts switching between Alex's and Matthew's point of view to find out why Matthew never saw Lisa again and why he thinks he suddenly saw her during his business meeting at a restaurant one night.

It is at times hard to understand what is going on. By switching back and forth between the two characters perspectives, it is tricky to tell who is doing what. When it is done, one could think back on at least one major event that tied all the characters together.

Hartnett puts in a decent performance. He misses his plane to go search for Lisa (how original) and goes moping around Chicago trying to find her. Despite a certain stiffness, Hartnett is appealing and viewers can relate and are somehow drawn

to his character. His emotions come right on cue and are mostly believable although they are sometimes exaggerated almost to the point of being unbelievably ridiculous.

Byrne puts on an extraordinary performance. She outshines all the other actors with her incredibly real emotions and fantastic facial expressions. Not much can be said on how excellent her acting actually was without revealing the outcome of the movie, but her talent and passion for acting really shows through in this movie.

The movie has some great cinematography. Although it seemed at times that McGuigan went through the book of cool camera tricks and tried to use them all. Also, switching back and forth between the perspectives of Alex and Matthew is confusing at times, but it is done in such a way that is generally artistic and original.

"Wicker Park" also makes good use of its surroundings. Atmosphere



www.mgm.com/wickerpark/

and mood are everything in a romantic movie, and the filmmakers make use of a snowy Chicago winter to give the story a feel that is both cozy and yet very frightening at the same time.

Overall, this movie was not bad. It had its moments of suspense, love, and ridiculousness. A person could either wait for the movie to come out on DVD and video or take a chance and spend \$6.00 to see it in theaters.

'Cellular' nothing to phone home about

michaelgregory

Hollywood never seems to be able to come up with many original ideas anymore. They're always taken from something else and then manipulated into something similar. "Cellular" is no different, however that doesn't mean it can't be fun the second-time around.

The story is simple. A woman is kidnapped and her family is next on the list. She pieces together a smashed phone enough to call a random number, which happens to be the cell phone of Ryan (Chris Evans, a good step up from the boring "Perfect Score"). Ryan thinks she's crazy, until he hears the kidnappers. Then it's a race against time to find her and her family before they're killed. It would be a typical summer popcorn flick, but it's kind of late for that title.



www.cellularthemovie.com

and she says "Oh, Ryan!" way too many times and is way over-dramatic. Basinger should have demanded that her character's lines be revised before she signed on.

However, it also has its good points if you don't take it seriously. Take the scene where Ryan is in a traffic jam, and he sees a Porsche right in front of him. He has got to deal with an obnoxious man with an "I'm a lawyer so I'm smarter than you" attitude mixed with an L.A. dialect. The scene is uproarious, and there are many other humorous bits nestled surprisingly neatly right amidst the thrills.

The acting (minus Basinger) is up-to-par with expectations. Evans holds his own against screen greats Jason Statham and William H. Macy (who undoubtedly saw this as a fun experience, not a bold career move). The creepy Brit Statham is always a delight to see, especially since he relishes in his bad-guy persona. Macy is a joy to watch no matter what he's doing. Macy provides the "curious cop who just missed the big clue" as if it is nothing, and he does good work with his comedy bits. Jessica Biel also has a small role who has just recently broken up with Ryan, and who is just testing his commitment. Ryan of course is bluffing everything he says, and obviously finds a way out of it, with humorous consequences.

David R. Ellis' direction isn't one of the low points, provided you understand that it's only trying to be a cheesy summer flick, not a provocative Oscar-winner. Ellis is very

inconsistent with his projects, as he goes from "Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco" to "Final Destination 2" and now to "Cellular," his first non-sequel project. He doesn't seem to strive for stand-out movies, only enough to surpass "Catwoman"-like reviews.

"Cellular" is a fun movie, just as long as you don't take it seriously. The beginning will make you jump because you're not expecting such a spontaneous change of space so soon into the movie, but then it turns into a Bond-wannabe, minus the cool gadgets from the late Q and the multiple big explosions (this only has one) and it just settles for the Porsche. But that Porsche is pretty cool.

the score:

Vanity Fair	
Cellular	
Wicker Park	
Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim	

out of five globes

Witherspoon 'fairs' well in adaptation, blah blah yah



amybrooks

At one point in "Vanity Fair," young socialite Becky Sharp (Reese Witherspoon) asks in her usual flirtatious candor, "Why should men have all the fun?" Well, if she were not a fictional character, she would be thrilled to know that while watching her movie, no man will ever have fun. At first glance Vanity Fair doesn't seem like a chick flick: it takes place during a war and isn't a cookie-cutter romantic comedy. However, it appears as if "Vanity Fair" is an enjoyable period-piece, but mostly for females.

Directed by Mira Nair of "Monsoon Wedding" fame, the movie, which is based on William Makepeace Thacker-

ay's 1848 novel of the same name, follows Sharp as she rises from an orphan of poor ancestry through English society - her looks and conniving ways launching her into an alien world of the upper class. She woos her best friend's brother before eloping with the youngest son of her employer (James Purefoy). When the two are disinherited by his family, she still is determined to become rich and popular. But Sharp soon learns wealth and status come with a high price.

"Vanity Fair" has no action, builds slowly, and sometimes confuses viewers about who the characters are and how they're related. However, this can mostly be chalked up to the type of material: many of the characters look and dress similarly and speak in the infa-

mous difficult-to-understand British accent. But the movie delights the eyes in other ways - it's a perfect historical drama with regard to the exquisite costumes that almost make you want to wear a corset. And, unlike many other movies of this nature have a reputation for; "Vanity Fair" isn't too long or excessively boring. There are slow moments, but they mostly provide necessary background for later conflicts.

The rich ensemble cast is a joy to watch, including excellent gems such as Eileen Atkins and Geraldine McEwan, Sharp's rich, opinionated, and ever-bickering relatives; and Gabriel Byrne, the wealthy Marquess of Steyne. Witherspoon also does a worthy job, complete with a credible British accent.

This movie widens her repertoire once again, showing that she can play other characters besides brainy blondes and southern belles. And naturally Sharp is an amusing character to watch, always pulling another trick to launch herself higher into the social stratosphere.

Viewers may leave the movie pondering Thackeray's closing thoughts from the book, "Which of us is happy in this world? Which of us has his desire? Or, upon having it, is satisfied?" The actors, director, and screenwriters do their best to incorporate this idea into the movie while still making it enjoyable and interesting to watch.

And that is why, even though "Vanity Fair" takes a while to build to its climax, the reward is well worth the wait.

A Tale of Two Artists

Artist draws inspiration from other cultures, experiences for her work

micahfredman

For sculptor Sharon Matusiak, being an artist is an ideal career.

"It is incredible to be able to support myself through doing something that gives me so much joy and personal satisfaction," Matusiak said.

Matusiak was one of many artists who spent the weekend of Sept 10-12 at the Clayton Art Fair. Despite Matusiak's passion for art and sculpture, she did not always know she wanted to be an artist.

"I actually wasn't involved in the visual arts at all while I was growing up," Matusiak said.

Before settling on a career in the visual arts, Matusiak devoted a lot of time and effort to the study of piano and ballet.

"I considered careers in both dance and veterinary medicine before I settled on sculpture," Matusiak said. "I went away to college and ended up changing degrees and going into the visual arts. I didn't start painting until I was 20."

Matusiak studied at the University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana and got her degree from Milikin University.

"I got a BFA in painting and drawing and then I was a figurative painter for almost 20 years," Matusiak said. "I then started working with wood in 1983 and kind of backed into doing sculpture. It's not really what I started out thinking I was going to do."



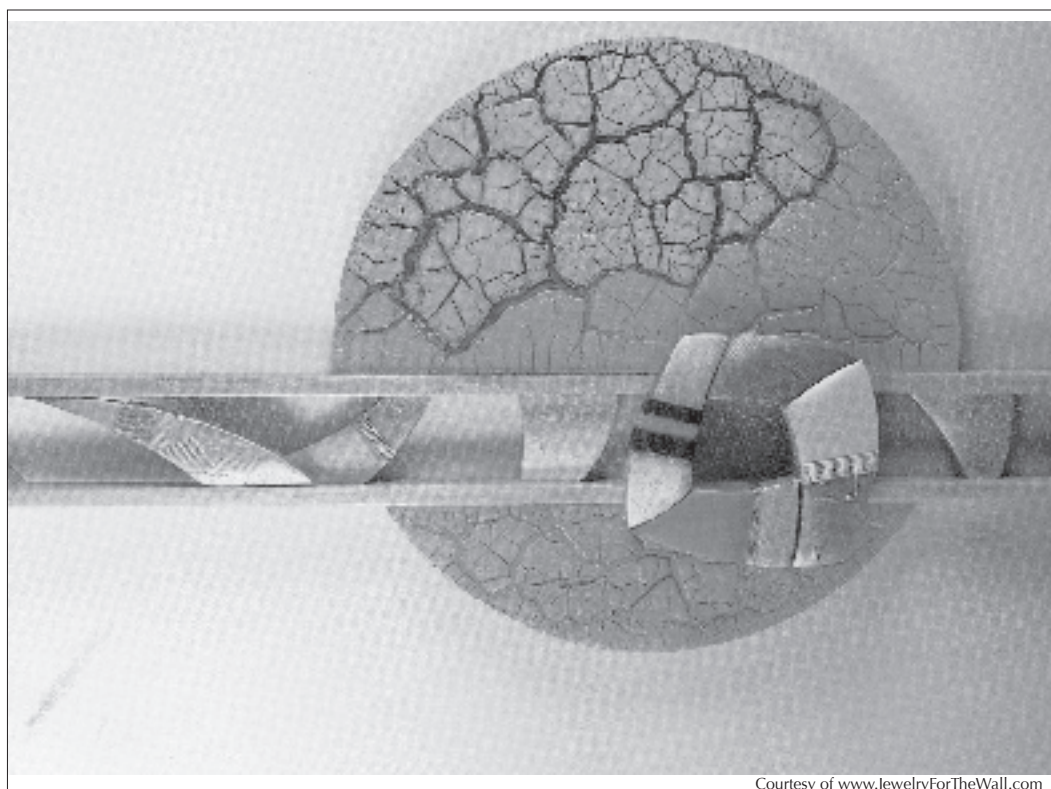
Courtesy of www.JewelryForTheWall.com

One of Matusiak's favorite parts of being an artist is the freedom over her personal life and decision-making. Nevertheless, Matusiak is very diligent with her work.

"I usually get up around 7 am," Matusiak said. "I do yoga, have breakfast and walk across the yard to my studio. My husband and I are both sculptors. I have my painting and woodworking studio on the property, and he has his metal studio. I'm usually out in the studio around 8:30 am. I work until maybe 5 pm six days a week."

While Matusiak is very passionate about her work, she realizes that there are downsides.

"The worst part is the financial uncertainty," Matusiak said. "Although my husband and I have done well the last 15 years, and we support ourselves very comfortably on our art, even so, there is a lot of uncertainty. You don't have any guarantees financially. With the high-end work that I do, I can't just go to any small art fair and expect to sell work. I have to jury into the top shows in the nation, and there's always the uncertainty of whether or not you're going to get in, and if you do, whether or not the weather is going to cooperate and so on.



Courtesy of www.JewelryForTheWall.com

You don't have any guarantees like you do in the business world. You're pretty well on your own."

Traveling to about 12 or 13 art fairs a year, Matusiak sells just about all the work she can create in a year's time.

"I used to have a number of galleries that represented me, but about five years ago I got to a point where I didn't need them any more," Matusiak said. "Economically, it's much better for me to simply sell my work at fairs because my expenses for doing a show are far less than the 50 percent that a gallery wants."

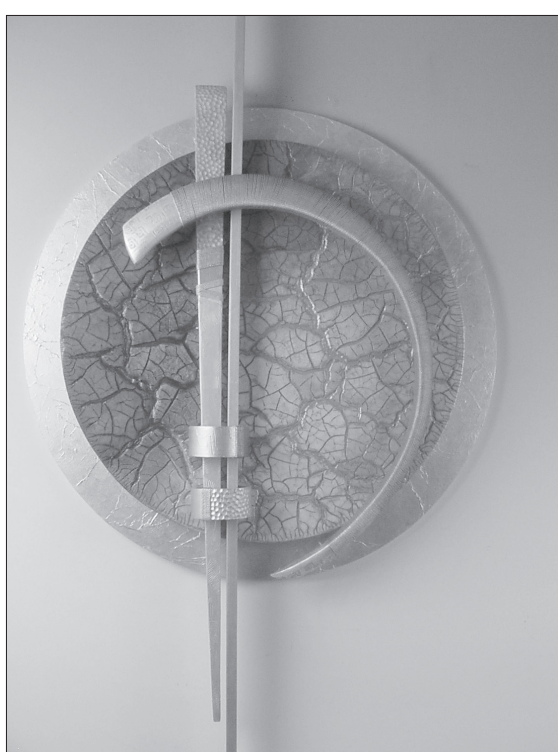
The finished pieces that Matusiak presents at these shows are a long way away from the image that she creates in her mind at the beginning of the creative process.

"I usually start the design process in my head," Matusiak said. "Then I make drawings usually with ink on paper. Most artists usually use pencil, but I prefer ink. After that, when I come up with a design I like, I have to start cutting out wood and laying it together to see if it's working three dimensionally. And if it looks like it's a good idea, I have to cut the wood, carve it, texture it, paint it and then assemble all the pieces together."

Going back even further than the image in her mind, Matusiak looks for inspiration from a

variety of sources.

"My work is mostly inspired by music and dance because that was a big part of my life in



courtesy of www.JewelryForTheWall.com

my formative years," Matusiak said. "I see that coming out visually in my work now because my work has to do with movement and rhythms and so forth. But also, as an adult, I have read a lot of mythology of many many cultures. I like to travel and I studied art history and religions of the world a lot. So the art and architecture from various cultures - from Asia to Africa and even

Southwest American Indian and Mayan cultures have had a lot of influence on my work."

Matusiak classifies her work as expressionistic.

"To me, it's an expression of pure emotion," Matusiak said.

Having found the Clayton Art Fair a success, Matusiak hopes to return next year with some new and creative pieces.

CHS alumnus participant in St. Louis Art Fair

katherinesher

At the 11th Annual St. Louis Art Fair, patrons could see artists from as far away as Buenos Aires and Argentina, to as close as St. Louis. Of the four local artists, one happens to be a CHS alumnus. Marianne Baer graduated in the class of 1979 and has pursued a career in art.

"I got to do a lot of experimenting while I was at CHS," Baer said. "It was good. I still remember Mr. Groom telling the assignment to the class and then saying, 'Marianne, go nuts!'"



annalise shumway

After graduating from Clayton, Baer went on to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Art.

"Since there was no art school at Madison, I had to take all the prerequisites my first two years," Baer said. "I didn't even get to touch the clay until my junior year, and then I went to Italy my senior year."

Baer produces pottery but didn't start in the art business until 1987.

"College doesn't teach you what you really need to start out," Baer said. "They don't teach you how to make a portfolio or teach you how to present to a gallery. Accounting and management was another thing they didn't teach you."

"Breaking in was very hard," Baer said. "I started with jewelry. My dad knew a lady who agreed to take my work around to the stores. I moved back home in 1987 and got a job with Craft Alliance. They let me use their studio and I got to begin creating pottery."

Baer creates two sets of pottery, one in color and the other in black and white. At the Art Fair, Baer displayed her black and white works including wall hangings, mugs, clocks, pots, and platters.

"I really like doing both color and black and white," Baer said. "But if I really want to make this my career I have to concentrate on one or the other."

For aspiring artists, Baer has one piece of advice: "Follow your heart, it just makes it easier."

Baer participates in four to five art fairs a year and is always a staple at the St. Louis Art Fair.



annalise shumway

Kitchen K offers trendy place to relax, enjoy classic food

katherinesher

My dad had tickets to the final home pre-season game for the Rams this season. Due to my team practice, my family didn't have a chance to eat dinner before the game. After the first half we left, and were desperate to find something to eat in downtown St. Louis.

What we thought would be an impossible task wasn't that hard to accomplish.

While walking back to our car, we spotted Kitchen K on the corner of Washington and 10th. We decided to give it a try and headed inside to try to find something we could eat.

Little did we know that we would be stepping into a restaurant that looks like it belongs in downtown Chicago. As soon as we walked in, we saw an open restaurant with very modern furniture and funky lighting. Bright colors were everywhere, but the simple black table and white chairs added a classic charm to this modern warehouse turned restaurant. Mood lighting was everywhere, and Kitchen K could confine to a date restaurant as well as a place to bring the kids for a family dinner.

I have to admit, I expected Kitchen K to offer a very "yuppie" and modern menu because of the decor. I half expected to see everything made with feta cheese and sun-dried tomatoes, which I have no interest in, but that wasn't their forte. I was surprised to find good American classics, like the Sloppy Joe and hamburgers, but with fun twists. As the waitress came to take our order, I noticed that there was an open kitchen, so hungry patrons could watch their food be-

ing prepared. My favorite part was that all of the cooks had brightly colored button downs, which was the only uniform in the building.

While looking at the menu, I noticed a wide variety of entrees, soups, salads, and sandwiches. There looked to be something for everybody. There was casual dining as well as fancy restaurant food, and patrons could easily receive a three-course meal or just a plain old sandwich if they were in a hurry. Prices were reasonable, entrees ranging anywhere from \$10-20.

We decided to go for the casual part of the menu.

Both of my parents ordered a Sloppy Joe, my brother ordered his usual hamburger, and I ordered the beef burrito. The twist for the Sloppy Joe was that it was made with Cuban brisket instead of good old pulled meat. My dad didn't care for it, but my mom thought it was a good addition. The burger was just an ordinary burger and same with the burrito. They were good, just not exactly something to write home about. All entrees came with homemade potato chips that were excellent. The portions were huge, plus it was late, so we didn't order any dessert, but with desserts like Chocolate Ecstasy Cake, I'm sure they aren't too bad.

For \$30, my family was able to enjoy a late night dinner (we didn't order anything to drink other than water). A menu with a variety of daily specials, everyday items, entrees, salads, soups, and appetizers, it's not hard to find something to eat at Kitchen K. My favorite part



of the meal was watching the cooks prepare it. I was mesmerized by everything that was going on in the kitchen, and it was cool seeing every part of how a meal is prepared. Another plus for Kitchen K is that the smoking section is off in the bar, away from where the meal is prepared and away from the majority of people dining. Kitchen K is a good spot for those hungry after a game, but I wouldn't necessarily say to drive

downtown every time you want a burger. The best part about Kitchen K is that it shows the direction that downtown St. Louis is headed. More modern, upbeat restaurants and stores are on the way, and Kitchen K is just the beginning of this trend.

** out of four

For more information call: 241-9900 or visit kitchen-k.com

Used with permission by www.kitchen-k.com

Partisan ketchup leaves independents starving

Recently a bunch of conservative Republican supporting shmos have come up with a new idea to save the world from Democratic ketchup. This new group of Bush supporters is beginning to manufacture and sell "W" ketchup in great numbers.

The ketchup was started when the creators were having their weekly picnic and realized that every time they took a bite and tasted those sweet tomatoes, those rich spices, and rich texture, that indeed they were being possessed by the devil. No I don't mean the devil as in Satan, Lucifer, Beelzebub, I am referring to liberals; specifically Theresa Heinz Kerry.

That's right, turns out that Heinz is actually linked to the creators of this 57 variety ketchup. She is an heiress to the late Henry John Heinz.

Theresa Heinz Kerry currently owns 4 percent of the Heinz company's stock. Theresa Heinz Kerry is a well known supporter of democratic presidential candidate John Kerry who has received campaign funding from Theresa Heinz Kerry.

As a more educated person might reckon, every drop of ketchup could be another vote for John Kerry. So according to the slogan for W ketchup, "Don't support democrats? Why should your ketchup?"

Now I have to ask myself what's ok to eat and what's not, and even further how can I

cook? Oil and gas companies tend to favor Bush, so I can't use the stove. Electric companies tend to favor Kerry for his energy ideas, so I can't use the crock pot.

I have no other options except to build a fire... except wait! The lumberjacks support Bush. It seems I am caught in an endless quandary.

When will we see the end of this madness? Is there more to come?

Imagine if you found out tomorrow that people who hold stock in Baskin and Robbins support Bush. Suddenly you find yourself staring at 33 flavors and know that not a single one is safe.

I worry that when I go through the lunch line at school that I could be using the wrong kind of

ketchup. Can I even eat buffalo wings anymore without supporting the people of Buffalo, NY, a mostly democratic city?

Suddenly carbs just aren't enough, now I have to cut the politics out as well. Rumors have started that along with bread co.'s new low carb bread and lower carb bread is a whole new line of bread. Liberal bread is their newest creation, it will feature a lot of grains and healthy vitamins, and promotes gay marriage. Conservative bread is also on its way, it is white bread, the way it's always been. Conservative bread will also be known for its distinct taste of unilateralism.

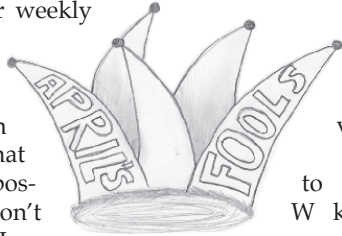
As an independent I find myself slowly starving to death. Never sure what's safe to eat. So, please, be careful what you eat, how you cook it, and where you eat it. In the end it's not who you vote for, but what lurks under your hamburger bun.



Don't support Democrats, why should your ketchup? For more info visit <http://www.wketchup.com>

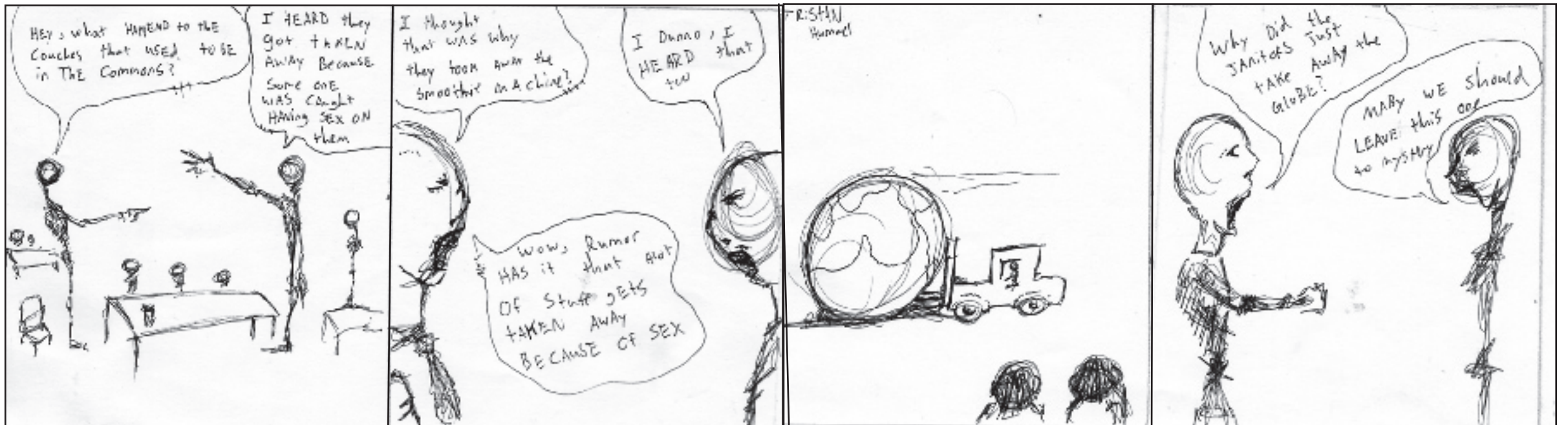


It may look like just another harmless tomato based ketchup...but beware. For more info visit <http://www.heinz.com>

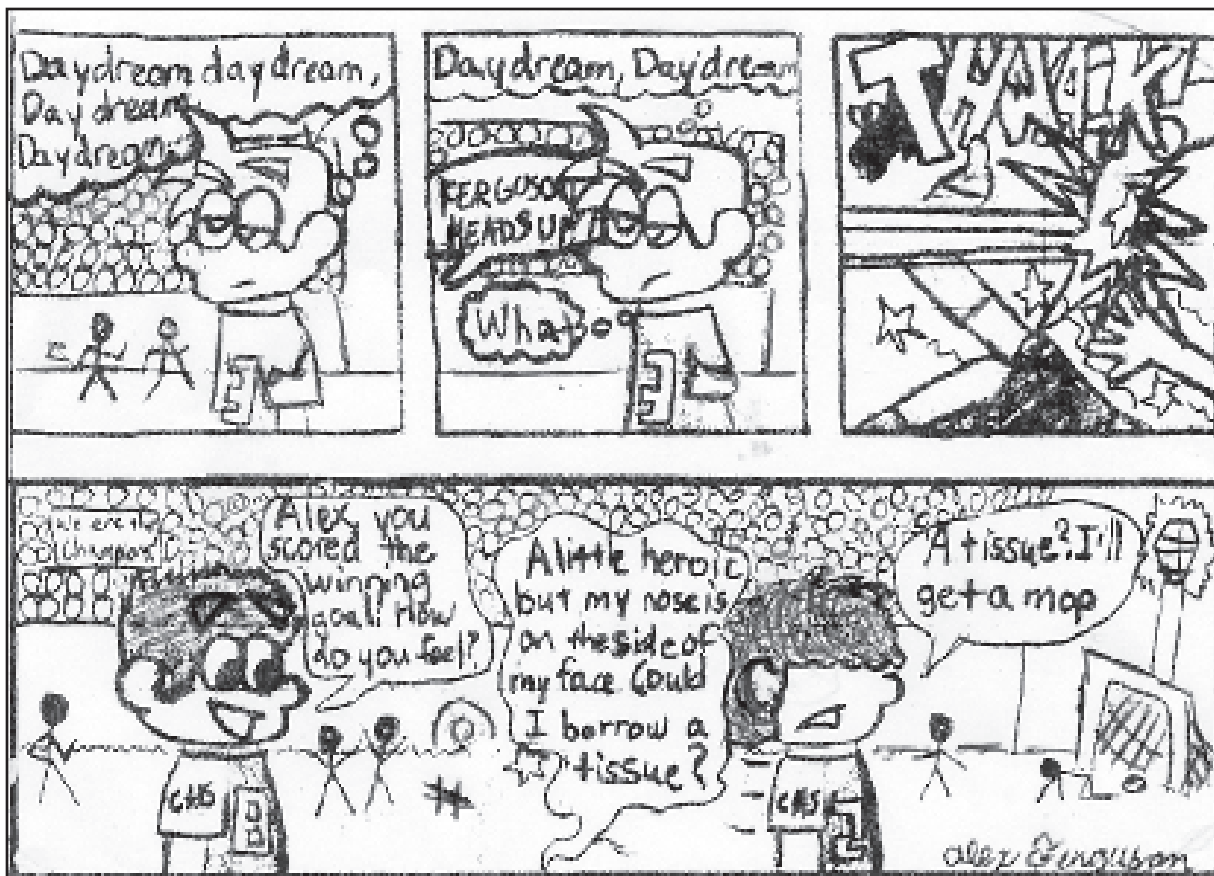


by Sam April
"That was almost funny."

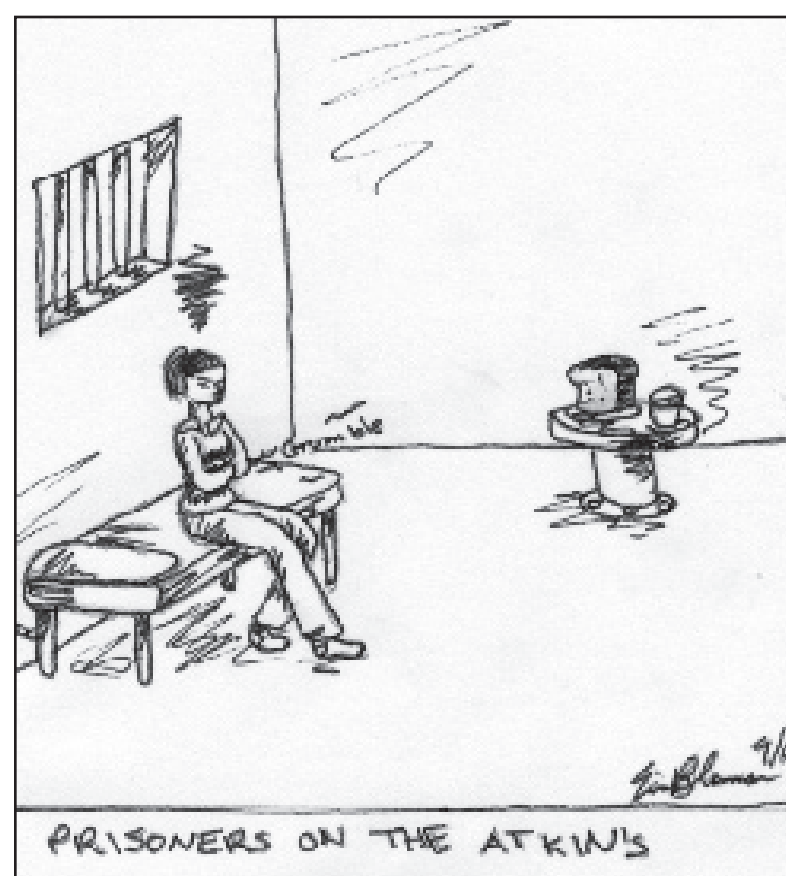
A little sketchy by Tristan Hummel



Status Quo by Alex Ferguson



A carb-toon by Erin Blumer



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Petals of Imperfection

By Micah Fredman

“I Dwell in Possibility,” wrote Emily Dickinson, “A fairer house than prose... With chambers as the Cedars / Impregnable of eye.” We often define ourselves by the places that we call home. Nature and possibility are two homes Dickinson and I share, but I have many more. In my mosaic of homes, there is a tile for the blackish red brick house with vines crawling up the side where I watch the giant fiery maple shed its autumn leaves. I add a tile for the clash of beige and blue along the shoreline of Miami Beach where my family has spent the last twelve Passovers. We retell the story of the Israelite exodus from Egypt as if the waters have just closed up behind us and we can taste freedom in the ocean spray. There is a tile for the Cape Cod Lobster Hut where, although I don’t eat lobster, I watch as the hungry vacationers attack their crabs with hammers, the substitute for forks and knives at this fine restaurant. These are just a few of my homes, but traveling through Spain and Israel this summer, I had the chance to add some more.



A tile for the blackish red brick house with vines crawling up the side where I watch the giant fiery maple shed its autumn leaves.

Endless fields of olive trees, grassy hills, and sunflowers soothe my eyes as I drive toward the southern coast of Spain. The olive tree, a thin trunk and a head of gnarled and tangled branches, is adorned with a leaf collage of greens, browns, and whites. The fields are yellow and golden by the road’s edge, gradually fading into beige and brown in the distance. And the sunflowers, who mirror their namesake, are my favorite. They extend their long green limbs and necks, reaching for the sun like young maidens lifting their noses to the sky. The sunflowers of Spain are bright and cheerful, each glorious flower boasting its beauty and perfection. But not all sunflowers are like the sunflowers of Spain.

Looking on from a bus in Israel, the sunflowers are different. The sunflowers of the Jewish homeland are the cast out and forgotten, the sunflowers that fled from Babylon, Russia, and Germany, the sunflowers ripped from the earth and replanted in a new garden. Like statues cast of bronze and copper scrap, they stare all day long at the earth. Their grief, the burdens they bear upon their shoulders, are too heavy to spend the day head high, following the sun. Some of them whisper in the wind that their namesake, their father, has disowned them, so they no longer honor him with their gaze. Their years of watering are long past; they have no tears left to nourish one another.

As the sun begins to show its face to the east, I wake up to the American Airlines stewardess informing us to buckle our seat belts in preparation for landing at Lambert Field. Passing over highway 270, a billboard reads ‘JESUS,’ in highway size capital letters on a green background. Having lived in St. Louis all my life, it shouldn’t seem that out of the ordinary to me. Rococo churches adorn the sides of our highways, and buildings post Christmas lights informing me that ‘Christ the Savior is Born.’ But it is quite a contrast to the six weeks I spent in Israel where I prayed on Friday nights at Judaism’s holiest site, where crowds of men and women in the one hundred degree weather dress in religious garb—black suits, black hats, long skirts, and thick long-sleeve shirts, and where you begin to convince yourself that a car driving through the streets on Saturday is a strange occurrence.

In my bed at home, I dreamt I was a sunflower. I spent the days in the Andalusian breeze, as the elderly flowers to my right discussed Spain’s Civil War and the lasting effects of Franco’s rule on sunflowers. In the distance, another flower sang lines from Cervantes’ *Don Quixote*, as three flowers to his right acted out the scene. A lanky father and his son played Quixote and Sanchez, and the third was cast as the windmill. As the sun set on this garden of the absurd, I felt my roots begin to loosen their hold upon the earth. Soon, my leaves had turned to wings, and I was flying in the twilight sky.

When the flight came to a close, I land upon a field of sunflowers in Israel. My roots grab hold of the ground, my spine begins to hang forward, and my golden leaves crinkle into auburn brown. The whispers of poetry and political debates are drowned out by a soft humming, a chant of repentance for the sins of the world. I miss the beauty and perfection of the Andalusian fields, but as I look deeper into the copper statues that surrounded me, I see their magnificence as well. Though their perfection has been shattered, they held their own form of beauty.

What I discovered this summer is that I can hold all these differences within myself: that my home is not only Clayton, Missouri, not only the Western Wall in Jerusalem, not only the beautiful rows of sunflowers in Spain, and not only the fields of imperfect sunflowers in Israel. My home is a mosaic of colorful tiles from all of these places and more. A tile for sunsets in Miami, a tile for the sand dunes and sea gulls of Cape Cod, a tile for the icy lake in Northern Wisconsin, a tile for the chaotic markets in Israel, a tile for the busy streets of Manhattan, a tile for oozing chocolate soufflés, a tile for the pink-pastel drawings of my grandmother and my grandfather’s firm wrinkled hands, a tile for my long fingers dancing like the wind across the keys of a piano, and a tile for my mother, my father, my brother and sister. And lastly, I add a chipped tile, the tile for all the tiles, for the contrasts that lie within them and for the mortar that holds them together. For the imperfections and the knowledge that the imperfections are as beautiful as the rest.



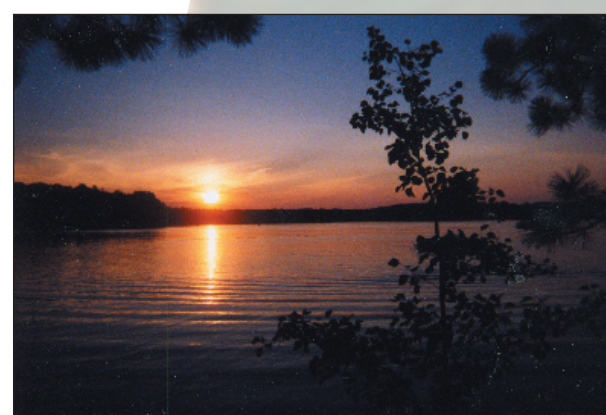
The sunflowers of Spain are bright and cheerful, each glorious flower boasting its beauty and perfection.



The sunflowers of the Jewish homeland are the cast out and forgotten, the sunflowers that fled from Babylon, Russia, and Germany, the sunflowers ripped from the earth and replanted in a new garden.



A tile for the sand dunes and sea-gulls of Cape Cod.



A tile for the icy lake in Northern Wisconsin.



A tile for the chaotic markets in Israel.