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One year after hurricane Katrina, students who experienced it firsthand look back

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## Change to hazing policy aims to appease parents, causes controversy among students

**Anya Veremakis**  
Staff Reporter



CHS alum Max Groszold poses in a mismatched, feminine-inspired outfit because of his nomination for Peppers King. Groszold, then a senior, was one of several senior boys who dressed up for the traditional boy-asks-girl dance. Now, new additions to the hazing policy prohibit this tradition.

A chance to become a part of an amazing community, a vast establishment of new experiences, and millions of opportunities all crammed into four years. For incoming freshman, this is what lays ahead of them at CHS as they just begin this journey.

Yet, before the 2006 school year even began, administrators were faced with calls from many freshman parents concerned about the hazing at CHS. The question then must be asked, what is hazing and where do you draw the line?

Hazing is defined in the MSHSAA official handbook as “any action or activity which inflicts physical or mental harm or anxiety, or which inflicts physical or mental harm or anxiety, or which demeans, degrades or disgraces a person, regardless of location, intent or consent of participants.”

This issue was soon reported to administrators to be grouped with the fall sports teams at CHS.

“What we tried to do is meet with captains of all the fall sports and ask them for ideas on how to resolve hazing,” Athletic Director Bob Bone said. “We tried to get the athletes involved in our decisions.”

Administrators confirm no new rules have been made regarding hazing. However, it is undeniable that many foreign rules have arisen

this school year making many CHS students unhappy.

“We have become more aware of the policy, and to be honest we got some reports of hazing that made us concerned about the situation,” Bone said. “Now the policy is more addressed and emphasized.”

Any student reported to have been involved in hazing will be suspended for up to five days. According to the MSHSAA official handbook, “hazing and harassment have no place in school-sponsored activity programs and pose a significant risk to the physical and mental welfare of students. Coaches, directors, sponsors, and administrators must take an active role in the prevention of all forms of hazing and harassment. Students directly or indirectly involved in hazing incidents, on or off school grounds, could be considered ineligible by the school administration under the MSHSAA citizenship standard.”

“We are just trying to make CHS athletics a positive experience,” Bone said.

However, by becoming so overzealous in these newly enforced rules, some students think much of the old experiences authentic to CHS athletics are being destroyed.

“These new rules have changed CHS for the worst,” sophomore Courtney Pierce said. “What is now deemed ‘hazing’ wasn’t necessarily thought of as negative before. The school is preventing many old traditions, they are just becoming

too overly involved in life outside school and ultimately taking away part of what high school is.”

One of the rituals newly banned at CHS included a field hockey tradition dating back decades. On the morning of one of the big games during the season, the girls on varsity field hockey (with the consent of every parent) would go to each freshman girl’s house and give her mismatched clothes to wear and a sign that the team made publicizing their game. The upperclassmen would then take the freshman to breakfast and then to school for the day.

“At first I was nervous about it, but it turned out being really fun,” Pierce said. “It made us all feel a part of CHS field hockey, and it helped me to get to know some of the older girls. Even though I had to wear a mismatched outfit, it was only for one day of my life, and when the day was over it was a good memory that I will always have of CHS.”

This CHS tradition is well known to the CHS community and held with a good connotation.

“I think it would’ve been fun,” freshman Anna Copilevitz said. “It’s part of the whole field hockey tradition, so we should’ve done it. I don’t think hazing is bad unless you’re getting physically hurt or tormented.”

Another tradition banned at CHS is one held by the hockey team. Similar to the field hockey

## New state law limits number of passengers for teenage drivers

**Amy Brooks**  
Co-Editor in Chief

According to the National Security Council, about 44% of all teens in the U.S. die from driving crashes. This staggering number is the reason why the council has declared this problem to be a national emergency, and why Missouri has recently changed the restrictions for intermediate drivers.

Scientists have come up with a set of common reasons for the deaths, including alcohol, feelings of invincibility, driving at night and speeding.

However, one overlooked cause is an excess of people in the car with a teenager. This should not be surprising considering that, according to the national health museum, a 16-year-old is more likely to have a fatal car crash with three or more people in the car than with no people in the car.

Therefore, Missouri has recently changed its intermediate driver restrictions. Beginning August 28 intermediate drivers may not drive with more than one person below the age of 20 during the six months after receiving their licenses, not counting direct family. In the following six months, intermediate drivers may not drive with more than three people under the age of 20, excepting intermediate family.

“It’s distracting,” Barrett said. “Young drivers don’t have the experience. When you add these other people it could lead to an accident. It’s too much at once. When I started driving, I didn’t even have the radio on.”

The restrictions may prevent fatal car crashes, but for some students the new driving restrictions are inconvenient.

“I was going to drive carpool for some people in my neighborhood. It’s a huge inconvenience for their parents,” Sophomore Chelsea Flood said. “I’m also expected to drive my brother and his friends to school, but now I can’t.”

Laura Shoemaker, also an intermediate driver, considered the driving restrictions to be a nuisance as well.

“It’s a big inconvenience when I want to give people rides,” Shoemaker said. “I think some people might be stranded.”

Because the restrictions may prove to be problematic for some teens, they may not be welcomed by the intermediate drivers.

“Teens will view the law as a law meant to be broken,” Flood said. “I mean, I won’t even be able to take my friends out to lunch.”

However, teens may start paying attention to the law if the amount of passengers in one car is controlled effectively.

“At first a lot of teenagers will probably ignore the law-I probably will,” Shoemaker said. “Once they start getting tickets, they’ll pay attention.”

Despite the complaints, the restrictions, which were effective on August 28, will hopefully decrease the devastating numbers of teens involved in fatal crashes.

“Studies have shown that the restrictions save lives, so I have to agree with it,” Barrett said.

The Clayton community and the rest of Missouri will wait to see if the new restrictions are just inconvenient, or if they make a difference.

“I hope that the law will actually change the amount of deaths,” Shoemaker said. “If not, I think they’re wasting their time.”



Scott Shapiro

The Shrewsbury bound MetroLink train coming out of a tunnel at Forsyth. The train goes under both Forsyth and Forest Park Parkway and required major construction throughout much of Clayton.

## MetroLink expansion opens

**Amy Brooks**  
Co-Editor in Chief

After three years of construction and a total price tag of \$678 million, the new MetroLink Cross County Extension opened to the public on Aug 26. The extension adds eight miles and nine stations to existing MetroLink lines. The new line runs through Clayton to Shrewsbury

The extension opened with a splash over the weekend of Aug 26 and 27, with free rides on the extension drawing many interested people.

According to Whitney Ehinger, the Assistant Manager of Project Communications for the Cross County MetroLink Project, over 12,600 people rode MetroLink during the free weekend and ridership continues to increase.

“The public has greeted this new branch with open arms,” Ehinger said. “Judging by our numbers, we are on track to double ridership since the opening of the Cross County Extension.”

Junior Sarah Rangwala rode during the free weekend, but doesn’t plan to continue riding.

“I used the MetroLink the week-

end it was free in our area,” Rangwala said. “I probably won’t use it that much, though, because I don’t really need to go into the downtown area and the other stops are close enough to walk to or drive to.”

Ehinger also adds that the excitement was due to the wide area opened up to new riders and businesses.

“The nine new MetroLink stations along the Shrewsbury Branch are within walking distance of more than 30,000 jobs and over 100,000 residents,” Ehinger said.

In addition, many more people will now be able to take the MetroLink downtown for big events such as concerts and sporting events.

Clayton residents have different views on the new extension. Senior Alex Johnson was bothered by the construction and traffic.

“I was bothered sometimes in the morning if I could hear the construction, but the most I was ever affected was driving to school in the morning when I had to take Forsyth,” Johnson said. “When they would do construction on the bridge they would make traffic

completely halt for ten minutes at a time so they could work under the bridge.”

However, Johnson believes the result was well worth it.

“I have already used it for going to the baseball game, and that’s probably what I’m going to use it for the most. It was so nice having a Metro stop so close to my house.”

Sophomore Paige Meneses feels similarly about the pros and cons of the construction.

“I think it was two summers ago that I woke up at around six or seven because the construction workers would be using a jackhammer and it would rattle the things on my wall and my bed would shake,” Meneses said.

But Meneses already uses MetroLink and plans to continue doing so in the future, making the early morning noise worthwhile.

“A stop is very close to my neighborhood and it is fun to take to the loop and a lot of other places, but I haven’t gone downtown yet, which I would like to do,” Meneses said. “It is a good source of public transportation which is good for the environment and it is nice to

METROLINK, 5

# Hurricane Katrina: One Year Later

One year after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the city still has a long way to go on the way to recovery. With half the population still absent and many schools and businesses still closed, criticism of both FEMA and the local leadership is growing.

**Sarah Horn**  
Staff Reporter

It's been exactly 56 weeks, five days since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, making it the worst and most costly natural disaster in U.S. history. However, the outlook for recovery nowadays may be no better than it was one year ago.

According to the website think-progress.org, less than half of the original population has returned to New Orleans, which is close to what the population was in 1880, and 60 percent of the homes remain without power. The public transportation system is down, with only 17 percent of buses operating today. Doctors are scarce and many hospitals remain closed. Only 66 percent of the public schools have managed to re-open and most alarmingly, there has been a 300 percent increase in suicide rates.

Lately, the government has faced criticism, much of it directed specifically at Mayor Ray Nagin of New Orleans. Even senior Yue Pang, who had moved to New Orleans and returned to Clayton after the storm occurred, has harsh words for the government response.

"I've never had much hope in the government there, and I think the current situation leaves much to be desired," Pang said. "The government is one large bureaucracy and nothing ever gets done. The money laundering down there is reminiscent of a third-world country. They need fewer corrupt officials and some way for the people to become less apathetic about their own situation and elect people who get things done."

She had been in New Orleans during the storm because her father was a doctor on rotation in a hospital there. Having experienced the storm and its hectic aftermath, her family decided to come back to their old hometown.

As is evident in the media, concern is widespread that so little has been accomplished in a year. One of the main concerns is the question if New Orleans will ever regain its diverse population base.

"I'm not sure if I should say this, but the entire demographic has changed," Pang said. "After the hurricane a lot of the poor ghettos were flooded and a wave of Mexican immigrants has apparently replaced the people that Barbara Bush condemned (the 'looters'). I saw them 'at work' during the hurricane, and I think it was a combination of socioeconomics and the fact that many of them had just seen their families and homes wrecked forever."

“  
**[New Orleans] needs fewer corrupt officials and some way for the people to become less apathetic about their situation.**

**Yue Pang**  
Senior

Leonard Moore, an African-American teacher at Louisiana State University in a CBS interview, "The music is going, everybody's dancing, everybody's having a good time. Once the music gets turned off, the white folk have a place to sit down, a place to sleep, a place for their children to go to school. We're going back to a trailer."

The media has also viciously attacked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) because of its initial lack of involvement and the slow rate of recovery. "What we have to realize is that this was a very large-scale, catastrophic disaster and that it is going to take some time," said Darryl J. Madden, a spokesperson for the Gulf Coast Recovery for FEMA. "We are in a far better position than one year ago."

Madden explained that FEMA

Mayor Nagin has been the scapegoat for this particular issue. Although he has claimed publicly that he is championing the poor, others believe his main concerns lie with the rich. Support for this includes his recent announcement that he plans to build a 68-story condominium in the middle of New Orleans.

"I look at the post-Katrina piece as a game of musical chairs," said Professor



**Above:** In this photograph taken from video, a beach home in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi is in the rebuilding process, Aug. 18, 2006. The Gulf Coast in southern Mississippi is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Katrina a year later. Below: A tattered American flag flies over the Barousse's home in the Irish Bayou neighborhood of New Orleans, Louisiana, Aug. 1, 2006. "Most of these people are not coming back," Gene Barousse says. Of the 80 to 90 families in the almost-rural community of the Irish Bayou section of New Orleans, 12 remain, he says.

has accomplished much more than the media gives them credit for.

"We've removed 99 million cubic yards of debris," Madden said. "To help you visualize that, that is like taking enough average-sized garbage trucks filled with trash that lined up, they would spread across the entire country. And look at the money we have placed into people's pockets. We have placed \$6 billion directly into individuals' pockets."

However, that is not to say that FEMA did not have it flaws in the recovery process.

"One of the big things that we were lacking was our ability to communicate across the line. We have to communicate," said Madden, who went on to describe that FEMA has been giving 3,000 cellular and satellite means of communication to individuals across the Gulf Coast.

While Madden explained that FEMA is working on the public infrastructure, including public schools, the number of students this year will be drastically fewer than normal. Prior to Katrina around 65,000 children went to public

schools in New Orleans. This fall it is estimated so far that there are only around 25,000 students.

Andie Lazar, a native of New Orleans who spent her freshman year at CHS after the storm wrecked her house, thinks this situation may be starting to change.

"A lot of people didn't return [to the schools], but more are coming in now," Lazar said.

While Pang has no desire to return to New Orleans, Lazar is glad to be home, although she was initially frightened of seeing the damage done to her city.

"I was pretty happy to see all of my friends and see how New Orleans has changed," Lazar said.

She also added that a lot of sections need some serious work done and she sometimes wishes she were back at Clayton.

In the end, New Orleans was so rich in tradition and a city so full of culture and excitement that while it may be difficult to rebuild, one hopes it can be done. America wants to see New Orleans returned to its original state, and even those, like Pang, who didn't live there long, feel a certain pull to it.



Richard Sennott / Minneapolis Star Tribune / MCT



Michael Bryant / Philadelphia Inquirer / MCT

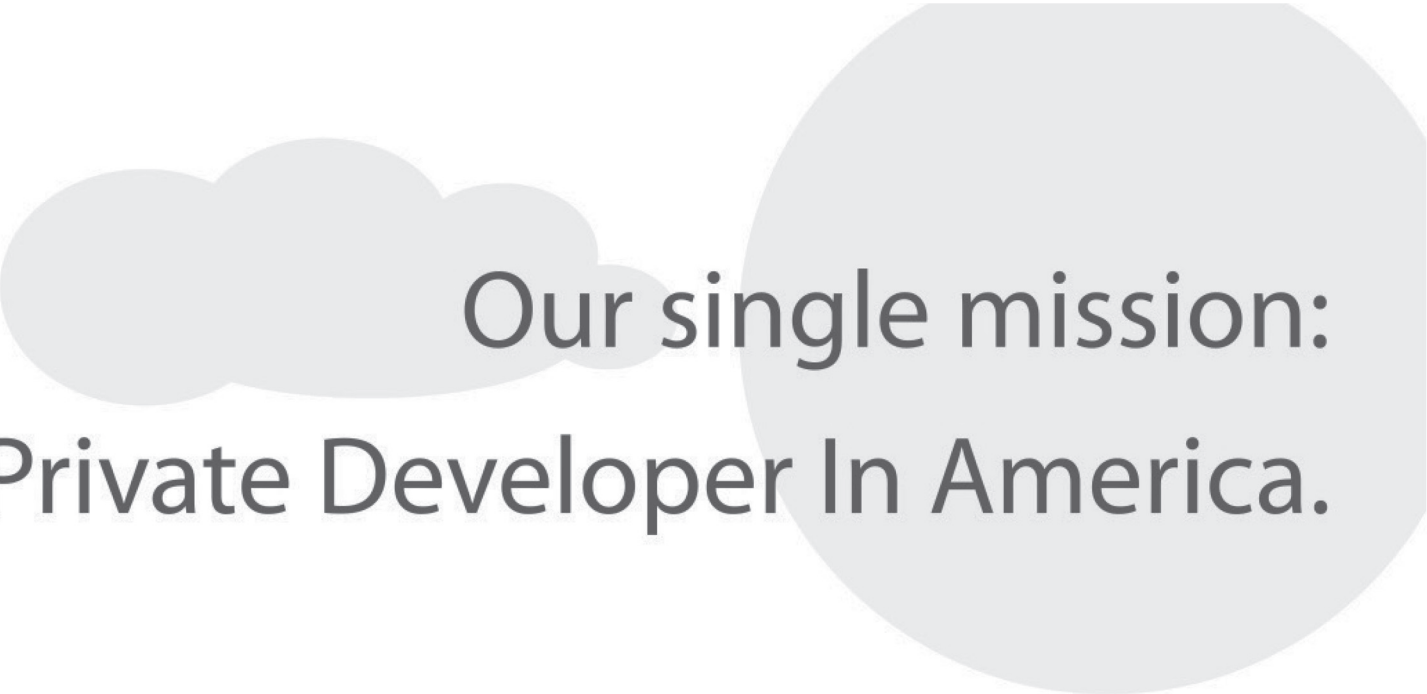
**Right: U.S. Coast** Admiral Thad Allen, Biloxi Mayor A. J. Holloway and President George W. Bush visit a home under construction on the corner of Dorries Street and Shell Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, Monday, Aug. 28, 2006. Below: In this still photograph taken from video, a patio set sits on a former home site on Beach Drive in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, Aug. 18, 2006. The Gulf Coast in southern Mississippi is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Katrina a year later. Left: Jessica Wentling, a volunteer from Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, New York, throws damp and rotting drywall into a waiting wheelbarrow as her group cleans up a home in the Lakeview section of New Orleans, Louisiana, Aug. 14, 2006.



David Purdy / Biloxi Sun Herald / MCT



Gary Reyes / San Jose Mercury News / MCT



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# An astronomical decision revokes Pluto's status

**Yipeng Huang**  
Section Editor

For those concerned with why the orchestral suite *The Planets* never included a movement for Pluto, worry no more.

Astronomers worldwide gathered in August and reduced the number of planets in the solar system down to eight from the former nine. To much public outcry, Pluto is no longer considered a planet. News concerning the rationale behind the decision, however, seemed to gather much less attention.

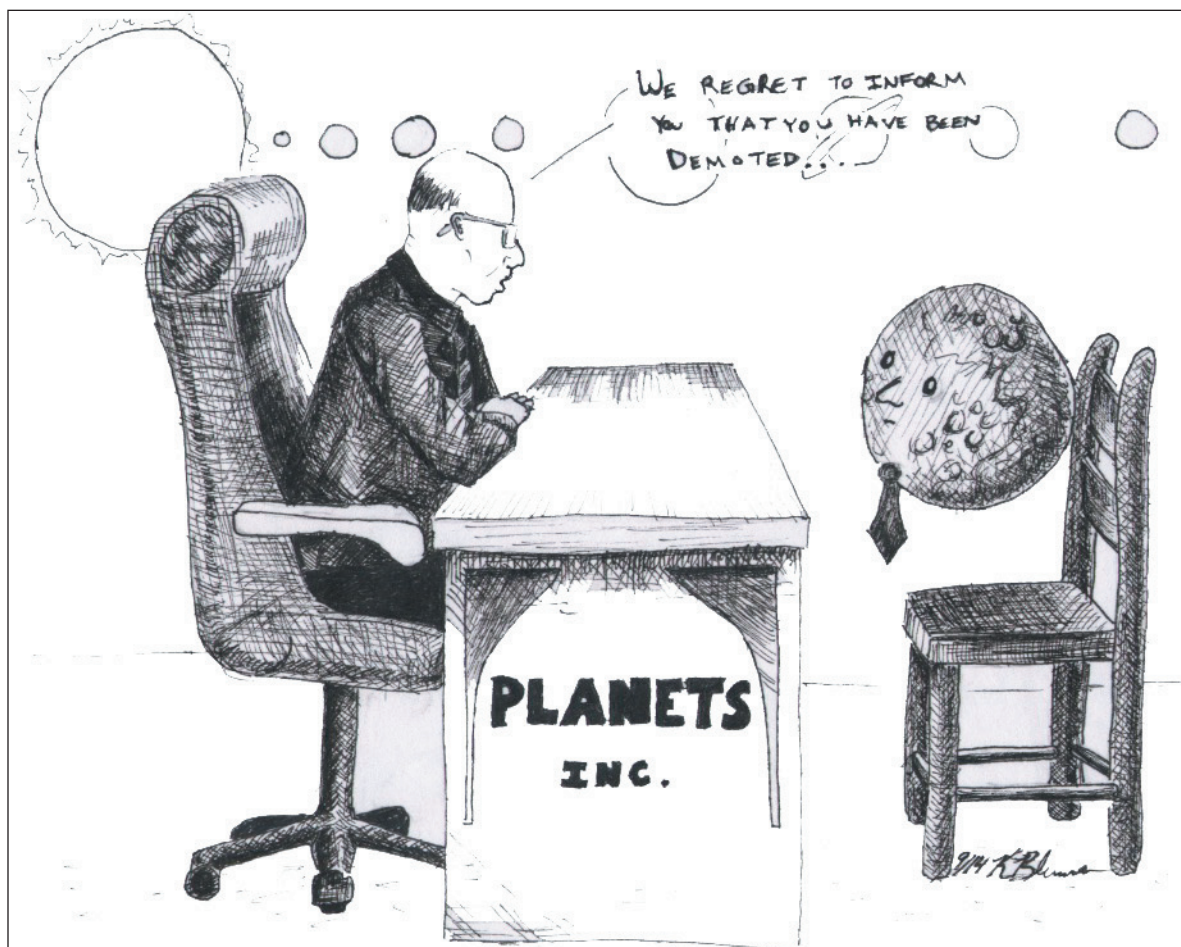
"The planets are something that kids learn in elementary schools, and certainly are something that the public is more connected to," science teacher Jennifer Adams said. "But the scientific community has to be precise with the language. Decisions like this that disregard sentiment and public beliefs are what move science forward."

Before last month's decision, the word "planet," which originated from the Greek term for "wanderer," referred simply to any large object that orbited the sun. These objects would move, or "wander," across the night sky relative to the fixed stars. The term had no formal definition since antiquity. The planets once included as many as 13 solar system objects, when a handful of large asteroids were considered planets as well. That number was reduced to eight when astronomers realized that the five large asteroids were members of a large family of similar objects.

With the discovery of Pluto by American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh in 1930, the planets became the nine we were familiar with a month ago. In light of new discoveries, however, Pluto found itself in the same awkward position that the large asteroids were once in.

"When we discovered that Pluto belonged to a family of similar objects in the Kuiper Belt, some of comparable size, calling it a planet became harder to justify," Agnes Kim, astronomy graduate student at University of Texas, Austin, said. "It seemed like we needed to redefine what a planet was."

The International Astronomical Union voted on the new definition of a planet. Under the new definition, a



Kerri Blumer

planet is now a celestial object that is in orbit around a star, is nearly round in shape, and has cleared out the neighborhood around its orbit.

The latter two constraints set limits on how small a planet can be.

"A body that reaches a high enough mass gains enough gravitational pull to sweep its path clean and maintain a round shape," Kim said. "In a way, these limitations require that a planet have a minimum mass."

The Union avoided using numerical limitations to create the definition in order to accommodate for planet-like objects that may be discovered in the future.

In addition, the new definition helps categorize the myriad of objects found orbiting other stars.

However, the new definition necessarily excludes Pluto, mainly because Pluto's eccentric orbit around the sun criss-crosses those of other small objects in the vicinity and, as a result, Pluto does not meet the third restriction to become a planet.

"If Pluto was discovered today, it would not have been classified as a planet," Adams said. "Every textbook I've looked at has said something close to that, and so I think that the demotion of Pluto is reflective of what's been waiting to happen for a long time."

But not all astronomers believe that the redefinition was necessary.

"The reclassification doesn't make what is and isn't a planet any less arbitrary," Liam McDaid, professor of astronomy at Sacramento City college, said. "While the IAU is the final arbiter of the naming of stars and galaxies, I never saw any reason to create a definition for a planet. Some are worried that we will find many large objects, or dwarf planets, out in the Kuiper Belt. If we found an object bigger than Mercury in the Kuiper Belt, then it would have to be a planet, because no one will argue that Mercury isn't a planet. I would say that the definitions are arbitrary and could change in the future."

The debate amongst astronomers was especially heated within the U.S. due to the fact that Pluto's discoverer, Tombaugh, was the sole American to be credited for discovering a planet.

"I knew and respected Tombaugh from working with him once," McDaid said. "Tombaugh became commended worldwide when he found Pluto even though at the time he had no education beyond high school. To me, de-planetizing Pluto is just the end result of down playing Pluto and Tombaugh's contributions."

In the end, however, the demotion of Pluto does not influence the nature of what it is. There is ongoing science concerning Pluto. In 2005 two extra moons were discovered orbiting Pluto, in addition to the more widely known moon Charon. Currently there is a NASA probe en route to Pluto. Launched January this year, the New Horizons probe will be the first spacecraft to visit any object of the Kuiper Belt.

"Science-wise, it does not really matter what we call Pluto," Kim said. "The human tendency is to resist change and I am sure Pluto's demotion upset a lot of people. But I am sure some people are happy about it. In my opinion, I think what the IAU did was very reasonable." ☺



Pete Souza/Chicago Tribune/MCT

A young girl walks through a pool of water in what used to be the center of the village of Malsiga, Papua New Guinea in July of 2006. Global warming has caused water levels to rise.

## Global warming threatens to alter worldwide environment

**Preeti Viswanathan**  
Reporter

Imagine if hurricanes like Katrina occurred more frequently in the world. It could happen not too far from today. Al Gore's new movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," shows the ever increasing issue of global warming.

The former vice president shares shocking facts in his documentary to show that this is a problem which needs to be stopped. Gore said that the leading cause of global warming in recent years was carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fuel emissions. CO<sub>2</sub> traps heat from the sun in the atmosphere, causing an increase in global warming.

Although critics and skeptics of the film say that the Earth has been experiencing several climate changes throughout its history, the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere currently is the highest it has ever been. Furthermore, more

heat in the atmosphere is causing higher ocean water temperatures. This phenomenon could trigger more powerful hurricanes and tropical storms.

Certified Coastal Zone Manager Rick E. Voskuil says that when the amount of heat energy in a storm increases, it gets stronger.

"On average in the future, current scientific thought is that storms are going to be more intense and erratic," Voskuil said. "Many climatologists are discussing that for our hurricane storm scale, (the Saffir-Simpson scale), we're going to need to add a category 6."

**Rick E. Voskuil**  
Coastal Zone Manager

Another fact pointed out in the movie was that America is the largest contributor to carbon dioxide fuel emissions in the world because of use of SUV's and power plants.

"Even with the use of hybrid cars, we'd probably still be the biggest contributor," Voskuil said. "But in 20 years from now, that could change, particularly consid-

ering the economic development in Asia - China and India for example. The number one thing you could do for the environment is walk to work. But that's not feasible the way American cities are set up."

"An Inconvenient Truth" stated that more melting ice like the Larsen Ice Shelf will raise sea levels and affect coastal towns. Also, temperatures in the Arctic are likely to increase, therefore, polar ice caps will melt and species there will likely be endangered.

"When you think of the Arctic, there are a few particular animals you think of, such as polar bears and seals, but there are many other examples of animal life that are directly affected," Voskuil said. "Polar bears and some seals give birth on the ice, and they swim until they find ice to live on. Giving birth in the water threatens the life of both the mother and the cub."

Al Gore said ways in which humans could largely cut down on environmental pollution are using hybrid cars, walking when possible, conserving electricity, recycling paper and saving water.

Voskuil agreed that humans could work toward reducing waste.

"Everything is connected. One thing that happens in the environment can affect everything else," Voskuil said. "We don't have to change our lifestyle; we have to rethink what we do." ☺

## Gas prices place heavy burden on students

The fluctuating cost of gas forces students to limit driving

**Ugochi Onyema**  
Reporter

As the year progresses, more students are obtaining their licenses and receiving cars as a reward for that accomplishment. However, this new rite of passage is costing students a lot more than it used to.

The rise of gas prices has taken its toll on most students who drive. Sophomore Alli Holt and Senior Tess Shapiro both drive SUV's and it costs a lot to fill their tanks.

"I pay about \$30 per week to fill my tank," Holt said.

Junior Tim Mena, who only has to drive two to three miles, also pays about \$30 per week to fill his tank. He thinks that the prices are going to decrease.

"I think that gas prices are already so high, so I can't see them increasing anymore as it is," Mena said.

Shapiro pays about \$50 for her Jeep Cherokee per week. She thinks that gas prices have increased in a major way within the two years

that she has been driving.

"They've gone up, so I've taken strives to drive less and car-

pool with other people," Shapiro said.

The gas prices have forced Holt to rely on other sources of funds to pay for gas, but only for this fall sports season.

"I have to pay for [gas], but I can't have a job during tennis season, so my mom lets me earn allowance," Holt said. "Also, my friends help out because I lug them around."

Shapiro thinks that the prices will decrease rather than increase in the near future.

"I think that the [price of gas] will decrease, because they are al-

ready too high, and lately they've been going down," Shapiro said.

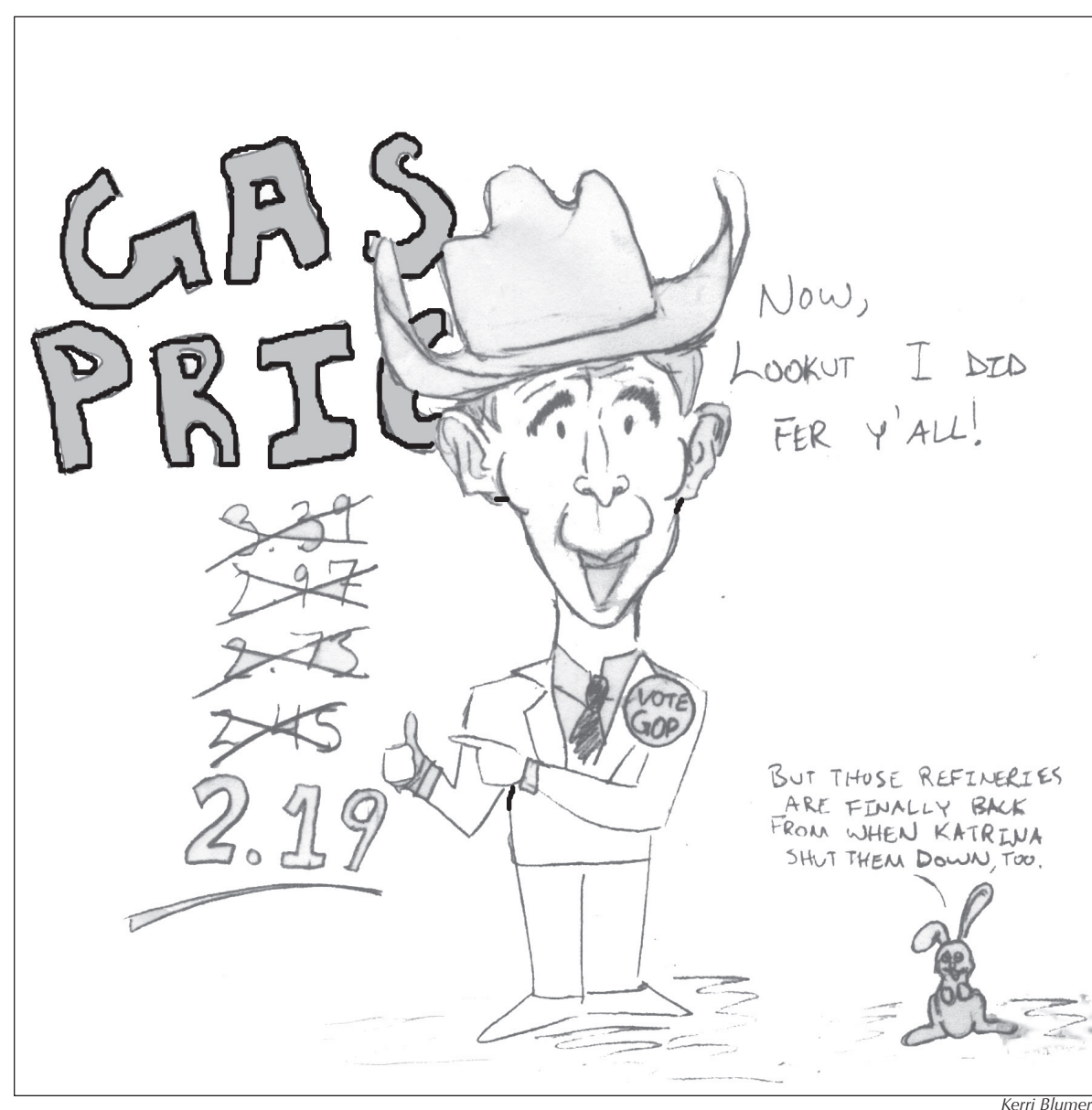
The toll of gas prices on students depends on what kind of car they drive, so some may be paying less for a smaller car. Holt thinks that her Honda Passport is affordable to fill.

"If I had [bought a different type of car], I probably would be paying more for gas because my car isn't too expensive to fill up, even though it's a SUV," Holt said.

Even though gas prices have gotten a lot less expensive, many students are still going to be spending quite a bit of money on gas, at least for the time being. ☺

**"I think that gas prices are already so high, I can't see them increasing anymore as it is."**

**Tim Mena**  
Junior



Kerri Blumer

# Benito's Gelato: Trend from Italia makes its way to the streets of Clayton

**Nick Andriole**  
Staff Reporter

Central Avenue in Clayton's Central Business District will soon be home to yet another unique retailer. Clayton is home to many interesting businesses, however this will be the first store specializing in Gelato within Clayton city limits.

Plans call for Benito's Gelato shop located at 14 N. Central Ave, to open in November. The space was formerly occupied by Jennifer's Pharmacy, which recently expanded to another space on Central Ave.

According to the co-owner, Cecily Hoffius, Benito's Gelato will offer three main products: Gelato, Chocolates, and Kaldi's Coffee products such as lattes, cappuccinos, and mochas.

"We're bringing in chocolates from three different American companies," Hoffius said. "We'll have chocolate by the piece, like an individual truffle; or we can package a gift of individual assortments, and

we will have some candies that are bagged and packaged"

Despite its other offerings, the main focus at Benito's will be the Gelato.

Within the Saint Louis area, gelato is a relatively new trend. Benito's Gelato operates a store in Chesterfield, which will serve in addition to the store in Clayton.

Whole Food Market, located on Brentwood Blvd offers a gelato bar within the upscale grocery store. As well, a Gelateria located in downtown St. Louis has been in operation since Jan 2006. Gelato is very similar to ice cream and originated in Italy.

Unlike ice cream, milk is used in gelato in lieu of cream. Many flavors of gelato exist, however typical flavors include chocolate, strawberry, coffee, and lemon.

"We bring our flavor bases from Italy, so they are very authentic," said Hoffius. "We have a plant here in St. Louis where we produce the gelato. We use grade

'A' dairy products that we buy in the St. Louis area. The quality level is extremely high."

Benito's Gelato will be open from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. during the working week, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. on Saturdays, and 8 a.m.-9 p.m. on Sundays. Carryout and café seating will be made available to customers and plans include outdoor seating.

"We are hoping to do outdoor seating," Hoffius said.

The City of Clayton operates under an outdoor dining season during the summer, which allows restaurants to use public owned right-of-way on the sidewalk by applying for an outdoor dining permit.

Benito's will be opening in the winter season, so there won't be much of a demand for outdoor dining upon opening. Outdoor seating may become available in Spring 2007.

Hoffius currently operates a catering business and has been in the catering business for 25 years.



Emil Thyssen

In addition, she has operated three restaurants at locations including the Missouri Botanical Gardens and the Saint Louis Zoo.

Hoffius is both excited and hopeful about the opening of the

new restaurant.

"I think Benito's offers a place where people can drop in, in a casual way to have a very upscale product to either eat there or carry out with them," Hoffius said.

**BENITO'S GELATO IS** set to open Winter 2006 on Central Avenue where Jennifer's Pharmacy used to be located. The shop will offer a variety of chocolates, Kaldi's coffee's, and ice cream

# Metrolink connects railways and people within community

**METROLINK, I**

"You don't have to worry about things like parking anywhere, and I think it is fun."

In addition to complaints about traffic and construction noise and mess, many critics of the extension have problems with the route, saying that it could stop in more logical locations. Others complain about lack of parking at several stations.

Sophomore Scott Shapiro has taken MetroLink to Cardinals games, but wonders where he would go on the new extension.

"I think the new MetroLink is a great addition to our city but I do believe the routes could have been chosen differently, I would never have a need to go to Shrewsbury," Shapiro said.

However, Cathie Farroll, Manager of Project Communications for the Cross County MetroLink project, believes the route has proven successful after years of planning.

"This route was studied extensively, beginning in the late 1980s," Farroll said. "We think the excellent ridership numbers support the choice of this route."

Farroll also points out that high real-estate costs in more urban areas like Clayton make land for parking lots too expensive.

But while coordinators call the expansion a huge success, financial troubles still plague Metro.

Metro began planning for the extension in 1999, with constructing beginning in 2003. The construction was supposed to end in 2005; so it's completion in 2006 is a year late significantly over budget.

According to Farroll, delays are an inevitable part of many projects.

"Nearly any capital project takes longer than originally planned and costs more than the first estimates," Farroll said. "This is true whether it's a highway, a hospital or a transit system. When plans are first made, basic assumptions are in place about locations, utility conflicts, community expectations and requirements. As plans progress, interested parties who have not pre-



Scott Shapiro

**A METROLINK TRAIN** courses through track in Forest Park. Recently, the metrolink has added several new tracks and stops, including one in Clayton, making for quick, convenient travel.

viously participated in the planning often add to the project by requiring roadway improvements, underground construction, lowered tracks, barrier walls and such. Delays can easily come about due to weather, unexpected utility conflicts or underground conditions that present unforeseen obstacles."

Rangwala lives close to the MetroLink construction on Forest Park Parkway, and dealt with construction mess and delays.

"There were times at about six in the morning when I would be woken up by the house vibrating and that was very annoying, especially during school," Rangwala said. "There was also once when we discovered a very long crack in one of our walls and we figured it was because of the construction right behind our house and all the vibrating. I know in our neighborhood, a lot of people were opposed to the construction. They took down a bridge that connects our neighborhood to the Ritz, which makes it a lot faster to walk into Clayton. I personally was annoyed, because it took me longer to

walk to school, but it wasn't that big of deal. The planning of the construction didn't seem very organized. They messed up on our bridge, painted it the wrong color, apparently, and so it took longer than it should have to rebuild it. I can imagine that cost a bit more."

Metro also ran into problems with the companies hired to design and build the extension. Metro fired - and then sued - these four companies, together called the Cross County Collaborative, under allegations of fraud and mismanagement. By then, the cost had already grown from the originally proposed \$404 million to \$550 million. Metro claimed Cross County Collaborative was to blame for this cost increase, as well as a year's worth of delays. However, Cross County Collaborative countersued for \$17, claiming Metro still owes it money.

"Metro believes that some responsibility for these issues lies with the prior consulting team that was designing and managing the project before Metro terminated them in August of 2004," Farroll said. "The

pending lawsuit will hopefully determine the extent of that responsibility."

Farroll added that the lawsuit is set for early spring, and Metro is confident they will win.

However, some critics say Metro is putting too much hope on winning the lawsuit as a source of income to combat their rapidly worsening financial troubles.

In addition to the ballooning cost of the extension - from \$404 million to \$678 million - MetroLink is faced with increasing operating costs, especially with the new line. Metro estimates that it will take \$14-15 million a year to run the new line, and fares will only cover about one third of that cost.

As a result of these mounting financial burdens, Metro now faces an operating deficit of about \$28 million for next summer. However, Metro officials are pushing for a quarter-cent sales tax in St. Louis City and County by next summer. Otherwise, they believe they may have to start cutting some bus and rail service.

Farroll believes the tax increases are essential to MetroLink's growth.

"Local officials have already agreed that Metro must have a stable funding source that keeps pace with inflation and that allows the system to grow to better serve the community," Farroll said. "Metro is working closely with those officials to determine the best way to obtain that funding."

This situation is reminiscent of Metro's last significant service cuts in 2001. That year they cut bus service 10% in order to have the funds necessary for continuing the expansion of MetroLink. However, critics believe that kind of move hurts the people who need public transportation the most - bus riders.

Metro officials also say that if residents want to expand the MetroLink lines, an additional half-cent sales tax increase is necessary.

And while Clayton residents have had to deal with traffic and noise, increasing rider-ship may signal support for future expansions.

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## Metrolink Fast Facts

- \* Scheduling information is available online at <http://www.metrostlouis.org>
- \* To learn more about Metro's Transit Information you can call for assistance at 314-231-2345 from a customer service representative
- \* You can also e-mail [transitinformation@metrostlouis.org](mailto:transitinformation@metrostlouis.org).
- \* To buy a bulk amount of tickets, a MetroRide station is closely located on 232 S. Meramec Ave., 2nd Level of the Clayton MetroBus Transfer Cen, open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
- \* For refunds of ticket machine or validator malfunction, you can call 314-982-1400, extension 2589, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Homecoming fosters class spirit, school pride

**Carol Iskiwitch**  
Staff Reporter

Come the week of October 9, CHS will fill with policemen, firemen, medical workers, and construction workers. But neither a natural disaster drill nor a convention of the Village People is planned—instead, students will be participating in homecoming spirit week.

Many people are involved in planning homecoming, including the class officers, class sponsors and administrators, such as Student Activities Director Eric Hamylak.

"This is my third year directly involved in planning," Hamylak said. "I am the main planner of all the events. I run the parade, the bonfire, and oversee the dance, which the C-Club runs too. I oversee the class officers and sponsors. I am also responsible for the judging of all the events."

This year's homecoming theme is "occupations." The sophomore, junior, and senior class officers decided on the theme at the end of last school year, sophomore class president Abby Eisenberg said.

One of the motivations for participating in homecoming is winning the Golden Greyhound. One class wins it by accumulating the most points at the end of homecoming week. Grades get points for winning activities such as the charity penny war, decorating the commons on their assigned day, dressing up according to their theme, creating a parade float, the bonfire log presentation and games at the bonfire.

Projects such as the floats and decorating the commons cost a lot of money, so each class must do some fund-raising.

"The sophomore officers have had meetings every week since the beginning of school," Eisenberg said. "Mostly we have been coming up with fund-raising ideas. We are in debt, so it's stressful, but at least we have until senior year to pay it off."

The seniors are also working on their fund-raising.

"We need to do a lot of fund-raising, so we can buy and rent fun things," senior class president Ali Sandler

said. "I am contacting Clayton businesses, trying to get supplies donated, as well as money so we can buy more things."

The planning of the actual floats, decorations and log presentation is a substantial task.

"Once homecoming gets closer, we will be buying more materials to create the float and decorate the commons," Eisenberg said.

Sandler said that this year she is trying to organize everything ahead of time. "In the past, we have decorated the commons once we got there. I'm going to try and get everything planned out in advance, so we can get it done quickly and efficiently."

The competition and the fun of homecoming are what drive Sandler to put in so much effort.

"The whole experience is fun because it's a chance to bond with your class, while staying motivated because of the competition," Sandler said.

Class officers say much still has to be done before homecoming, and they ask for everyone's help.

"Everyone in the class should be involved," Sandler said. "It takes so much to put everything together. There is no way a couple people can do it alone. It really is a class effort."

Eisenberg agrees.

"All of us want everyone to help," she said.

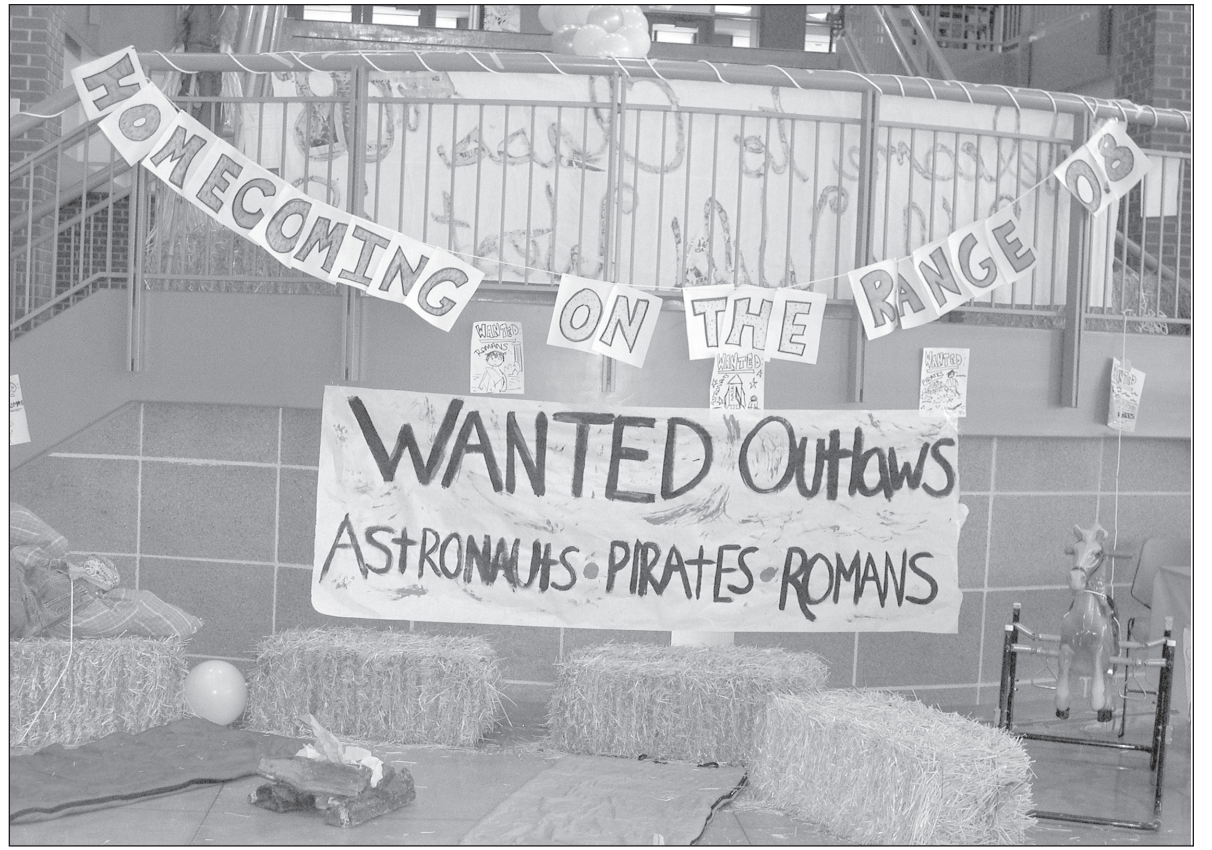
Students can get involved many ways in homecoming preparations. Eisenberg said that first of all, if students would like to help, they should contact one of their class officers. She also says that all ideas for fund-raising or the class float are greatly appreciated. Any supplies or costumes that students may be able to donate, especially a flatbed for the float, are appreciated as well. They can also help decorate the commons and work on the float when the time comes.

As Hamylak said, everyone definitely needs to get involved.

"Homecoming is a great CHS tradition," Hamylak said. "It is a fun-filled week packed with exciting events for everyone. Don't miss it."

**The whole experience is fun because it's a chance to bond with your class.**

**Ali Sandler**  
Senior



**Above: The Class of 2009**, whose theme was Cowboys for last year's Homecoming, post a wanted poster for the rest of the classes during the Commons decorating contest.



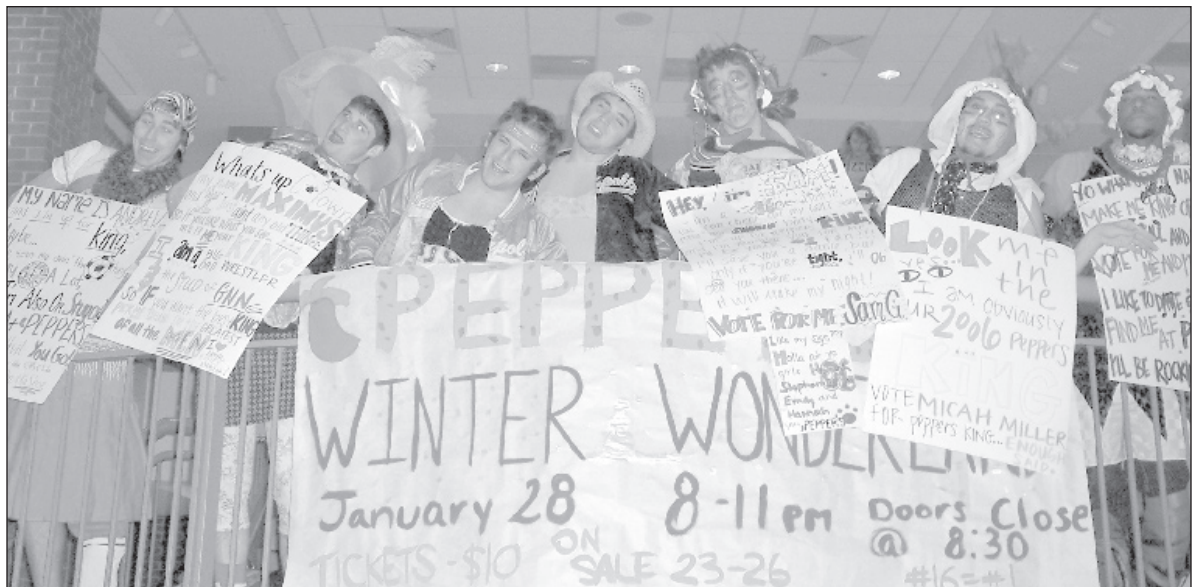
**Left: Caesar greets the Class of 2006** as they enter the Roman area of the commons during last year's Spirit Week. Each class gets an opportunity to decorate half of the commons and to dress according to their theme during Homecoming Spirit Week. This is part of how they earn points as they strive to win the coveted Golden Greyhound, which is awarded at halftime of the football game.

## Homecoming Spirit Week Activities

- Oct. 10 Freshman and Juniors decorate Commons
- Oct 11 Freshman and Juniors Theme Day
- Sophomores and Seniors decorate Commons
- Oct 12 Sophomores and Seniors Theme Day
- C-Club, CHS Club decorate Commons
- Oct 13 Orange and Blue Spirit Day
- 4 p.m. Soccer vs. Parkway West
- 5:45 p.m. Field Hockey vs. Villa
- 7:15 Class Games and Bonfire

## October 14 Events

- 10 a.m. Alumni Barbecue @ Gay Field Picnic Area
- 11 a.m. Homecoming Parade
- 12 p.m. Varsity Football vs. Berkeley @ Gay Field
- free student admission, Adults \$2
- 8 p.m. Homecoming Dance @ Stuber Gym



Globe archives

**Last year's Peppers King candidates** display their "costumes" in the Commons. This tradition is one that was recently banned by an extension of the hazing policy.

# Struggling with hazing daze

HAZING, FROM PAGE 1

Another tradition banned at CHS is one held by the hockey team. Similar to the field hockey tradition, one day during the hockey season the upperclassman hockey players pick up the freshman boys for school and the freshman wear their hockey gear in order to publicize a varsity hockey game.

"The new rules mess up everything," senior Pat Farris said. "There are so many more restrictions that they sprang on us this year that ruin a whole part of the hockey ritual. The day where all the boys wear their hockey stuff to school is like an initiation ritual. Banning that tradition is banning a part of our team bonding that brought us closer together. This helps you get to know the freshman too. Without it I probably wouldn't talk to any of the freshman."

CHS athletes are reforming these traditions in an attempt to preserve any part of this team bonding that they can.

"In field hockey this year instead of dressing the girls up and taking them to breakfast, we decorated A-line shirts for them to wear during the day," senior Courtney Cross said. "We sent them invitations to meet us in the commons that morning for bagels. It was really hard because there are so many restrictions now; we had to be very careful of every detail that could be considered 'hazing.' It was better than nothing, but it still wasn't the same at all."

Administrators are also discouraging "hazing" traditions unrelated to sports teams. For instance, each year the senior boys nominated for Peppers King dress up in mismatched clothes and wear signs made for them as part of the competition. This tradition is completely the choice of the boy and in no way involves upperclassman trying to humiliate lower chessmen; still, administrators are outlawing this tradition.

CHS students will continue to find ways to make up for the loss of these institutions.

# Revamp of Learning Center brings new staff members

**Ken Zheng**  
Staff Reporter

Clayton High School is constantly changing, whether it is physically or academically. To keep up with these changes, a few additions to the staff have been made.

This year the Learning Center underwent some major changes.

"I took the request from staff members and students and administrators and I wanted to make it more of an academic focus," Learning Center Director Dee Blassie said. "A lot of students were in one big room and they were getting off task. But now I have walls and designated areas. We have a Learning Center English, history, math, and a study center. It has just been incredible."

New teachers were hired to fill some of these positions, while the current teachers spread themselves among the new situations.

Allison Ricks serves as the director of the new study center. Ricks has wanted to be a teacher since she was a little girl. She recently got her Masters' Degree at Webster University. Her field of expertise is studying in general, and she often helps Blassie.

Overall, Ricks is very impressed with Clayton High School, and thinks it's a wonderful school with a high level of politeness. The support she has received made her job transition easy.

"Clayton High School's the best," Ricks said.

Learning Center mathematics specialist Mark Crowell has "been very happy at Clayton" and has enjoyed the beautiful campus. One of his main reasons for teaching here is the fantastic environment.

Crowell recently graduated from Palm Beach Atlantic University. He has adjusted well to his move here. He was married over the summer and wants to start a ping-pong club here at CHS.

Eileen Kincade, the new library secretary, previously worked at Ferguson Florissant. Her sister-



Allison Ricks



Ann Gagan



Eileen Kincade



Mark Crowell

in-law, Barbara Beamer, works at Glenridge Elementary School as a secretary, so she applied and got the job. So far Kincade thinks that the school is wonderful. Kincade has three children and one grandchild.

"The kids are scholastically oriented, and the campus is nicely manicured," Kincade said.

To get to work from home, Kincade takes beautiful walks, using the MetroLink as her way of transportation. Her transition is very comfortable and everyone has been patient and "mentorful."

Last, but not least, is Special School District resource teacher

Ann Gagan. She also loves the school, and the wide variety of classes. Gagan teaches three study school classes, working on writing goals as well as general education classes. "Everyone has been extremely friendly," Gagan said. "It's nice to know you can ask for help and everyone's so willing to help you."

Gagan also co-teaches a System Finance class, aiming to teach a friendly and fun class. She went to Fontbonne University for both her Bachelor's Degree in Deaf Education and Masters Degree in Special Education.

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# New English class brings fresh perspectives

**Hyrum Shumway**  
Section Editor

A new era has been born in CHS English department, as a new English class, AP English Language is now offered.

"This is the first year the course has been offered, so it is still in the creation stage," English teacher Brenda Bollinger said. "We will definitely make changes and also add additional sections."

Although Clayton has already been offering AP English Literature for years, the English faculty felt that AP Language would bring literary diversity to the school.

"AP Language was added this year for many reasons," Literacy Coordinator Jim Lockhart said. "The class creates more options for seniors. Also, in the past, many students in Honors American Literature took the AP Language test because much of what is on the test was taught in class. This year Honors American Literature teachers do not have to teach AP language material in their class, and the student is able to have a less packed curriculum in an already fast-paced class. Also, the class hopes to attract more young males to AP English classes."

AP Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition hone different skill sets.

"AP Language is geared toward rhetorical analysis or dissecting the writing, opposed to dissecting the purpose of the writing," Bol-

linger said. "The class also focuses on non-fiction like letters, editorials and memoirs. AP Language is definitely not a 'non-reading' class, and kids definitely read--except it is non-fiction."

AP Language also teaches about topics that many students have had little or no exposure to.

"The writing is different because we are writing about how persuasive a writer is, and looking at their technique and their language," senior Linda Morris said. "This writing seems to be easier because you are writing about the author from the author's point of view opposed to your own. We also look at a lot of grammar and technique that we never learned before but should have. I definitely realized that I have not learned a lot of grammar that I have been learning now in class and I know this is important."

The biggest difference for some students is the absence of analyzing fiction. Students enrolled seem to enjoy the change in focus from fiction to non-fiction.

"I think the biggest difference is that last year we did a lot of fictional and historical, and this year everything we read is non-fiction," senior Adira Weixlmann said. "I usually like to read non-fiction opposed to fiction because fiction can be unrealistic. I like to read about real people. We read a lot of biographies and memoirs. In addition there are reading circles where we



Rebecca Singer

AP English Language teacher Brenda Bollinger shares a text with her class. One of her premises is that all writing is an argument of sorts.

get to choose a book to read every three weeks and analyze the content, the language and the style with two other people."

The reading circles have scored with seniors.

"I really like the reading circles," Morris said. "You get to read any book you want even if most schools would not let you read

visuals, writings, films and everything that has a point of view," Bollinger said. "One of the textbooks we incorporate in the class is called 'Everything is an Argument'. The text is a compilation of famous works that we dissect."

Students seem to be benefiting from the book already.

"From the first chapter of the text we learned that everything was indeed an argument," Morris said. "An argument aims to influence the reader and see another point of view. This is important in the class because we are learning to recognize good and bad arguments and write analytically whether or not the author was successful."

AP Language, although challenging, it is also manageable. However, it is not the "easy" AP English

"The goal for both of the AP English classes offered is for them to be equally challenging," Bollinger said.

The administration has seem-

ingly met its goal of the classes being equal in work.

"The pace is pretty quick and we are reading out of three books at once," Morris said. "Compared to AP Literature we seemed to have a much harder summer assignment. In the beginning of the year I also felt like I was working harder. Now the two classes seem to be on par with each other workload-wise."

Students seem to be glad they have invested time into the class, and are beginning to see the rewards.

"I had my fears from the summer homework and from the first week of class," Morris said. "Now I see the bigger picture, and it is definitely manageable. I am definitely glad I am taking the class."

Bollinger has high hopes for the class, and for the knowledge students will inevitably ascertain.

"I hope the class will help me become a better writer and a better analytical reader by knowing how to respond to different types of writing and I know it will," senior Eric Einstein said.

**“From the first chapter of the text we learned that everything was indeed an argument.”**

Linda Morris  
Senior

# Fund-raiser promises fun, promotes community

**Kate Rothman**  
Senior Managing Editor

These days, virtually everything is marketable. So it only makes sense that the Clayton PTO is organizing a fund-raiser to sell promises.

PTO staff appreciation head and the mastermind behind this unique fund-raiser is Denise Mulle. People will pledge, or "promise" to do or make certain things, and these promises will be sold at the season's final football game.

"We're asking students, teachers, and any community members interested to make promises," Mulle said. "The promises can be for anything--someone could promise to bake six dozen cookies, a student could promise to tutor another child or play the piano for a few hours at a party."

Once all of the promises have been promised, they

will be sold.

"We are going to have a booth set up at Gay Field during the final football game," Mulle said. "All of the promises will be there, so people can come and browse through them, and decide which to buy."

Unlike how a silent auction would work, there will be no out-bidding others for any promises.

"All of the promises will have a set price, so people will know right then and there whether or not they got the promise that they wanted," Mulle said.

The money raised will go towards the PTO, and CHS sports and activities.

"If a student sells promises, a percentage of the money made off of their sale can go towards an activity or sport that they are involved in," Mulle said. "For example, if a member of the field hockey team sells a promise, some of that profit can go to the field hockey team. If one member sells a promise, than the team

can get ten percent of that profit, but if the entire team sells promises, than the team can get ten percent of that total profit."

Promises can be made entirely on the promise-er's terms.

"There can be catches in the promise," Mulle said. "You can promise to do something, but state that your promise needs to be claimed by a certain date, or you can state that you can't fulfill your promise during finals week--whatever. You have total control over your promise."

At the game, when someone purchases a promise, he will be given the contact information for the person who made the promise, to enable them to reach that person. Likewise, the person who made the promise will be given the contact for the buyer, so that he too, can reach them.

Mulle is optimistic and excited about the fund-raiser.

"I've done this sort of thing before, in two different venues," Mulle said. "It's great, it's a real community builder, it really brings everyone together. People are making and buying all of these promises, and they really get caught up in the spirit of it all."

Those interested in promising something need to get their promises in as soon as possible.

Those interested in buying a promise should be sure to come to the final football game of the season, on Friday, Nov. 3.

There will be a tailgate party with food before the game, and promises will be sold both at that time and during the football game's half-time. While the hope is that all promises will be sold at the game, any that are not purchased will be advertised in the Clayton newsletter, allowing those who could not attend the game to buy a promise or two.

# Y.E.S. Office fulfills dreams of employment

The Youth Employment Services Office will open once again this year on Oct. 4 to become an invaluable resource for students seeking advice in finding employment.

**Kelly Moffit**  
Section Editor

Independence can mean a lot of things: a car, a longer curfew, and the ability to control school schedules. Unfortunately, independence has a price that, without an allowance, becomes hard to pay. At CHS, however, there is an outlet for help with becoming more independent and also making some money: the Youth Employment Services office.

The Y.E.S. office reopened last year and has been helpful to many students in learning how to look for employment, write a resume, attend an interview, and obtain a job.

"We plan to help students with local job opportunities," Judy Holtz, chairman of the Y.E.S. office said. "As well, we want to help local businesses find workers. There will always be jobs: it is just so hard to find good workers. We hope the Y.E.S. office will bring a better connection."

This year, the Y.E.S. office is planned to open on Oct. 4. The office is located to the right of the student

activities office in the commons.

To make the office accessible, it will be open tentatively through all the lunch hours, four to five days a week.

As of right now, the Y.E.S. office is working on best helping students and the school.

"We will be pairing with the PTO and STUGO to help promote other school functions, such as selling homecoming tickets," Holtz said. "We are also looking for ideas from the students so we can find out what they want in different jobs, so we can match them up well."

Right now, plentiful employment is available in restaurant and food services, retail, and office work. This is on top of the usual

jobs such as babysitting, yard work, and pet sitting.

To help find jobs suitable and interesting to students, the Y.E.S. office is expanding their radius of job finding.

"We encourage parents to call in and tell us if they need a permanent babysitter or someone to do some heavy lifting," Holtz said.

Junior Abbie Minton benefited from this type of call. She received three different babysitting jobs from the Y.E.S. office last year.

"The Y.E.S. office is a really good way to branch out to families from outside the Clayton School District," Minton said. "And, it is a really good way to make money when you need it."

Holtz believes that the Y.E.S. office helped upwards of 80 students during their first year back. Ava Ehrlich, last year's chairman, agrees.

"It is hard to tell how many students we helped because we got very little feedback from them," Ehrlich said. "We are working on that."

As well, the office is utilizing students' parents as good job scouts.

"A new aspect of the office is having a committee of dedicated parents off-site who will continually be on the lookout for jobs for CHS students," Ehrlich said. "We are also hoping to get some guest speakers in to help kids think about their resumes and job-hunting skills."

The office is planning to help students write resumes and interviewing, by calling in one-on-one parent mentoring on an as-needed basis. As well, they are trying to line up one to two seminars a semester with professional interviewers.

All in all, working with the Y.E.S. office is an easy and rewarding task.

“

**The Y.E.S. office is a really good way to branch out to families from outside the Clayton School District**

**Abbie Minton**  
Junior



Yipeng Huang

The Y.E.S. office is open during lunch hours and is located in the commons near the activities office.

"All students have to do is come in, get a permission slip, talk with their parents and get the slip signed," Holtz said. "Then they can come back in and we'll work on finding suiting jobs for any kind of student."

However, the Y.E.S. office requires the help of many dedicated parent volunteers and their help is always happily accepted for volunteering at the office during the day. If any student or parent wishes to contact the office about a job opportunity or need, the number is (314)-854-6619.

Hopefully, with both student and parent interest, the Y.E.S. office's comeback after a long hiatus will leave students, parents, and employers involved shouting, "Yes!"

"We're really excited about the upcoming year," Holtz said. "Last year was the Y.E.S. office's first time back in action after a long time off. It took a lot of work. But now, its back and we're working on cranking it up, expanding our sights, and making the office better by collaborating with teachers, administrators, parents, and students." ☺

# Green Club cultivates environmental awareness

**Jim An**  
Section Editor

Many new clubs are springing up at CHS this year and one of the most talked-about is the new Green Club, a club aimed at improving environmental awareness and encourage positive changes in benefiting the environment right here at CHS.

"I started this club after seeing 'An Inconvenient Truth' with Chiara Corbetta's mom," senior and co-president Jack Altman said. "And she made me promise that I would start an environmental club this year."

Junior Sonya Gierada, the other co-president, believes that the club can raise awareness and incite people to action.

"So many people don't care," Gierada said. "But the environment affects everyone so everyone should really take part."

Science teacher Nathan Peck is one of the three sponsors for the Green Club.

"I decided to sponsor this club because I have an interest in sustaining the environment and students being involved with the environment," Peck said. "I expect student initiative and projects to be student directed."

English teacher and club sponsor Rebecca Taylor also has high hopes for the club.

"I lived in Oregon for 19 years, and people care so much about the environment there," Taylor said. "But here in St. Louis, people are just so indifferent. This club might be a way to change things."

Altman certainly agrees.

"I want to allow students at CHS to have a viable opportunity to improve their environment," Altman

said. "We're going to do real things to help the environment at this school."

Taylor has many concerns about the school for the Green Club to address.

"There are so many things that could be better at CHS," Taylor said. "We don't recycle enough and the cafeteria is not up to speed."

The Green Club aims to remedy these concerns soon.

"Instead of using foam plates and plastic utensils in the cafeteria," Altman said. "We could switch to paper or reusable plates and reusable utensils. We could also encourage carpooling through special parking incentives, and get Clayton to sign the Kyoto [Protocol]."

The Kyoto Protocol, ratified by 165 governments since 1998, is a set of guidelines for the aim of "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." In other words, it is a treaty to reduce greenhouse gases worldwide. Though the United States has not ratified the treaty, Peck is not discouraged.

"My goal in this is to promote students so that they can get other students involved," Peck said. "It's like the saying, 'think globally, act locally.'"

For example, CHS is currently budgeting \$195,000 this year for electricity, and Peck believes that this can be cut by up to 20 percent through electricity-saving measures such as turning off unused lights and computers. The money saved can then in turn be used for other educational purposes.

“**I want to allow students at CHS to have a viable opportunity to improve their environment.**

**Jack Altman**  
Green Club Co-President



Amy Brooks

**Green Club founder**, senior Jack Altman, posing with a tree in the quad. Altman hopes to get CHS students more concerned about the environment with the new club.

Though CHS students are already burdened with schoolwork, extracurriculars, sports, and social lives, Peck believes that "students will make time for interests."

"It's time to transform CHS into a place where people care," said Taylor, "CHS is a place to model lifelong

behavior. I hope, though, this club isn't just a manufactured club for college applications."

With his pride and his club on the line, Altman certainly doesn't think so.

"Who knows," Altman said with a smile, "maybe we'll plant a giant oak in the quad." ☺

# Drama to attend world-class arts festival in Scotland

CHS theater students will cross the Atlantic to perform an original play in the 2007 Edinburgh International Fringe Festival.

**Meredith Redick**  
Reporter

For most theater students, their performances never go beyond the walls of the school auditorium. This year, CHS is reaching across the Atlantic. CHS will perform in Scotland, at the 2007 Edinburgh International Fringe Festival. With 1.5 million attendees each year, the Fringe Festival is the world's largest and one of the most prestigious arts festivals.

CHS will be traveling through the American High School Theatre Festival program (AHSTF). Nominated by Jeffrey Matthews, the Head of Acting and Directing at Washington University, CHS is one of about 40 schools chosen each year for the festival.

"The initial plan was to perform 'Lord of the Flies,'" said Jeff David, CHS technical director. Because the setup and performance time would take too long, the CHS Drama De-

partment decided instead to create an original production about a St. Louis priest, Carl Kabat.

Kabat, an activist against the creation and use of nuclear weapons, is known for wearing clown costumes during his protests. A lifelong political activist, Kabat has generated controversy for more than 30 years. He has been in jail several times and is currently waiting for a trial.

His most recent protest took place on June 20 at a nuclear missile launch facility in North Dakota, where the priest and two other men poured their own blood upon a missile, pounded on it and spray-painted messages such as "It is a sin to build a nuclear weapon."

In a public statement by the three men, they wrote, "We dress as clowns to show that humor and laughter are key elements in the struggle to transform the structures of destruction and death."

The play will be written by CHS

drama teacher Kelley Ryan and former CHS English teacher Nick Otten.

"It's going to be a lot of clown work and a lot of storytelling," David said.

About 15 students will be participating in the two-week venture, which includes a stop in London and plenty of time for theater tours and watching other performances.

Right now, the focus is on script work and improvisation, according to senior David Redick.

"At this point, the script isn't written, but we're working as an ensemble on concepts to be used in the play," Redick said.

Students are working on the script with Ryan and Otten at after-school rehearsals. The script is expected to be complete by mid-November, and the production will be performed at CHS Jan. 18-21.

Although the per-student cost for the trip will be about \$5000, the department hopes to defray part

of the cost through fundraising. Ticket sales from productions such as the 24-hour musical (Sept. 9), the fall play (Oct. 29), and Grease (Feb. 8-12) will supplement fundraising. Profits from events such as auctions and house parties will go towards expenses as well. The net fundraising goal is \$74,000, which could mean substantially lower prices for participating students.

For students not able to participate in this trip, David suggests activities such as the fall play, "The Real Inspector Hound" (Tom Stopper); the spring musical, "Grease" (Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey); and the Student-Run-Musical, "The Adventures of Normal Man and Average Boy" (Percy Olsen and David Redick.)

Twelve students have auditioned and been selected for this new creation, "And Carl Laughed."

For more information about other drama opportunities, students should contact Kelley Ryan ☺

Students selected to go to Scotland

Nate Crall  
Bradford Rolen  
Cameron Davis  
Jack Callahan  
Mariah Smith  
Alex Phillips

Stevie Pullman  
Susie Wirthlin  
Andrew Davidson  
David Redick  
Danny Dowd  
Jacob Blumenfeld

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Please support the PTO in an effort to support the school! We are collecting "promises" from students and parents.

"Promises" will be sold on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the last home football game during the pre-game tailgate party and during half-time.

*All promises due in by OCTOBER 20, 2006*

**WHAT IS A PROMISE BOOTH?** Any student or parent can make a "promise" to provide a service (snow shoveling, babysitting, professional photo services, baked goods, etc). In turn, anyone in the community can buy that promise, receiving the service or goods in return for their donation, supporting the CHS PTO. Make your promise and set your price!

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Promises not sold during final football game will be sold through the next newsletter following the event

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The Globe student newspaper exists primarily to inform, entertain, and represent the student body at CHS to the best of its ability.

The Globe is self-funded for all publishing costs and offers advertising to all school-appropriate businesses. Ads range in size from business card to full page; prices vary. Please contact our office for more information. The Globe is distributed to students each month of the school year. We also offer bulk mailing subscriptions for \$20 a year and first-class subscriptions for \$30 a year. We find these options particularly useful for parents, for no amount of begging or friendly reminders can compel a high schooler to remember to bring home a copy.

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

--the Globe editors

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# Seattle shooting raises questions about media

**Kelly Moffitt**  
Section Editor

Almost two months ago, on July 29, 2006, a shooting took place at a Jewish community center in Seattle, Washington. In the end, five women, one of them 17 weeks pregnant, ended up wounded and one of them dead.

Hardly any of my acquaintances had heard of the shooting much less knew what had gone on. I wouldn't have known what had happened if my dad had not informed me and he would not have known had he not been listening to an off-beat radio station on the way to work.

The killer's name is Naveed Afzal Haq. He is an American citizen of Pakistani descent. He is a Muslim.

Evidently, when Haq forced a 13-year-old girl at gunpoint to let him into the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, not as grand as it sounds on paper, he had been doing so with a need.

He was upset at three goings-on in the world that he had no power to stop: the U.S. involvement in Iraq, the U.S. backing of Israel, and the general mistreatment of Pakistani people.

Apparently, in his mind, these were all the fault of Jewish people and thus, he proceeded to wound five women and kill another with his smoking gun.

When I first heard about these events, I had no idea what to think. To tell the truth, I didn't really believe my dad when he told me. I hadn't seen it on the news, read it in the paper or heard it on the radio.

But after awhile, I started to get angry at the man who shot those women, Haq. What right did he have to take a sentiment against the U.S. government and turn it towards six innocent Jewish women working at a charitable foundation, to the level of killing them?

But then I looked at the world around me and I began to realize that no one that really matters in the world at present is truly all that good with rational thinking.

I've still got to come to grips

with that.

However, after thinking about the subject for many late nights (I know, it's hard to imagine a teenager actually losing sleep over a subject so world-involved) I came to a new understanding of my anger. And it was no longer directed at Haq.

My exasperation was at myself, for not realizing what an unwaveringly indirect hold our government has on our minds and our media.

For the record, I am not going all 'Big Brother' on you.

After this event, I looked back at the archives of some of our nation's greatest news sources searching for a story on the Seattle shootings. I found a few, but hardly any except local Seattle papers had headlined the story.

I don't know, maybe a foolish part of me thought that perhaps a story about a Muslim man shooting Jewish women, in an out-and-out hate-crime, would make it to the forefront of our nation's news. Maybe I thought that with the United States being so drastically involved in the Middle East, something of the same nature, that hit right at home might shake some people.

And that's when I realized that very idea was why the story did not make it very far in national news. Our media, our government, and ourselves have induced our vision of the world into a sad state of black and white; both literally and figuratively.

I am sure that if a white man went in and shot six black women at the NAACP, the entire county would be in uproar. However, the event, so closely tied with the crisis

in the Middle East, was simply a conflict in America between a Muslim man and six Jewish women.

What would make us want to think that a crisis such as the Israel; Palestine conflict would actually reach us? And why ever in the world should the media, government, and citizens of the United States give fair worry about a tension besides that of blacks and whites; or for that matter, recent Hispanic immigration issues.

The only answer I can think of is that we want to make ourselves feel separated from the war our country was at first so ready to fight. We especially like to place our conflicts both personal and worldly into little boxes so we can easily feel our guilt evaporate. Maybe, if we deal over one collective guilt, such as the crime of slavery, we can feel our repentance paid. And the government is all too ready to allow us, so their mistakes and failures to notice will be left unseen.

However, if we allow ourselves to do that, and we collectively neglect the thousands of other conflicts in our country and world, Jewish and Muslim tension being only one of them, we are setting ourselves and our world up for a failure to ever understand one another.

There is no easily understandable situation on hand here. "Middle Eastern" conflict reaches the United States, too. It's just a matter of realizing that it does. If we make attempts to open our eyes to the many tensions and issues in the United States, we

can actually start to make amends between such seemingly opposite ends of the spectrum instead of blundering around in issues that we hardly understand.

And this understanding will come from making it our job to find the stories, like that of the Seattle shooting, and spreading them for all to ponder and to mend.



Kelly Moffitt

**“My exasperation was at myself, for not realizing what an unwaveringly indirect hold our government has on our minds and our media.”**

## Family gathering brings perspective

**Nava Kantor**  
Section Editor

I don't think anything is more awkward than attempting to hold a pleasant, chatty conversation with relatives so distant it's impossible to work out just how exactly they're related to you.

On a recent Saturday, I drove down Ladue Road filled with apprehension. My family and I were heading out west to a synagogue for a cousin's bat mitzvah weekend. I didn't know the girl becoming a bat mitzvah well at all, as I only see her family a few times a year, at most. I think she is my father's cousin's daughter's daughter. Or something.

We arrived at the service a few minutes late, so we sat in the back of the sanctuary. I felt isolated from the goings-on of the service and though the synagogue was filled with many blood relatives of mine, I felt antisocial and alone. It was like I was invisible, watching part of my family fill with joy and gratitude, like I was not part of them.

When the ceremony was over, we all greeted each other outside the sanctuary. My parents were busy reconnecting with the numerous distant relatives that were there, and a vague wave of reminiscence washed over my dad's face every so often. My brothers and I trailed behind them, trying to smile and make small talk

when a relative came up to us. It was difficult, slightly embarrassing work.

Now, don't get me wrong: That part of my dad's family includes some of the absolute nicest people I have ever met, and it's not that I don't like them. But when you only see someone once every couple years, it's hard to pretend you're old pals and are just catching up on the last few weeks of your lives. Most of the conversations I had that morning went something like this:

"Nava?" asked the relatives tentatively. "Hi! Wow, I haven't seen you in such a long time. Too long. How have you been?"

"I've been pretty good, thanks," I replied, time and time again. "And you?"

"Oh, everything's great." (Here the relatives would insert some of the recent events of their lives: a son eloping, a daughter taking up a

new interest in dancing, a dog getting sick, etc.) "I just can't get over how tall you've gotten! You just look so different than the last time I saw you."

Not knowing exactly how to respond to this, I usually said something like, "Yeah, a lot of people have been saying that recently" or

something equally futile and then asked follow-up questions about something in their lives they had mentioned earlier. Having this same conversation about ten times in a row grew a little tiresome.

But as I felt increasingly uncomfortable around my distant relatives, I realized that my unease wasn't due to making awkward conversation with people I don't

really know but feel like I should. I was depressed that I barely knew these people who share blood with me, that it was this awkward between us though we have so much in common. I thought about how few people are lucky enough to have as big and wonderful a family as I do, and I found a new appreciation for these far-flung cousins. I realized that it was actually a privilege to know them, and resolved to try harder to be close to them.

During the luncheon after the bat mitzvah ceremony, I talked a bit more to some of the relatives, and everyone relaxed a little. The conversation was still stilted, but much freer than it had been earlier. I was sad when I left.

In the car on the way home, my brothers and I asked my mom to attempt to give us an idea of how everyone we had seen was related to us. After about ten minutes of my mom trying to explain and not succeeding, we, laughing, told her to give up. We'll just have to draw out a family tree for next time, I guess. With a headshot of each person under their clearly marked name...just to make sure.



Nava Kantor

**“When you only see someone once every couple of years, it's hard to pretend you're old pals.”**



## New hazing policy unfair

When one thinks of hazing, the image of small, nerdy kids getting pushed into lockers by big, burly football players comes to mind. This image is not helped by recent movies such as "Mean Girls," which promotes the idea of a high school caste system or books such as "Pledged: The Secret Life of Sororities." Lately, this stereotype has been taken to the foreground of Clayton High School and its locker rooms with new rules regarding hazing.

For many years the tradition of the CHS field hockey team was for members of the varsity team to go over to incoming freshmen's houses and, with the consent of every parent, dress up the girls in funny clothes for them to wear during the day as a sort of initiation to the team. Then they would take them out to breakfast.

Now, these high school traditions will be put to rest. And not everyone is happy about it.

The new regulations mean to put an end to "any attempt intended to embarrass or humiliate a student." This gesture is seemingly pointed towards sports teams who attempt to dress up younger members humorously as a sort of initiation ritual.

As well, the rules will apply to the Peppers kings who get dressed in funny clothes as part of the ritual for campaigning for the traditional girl-asks-guy dance.

The idea of attempting to stop harassment and humiliation in school is an admirable one, and should be backed up by the entire student body.

However, prohibiting relatively harmless activities such as dressing up new team members is hardly a cause to be alarmed.

Missouri laws define hazing as, "...a willful act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, directed against a student or a prospective member of an organization...that recklessly endangers the mental or physical health of a student or prospective member for the purpose of initiation or admission into...any such organization to the extent that such person is knowingly placed at probable risk of life or probable bodily or psychological harm." (Missouri Hazing Law 578.360)

If we, as students, consider dressing up in funny clothes something to cause psychological or physical harm, we have indeed

grown to be too overprotected by a concerned community around us.

Making students undergo dangerous activities that cause mental and physical harm should not be tolerated. In addition, illegal activities should never be forced upon anyone.

Yet, what should be allowed is a students' ability to learn how to say 'no' in circumstances of peer-pressure. If a student does not want to

be dressed up in a silly way, they need to learn how to remove themselves from the situation. It is when

a student has expressed a wish not to participate and the act is still thrust upon them that they need to ask for help from administrators or parents.

But this is not the case with either of these events. Most participants expect and even look forward to the silliness and fun in dressing up. The participants saw it for what it was: something fun to rally team spirit.

If we prohibit such "hazing," if silly costumes can be called that, we may push students to do more drastic and horrible things off campus.

We must face the real world and learn to deal with situations we don't want to be in before we are pushed into a modern world where there are no 'hazing' laws prohibiting everyday evils that everyone must face.

What harm is there in fun in where both parties consent? Someone who wishes to be a part of such initiation activities, if they are harmless, cannot be told not to participate. It is a repression of student identity and an attempt to immunize children against the world outside Clayton.

Just as a student should not be forced into an activity he or she does not

want to be involved in, we should not prohibit them from doing activities that are harmless and fun. The choice should be for students as we are supposedly becoming independent.

We must grow up sometime and that all depends on if we are able to grow out of our helplessness. We cannot succumb to adults sheltering us as much as they attempt to do in high school. And there are some events we do not need to be sheltered from at all-like having innocent fun dressing up in nonsensical costumes for sports.

### StaffEditorial



### Thumbs Up

- Foreign exchange students
- Late start days
- Cardinal playoffs
- Kittens



### Thumbs Down

- Moldy English classrooms
- Internet blocking
- College applications
- Things that eat kittens

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

# Experiencing World Cup fever in Ecuador

**Leah Eby**  
Staff Reporter

In Ecuador, fútbol is life. Everyone knows the game, and many can play it exceptionally well. It may be the one thing that all Ecuadorians have in common.

Since the Republic of Ecuador emerged from the collapse of Simón Bolívar's Gran Colombia in 1830, the country has been unstable. Rapid succession of rulers occurred throughout the late 1800s, and an ongoing border dispute with Peru led to Ecuador's loss of nearly six percent of its territory.

This turmoil led to the return of populist politics and military interventions in the 1960s. With the formation of the Andean Pipeline in 1972, Ecuador became South America's second greatest oil producer. This same year, however, the nationalist military overthrew the government and remained in power for the next seven years. High inflation, failing currency, and industrial conflicts eventually left the country unmanageable.

An economic crisis in 1999, caused by the 1997 El Niño and a sudden drop in global oil prices, led to 52 percent inflation and an 65 percent devaluation in the country's currency, the Sucre. The president at that time authorized a transfer from the Sucre to the United States dollar in order to save the country from its crisis.

In the past century, Ecuador has seen its fair share of troubles. Throughout the last eight years, the country has gone through five presidents and two constitutions—this Ecuador was demoralized and divided.

Yet this was not the Ecuador I experienced this past summer. I arrived in Quito on June 14, the day before

Ecuador played Costa Rica in the World Cup. Everywhere I looked was blue, red, and yellow, the colors of Ecuador's soccer team, La Tricolor. I saw signs that read, "Fútbol aquí," or "Soccer here." Taxis sported the country's flag on their dashboards and bus stops were plastered with advertisements featuring the players. World Cup fever surrounded me.

On game day, my family and I watched the match in the common area of our hotel. However, we were not the only ones watching. Stores were closed for the entire day, and the country sat eagerly before their televisions. Locals joined us, each anxious to see the outcome of the game. Mily, the owner of our hotel, unleashed a scream for each shot on their goalie, Cristian Mora, and a cheer as the ball was kicked the other way. Ecuador won the game 3-0, and the country was ecstatic. The sidewalks were filled with locals, each sporting their own Ecuador jersey. As we drove through the city, cars and taxis honked with delight at the outcome of the game.

I soon decided that I would like to have a jersey as well and scoured the city for days. The amount of support that La Tri had gained was amazing. I quickly learned that the entire city was in search of a jersey, and I had very little chance of getting one. Everyone wished to show their support for this miracle team.

My family and I left the city for a week and traveled deep into the Amazon rainforest. Jorge, our guide, described to us the turmoil that had put Ecuador in such an unmanageable state. It was interesting to get a firsthand opinion about the country and its leaders.

When we returned, we watched Ecuador's third game of the preliminary round. La Tri had recently beat Poland, yet it failed to do the same to Germany.



Leah Eby

**Ecuadorians gather around** their television to watch the World Cup. Soccer is a universal passion in Ecuador, uniting a country torn by political and economic troubles. Even when the national team dropped out of the World Cup, the tournament was still followed avidly.

However, Ecuador had gained enough points to continue to the Round of 16. The entire country was waiting anxiously for their next match.

My family left Quito once again, this time to explore the Galapagos Islands. The crew on our boat were native born, and all were interested in soccer. The afternoon of June 25, our boat made a stop on Santa Cruz, the largest of the islands. We wandered throughout the town and stopped at a local bar to watch the 90 minutes that would decide the fate of Ecuador. La Tri played a tough game against England, but lost on a powerful penalty shot by England's most famous player, David Beckham.

Though Ecuador was out of the tournament, the team was not out of people's thoughts. La Tri went

from a team with no chance to a team that survived.

It didn't take long before I realized how important this team was to a country that was falling apart. Despite the political and economic issues that have plagued Ecuador for some time, the fútbol team had a revitalizing effect on the entire nation. People with different views from different backgrounds were united by a sport that everyone knew and loved.

On July 3, as the team received presidential awards from President Alfredo Palacio at the government palace, team captain Ivan Hurtado put into words the effect of their team.

"Through soccer, the whole world knows a united Ecuador," Hurtado said. "And the future of the country is the only match we can't lose." ☺



Leah Eby



Sara Rangwala

## Conference in Washington D.C. trains leadership, molds perspective

**Sara Rangwala**  
Staff Reporter

After a while, I gave up explaining to people the concept of Lead America and just told them I was going to a camp in Washington, D.C. and New York, NY. However, after the 11-day experience, I wanted to recommend this 'camp' to everyone.

This summer I went to a conference on international affairs and diplomacy. It wasn't an ordinary camp. It began in D.C., where we visited national monuments and buildings, and ended in New York City, where we explored the United Nations and lower Manhattan. We attended lectures given by professors from all sorts of different universities, and they all came with different but fascinating opinions, perspectives, and information. We also participated in two simulations that concerned the United States' and international opinion on a situation in Kosovo.

I left this conference with a long list of emails of new friends, but most importantly, new perspectives.

My favorite speaker was Dr. Gilbert Morris, who spoke to us on the first night as a sort of introduction to our exploration on diplomacy. He is the advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas.

"I believe that in our lives, at some point, someone must come along and turn your head and say, 'What do you see?'" Morris began. "That's what I'm doing."

He started off by explaining to us the role of diplomats. The idea that diplomats represent their country and its government's basic positions, whether they personally agree with them or not, was emphasized as a positive quality of a diplomat rather than a negative. Being able to endorse a position you don't necessarily

agree with, he said, is a desirable skill of a diplomat.

In addition to that, diplomats also have the hard task of working around pre-conceived notions that have been determined about them. Because they represent their country, many people automatically associate stereotypes with these diplomats, based on their country, both negative and positive. For example, in today's world, many U.S. diplomats have it hard, considering that the image of the United States is diminishing in the international community's eyes. Morris, then went on to offer some advice for us aspiring diplomats.

"To change the world you have to change yourself," Morris said. "Don't expect to go to college and learn to be diplomatic. You have to start now, in your community. If you can't be diplomatic towards your friends, siblings and parents, people you know, how can you be to people you have never met and have a pre-conceived idea of you."

The fact that he didn't just tell us to be good and nice, but rather showed why it would be to our benefit, was really what made me listen and inspired me. Whether or not we want to be a diplomat, I believe that we will always be. You automatically represent the United States when you visit another country. You represent your family whenever you step out of the house. And you are always representing yourself. In all of these cases, it is only to your benefit to act diplomatic and so, I believe that Dr. Morris' ideas are ones that we should take to heart and try and carry out in our everyday lives.

His last comments were the most thought-provoking and were the ones that left the largest impression on me, "Some people get up at dawn, work for three hours, got to school, and work until midnight. That will impress you, but when they look at you, will they be impressed?" ☺



Sara Rangwala

## Trip to New Orleans reveals extent of storm destruction

**Mia Harlan**  
Section Editor

My shirt was dripping with moldy water, my sneakers were coated with mud and flies and mosquitoes were swarming everywhere. Along with 20 other students caked with dirt and wet from the day's perpetual drizzle, I climbed back on an enormous greyhound bus.

After a tiresome afternoon of shoveling and cleaning in an attempt to gut the basement of a Head Start preschool, we drove back to our hotel.

However, as filthy as we were and as unfortunate it was when I had to throw away the tank top I was wearing, we had fulfilled our purpose that afternoon: to gut out the house, and we also learned how fortunate we were.

For 25 days this summer, I traveled across America with a group of 20 other teens. One stop was two days in New Orleans.

Before the trip, I heard that New Orleans was recovered. Apparently, the French Quarter was "fine", Tulane's campus was "never hurt very badly at all" and in general the entire city was "ready to be re-inhabited." Immediately after I arrived, I realized none of this was the case. Although there are several parts that seemed cleaned up, in general the city is still in ruins.

We drove through the Ninth Ward, the area with the most damage, and there was not one house that could be occupied. Most houses had been uprooted and moved from their lots. Few had roofs that had not collapsed; there were not any unbroken windows or doors.

Compared to other parts of New Orleans, the Ninth Ward was considerably the worst part, but the devastation had its effects even on the buildings that were not damaged.

We walked around the French Quarter one afternoon, and most of the stores were empty. The city has few residents and obviously fewer tourists. The beautiful and historical parts of New Orleans were empty because the city is too difficult to live or travel in.

We went to a diner one night and although the restaurant was not crowded, it took two hours for our food to be delivered. There was one chef and the waitresses were hired only because no one else could be found.

During our two days in New Orleans we heard from several speakers. Their estimates were that it would take 15 years to rebuild New Orleans.

In an attempt to help, we gutted out the basement of a preschool. After only five hours our group had finished gutting. I am hopeful that the preschool was



Mia Harlan

**A student from** the group that visited New Orleans stands in the doorway of the basement that they gutted. able to be reopened this August.

Gutting the basement was just one step in rebuilding the preschool, which, when it is finally done, will hopefully encourage residents of New Orleans to rebuild elsewhere as well.

As trivial as it seems, while I was gutting the preschool I remembered my basement flooding several years ago. Comparing the two situations I realized to what extreme the hurricane caused damage.

Although both basements needed construction that would cost time and money, when my basement was gutted we had all the resources to fix it.

My family still had power and running water. We could have called a flood repair company to help us. Most importantly, we would never have considering moving afterwards. We were possibly the only family on the block whose basement flooded.

Our neighbors, whose houses were unharmed, helped us, and the town around us was unharmed as well.

In New Orleans, none of this was true. All the gutting work has to be done by the owners because the city has had such a drop in population that there are no companies that will remodel basements. Nor are there neighbors and friends to assist either. To make that even worse, it all has to be done without electricity. ☹



Mia Harlan

## Controversy developing over new Facebook features

**Ijeoma Onyema**  
Staff Reporter

A large number of CHS students have accounts on Facebook, a web site that allows various communities to come together and socialize online.

Mark Zuckerberg founded Facebook in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in February 2004. Facebook is a private and non-profit company that now has over one million accounts.

I joined Facebook about two months ago because I believed that it was much safer than Myspace, and I wanted to find a place where I could talk to my friends without worrying about finding some person I don't know asking me strange questions.

I thought that Facebook protected its members much better than Myspace protects theirs because they did not allow all e-mail addresses to have a profile unless someone from their school or workplace invited them, and the website lets you know when someone

requests to be your friend (so you can choose whether to reject or accept their request). But I'm starting to think that it's not so safe ever since the creators began to change the web site a few weeks ago.

Facebook has added new features to the website - the "News Feed" and the "Mini-Feed." Once one enters their homepage, there is a "News Feed", that tells you of the recent news between you, your friends, and their friends. The News Feed tells you about your friends joining new groups, which of your friends wrote on your wall, and much more.

I personally think this feature violates the privacy of others (plus it can be very confusing at times). There is also a "Mini-feed" on everyone's profile that tells a viewer of all one's recent doings or changes on the web site, such as new notes, recent status reports, and new groups one has recently joined. The information sum-

marized from the profile is printed onto the news and mini feeds. The web site does not ask for the permission of the users to put that information on the News Feed page, which offends me and probably many other members of Facebook.

Many, including myself, think that this news feed is a bit too invasive while a few others think it's very informative. The only time I think that it is informative is when I just got invited to a group or event, or someone just added me as a friend, but there's a line between having good information and completely intruding on one's private thoughts.

Facebook has gone way beyond the line, and there is no stopping them now.

Facebook is planning to open the web site to all web users soon. When I found out about this, I thought that the creators of Facebook don't care that people could be raped when all the internet us-

ers of the world get together to socialize. They can't just trust everyone like that. They should at least set more boundaries that allow users to block out some information or some people. It's not fair to the present members of Facebook to have their boundaries and private zones attacked like this.

There are groups on Facebook that are against these new plans, such as T.A.F.E. (Those Against the Future Expansion) and I'M GETTING OFF FACEBOOK IF THEY DON'T CHANGE THE NEW SETUP.

I think that I will leave, along with many others, if Facebook refuses to listen to the complaints about the new expansion.

I really do not see why people would stay on Facebook when the creators seem to be shooting for the popularity Myspace has, even after all the raping incidents. On the other hand, it does look like the creators are trying to change the web site, although we will have to see in what direction, and that is causing me to wonder if I should stay or not. ☹



Ijeoma Onyema

# A Wandering Mind

Students with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder often struggle with an inability to maintain focus and pay attention as well as with self-blame and others' misunderstanding.

Junior Maggie Minton had a particularly hard time returning to school this year. She found herself spacing out in class and distracted all the time. Minton was diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) when she was in third grade and feels symptoms such as these every single day.

"ADD is an old name for what is now termed ADHD," Division Director of Child Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine Richard Todd said. "ADHD is a collection of problems in attention span, distractibility, hyperactivity, and impulsivity."

The disorder affects three to five percent of today's youth, or approximately two million kids in the United States. In a classroom of 25 to 30 students, the likelihood that at least one child will have ADHD is high.

## POSSIBLE CAUSES

Over the past few decades, countless studies have been conducted to determine the cause of ADHD. While the root of the disorder has not yet been discovered, some possible theories have led to a greater understanding of the possible causes of ADHD which scientists are vigorously pursuing.

Exposure to toxic environmental agents during pregnancy puts a child at risk for ADHD. These substances include alcohol, cocaine, tobacco, and lead. While toxic amounts of lead have not been used in paint since 1978, children who reside in older homes, which are renovated or repainted or where there may still be lead pipes, are at increased risk.

Food additives and refined sugar have been suggested to intensify the symptoms of ADHD, but this is very controversial. Most children do not experience any difference in behavior, but five percent noted that they were more hyperactive than other children and were in general more critical of their behavior, for example, following consumption of chocolate, ice cream, or other sweets.

Genetics have been found to play a major role in the likelihood of ADHD. Research indicates that children with immediate family members and relatives with ADHD reported a 25 percent incidence of the disorder. Studies of twins with ADHD have confirmed the strong genetic correlation.

"[The doctors] already kind of knew that I had ADHD because my brother has it," senior Daisy Cassilly said.

## SYMPTOMS

The primary characteristics of ADHD are inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity which appear early in a child's life. Other symptoms will appear over the course of many months. Certain behaviors may appear in certain settings depending on the demands and stress level of the situation.

There are three recognized types of ADHD. A child can be diagnosed with the predominantly hyperactive and impulsive type. With this form, the person does not show significant inattention but is constantly restless. The predominantly inattentive type does not show significant hyperactive-impulsive behavior but the individual is described as "spacey" or always daydreaming. Finally, a person with the combined type displays inattentive, hyperactive, and impulsive symptoms.

Hyperactivity and impulsivity are often characterized by feelings of restlessness, fidgeting with hands or feet, squirming while seated, leaving a seat in situations where sitting is expected, blurting out answers, and difficulty waiting in line.

"I could not concentrate on anything for more than ten minutes," Cassilly said. "I always had to be doing something. Because of it, I did horribly in school."

Inattentiveness is distinguished by becoming easily distracted by irrelevant sights and sounds, failing to pay attention to details, making careless mistakes, rarely following instructions, completely losing or forgetting things, and skipping from one uncompleted activity to another.

"I couldn't concentrate on anything and I was really distracted," Minton said. "I have a tendency to be forgetful about homework and not do it. Socially, I have a tendency to isolate myself. I tend to be inconsistent and have trouble committing to things. I also don't really look at people when I talk to them, so they can really be annoyed by that."

## DIAGNOSIS

While not everyone who suffers from these symptoms has ADHD, a correct diagnosis of the disorder can often help children and their families resolve confusion about the child's problems. Due to the insight that at one time or another, many people, especially teenagers, may show some of the characteristic behaviors of ADHD, an in-depth evaluation is warranted to distinguish between teenage impulsivity and true ADHD, especially if the symptoms are persistent and interfere with progress in school or with relationships with family members or friends.

"I was diagnosed with ADHD when I was four years old," Cassilly said. "I went to a doctor and took some tests."

Minton had a similar experience when with the diagnostic process.

"They took me to this place in Clayton called Learning Consultants because they were wondering why I had such high test scores but had trouble with my homework," Minton said. "I missed class for three days. They had to do all these tests with blocks and numbers. Then a while later my parents sat me down to tell me about [the diagnosis]."

A specialist, such as Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician Rolanda Maxim at Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center and St. Louis University School of Medicine, is one of many practitioners trained to carry out these evaluations. She considers three essential questions when testing a child for ADHD: Are these behaviors long-term? Are they an ongoing problem? Do the behaviors occur in several settings? The person's behavior is then compared to a set of criteria and characteristics of the disorder as listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV-TR).

"I always interview the child and parents, perform a complete physical and neurological exam, and complete educational and IQ testing to rule out [other disorders]," Maxim said.

"The clinical exam takes

30-60 minutes and includes testing attention span and distractibility, observing for hyperactivity and impulsivity, and ruling out other possible problems," Todd said. "The psychological testing which includes testing for IQ and learning problems usually takes one to two hours."

Once an official diagnosis has been made, the family must deal with the emotional repercussions of the disorder.

"Most parents have a good idea that their child may have ADHD when they come for an evaluation," Todd said. "However, a minority of parents feel it may be a stage the child is going through or that their child could just stop it if they tried harder."

Minton's parents were happy that they could define the unusual symptoms she was experiencing. They knew that there was nothing wrong with their daughter, just that her brain processed things differently than others. The family was made aware of methods to help her cope with her diagnosis by their doctor.

## ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS

While being officially diagnosed with ADHD is a step in the right direction, a full-scale evaluation can reveal other equally concerning disorders such as learning disabilities, Tourette's Syndrome and tics, oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder, anxiety and depression, and bipolar disorder.

Learning disabilities are the most common associated problem found with ADHD. Approximately 20 to 30 percent of children with ADHD are diagnosed with this disorder. Young children tend to have difficulties understanding language and communicating their wants and needs.

Beginning in elementary school, kids may struggle with core subjects such as reading, writing, spelling, and mathematics. Additionally in adolescence, students may have difficulty with executive skills such as memorization, organization, and planning and completing tasks.

"Some investigators also think ADHD is associated with an increased risk for tobacco use, alcohol problems, and illicit drug use," Todd said. "Studies have also found increased rates of motor vehicle accidents and tickets. These are more common when ADHD is untreated"

If these other difficulties are present, their identification is very important for a child and their family to understand. They also may play a very crucial role in the treatment approach.

## TREATMENT APPROACHES

"The single most effective treatment for most children with ADHD is the use of a stimulant medication such as methylphenidate or dextroamphetamine," Todd said.

Minton has been on eight different medications until she found the one that works best for her. Some of them had some serious side effects. She reported that some of them made her depressed or pull out her hair.

Researchers have found that the medications diminish hyperactive and impulsive behavior, allow children to focus and complete tasks at hand much more easily, and improve motor skills used in handwriting and physical activities.

"After I was diagnosed and started taking medication, my grades went up," Cassilly said. "I was able to get stuff done that I needed to get done."

Minton is now also on a medication called Adderall, a pharmaceutical stimulant used to treat ADHD and narcolepsy. Severe cases of depression may also be treated with the prescription drug or other similar stimulants.

Although prescribing a stimulant medication can significantly help an individual with ADHD, combining several different types of approaches is generally most effective. Coordinating nurse for the School District of Clayton Dede Coughlin recommends devising a system that best fits the child's needs.

"There are three things kids should do," Coughlin said. "First, they should be on medication. Often, people will be on medications but will not do the other two to get the maximum results. Secondly, students should receive behavioral coaching to learn how to manage their impulses. Lastly, they should create checklists for themselves. For example, they can have a checklist of things they routinely need to do in the morning."

Both Todd and Maxim agree with Coughlin that medication should not be the only method of treatment. Services such as psychotherapy, cognitive/behavioral therapy, social skills training, support groups, and parenting skills training should be utilized by the child and their family.

"Psychostimulants combined with behavior

## Signs of ADHD

I often...

- move something- fingers, hands, arms, feet, or legs.
- walk, run, or climb around when others are seated.
- unable to finish things.

- have trouble waiting in line or taking turns.
- get bored after just short while.
- daydream or seem to be in another world.
- talk when other people are talking.
- get frustrated with schoolwork.
- act quickly without thinking first.
- get sidetracked easily

modification achieved through counseling and implementation of a 504 Accommodation Plan [or an Independent Educational Plan (IEP)] can make a big difference," Maxim said.

The 504 Accommodation Plan and IEP are two types of written plans developed and used for students with disabilities in all public school systems across the United States. A 504 Accommodation Plan is written for students who only require accommodations in their curriculum to achieve success. On the other hand, if a student requires specialized educational approaches, such as those offered by the St. Louis County Special School District (SSD) at CHS, a more extensive IEP is written.

"The majority of students [receiving specialized services in SSD] are diagnosed with ADHD," SSD teacher Marsha Gogel said. "Our goal in special education is to educate the student about what strategies will help them to be successful in the classroom as well as in social situations."

Along with SSD, the Mark Twain Learning Center at CHS plays a major role in the educational experience of students with a range of disabilities including ADHD. The mission of the Learning Center is "to foster higher learning and success among all students through individualized, intensive assistance in the subjects that give them the most trouble."

Learning Center Director Dee Blassie is extremely passionate about the positive effects of the Learning Center on the students who benefit from their services. Blassie is in her thirtieth year of teaching and has witnessed many students with an ADHD diagnosis meet with great success. She feels personally connected with each of these students because Blassie thinks she had a form of ADHD as a child.

"Some of the techniques we use in the Learning Center are: pairing up students who work well together," Blassie said. "When I see someone who needs a break, I ask them to walk down the hall with me as we discuss what they are working on and how we can help them complete their work. Sometimes the student just needs a break from sitting for longer than they are capable of. I love to compliment all students when I see them working hard, completing their planner, working with a teacher, staying on task to reinforce positive behavior. I enjoy calling their parents at home to share how successful their child has been in the Learning Center. Positive reinforcement goes a long way."

In addition, Blassie has brought in portable walls to divide the Learning Center into smaller section so the space is conducive to learning with fewer distractions.

"Some students are easily distracted, so this year we are piloting a new concept in the Learning Center by having portable walls," Blassie said. "Wow, what a dramatic difference. All students are more focused in the self-contained learning centers."

Blassie has enlisted an army of specialized teachers to work their magic in the Learning Center, many of whom have personal connections with the disorder.

"I am also a parent of a student with ADHD, and I seek to be as helpful to all parents as I would want my daughter's teachers to be for us," History Teaching Intern Janet Curry said. "As a parent, I want her areas of struggle to be recognized and dealt with, but only in ways that are appropriately structured to promote her independence and earned confidence. The more diversity-conscious and respectful a school or classroom teacher is the better for students with ADHD, and all of us, for that matter."

Learning Center math teacher Mark Crowell was unofficially diagnosed with ADHD by his high school counselor

during his junior year. His personal experience with the disorder makes him especially aware of the challenges facing the students he works with.

Without dedicated teachers such as those found in SSD and the Learning Center, some stu-

tional obstacles.

"The Learning Center developed my skills for my reading and writing disabilities," Administrative Intern and CHS Alumni Sam Horrell said. "They showed me I had the ability; I just needed the individual attention to discover the knowledge in me. The teachers in the Learning Center taught me great organizational, studying, and time management skills. If I had not been able to get help in these areas, I might not have made it through high school or college."

Aside from the Mark Twain Learning Center and SSD, some students chose to seek extra help outside of school.

"I see a neurologist every three months, therapists, an organization consultant, and tutors for various subjects in school," Minton said. "My tutor is very helpful and helps me stay organized and help me stay on track."

## POST-HIGH SCHOOL

"The attention problems associated with ADHD tend to persist into adulthood," Todd said. "The hyperactivity tends to decrease. Being quietly inattentive, however, is not good in college. College requires longer periods of concentration than high school. Professional schools such as Law and Medicine are even more demanding"

While there may not be the identical support system students are comfortable with at CHS, there are many resources available to students with ADHD on their respective college campuses. The intensity of services varies greatly from campus to campus. Some colleges provide accommodations and tutorial support for students with diagnosed disabilities.

Other colleges provide comprehensive programs within the university campus providing opportunities for case management, early course registration, in-depth evaluations, and tutorial support. Finally, there are many self-contained colleges with specialized curriculums. There are several catalogues available that provide detailed explanations of the college programs for students with ADHD and learning disabilities.

"Last year, I attended a wonderful conference with the college counselors," Blassie said. "I was able to see what is available for students who use the Learning Center at CHS. I was so elated to know that many college campuses have a learning center."

College students with ADHD have the potential to be just as successful as students without ADHD. Horrell says that the key to being successful is figuring out how you learn best and putting a lot of time and effort into it. Horrell chooses to view his disability as more of a challenge.

"Many of our students do attend college and lead successful lives with a lot of hard work and perseverance," Gogel said.

For some students, post-high school planning may include vocational training, job experience, or military service although there are written rules governing the enlistment of individuals with ADHD and learning disabilities.

## THE BRIGHT SIDE

While ADHD has often been viewed in a negative light, people with the disorder are perfectly capable of achieving great things when they are able to effectively channel their energy.

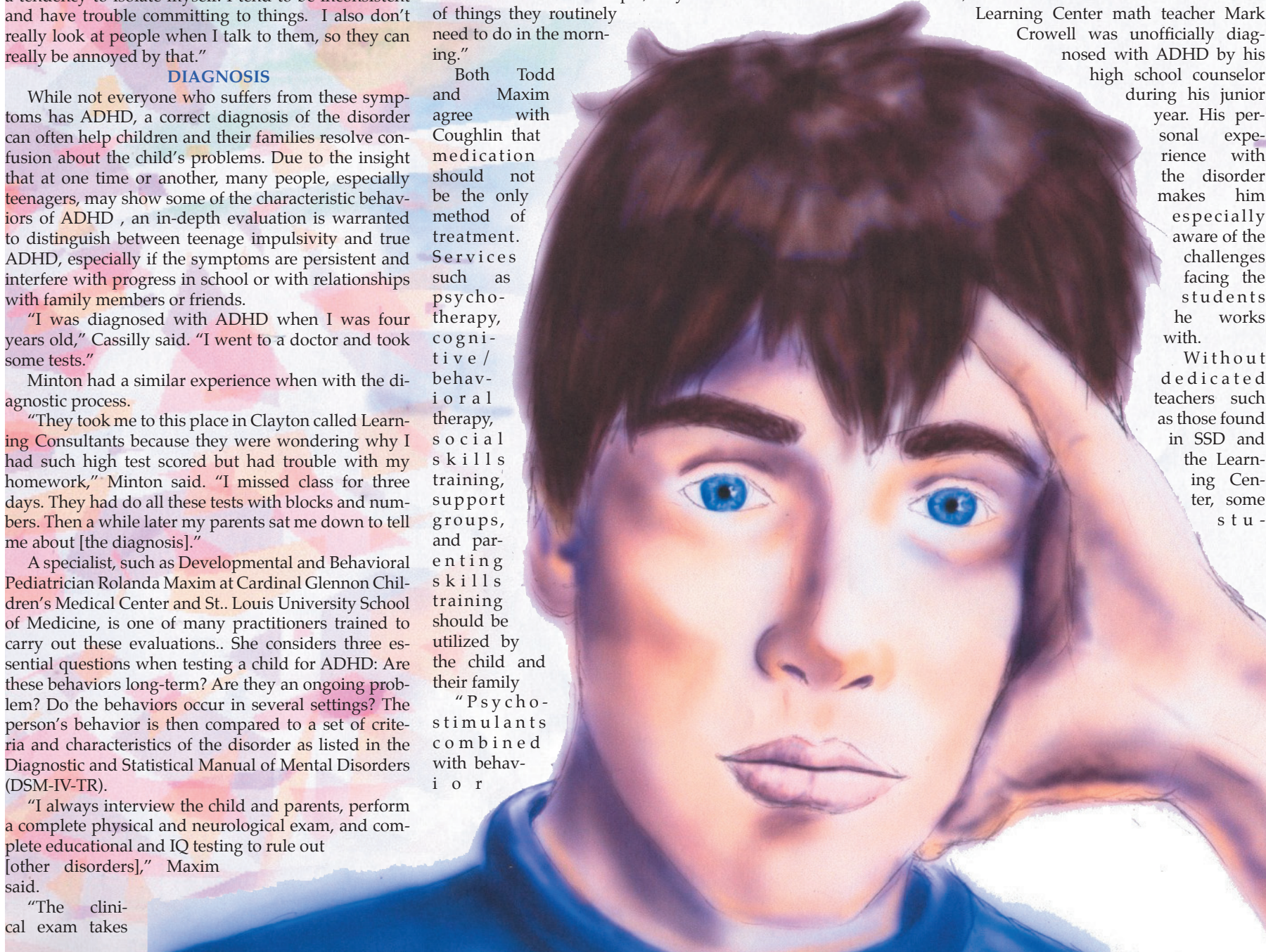
"I think students with ADHD often have advantages," Curry said. "Pediatric neurological research suggests that verbal abilities, such as comprehension and reasoning, tend to be significantly higher than average students with these patterns, and this makes discussion of themes, logic, support, controversy, and bias especially productive."

Those with ADHD tend to be extremely humorous, tenacious, and creative in the areas of art, music, science, entertainment, as well as many others.

Though not always diagnosed, throughout history some of the brightest and most talented people, such as Sir Winston Churchill, Dustin Hoffman, Mozart, Michael Jordan, Walt Disney, Stevie Wonder, and Olympic swimmer Greg Louganis, have achieved great feats despite being diagnosed with ADHD. ☺

## Online Resources for Information on ADHD:

- American Academy of Pediatrics  
(847) 434-4000  
www.aap.org
- Attention Deficit Disorder Association  
(484) 945-2101  
www.add.org
- CHADD (Children and Adults with ADHD)  
(800) 233-4050  
www.chadd.org
- Focus on ADHD  
www.FocusOnADHD.com
- National Institutes of Mental Health  
(301) 443-4513  
www.nimh.nih.gov
- National Center for Gender Issues and ADHD  
(888) 238-8588  
www.ncgiadd.org



“I would like to see a new culture at work. And I want to make new friends and be an ambassador for my country by sharing my traditions and customs with everyone. I can teach Arabic to anyone who wants to learn.”

-- Junior Magdy Hassaballa, page 19

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

NEWS BRIEFS:

HOMECOMING

Oct. 9-13 is Homecoming Spirit Week. Various events will occur throughout the week including the penny war, canned food drive, can tab top collection.

Commons decoration will occur on Tuesday for freshman and juniors, Wednesday for sophomores and seniors, and Thursday for C-Club and CHS Club.

Dress-up days are Wednesday for freshmen and juniors, Thursday for sophomores and seniors, and orange and blue spirit day on Friday.

Starting at 4 pm Friday afternoon, cheer on the Varsity boys' soccer team vs. Parkway West at Centene Stadium at Gay Field, followed by Varsity field hockey vs. Villa.

Friday night at Centene Stadium at Gay Field, class relay and tug of war competitions will be held, in addition to log presentations and a bonfire.

Saturday's festivities start with the alumni barbecue at 10 am at Upper Gay, followed by the homecoming parade at 11 am. The Varsity football Greyhounds take on Berkeley at 12 pm, with free student admission and \$5 admission for adults.

The week will conclude with the Homecoming Dance in Stuber Gym from 8-11 pm.

PSAT TESTING

PSAT testing will take place on Oct. 18 starting at 8:20 am for sophomores and juniors who previously signed up. For more information, see your counselor.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Thirteen CHS students have been named semifinalists in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Competition: Jack Altman, Jim An, Andrew Bassett, Sadie Heintz, Rebecca Katz, Abby Lawlor, Paul Lehmann, Zoe Liberman, Robert McGibbon, Yue Pang, Roland Reimers, Rebecca Wall, and Yi Zhao.

From the Class of 2006, graduates Gregory Hu and Chris Peck have been named National Merit Scholarship winners. Hu attends Brandeis University and Peck attends Rice University.

STELLAR STAFF

Science teacher Sarah Reiter was recently admitted into the Science Education Doctoral Studies Cadre Program through the Center of Inquiry in Science Teaching and Learning at Washington University and the College of Education at the University of Missouri - St. Louis.

GLOBE AWARD

For the fifth year in a row, the Globe is the recipient of the Quill and Scroll's Gallup award, the highest overall award from Quill and Scroll. The 2005-2006 garnered 943 out of a possible 1000 points, with special mention for its extensive coverage. The head editors last year were Carolyn Bleeke, Meghan Bliss, Annalise Shumway, Rebekah Slodounik and Kate Waterbury. Other editors included graduates Caitlin Ly, Jack McClellan, Katherine Sher and Max Shapiro and current editors Amy Brooks, Rachel Harris, Sophia Agapova, Rebecca Katz, Kate Rothman, Rebecca Wall, Mia Harlan and Ben Weixlmann.

# Despite early losses, varsity boys' soccer team promises exciting season

Michael Root  
Staff Reporter

GOOOOOOOOOOOOAL!  
The 2006-07 boys' varsity soccer season is underway as the team reflects on last year's success and failures in hope to propel them into glory this fall.

Whatever success a team has had the previous year must be put in perspective, not to dwell on what could have been but to figure out where the team can head this next year. For the varsity soccer Hounds, the leadership they possess helps making the transition from a tough end to last season into a promising new one.

"Last year we lost to Trinity 1-0 in overtime in the district finals, so we are hungry to get back and prove we can win those games, but this year I'm not the only one who understands what it takes, which is patience and perseverance through the low points," head coach Matt Balossi said.

Balossi isn't the only one who knows what it takes because this year's team consists of a majority of experienced players with six upperclassmen who have played together at the varsity level for the past three years. The three senior players, and captains, are Alex Neil, Jack Hannum, and Zach Wexelman, and the three junior players are David Sherby, Parker Rawdon, and Scott Belsky.

"Over the past three years, our leadership has improved, but our chemistry has too because the longer we play together the more we learn the little details of the other players and adjust our game to compensate for weaknesses of others ultimately bringing the team success," Wexelman said.

In addition to the experienced players, freshman Josh Few, and two juniors Benjamin Kirschner and Max Arpad, round out the team with the latter converting from playing football for the past two years.

"Josh is a pleasant surprise and will continue to earn more playing



Abbie Minton

time with experience at the varsity level," Balossi said. "Ben and Max are very good, strong athletes who will feel more comfortable with more time as well."

"The biggest surprise for me was the size and speed of the players and the pace of the game, but I'm getting used to it and am able to focus more on position and other aspects of the game," Few said.

Due to the rise of these unexpected additions to the team, the loss of some key players due to injury early in the season has not affected the team as much as some thought. The injuries to two senior starters Kyle Mulle and Wexelman during pre-season have required

some players to play out of position, while allowing many to receive valuable playing time that may otherwise have been limited.

"Right now I'm back playing after some physical therapy and rest, but I'm still not one hundred percent ready but hope to contribute as much as possible right away," Wexelman said.

In the opening weeks of the season, the team has continued to be plagued by injuries including a hip injury to Kirschner, and the absence of senior Kevin Smith due to illness. In addition to that, Hannum has been battling a hurt ankle since pre-season. The team, however, has shown resiliency by going

3-4 to start the season, overcoming the extreme obstacles of losing key players.

"The beginning of the season has been a little disappointing considering I think that both Borgia and MICDS were easily beatable teams," Sherby said. "This just shows that no successful team can depend on just a few players, so we need work harder to become one unit and work together for the remainder of the season and beyond."

Another effect of losing key players is the change in formation in order to exploit the strengths and avoid the weaknesses of the team. "Because we lack a set of 'true'

forwards at this point, we put our strongest players in the mid-field with four in all, to control possession more and to develop more creative scoring opportunities," Balossi said.

A major theme for this year's team is to always look ahead to the future, and the future is the post-season. In order to build a team capable of excelling into and through the post-season, a challenging schedule is a must.

"We are focusing on building up for a post-season run, and not worried so much on our record," Balossi said. "With our beefed up schedule we may not be the favorites to win, but our goal is to go into any game capable and ready to win."

This year's schedule no longer includes easier teams like Parkway North, Cleveland and NJROTC, and picked up challenging games with Webster, Borgia and Parkway Central to prepare for a hard playoff road, along with games against Ladue, Whitfield, Priory and Hazelwood Central.

"We have always trained hard, but this year in particular we are more mentally focused and have picked up the intensity at practice to help prepare us for the season," Rawdon said.

So far early in the season, the team's first major test was the game against Duchesne, where trailing 2-0 early, the team rallied to send the game into overtime, but ultimately fell just short of the victory with the final score of 3-2.

"The tough loss to Duchesne was because of our lack of intensity at the start but coming back from behind gave us the confidence we need to compete with any team, and showed us that we have the skill and drive to beat anyone as long as the intensity is there," Wexelman said.

Overall, the team's goal is to win districts and advance on from there, focusing on one game at a time and building team unity vital for their success. ☺

# Varsity Hounds gear up for Ladue game

Evan Green  
Staff Reporter

Every year the Clayton against Ladue football game is one of the most exciting and fun to attend, and this year will probably be no different.

The game will be played at Ladue since home field advantage rotates each year. Ladue will be looking for revenge after their gut-wrenching 21-20 loss to Clayton ended their season last year. Kick-off time is 1 p.m. on Oct. 7.

For senior's Alex Hutchinson (wide receiver) and Bo Lanter (running back) the match-up of the two teams will be their last.

"The game is always special, but it will be extra special because this is my last year to play," Hutchinson said. "All of the seniors really want to win this year to leave with a win over Ladue. My favorite game to play in was last year's game against Ladue because we beat them by one point to advance to the playoffs."

For Lanter this will be his first and last game against Ladue, but he still is ready for the game.

"I'm just feeding off of everyone else's feelings about the rivalry, and I'm pretty excited to get in there," Lanter said. "I played in the second basketball game against Ladue, which we won, so I kind of got a feel for the rivalry then."

Even though the game is being played at Ladue, some Clayton students are still planning to attend.

"I'm excited to attend the Clayton vs. Ladue varsity football game this year for the first time as a student at CHS," freshman Max Bardella said.

"I really want to go because it's Clayton's rival and it will be awesome! Since I play football, I can't wait to get to play Ladue once I make varsity."

The CHS varsity football team started off its season with a hard-fought battle against the Lutheran North Crusaders. The game was the first football game under the lights at the newly renovated Centene Stadium.

Senior Alex Hutchinson scored the first touchdown at the new stadium on a one-yard run 47 seconds into the first quarter.

"I was pretty excited about scoring the first touchdown at the new stadium, but since it was in the middle of the game I had to play it off as just any other touchdown,"



Abbie Minton

Hutchinson later said.

At the half, the score was 7-6. The second half started off with a bang for the Hounds as Brandon Powell returned the opening kickoff 82 yards for a touchdown, and once again, Dustin Dye converted the PAT, and Clayton led 14-6. That score did not stay the same for long as North answered back 28 seconds later with a 59-yard run and the score was 14-12.

Lutheran's LaRico Martin snuck into the end zone on a one-yard run to give the Crusaders the lead, and they did not give it up. The final score was Lutheran North 20, Clayton 14.

For Clayton, Lanter was the Hounds' leading rusher as he finished with 90 yards on 15 carries. On the defensive side, Doug Williams led with 10 solo tackles and four assists.

Clayton followed up their opening week loss with another one as

Borgia High School pounded them 46-21. The game was close until the third quarter when Borgia outscored the Hounds 19-7, took a big lead and never looked back.

In Clayton's third game, they defeated Affton High School 34-12 in a game won by the defense. The defense returned three interceptions for touchdowns, Lanter ran for another, and Adam Banks threw for another that was caught by Steve Richardson. Charlie Matthews and Steve Richardson each had two interceptions and Lanter had one. Doug Williams added 15 tackles to stop Affton's attack.

Head Coach Sam Horrell says that the team has been working hard in practice to improve.

"Our biggest problems so far have been special teams (vs. Lutheran North), and we need to be more focused on our defensive assignments. We're just going over more film and improving our

schemes to prepare for the next few games."

Heading into this year's game, Ladue has a record of 2-1 after three games to CHS' 1-2. Clayton's goal will be to stop Ladue's running back Sean Okpala. Okpala is one of the top rushers in the area, and Ladue loves to pound the ball on ground. "Their strength is running, so we will try to force the pass and make them beat us with the pass. We have to stop #37 (Okpala) to be successful," Horrell said.

Ladue's goal will be to contain the Clayton offense and be able to run successfully against a good Clayton defense that includes senior Doug Williams, who came up with a big game last year against Ladue.

Whatever happens the game will most likely be close, and the stands packed as the two high schools renew their rivalry for another year. ☺

# Field Hockey team stuns competition

**Rebecca Wall**  
Senior Managing Editor

The Clayton Varsity girls' field hockey team is off to one of their best starts in recent memory.

Led by senior captains Hannah Staenberg, Rebecca Rivard, and Marjorie Munson, as well as new head coach Lizzy Dooley, the Hounds are optimistic about their season.

Dooley was the team's assistant coach last year. In addition to introducing new training techniques, Dooley has helped the team form into a more cohesive unit.

"Lizzy has had us do a lot of things we haven't done in this past," Heil-Chapdelaine said. "She has really gotten us to work as a team and support each other."

The Hounds went 7-0 until they fell to perennial powerhouse Ursa-

line Academy on Friday, September 15. However, this loss is seen as no reason to feel pessimistic.

Senior Alex Heil-Chapdelaine believes that the Hounds lost not because they were not the better team, but rather because of a combination of heightened nerves and much better than normal play on the part of their opponent.

**"We were nervous because we were undefeated and went into the game only thinking about how we wanted to maintain our undefeated record."**

Alex Heil-Chapdelaine  
Senior

"We were nervous because we were undefeated and went into the game only thinking about how we wanted to maintain our undefeated record," Heil-Chapdelaine said. "It is important that we lost at this time in the season because we learned not to be cocky."

Senior Christi Alexander was named a St. Louis Post-Dispatch athlete of the week for the week of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, an honor she well deserves. She is the only Clayton



Teddy Monson

Senior Courtney Cross battles for possession of the ball in a game against Riverview. With a 7-1 record, the field hockey team looks geared for a successful season.

field hockey played to be selected as an athlete of the week in recent memory.

Her contributions to the team have been instrumental to its success.

"Christi has scored a lot of goals which has been great," Senior Alex

Heil-Chapdelaine said. "You need to score to win."

Alexander leads the team in goals scored with nine. She is followed by senior Hannah Staenberg who has five goals, and sophomore Kate Wheelock who has four.

Rivard, who plays goalkeeper

for the Hounds, has also been instrumental to their success.

"Rebecca is an amazing player," Heil-Chapdelaine said. "She has improved a lot this year and is really good at letting us know where we need to be."

As of Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, Rivard's save

percentage was 0.993 and her goals against average was 0.34.

With a new coach, strong senior leadership, and depth from the other classes, as well as some early success behind them, the field hockey Hounds are expected to have a strong showing this season.

## Despite great challenges, softball team hopeful



Blair Klostermeier

Sophomore Shannon Harms rounds the bases. The CHS softball team has started the season with a 1-10 record, but the team is optimistic.

**Feng Shuang Stamme**  
Senior Section Editor

Along with the fresh start of a new school year, Clayton fall sports set into full swing on August 7, the first day of practice for all the teams. The girls' softball team began their season with a rough start, taking home only one win and 10 losses.

Outside their regular season, the team has performed excellently. During the Hancock Tournament on Sept. 9, the girls took home the first place title. Coach Christine Langenbacher is confident that the team will soon be on the right track.

"The girls are making progress everyday," Langenbacher said. "They are all working hard, and giving their full effort in the practices and games."

This year's team is composed of players from all different grade levels, and levels of experience. The three co-captains, seniors Melanie Holland, Beth Nielson, and Jaci Rifkin are all helping the new players to adjust, giving them instructions on the game. With six returning players and eight new additions this year, the team is fairly young.

"We have girls who are trying out for softball for the first time," Langenbacher said. "They have recruited some of their friends too, so many of the girls are new to the game."

Captain Melanie Holland has played softball her whole life, and this is her second year playing on the Clayton team. She has found it interesting working with so many new people.

"There are some things the girls struggle with because they have never played before," Holland said. "Sometimes it's a little frustrating, like I'd think 'I wish she knew how to do that.' But everyone is so nice, and you can't be frustrated with them too long. If they mess up, you know it's because they just didn't know what to do."

Captain Jaci Rifkin agrees with

Holland that there are many obstacles ahead for the team; one common issue for all the players is their demanding schedules after school.

"After school, we're all really tired, and really stressed out," Rifkin said. "We have had a game everyday after school and a tournament during the weekend. So it has been non-stop softball. To do well in these games it takes 100 percent concentration, and it takes a lot out of you. I think we're going to be okay once we get over that hump."

Missing one of their veteran players is also hurting the team. Sophomore Haley Rosenblum, who has played since she was a freshman, has been sick and unable to participate in the games.

For new player Jessica Corson, her main goal at this point is to know the sport.

"I'm trying to really just understand all the fundamentals of the softball," Corson said. "Like where I should throw the ball, when to throw the ball, all the little rules and stuff."

Though the scoreboard reflects rather disappointing outcomes, the social atmosphere on the team is more than welcoming. The girls are becoming quick friends, bonding on and off the playing field.

"We get along really well," Corson said. "Everyone is always joking and talking, it's fun and the girls are really nice."

This year's team is filled with competitive and ambitious players who know how to balance work and play.

"Our team is more like let's go out and have fun than let's go out and win everything," Holland said.

Langenbacher agrees with Holland that the team is full of players with lots of potential.

"We have an awesome team this year," Langenbacher said. "The captains have really stepped up, they're helping each other and working together. I'm confident the team will improve their game with time and experience." ☺

## Athletes of the Month meet with success on the field

**Ben Weixlmann**  
Senior Section Editor

Three years ago, Anya Veremakis was learning the basics of field hockey. These days, she is surprising the competition with her skills and leading the Greyhounds to a stellar start. Veremakis keys an attack that coaches have been working on since day one this summer.

"Our coaches really got on us this summer about not taking a backswing when we shoot, so I am hoping to perfect a powerful push shot," Veremakis said.

So far, the extra coaching has led to a streak of wins to begin the season, and the Hounds have no intention of letting up.

"We want to make it known that Clayton field hockey can compete with teams like Villa and MICDS and other private schools," Veremakis said.

Aside from the plays she has made on the field, Veremakis' favorite aspect of the sport is quite simple.

"My favorite part of field hockey is when you have been working so hard the whole game and you hear the bang of the ball hit the back of the goal. It is one of the best feelings especially when you are really tired," Veremakis said.

Additionally, Veremakis is the consummate team player and realizes that to win, you must rely on the entire team to achieve a common goal.

"But even more than scoring, the best part is just being part of a team and getting to bond with teammates," Veremakis said.

Known for her aggressive play in the open field, Veremakis has been able to find teammates darting toward the goal very well this year, tallying assists in several games.

The Lady Hounds have high expectations for this season, as many key players return from last year's squad, including Veremakis.

"We have a really awesome team this year, the senior leadership is phenomenal, and aside from beating Ladue, we want to make it really far in the postseason tournament," Veremakis said. "We are capable of doing really well this year, and I am very excited to see how it all goes."



Chelsea Fischer

Despite her quality play since coming to CHS, Veremakis never had her sights set on receiving this award.

"I am honored to be recognized as the Female Athlete of the Month because not only are there a lot of really good female athletes at CHS, but also a large number of amazingly good field hockey players."

With the junior Veremakis already making such a large impact on CHS field hockey this season, a stellar year not only this fall but next fall as well is sure to be in store for the Lady Greyhounds so long as the Hounds follow Veremakis' lead. ☺

**Rebecca Wall**  
Senior Managing Editor

There are a lot of stars on the varsity boys soccer team.

Consider seniors Jack Hannum and Zach Wexelman. Both play on premier area club teams. Hannum won't hesitate to knock an opposing player on his rear, and Wexelman will place the ball adeptly in the back of the net. With pleasure.

Or what about junior Parker Rawdon? Rawdon is tough, physical, and more than capable of putting the fear of God into the opposing team's goalkeeper.

How could you forget senior goalkeeper Alex Neil? At times more wall than man, he guards the net like a ferocious bald eagle protecting his roost.

All of these players have something important in common, though. They have all spent more than the current season at the varsity level. As old hands on the team, everyone expected a strong showing from them. They were constants, not unknowns.

But coming into the 2006 season, junior Steven Glynias was an unknown. This was his first season at the varsity level, after two years on the freshman and JV teams. Despite this, Glynias has stepped up, easing into his position as an integral part of the Hound's defensive machine.

"Steven is one of our marking backs," senior Alex Neil said. "He is usually assigned to mark the opposing team's best player and has had a lot of success shutting down some of the area's leading strikers."

As one of the Hounds' marking backs, Glynias bears a lot of the responsibility when it comes to protecting the Hounds' lead or keeping them in the game. However weighty these pressures may be, Steven is able to cope effectively, not losing his cool and keeping the other teams' forwards in check.

In addition to excelling on the field, Glynias is a great guy to have on the team, displaying a heartening and motivating enjoyment of soccer.

"Steven is a great guy to have around," Neil said. "He always gives one hundred percent."

All evidence seems to indicate that Glynias will continue to contribute to the Clayton soccer program,



Chelsea Fischer

not only this year, but during his senior year as well.

Neil even speculates that Glynias' athleticism and ability will enable him to shift positions at some point in time.

"He may be able to fill the role of sweeper in the future," Neil said.

However things may turn out, though, one thing is certain: Glynias forms an absolutely instrumental part of the Clayton Varsity Soccer team. His contributions are noteworthy, and he should be commended for his extraordinary positive and conscientious attitude as well. ☺



**From the Corner**  
Ben Weixmann

## Bus driver left behind legacy of kindness

For this month's column, I was planning on writing a sequel to my column about Tiger Woods' dominance. Rather, I felt that one story in particular was much more useful for the Clayton community.

I was told a week ago by a CHS staff member that Jeff Wilson, a bus driver for the Clayton School District, had died of cancer.

All the CHS athletes affectionately communicated with Jeff on a first-name basis, mostly because I don't think he would have wanted it any other way.

He was an engaging, outgoing, and caring person, who always had a smile on his face and cared about his job, but more importantly his precious cargo, the kids on his bus.

I can remember the days when I climbed on the bus and Jeff would say, "Hey Ben, it's nice to see you!" There wasn't one dull moment when we rode with Jeff, he was all about getting us there in a safe and timely manner.

As I write this column, I'm still somewhat dumbfounded at the subtle nature of this tragic event. Not only did we lose a wonderful person in the Clayton sports community, but an extraordinary person overall.

For my first three years at CHS, Jeff gave my respective sports team, whether it was soccer, golf, or basketball, the majority of our rides to away games.

He would wish us luck each time we got off the bus. Regardless if he knew that our team was going to get annihilated or not, he would recite the words of encouragement to let us know he cared.

In speaking with other CHS students, they all say the same thing: Jeff was such a nice guy, he always congratulated our wins and consoled us after our losses.

Unlike many other bus drivers, he came in and watched all our games and supported us.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about Jeff was that even though he had been diagnosed with cancer, he never let it get him down, at least he never showed such signs. If there was something wrong with him, he was extremely careful not to let anyone notice. He made it a point to always look as though he wanted to be there.

After I basketball game my freshman year, after we got drubbed badly, our entire team sulked onto the bus. He made sure to tell us to get our heads up and that we would win next time, and that we had still played great in his mind.

And truthfully, that meant something to us. We may not have showed it on the outside at the time, but that's the type of moral support that only Jeff could give.

Jeff was a lively individual who loved his job. I remember conversing with him before we left to go on the road, and he said, "Being around you kids, and seeing the smiles on your faces is what keeps me going here every day."

To those of you who never got to meet Jeff, I am deeply sorry for you. However, for those of you who did, you know how much we will miss him, and we will always remember the kind-hearted person who delivered us promptly to our sporting events and encouraged us every step of the way. ☺

# Girls' golf: united, hopeful to swing to victory

**Katharine Weiss**  
Section Editor

Most female athletes at CHS can be found out in the field playing field hockey or on the court working on their serve. But for those unique few, their passion lies out on the golf course.

Golf is a sport most commonly found among old men making business deals. But the girls' golf team has taken that stereotype and thrown it out the window.

Girls' Golf was introduced to CHS only one year ago after health teacher Melissa Lewis-Hobick came to CHS and was shocked to find that CHS did not currently have a team dedicated to girls who wanted to play golf.

"I've always dreamed of becoming a golf coach," Lewis-Hobick said. "So the second I found out there was no girls' golf team at CHS I sprung into action."

Along with the help of a few enthusiastic sophomores, Lewis-Hobick was able to string together a team in time for the 2005 fall golf season.

The new girls' golf team was welcomed by a group of six passionate players.

"I was happy that a girls' team was formed because, without it, I don't think I would have played," junior Elaine Faddis said. "I never considered playing golf with the boys because they play from different tees and are in general a lot better than girls. The girl's team presented an opportunity for me to actually get some playing time."

Sophomore Caitlin Rodgers shared an alternate view to Faddis.

"I was happy that a girl's team became available but I would have also gladly played along side the boys," Rodgers well as guys."

But Rodgers was never able to show off her savvy skills to the boys, but instead joined the girls' golf team, where she found a strong network of girls that gave her more than just tips on how to play the game.

"All the girls on the team are really funny and wholehearted," Rodgers said. "We are all really



Junior Sonya Gierada, junior Marta Toczylowski and sophomore Julyun Oh practice teeing off while Coach Hobicks-Lewis observes. *Courtesy of Elaine Faddis*

close and have a lot of fun together."

What makes the girls' golf team so different than the boys' team is not what season they play in or even what type of tees they play on, but the girls' spirit. And as a reflection of that spirit, the team wears orange and blue ribbons to every tournament.

Senior Morgan Deutsch spent her first two years at CHS playing on the boys' team, but when the girls' team formed, she switched over.

"The guys are a lot more competitive," Deutsch said. "But the girls have a lot more fun playing the game."

Lewis-Hobick says that it's the differing personalities that provides the team with a spark.

"Our team has a great bunch of

girls," Lewis-Hobick said. "Everyone on the team has really different personalities and goals, but when we come together as a team, we are able to really get things done."

Besides having an overwhelming spirit, another aspect that makes this team so different from others is that this is their second year playing with each other. Only one player graduated last year, and no new players joined.

"All the girls on the team are awesome," Faddis said. "This is our second year playing together and because of it, we have a really good group dynamic."

With one year of playing already behind them, the girls buckle down and focus on the future of the team.

"I'm hoping that we will be able to advance as a team," Lewis-Ho-

bick said. "I want to be able to really build a strong platform for next year's team."

Another goal that seems to be popular among the golf players is their desire to go to state.

"I think it would be really great if we could get two or more of our players to make state," Deutsch said. "We have improved so much over the past year, and I think that a few spots at state are within our reach."

But no team can go far without great coaching. And thanks to the passion and excitement that Lewis-Hobick brings to the team, they have exactly that, according to team members.

"We lucked out," Rodgers said. "We could not have received a better coach." Along with knowing all the rules to golf and

actually having her own personal experience with the game, Lewis-Hobick brings to the team something rarely seen between teachers and students, friendship.

"Ms. Lewis is a great coach because she's young and all the girls on the team can relate to her," Faddis said. "She's not just a coach, she's a friend."

With strong leadership, team unity and spirit, the girls' golf team heads out and begins their second season of golf at CHS.

"I want to build up the girls' golf team and get more girls involved in playing," Lewis-Hobick said. "You don't have to be the world's best golfer to play, just enthusiastic about the sport."

And that is exactly what this year's team has, enthusiasm—maybe it will help on the course. ☺



**Freshman Katherine Greenburg** celebrates after winning a point. *Courtesy of Emil Thyssen*  
Although only a freshman Katherine has risen the varsity ranks to take the number one seat on the team.

## Strong underclassmen add depth to tennis

**Mary Blackwell**  
Staff Reporter

With experienced players and new talent, the girls' tennis team is looking solid with a record of 4-3.

"We look really strong. I feel like we're a stronger team than last year," head coach Susie Luten said.

The team won matches against Webster Groves, University City, Eureka, and Rockwood Summit.

Tennis is a team sport, but winning depends on individual matches. A team wins over all when they win the majority of the matches played.

"This is my seventh year coaching high-school girls. We have a very large turnout," Luten said.

Thirty-two girls came out for the team this year.

The top returning players are Rachel Gluck, Avital Ludomirsky, and Mary Goodman. Gluck has been unavailable due to an injury.

"My injury isn't horrible, but I have rotator cuff tendonitis, not an unusual injury for a year-round competitive tennis player," Gluck said.

The three upperclassmen are key to the team's success, but the number one singles player is freshman Katherine Greenburg.

"She's an experienced tourna-

ment player," Luten said.

Winning isn't everything, and the team has other goals.

While Luten would like to see post-season play and some girls go to state, she says the most important thing is that "everyone wants to have fun and bond as a team."

"We've talked about team unity and it's never really been followed through. My goal is to welcome the underclassmen and making sure they feel comfortable," Ludomirsky said.

Junior varsity members have also seen other players stepping up their game.

"We have a lot of strong new players, and many others who have really improved since last year," senior Rebecca Blackwell said.

Senior Lindsay Brown has also been happy about the year.

"I think it's the best year I've had so far because my doubles partner and I have gotten to play a lot more than we used to because we're seniors," Brown said. ☺

be at 4 p.m. Sept. 27 against MICDS, a tough opponent, followed by a 10 a.m. home match against Charleston on Sept. 30.

## Cross Country chases dream

**Rachel Dickens**  
Staff Reporter

The CHS Cross Country team began this year's season with a number of talented new teammates, as well as a promising new head coach, Anne Etling. With a considerable number of practices under their belt, team members are both confident and dedicated towards having a strong, rewarding season.

"This year has been much tougher in terms of conditioning and overall workouts," Sophomore Daniel Shore said. "The team usually does a one-mile warm-up at first. After running for a little while, we stop to stretch, and then we do our core work-out, which is much more extensive."

Team captain John Acker agrees with Shore regarding the team's improved focus and determination.

"Cross country used to not be as serious of a sport," Acker said. "I remember my freshman and sophomore year, there would be more horseplay and less attention paid to running. In a way, the team has become more focused and serious towards the point in hand. This has showed. This year, the team as a whole has done quite well. In years past, we used to see more people getting injured and slower 5k times."

**“The team has become more focused and serious towards the point in hand.”**

**John Acker**  
Team Captain

Acker believes that the team's strength stems in large part from the initiative and motivation of the new runners and underclassmen.

"It's very hard just to pick out a few promising underclassmen as there are so many," Acker said. "I believe that as a whole we will make great strides this year and many of us will accomplish personal records, we once thought unattainable."

Shore, who has been a member of the Cross Country team since his Freshman year, also believes that his underclassmen teammates are essential to the team.

"I think that our team has a great deal of potential this year," Shore said. "We have a lot of new Freshman runners, and many of the returning underclassmen on the team have improved greatly."

So far this season, the team has participated in meets at St. Charles, MICDS, and Spanish Lake. Acker comments on the overall performance of his teammates with regards to these meets, as well as practices. "Cross Country is unique in that it's not a sport everyone can do. A runner must have a good work ethic and perseverance to make it," Acker said. "It takes a long time to build up endurance to be able to run anywhere from 3 miles to 8.5 miles like we do in practices and in meets. One day you might have to run sprints, the other you might have to do a hill workout and the next day you might have a race. In order to run in these meets, a person must have the will to succeed and the determination to finish." ☺



**Sophomores Ben Peipert** and Krishna Vemulapalli taking off during the Lutheran North invitational at Spanish Lake. *Abbie Minton*



**Senior Abby Lawlor**, freshman Nina Oberman, junior Katie Weiss, sophomore Yiliu Zhang, junior Abbie Minton, and freshman Taylor Stone warm-up before a meet. *Josh Carlie*

# The ins and outs of interclass dating

Fontasha Powell  
Staff Reporter

It's the first week of school and students are thrilled at the prospect of meeting new teachers and getting acquainted with new people. However, while walking down the hallway, a student spots a senior boy sporting a fluorescent orange tee shirt that says "FRESHMEN, COME TO ME."

Here at Clayton, dating and the social scene are often considered two of the most important things in a teen's life and when the two mix, the result isn't always pretty. It's called inter-class dating. Upperclassmen dating underclassmen is a common aspect of the dating scene but it is also clearly one of the most controversial.

"Upperclassmen dating underclassmen isn't that big of a deal if you really like someone," sophomore Rhiannon Jones said, "After all, there's not a huge age difference."

While many students agree with Jones, some believe it better to set limitations on the difference in ages.

"I don't think freshmen should date seniors because freshmen are

still too much like kids," sophomore Ido Gross said.

Health teacher Doris Smith agrees with Gross.

"Upperclassmen are at different points in their lives than underclassmen. They are leaving school and becoming independent," Smith said.

Junior Peter Glik agreed with Gross but he took a different view of the matter.

"I wouldn't date an underclassmen because it's bad for my image," Glik said. "It takes no pimpin' to get a freshman. My friends would probably tell me to get someone my own age."

But some students think it quite likely that upperclassmen might

target underclassmen.

"I've never felt targeted by an upperclassman, but I've heard all they want is sex," sophomore Jasmine Adams said.

**“Upperclassmen are at different points in their lives than underclassmen. They are leaving school and becoming independent.”**

Doris Smith  
Health Teacher

Others also believe that older students target younger students with that specific goal in mind.

"Upperclassmen do target underclassmen because they know they're vulnerable to do anything, especially freshmen," sophomore Mariah Hatcher said.

Health teacher

smith agrees with Hatcher.

"In a relationship if, there is a big age difference or even a big difference in maturity level, there is often an imbalance of power and the more mature individual will often push or pressure the younger individual," Smith said.

Senior Jessica Haller dated an upperclassman when she was a freshman and she regrets the relationship.

"I dated a junior when I was a freshman and he only wanted to get in my pants," Haller said. "We broke up because I caught him cheating on me with my best friend."

Junior James Mason also went out with a younger girl and he agrees with the stereotypes.

"I went out with a younger girl because of her body type," Mason said. "A lot of things we did aren't school appropriate but I would go to her games and we would hang out. We broke up because I flirted with other girls."

"Upperclassmen hit on underclassmen because they're easy," Mason continued. "They're lost at a new school and they want to be seen with someone older."

Other students, however, beg to differ. Sophomore Brooke Lawrence

has been dating a senior for almost a year and she feels that they're relationship is the same as any other relationship.



"I've never felt pressured to do anything," Lawrence said.

Sophomore Cole Rosenblum dated a junior last year when he was still a freshman. A typical date consisted of hanging out with friends or going to a restaurant.

"I dated an upperclassmen because I really liked her, but I think

upperclassmen expect underclassmen to be mature and not goofy," Rosenblum said. "Our breakup probably had to do with the age difference."

Sophomore Michelle Shultz has been dating college freshman Jimmy Kanefke for eight months. Shultz says that college hasn't greatly affected their relationship, but Kanefke now spends more time doing homework than spending time with her.

"His parents didn't care that we were dating until we started seeing each other when he was grounded," Shultz said. "The only problem was his ex because she was dating him two weeks earlier."

Although inter-class dating will be a topic undergoing continuous scrutiny, most students say that they don't care who dates whom, the age difference is too small to matter. Still, Haller thinks it's wiser for underclassmen to be cautious.

"Anyone is free to date whom they like, but if you're an underclassmen dating an upperclassmen, be careful because you don't know why they're in the relationship," Haller said.

"They could be in it just for that one night." ☺

## The family connection

Underclassmen appreciate having older siblings in school at CHS. An older brother or sister can provide comfort and advice in an otherwise overwhelming situation.

Siobhan Jones  
Staff Reporter

Three seniors walk across the quad towards two young freshmen sitting at a picnic table.

"Hey you stupid freshman!" one of the seniors shouts. The freshmen turn around and the senior takes a step back, embarrassed.

"Oh hey," the senior says sheepishly, "Sorry, just kidding. Tell your older sister hi for me."

Traditionally, freshmen and even sophomores have had a tough time of being new in high school, having to deal with an intimidating new atmosphere and a new set of upperclassmen in addition to schoolwork. But some of these students have had an easier time adjusting to high school, thanks to their trusty big brothers and sisters, who are conveniently located in the same building.

"Last year when I was a freshman, my older sister helped me get to know other people," sophomore Elizabeth Garvin said.

"I definitely love having my older sister in school with me," sophomore Emily Garvin said. "It is great to see her more often."

Other freshmen of the past couldn't agree more. In fact, all students interviewed about the experiences of sharing a high school life with an older sibling gave it the thumbs-up.

"When I was a freshman, my older brother was a junior," sophomore Brian Fleischer said, "and it was great having an upperclassman friend."

Many of the siblings interviewed pointed out that having an older brother or sister in the school helped them make friends with people in other grades.

"I definitely met more people thanks to having an older sister," sophomore Susie Wirthlin said.

Wirthlin also thinks that having an older sibling in the school gave her an emotional outlet, a friend at all times.

"It's just nice always having someone to talk to,"

Wirthlin said.

Fleischer agrees.

"Having a brother at CHS helped because it made the transition from Wydown easier," Fleischer said.

Garvin also thinks that being in the same school with her older sister has brought them closer.

"We've never been in the same school together before," Garvin said. "Now it's just really fun seeing her at school."

There are also some practical advantages of having an older sibling in school.

"My older sister drove me to school," Wirthlin said. "It was nice getting a ride with her."

"My older brother Lewis always drove me to school," sophomore Maya Fernandez said "That was nice."

**“I definitely love having my older sister in school with me. It is great to see her more often.”**

Emily Garvin  
Sophomore

Besides the rides to and from school, some freshmen gained knowledge about school through their older siblings.

"Lewis is very smart," Maya Fernandez said. "If I needed help with homework he helped me."

Many of the freshmen enjoyed having an older sibling. But Maya Fernandez found the advantages to be, for the most part, insignificant. The sibling relationship at home was reflected at school.

"I think if my older sister, Sivan, and I got along in general, going to school together would be fine. But there is a little bit of sibling rivalry," Fernandez said.

Senior Sivan Fernandez couldn't agree more.

"We tried to avoid each other and mostly having her in the same school didn't make much difference," Sivan Fernandez said.

Sivan Fernandez also experiences more of the negative effects of having a younger sibling.

"Some of my guy friends like to joke around and say they are going to ask her out, to annoy me," Sivan said. "It doesn't really bother me, but it is pretty annoying." ☺



Kate Rothman

Juniors Elicia Wartman and Johanna Seleska work on their homework in the CHS library during one of their coveted free periods. Many sophomores and juniors have noticed the increased workload that they have, as compared to their freshman year.

## Students gear up for years of challenges and changes

Aaron Prais  
Staff Reporter

As the 2006-2007 Clayton High School year begins, each of the four classes faces a long and winding road of changes and challenges. Freshmen arrive nervous, as they encounter a change in environment mostly. Seniors only want to think about college in the near future. But, sophomores and juniors, the sometimes forgotten classes, face even greater changes, as they struggle to find an identity of their own.

According to psychologist Dr. Aimee Goldstein, sophomore year is critical. This is where people start forming their own path, the one they've thought about since about elementary school. It is about sophomore year, according to Goldstein, that the responsibilities truly fall into students' own hands, not parents.

"There is a whole new level of independence and you see more sophomores stepping up at the end of the year," Psychology teacher David Aiello said.

Goldstein agreed that a number of influences work on teens this age, all at the same time.

"There is a lot of change, primarily because of learning to drive, having more freedom away from parents and being more vulnerable to peer influences," said Goldstein.

Aiello said that while both

sophomores and juniors are undergoing many changes, he believes that sophomore year could be more significant.

"I see the greatest amount of change in sophomore students' personalities," Aiello said.

Around this age, students usually receive their drivers' licenses, allowing them to drive on their own. But for most students, driving won't come until later, and besides, such strict limitations are placed, even on students with drivers' licenses.

"Have fun driving, just remember that the louder the music and the more people in the car, the harder it will be to focus," senior Taylor Griggs said.

With this new freedom and responsibility, Goldstein suggests that the risk of peer influence is also greater.

"Exercise good judgment while still having fun," Goldstein said.

Aiello said that 9th and 10th grade should be a time when students try new things, so that by the end of 10th and beginning of 11th grades, students can begin to specialize and take on more leadership roles within the couple of things they have decided to focus on.

"Some people make choices that aren't so good, while others make better choices," said 2006 graduate Laura Tetri, in reference to sophomore year. "Don't be afraid to make good decisions and go against peer pressure."

Responsibilities build up, and student life becomes more and more independent. Classes only get harder. Often times, sophomores have not yet started to focus on the whole college application process and are not as concerned

about their grades.

"Don't wait to decide to get good grades, they really do matter," Griggs said.

On the other hand, rumor has it that it is in fact junior year where these challenges are even more pronounced. Some people believe that junior year is where students develop their "true" identity, whereas during sophomore year students simply begin this process.

"You find your own identity through the hardest times and for me that was through my junior year in high school," Lewis said.

Lewis explains that junior year puts on a lot of pressure, with coursework really picking up, and forces students to choose exactly where they want to end up.

Colleges specifically look at this year to make final decisions on applications, which for some are extremely important for their future.

In addition, the driving is more relaxed, as teens' parents have hopefully loosened up slightly, giving them even more freedom.

Sophomore and junior years definitely represent a significant change from those nervous and excited times during freshman year.

Indeed, it is during these two middle years of high school that students overcome great challenges while finding their future identities.

"Start working as hard as you can," senior Jake Lewis said. ☺

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# Teenage birthdays become more extravagant

**Wenny Dong**  
Graphics Editor

As a glitzy landmark in the voyage past teen-dom, birthdays are a particular fixation in high school subculture. This has been apparent from as early as "The Sound of Music" with "Sixteen Going on Seventeen" to current times with reality T.V. shows, casting wealthy diva teens wallowing in their own melodramatic party-planning.

Take the ultimate sign of voyeurism, MTV's "My Super-Sweet Sixteen," featuring parties at glamorous beachside settings and lavish themes. While there has never been an episode located inside the Clayton Bubble, students at CHS have had similarly unique or remarkable birthday celebrations.

Senior Marie-Sophie Ritter personally attests to this, having hosted a slew of unique parties.

"The most major parties I've had were the Bollywood, German, Tea and Chocolate parties," Ritter said. "At the Bollywood party, we gave each other henna tattoos and watched movies, like *Bride and Prejudice*, which naturally entailed a lot of dancing and singing. The decorations included pieces of colorful sheer fabric, which conveniently doubled up as saris when we felt like being avant-garde. Technically, the Bollywood-themed party was my half-birthday party because I accidentally let it slip that it was my half-birthday and one of my friends insisted everyone give me presents. I think I only did it because I wanted presents but then again, I did get to spend times with people who I enjoy being around. Then there was the German party for my actual birthday, where I served dinner with authentic German food, and guests received goodie pails filled to the brim with German chocolate. Then the tea party was just because and the chocolate party I hosted for a friend."

"I'm usually inspired by watching T.V. like old Indian or Bollywood movies as well as cheesy German videos," Ritter said. "I first decided on Bollywood because I absolutely love the music, the dancing, the beautiful clothes, everything. The movies are completely glamorous. In fact, it's totally idyllic how people just spontaneously break out into song."

Purchasing an adorable German dress was the impetus behind her real birthday party while the themes for the tea party and chocolate party had greater personal significance.

"I decided on the tea party because all of the tea parties I had from when I was little never satisfied me," Ritter said. "My own parties are pretty awesome, but the coolest birthday party I ever attended was in preschool. My friend had this amazing dressup tea party at some special place where we got to dress up



Calla Dobbmeyer

in real clothes with actual tea and cookies, plus edible necklaces and bracelets. When you're like three, what's better than candy jewelry? Anyway, it turns out I had my perfect tea party when I was 17."

Then for the chocolate party, Ritter turned to one of her favorite childhood books, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

"I was thinking along the lines of having everything chocolate, but my chocolate fountain wasn't nearly as cool as a chocolate river," She said.

A beloved book was also the inspiration behind one of senior Lindsay Brown's birthday bashers. In fact, her most "Wicked" party was a celebration of not only herself and her friends, but of the book and musical as well.

"Last year, I went to Fox Theatre to see 'Wicked' with 12 of my closest friends," Brown said. "'Wicked' is one of my favorite musicals and it was coming to St. Louis. I had already seen it on Broadway but my parents decided to get tickets for my friends and me as a special gift. We went on a Friday night, the third day after it came to St. Louis and the hardest part was to find people to drive us there. My parents ended up driving and several other parents drove as well. Over all, getting to share one of my favorite musicals with

my friends was a very unique experience because we could all enjoy each other's company with something we equally liked. I absolutely loved the musical but the book is really different and a bit odd."

"My party was 'Wicked'-themed with invitations that had 'Wicked' on them and a neat book about 'Wicked' my friend gave me, but not to the point where everything was 'Wicked' all over because I didn't want anything too over the top," Brown said. "It was still very exciting because my friends and I got all dressed up for the show, like in dressy clothes since the fox is really nice. Plus we had great balcony seats towards the middle for a great view of the characters."

In addition to her "Wicked" extravaganza, other memorable birthday endeavors included Brown's sixteenth birthday party, which featured several plot twists and a murder.

"I hosted a murder mystery party at a bed and breakfast in St. Genevieve," Brown said. "My birthday is six days before Halloween so I seem to find myself doing something Halloween related, though not always intentionally. The murder mystery was completely thrilling because you had to figure out who the murderer was, while dressing up and acting like your character. Like if someone was a hypochondriac, they

had to take pretend medicine in the form of candy tablets all the time. Several people ended up dying but if you died you got a new character. I had a similar experience in girl scouts once where I was killed and I got to lie on the floor."

Despite it sounding extremely extravagant, Brown entrusted her party to the owner of the bed and breakfast, who specialized in running murder mystery parties.

"The guy who ran it had written all of the stories himself and there were several different houses to go to where throughout each house they put clues under pillows, mattresses, drawers and fireplaces, including props that revealed how people were killed," Brown said. "There were differently themed packages like one about hippies or another one about office workers. I had to call a few months ahead of time and I had to figure out how many people were attending for the characters, but that was most of the work."

However, unlike Brown, Ritter is a self-proclaimed Do It Yourself girl, choosing humble locations like her house and even setting up the prep work. In fact, she enjoys planning her own parties, though she admits sometimes, as a result, there are limitations.

"I never really invite too many people because it reaches the point when things become too chaotic," Ritter said. "The tea party was extremely stressful because everything was made by hand, from the scones, cookies, cake and sandwiches, to the tea. The Queen Victoria cake was especially difficult to make and while all of the mini sandwiches looked darling, it took so much of my time arranging them. I also had to set up the tables, pick up the tables and chairs, as well as the decorations. It took 14 hours to set up and only lasted two hours."

Ritter also admits that everything does not always work out as imagined in fantasy tea parties.

"Speaking of drama, the seating arrangements for the tea party drove me crazy because I had invited some people who weren't friends with one another," Ritter said. "And then some people were upset, so it was like 'My Super-Sweet Sixteen' sans the boys. Usually the boys cause drama so we don't really invite them. Besides, the girls in that show are so catty, it's funny to watch sometimes but definitely not for real life."

Yet with exotic and innovative parties in vogue, a birthday celebration is a perfect way to step away from reality, so long as said birthday teen is not too self-absorbed about it.

"The one theme I would never do would be a Marie-Sophie theme," Ritter said. "How bizarre would that be if I had everyone dress like me or wear brown wigs with my face plastered on the plates, the napkins, and everything else? That would be the limit, but besides that, I'm open to most ideas." ☺

## Public and university libraries serve students

**Rebecca Katz**  
Senior Managing Editor

Although by no means universal, it is not uncommon for many Clayton students to go to libraries other than CHS's in order to find books and resources for research papers, reports, and other school assignments.

Indeed, according to a survey taken in May 2005, 69 percent of CHS students use a library other than the high school's.

Some of the more popular alternate libraries for students to use are the St. Louis County Library's Mid-County branch, located in downtown Clayton, and the County Library's Headquarters branch, in Frontenac.

"I really like the Headquarters branch," senior Eliza Poplawski said. "I go there any time I have to do a research project or a big paper."

Headquarters is also popular with other students for research.

"I go to Headquarters to get books that I need for English," senior Sadie Heintz said.

Students turn to other libraries for a variety of reasons.

"I used the County Library for research I had to do for history about Bosnia because they didn't have the books that I needed in the CHS library," senior Marie-Sophie Ritter said.

A lack of necessary resources at the CHS library is not an uncommon complaint.

"It doesn't have a very big selection," Heintz said. "I couldn't find the background information and literary criticism that I needed for my author project, and it also has a bad history selection. Many of its books are outdated."

The library staff acknowledge that there are holes in resources in certain areas, although they believe that there has been some improvement in recent years.

"The history department uses the library the most, and that's an area where we're looking to plug gaps," library media specialist Lucinda Menkhuis said. "But I think that in the last few years our selection has gotten better."

Recently, the library has bought new books at a rate of approximately 1000 per year. Librarians use a variety of methods to determine which books to purchase.

"Before I order, I ask teachers to send me requests,"



Photo Courtesy of Globe Staff

The St. Louis County Library, such as the Mid-County branch located in downtown Clayton, is a favorite studying place among CHS students.

Menkhuis said. "Also, we look at book reviews in newspapers and magazines, and when someone asks for a book which we don't have, I write it down and try to include it in the order."

Finding information unavailable at CHS is not the only reason for going to other locations.

"I often go to the [Mid-County] library before tests and finals, for study sessions," Ritter said.

The quieter environments of other libraries may play a part in why other students turn to them.

"At Headquarters, I can always find a place to sit down and work in quiet," Poplawski said. "The problem with the CHS library is that it's not quiet, and it's too small so sometimes it doesn't have the resources that I need."

The library's collection is subject to certain limitations.

"We are limited in what we can buy by the amount allocated in our budget, by the time it takes to search for and select materials, and by the difficulty there often

is in finding certain books," Menkhuis said. "History books in particular go out of print very quickly – often books used in schools even ten years ago are simply not available."

The CHS library's occasional lack of necessary information is seen by some students as understandable, although they believe the library must meet a basic standard.

"The library is small, and there's a limited amount of resources that they can bring to us," Poplawski said. "However, I think they should have enough information to get us through most assignments." ☺

## Classic video games make comeback

## courtesy of Gametap

Gametap offers fun and fellowship with other like-minded gamers, and it's popularity has been growing since it's creation in 2005.

**Nathan Crall**  
Staff Reporter

The oldies are making a comeback, as videogames from by gone decades reappear on the new internet website, "Gametap.com," en masse.

Making its debut over the 2005 winter break, this constantly growing website offers over 600 games

from the classic arcade-styled "Mortal Kombat" and "Sonic the Hedgehog," to Sega cult hits like "Vector-man" and is still increasing its already huge library. Many of the videogames even date back to the Atari systems, and as late as games such as "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time," for the computer. Overall, reactions from gamers are very positive as they re-live their childhood memories playing their favorite videogames of the retro era.

"You really can't beat Pac-Man" junior Mitchell Duncan said. "I think it's pretty cool, especially if you're trying to find all of the older games."

As it offers so many classics, "Gametap.com" requires a subscription to join, costing \$9.99 a month. Although the price may be a turn-off for some who don't get into old videogames, many gamers find the price to be quite reasonable.

"I definitely think it's fair for people who don't own the games already," said sophomore Nicole Burton "For those who do, it's kind of unfair."

Sophomore Kevin Rusbarsky also expresses his thoughts about the pricing for an account on the site. "600 titles for \$9.99 a month isn't bad, considering how much it would be to buy them all separately," Rusbarsky said.

Besides the price, Duncan, Burton, and Rusbarsky all agree that the idea of the site in general is great and creative. As "Gametap.com" even offers titles from the oddball systems of yesteryear such as the Commodore 64 and the Intellivision, gamers show more interest in the site.

"I've never played the Commodore 64, but I've heard of it and I'd like to play it sometime," Duncan

said.

Besides games, the website also offers many extra features such as internet contests and message boards to converse with hundreds of others who have already joined up to experience their younger days once again.

The site also includes a television and broadcasting system aptly named "Gametap T.V.," showing various

new games hitting the market, reviews, tips and tricks, release dates and comedic parodies like the cult hit talk show, "Space Ghost: Coast to Coast."

With all of this content, gamers have high hopes for the success of the site.

"It's a great idea with the potential to be really huge," Rusbarsky said. "If they are able to port the old Nintendo games later, it would be awesome."

Burton was impressed with the number of games as well.

"It's a lot of games and it takes a lot of money to get those games up there," Burton said. "I like the old 1990's games because they are quite simple unlike the new games where they stuff too much content in them, making them complicated."

As the site grows into a new sensation, it offers a two-week free

trial for those who wish to take a good first look. Burton, Duncan and Rusbarsky express their opinion on joining, saying that unless a person is a fan of the retro era of games, or have been gamers for a long time you probably should not make an account.

"I'd join if I had the time, maybe during winter or summer break" Duncan said.

But with the ever growing library of titles to play, it might not be long before recent console hits make their debut on the website. So with "Gametap.com," whether you're running through high speed loop-de-loops as a blue rodent, raiding tombs, protecting Earth from space invaders, destroying cities as a big monkey named George, or just running from ghosts as the infamous Pac-Man, it's never been more apparent that the classics are making the biggest comeback in gaming history. ☺

**“The problem with the the CHS library is that it’s not quiet and it’s too small so sometimes it doesn’t have the resources that I need.”**

**Eliza Poplawski**  
Senior

**“It’s a great idea with the potential to be really huge. If they are able to port the old Nintendo games later, it would be awesome.”**

**Kevin Rusbarsky**  
Sophomore



# CHS students spend summer in science internships

**Roland Reimers**  
Senior Section Editor

This past summer, six current Clayton seniors devoted themselves to researching at various Washington University laboratories as well as job shadowing at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Chemistry teacher Michael Howe organized the program, consisting of two parts, which allows high-school students the opportunity to either work side by side with professors in different fields of research throughout the summer or to observe medical professionals in a hospital surrounding.

"We have a program that is designed to introduce kids to careers in healthcare, where [the students] shadow people in the profession and try to experience life in a medical setting," Howe said. "The other program is a program that tries to get kids involved in working in a research lab, which is very similar to the STARS program, except not as structured as STARS is."

Not directly connected to CHS, the STARS program also allows high school students the chance to work in research labs over the course of a summer, but requiring written reports based on a tightly kept schedule.

Participants had a choice as to which program they wanted to join. Senior Bob McGibbon chose to do research in the gastroenterology department at the Washington University Medical School over the course of seven weeks for about seven hours a day, where his lab studied the structure of the protein PPAR.

"My main job was extracting and purifying fairly large quantities of the protein for experiments with it," McGibbon said. "While my specific role in the process wasn't particularly cutting edge, the experiments going on around me using my products were really pushing the envelope."

One of the most prominent benefits of taking part in this program, according to participants, was a fresh look at the inner workings of science-based occupations as well as the differences between high school and higher-level science.

"This experience gave me an inside view into the life of a research scientist, and I learned a ton of organic and biochemistry," McGibbon said. "I got to see first hand how month and year long experiments are conducted, as opposed to the one day experiments that we do in a school setting."

While McGibbon worked closely with those in his lab, other students researched on an independent basis.



**Top: Sophia Agapova** rests at her desk at her internship this summer. **Right: CHS graduate Antu Xie** works with buffer solution. **Bottom: Agapova and Xie's co-worker, George Caputa,** mixes solutions.

Though senior Zoe Liberman was supervised by mentor Dave Larson, her research was centered around her own project, which began on June 5.

"I made movies of eye development in the fruit fly, specifically for the mutation Notch," Liberman said. "The movies were actually a series of pictures taken every 15 minutes and then layered on top of each other. We [also] tried to insert a gene into a fruit fly plasmid to express fluorescence in the eye to help live imaging in the future."

Though Liberman said that she had little prior experience in the lab before beginning her research, which included running DNA gels and bacterial transforma-



photos courtesy of Sophia Agapova

tion and sequencing, her mentor provided the necessary guidance.

However, other students decided to spend their summer investigating the behind-the-scenes of BJC. Senior Andy Sides volunteered part of his time over the summer to following doctors and nurses throughout their day.

"That experience made me very interested in the medical field," Sides said. "I probably will go pre-medical [studies] because of it. It was amazing."

Yet, this program has only been in existence for four years so far.

"We don't do a lot of career-based education in the

science department here," Howe said. "On one hand I would like kids to start to think about careers in science and about careers in research. I'm looking for a way to involve our community in helping us educate our kids regarding potential careers, especially in science."

As Howe stresses, the most important feature of this program has been to introduce students interested in science to the wide spectrum of the medical field.

In this way, the program imparts practical knowledge and skills in science.

"It taught me what lab life was about," senior Kyu-Sang Eah said. "I learned a lot, actually."

McGibbon agrees.

"I learned a lot of science over the summer, and I also learned a lot about the process of science, from publishing to competing for grants," McGibbon said. "Being in a job-like setting over the summer has helped me narrow my career goals a lot. I definitely want to be involved in the sciences, either [in] research or teaching, in the future."

Still others, though happy to have participated in the program, are unsure about their later involvement in the sciences.

"After this program I knew a lot more about the fruit fly eye than I ever thought imaginable. I also met a lot of great people," Liberman said. "I'm not sure if I can actually see myself doing research in the future, but it was a great summer experience."

In addition, Liberman stressed that much more lab work needs to be done.

"My lab was really laid back and fun," Liberman said. "I learned that even when you think you solved a problem, you haven't. There will always be more research to fine-tune solutions."

Though only six students from CHS participated in the program this past summer, Howe does acknowledge a certain amount of success that comes with development of summer research.

"It's been successful," Howe said. "But there are two layers of success. One way of success is [that] kids have a lot of experience working in a lab. I would really like to see more of the students who participate develop a final project that could be presented."

Overall, Howe looks forward to coordinating and improving the biomedical program in the future.

"I'm excited about the potential to get kids involved in research in the summer," Howe said. "Sometimes kids that have not thought about particular careers turn into Ph.Ds Why not start thinking about that now?"



photo courtesy of www.crisisnurserykids.com

## Students volunteer at Crisis Nursery

**Abby Eisenberg**  
Staff Reporter

When some students have free time, they watch television, or get on Facebook. Some clean, and some go for a run. For a few students at CHS, free time means improving hard times for children around the St. Louis area.

Sophomores Sarah Horn and Kate Wheelock desired a place to volunteer where they were really interested in helping, and where they could fit the job into their tight school schedules. They both began their searches online.

"Last year before school began, I searched for volunteer places on a great web site called [www.volunteermatch.com](http://www.volunteermatch.com)," Horn said. "I emailed a few of those places and the St. Louis Crisis Nursery was by far the best of them all!"

The SLCN, located at the Forest Park Hospital, Next to Saint Joseph Health Center, and in Christian Hospital, has taken in 3,961 children, provided 5359 families with help and support and volunteered a total of 21,334 hours to the center during the year 2005.

It was founded in 1983 when research by the Junior League of Saint Louis proved that the three most prevailing needs of abused children were networking, education and a crisis nursery.

This preliminary desire for help

along with funding from United Way, and educational resources from the Coalition of 100 Black Women allowed the first center to open at the Forest Park Hospital.

By August of 1994, two other locations were up and running, serving more children every day.

The SLCN's task is to try to prevent child neglect and child abuse by providing support from all around for children and the parents in the troubled household.

Children can be brought in for any number of reasons for example domestic violence, a time when their parents are overly stressed, a death in the family, or any other situation where the child's well-being is at risk.

"These children are there for various reasons," Horn said. "For some, they are switching between foster homes, others are simply there because there parents just cannot manage to watch them that day because they're working or something like that."

The SLCN has bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and playroom, so the children can all be as comfortable as possible.

"The center is like a house, but at the top of the forest park hospital," Wheelock said. "It has the hospital type feel, but its still nice, it's as close as you can get to home in hospital."

The children are anywhere from newborn to 10 years old, and usually stay for two to three days.

During this time, they receive help in many different ways, which most could not otherwise be able to get.

They have around the clock supervision and attention, a physical exam, medicines, good meals, and more.

The families of the children may also receive education, access to a 24 hour hot line, and home visits as needed.

Mostly, volunteers such as Horn and Wheelock help by occupying the kids with fun activities such as art projects, and by feeding, bathing and getting the kids ready for bed.

"I do everything from changing diapers, to taking the kids to the park, to just playing with them inside," Horn said.

Wheelock does similar things while volunteering.

"I go there for two to three hours depending on the time of day," Wheelock said. "If it is at night, I feed them dinner and give them baths and get them ready for bed. If it is during the day, I basically play with and entertain them. They have so many toys there, it is like one big toy box!"

The SLCN is an ideal place for high school students to volunteer.

"The staff is full of fun, and mostly pretty young people," Horn said. "Plus all the volunteers are around my age, which is nice. I've made some friends. The kids are normally fun and playful. But many of them have been through a lot, which sometimes you can tell. Some of them tend to fight, others curse. But they always have a good heart and they're just so much fun to be around. Some of these kids are just so cool and smart!"

Wheelock has also really enjoyed her experience at the center.

"I like it a lot," Wheelock said. "Because it's really flexible, I can go whenever I'm available, and I like making the kids feel better and forget their troubles."

The center has a great focus on improving the lives of the children that need it the most, and volunteers can really tell what a difference it makes.

"I love the nursery because I love kids. I enjoy playing with younger kids and just helping out. You get a real sense of accomplishment after you've volunteered there, because you see the impact," Horn said.

"When you just donate money, which is still great, you don't always see that impact. But at the nursery you see it every time you go- you see that smile on the kid's faces when you're there to have fun with them."

### The St. Louis

Crisis Nursery is a place for young children to stay and receive care while their parents are unable of taking care of them. Two CHS students volunteers there regularly. "Because the nursery is really flexible, I can go whenever I'm available," sophomore Kate Wheelock said. "I like making the kids feel better and forget their troubles."

## Jobs give work experience, cash

**Adrienne Stormo**  
Staff Reporter

Frappuccino at Starbucks: \$3. Tank of gas: \$40. New iPod nano: \$149. Having a job to pay for it all: priceless.

Jobs provide students with real world experience, life skills for the future, and of course a much-needed paycheck. However, many students are not sure how to go about getting a job when they want one, or what to expect once they start.

At the beginning of the summer, junior Jack Barcheck and his friend, senior Michael Franco, decided that they wanted to apply

for jobs at the Saint Louis Galleria, so they spent a day there filling out applications.

"We applied to 15 stores," Barcheck said. "The store I work at now was the only place that called me back."

Barcheck, who is currently employed at The Walking Co., is the only high school student working at the store. He says that he was hired to attract a younger demographic to the store. However, senior Bohan Li's life guarding job at the Center pool is quite different.

"I get to meet a lot of other high school and college students who work there," Li said.

Each job requires an employee to perform different tasks and learn different skills. For example, before Li could work as a lifeguard, he had to undergo some basic training in CPR and first aid. Luckily, however, Li has never had to use this knowledge to save a swimmer.

When Barcheck started at The Walking Co., he mainly worked in the stock room putting goods away. Now, however, he has been promoted and he works on the floor with customers.

"Now I have such a high level job," Barcheck said, "which is cool because they don't usually

let people my age get those."

Unlike Li, Barcheck never had to undergo any training, but on the job, he learned to handle what are termed "temperamental customers."

"Also, I now know everything about shoes and feet," Barcheck said.

Unfortunately, jobs can also take up a lot of time that many students devote to homework or friends. Added stress from employers can also take its toll on busy students.

Li, who works between 10 and 20 hours per week, is rarely strained by his job, and says that his hours can be very flexible.

"The best part of my job is that I don't have to much work," Li said. "You usually just have to sit on a chair for 30 minutes. Sometimes that can be boring, though, like when I have to watch the aerobics class."

Over the summer, Barcheck worked five days a week in four- or five-hour shifts. Now that school has started, he has cut back to only three or four days each week. Unfortunately, work can still interfere with some of the time he used to spend with his friends.

"Sometimes my job can get in the way of other things," Barcheck said.

Still, what students give up for jobs is often worth what they gain: money.

Li admitted that his favorite part of working is when he receives a paycheck. As a lifeguard, he earns \$7.13 per hour. Similarly, when Barcheck started working, it was out of a desire to fill his usually empty wallet. He earns \$6.50 and hour, plus commission for every sale he makes.

"Commission is the best part of a job in retail," Barcheck said.

Whether it's to earn money, meet people, learn new skills, or pad your college application, a job can be a great way to spend your free time.

**“The best part of my job is that I don't have to do much work. You usually just have to sit on a chair for 30 minutes.”**

**Bohan Li**  
Senior

# Wisdom teeth impart more pain than wisdom

**Tian Qiu**  
Section Editor

For CHS alum Cong Yu and CHS sophomore Katie Poplawski, it was something that just had to be done. After about two months of mental preparation since October 2005 for Poplawski and nearly a year of anticipation prior to August 2006 for Yu, fear shared by the two was more or less supplanted by the anxiety of getting it over with.

Although their "big days" finally arrived, Poplawski and Yu were, "unfortunately," unable to remember all the details of their procedures because they were put to sleep before it all happened. However, when they woke up, both Poplawski and Yu felt an enormous relief as if they had made a huge accomplishment. Their wisdom teeth were finally pulled.

## THE WISDOM TEETH

"The dental term for these (wisdom) teeth is called 'third molars' because they are the third molar tooth if you start counting molar teeth in each quadrant of the mouth from the opening of the mouth," D.M.D Terence H. Leung said.

According to Leung, wisdom teeth erupt usually during late teenage and young adult years. In earlier times, these years "were considered to be the beginning of maturity of human thoughts," thus, wisdom teeth derived their name.

Although the extraction of the wisdom teeth is a common routine, the procedure is not the same or even necessary for everyone.

"The third molars usually do not need to be extracted if they are erupted properly and with enough space for the eruption," Leung said. "Some people have their third molars erupted perfectly and have enough space for proper maintenance because their mouths might be of bigger sizes or their teeth are smaller."

Leung explains that generally, wisdom teeth need to be pulled under four circumstances. First, if wisdom teeth are impacted either horizontally, vertically or obliquely and their locations are disadvantageous to the molar teeth in front of them; Second, if the wisdom teeth need to be pulled due to medical necessity, meaning, for instance if they have been "malformed" into a cystic formation or have become a tumor in any conditions; Third, if they are badly decayed; Last but not least, if the wisdom teeth do not have enough space around them for maintenance.

Leung stressed the importance of the maintenance of the wisdom teeth because if they are not kept clean, the wisdom teeth can develop periodontal disease and spread the infection to surrounding teeth.

However, if one's wisdom teeth need to be pulled, Leung suggests that the best time to do so is during the late teenage or early adult years.

"Jaw bones at this age range are usually, comparatively softer and healing is usually faster and less painful," Leung said. "Also, the risk of complication is usually less."



Calla Dobmeyer

## THE PROCEDURE

Yu had his wisdom teeth removed in August, 2006 and recalls the experience.

"I was given general anesthesia and then local anesthesia on my gums," Yu said. "Afterwards, I fell asleep, and 40 minutes later, the whole thing was done. My gums did feel numb though."

Just like Yu's experience with the extraction of his wisdom teeth, the procedure involved is fairly simple.

"The first thing the dental assistants did was have me watch a video basically warning me about everything that could possibly go wrong so I couldn't sue them if something bad happened," Poplawski said. "It was fairly typical. It made me nervous, but it wasn't bad."

After the video, Poplawski was led to the operation room where she was anesthetized and her wisdom teeth were simply pulled out using normal procedures.

However, if the wisdom teeth are already impacted by problems such as infection, the wisdom teeth are usually surgically extracted. Surgical extraction of the wisdom teeth differs in procedure from other teeth extractions in that the gum is cut open so that some bones can be removed.

## THE PAIN

CHS senior Alyssa Hartel found out that all four of her wisdom teeth need to be extracted before next

summer after an x-ray of her mouth was taken. Concerning the news, Hartel is apprehensive.

"I'm scared because everyone says it hurts a lot to get them pulled," Hartel said.

In actuality, the patient normally will not feel any pain during the procedure because they will be anesthetized beforehand. According to Leung, patients usually receive local anesthesia such as those used when dentists are placing a filling or performing a root canal therapy. After receiving local anesthesia, the patient will be conscious to hear the noise from the procedure but will not feel any pain because their gingival is "numbed."

"For those patients who are apprehensive, they can be 'put to sleep' by I.V. sedation, a procedure usually performed by oral surgeons," Leung said. "If the patient is put to sleep, he/she will not feel anything during the procedure."

However, if the surgical extraction is performed where the gingival must be cut open, there will be pain that ranges from moderate to severe following the surgery.

"If bone removal is involved," Leung said. "The side of the face will be swollen for about four to six days and pain will be evident for two to four days depending on the age of the patient. The older the patient, the longer the discomfort will be, and like swelling can last for as long as two weeks."

Leung also explains that after the surgery, the patient usually can only open their mouths by a width of three or four millimeters due to a condition called Tri-

mus, but the patient will have a speedy recovery and will be able to open their mouths wider.

Although Hartel doesn't look forward to the procedure, she would like to get it over with because her wisdom teeth are starting to hurt her gums and she will have an excuse to eat lots of ice cream after the procedure.

## THE COMPLICATIONS

Besides the usual swelling that occurs after the extraction, unexpected complications can also occur during or after the procedure. For Poplawski, her unforgettable experiences with the procedure in general and the complication nearly ruined the winter break during which she had her wisdom teeth pulled.

"After I went into the actual room for the operation the dental assistants hooked up an I.V. in my arm," Poplawski said. "At the same time, they were going to give me laughing gas so I wouldn't be very aware of the pain. The first time, they tried to get a vein in my right arm and couldn't, which hurt like heck. The laughing gas never worked for me and I was inhaling it like crazy because I wanted to be out of the pain badly."

Although the rest of her operation went smoothly after the I.V. was successfully hooked into her other arm and put her to sleep, Poplawski did not expect to be back at her dentist's office a few days after her wisdom teeth were extracted due to the formation of a dry socket that caused her much pain even though she was supposed to stop her pain medication.

Leung explains that although rare, generally four kinds of complications do occur in any kind of surgeries.

"A sinus perforation occurs if upper third molars are extracted (which might connect the sinus and the mouth for they are separated by a thin wall of bones) and fluid may come out from the nose," Leung said. "This condition will stop once the wound is closed. Dry socket occurs if the wound is not kept clean and or the blood clot in the socket is dissolved or lost. Dry socket is extremely painful and it needs further treatment to the socket area. Lower lip and or tongue numbness can also happen if the mandibular nerve and lingual nerve is traumatized, [leading to] temporary or permanent [effects]. Jaw bone fracture can also occur and jaw fixation is needed for a period of several months if it happens."

Despite her complications, Poplawski doesn't consider the wisdom teeth extraction procedure as overwhelming.

"(My experience) is probably going to make you never ever want to get your wisdom teeth pulled," Poplawski said. "But my sister just did, and it wasn't as bad for her. The doctors were really nice and really did well with helping out the complications afterwards. But be warned! When you get your wisdom teeth pulled, your cheeks are going to swell up, so make sure no one who thinks it would be funny to get a picture is near." ☺

# Foreign Exchange students seize new opportunities

**Qing Zhang**  
Section Editor

He left the mysteries of the Sphinx for the vibrancy of the Statue of Liberty.

She left the vivacity of the Night Bazaar for the illumination under the Arch.

He comes from the fertility of the Nile.

She comes from the splendor of Bangkok.

His name is Magdy Hassaballa.

Her name is Mallika Huntrance.

A month ago, the beginning of a new school year in Clayton High School saw a welcoming addition of two foreign exchange students, junior Magdy Hassaballa and senior Mallika Huntrance, nicknamed Gift.

After a weary 20 hour flight across the Atlantic from southern Thailand to St. Louis, Huntrance could not hide her excitement.

"Of course I am nervous and worried," she said. "But I want to see new things, I want to talk [English], and I think coming to the United States—a country on the other side of the world, will give me that kind of great experience."

Junior Hassaballa, who arrived in America from Egypt in early August, expressed the same senti-

ments.

"I would like to see a new culture at work," he said. "And I want to make new friends and be an ambassador for my country by sharing my traditions and customs with everyone. I can teach Arabic to anyone who wants to learn."

For both, the transitions to the new society have been disconcerting. However, with the help of their host families, Hassaballa and Huntrance deem their experiences to date as electrifying and lively via eye-opening discoveries.

"I went to my first baseball game in the Busch Stadium," Huntrance said. "I did not know anything about baseball at all. The crowd and noises were huge, but I had fun."

Not only do the features of American culture present themselves in larger aspects, the academia also reveal intriguing differences for both students from the general structure of a high school to the minute details in classrooms.

"I have to admit, I was surprised," Hassaballa said. "The school is huge and has a lot of activities. It's a big difference [from Egypt]. We stay in class the whole day in Egypt and the teachers come to us. And we don't have lunch, just breakfast."

Huntrance agreed.

"Everything is new for me," she said. "I like the flexible schedule and the activities. I joined swimming this season."

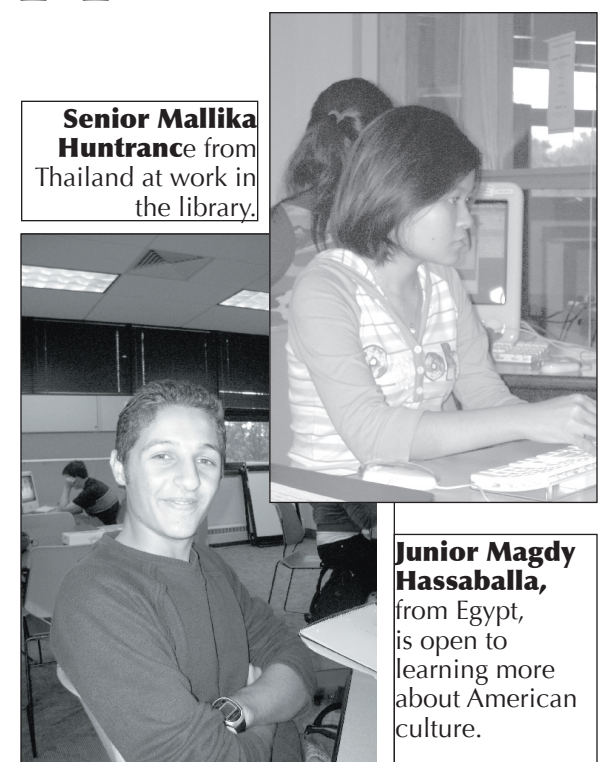
"And here, students have a lot of homework," Hassaballa continued. "Students do most of the things in class that are otherwise done by teachers in Egypt. They seem to have to do a lot of work to go to college, like getting high grades and high scores on the ACTs."

Despite the optimistic attitudes of Hassaballa and Huntrance, the daily routine at school introduces challenges that overwhelm them at times.

"Teachers are friendly and helpful, some students are not friendly, though, especially boys," Hassaballa said. "So I am nervous a little bit. It's impossible to adapt in only a couple of weeks, but I think one adaptation I am getting used to is the greeting. In Egypt, we used to handshake each other every time when we see each other and people, especially girls, consider it rude to not handshake each other."

Huntrance agreed on the difficulty in adjusting.

"It is difficult. The first day was especially bad. I almost went home crying because the language was different and the homework took such a long time," Huntrance said. "But now I am growing to like it. I don't know a lot of people yet, but Americans seem nice. So I am waiting to see what happens next." ☺



**Senior Mallika Huntrance** from Thailand at work in the library.

**Junior Magdy Hassaballa**, from Egypt, is open to learning more about American culture.



Staff Photo

**Foreign Languages teacher** Glenn Cody with his bike outside school. Cody, along with several other teachers, bikes to school often.

## Riding bicycles effective means of transportation

**Maddie Harned**  
Staff Reporter

On any given weekday morning the streets of Clayton are booming with high school students driving to school. Oftentimes the wariness and cautious driving style is a giveaway that the driver is a beginner. On other occasions reckless swerves and speedy driving can be seen around the CHS building before and after school. While driving in a car or taking the bus to school are the most common forms of transportation, many students and teachers ride their bikes.

Senior Chris Jeffrey has been riding his bike to school ever since he attended Wydown.

"I've been riding my bike to school since sixth grade," Jeffrey said. "It's really good exercise and I don't have a car."

Along with many students, several teachers ride their bikes to school.

CHS History teacher Rick Horas has commuted to school by bicycle for fifteen years.

"It is good for my soul, the environment, my health, my wallet and I enjoy it," Horas said.

CHS foreign language teacher Glenn Cody rides his bike to school as well.

"After spending a lot of time in other countries, I came to dislike the car-centered culture that we have developed in the United States," Cody said. "Most Americans drive everywhere they go - even to buy something as small as a cup of coffee. In many ways, driving now defines our culture."

A very popular reason why some choose to travel by bike are the high gas prices. While in now some lo-

cations the gas prices have fallen to less than \$2, the summer saw the cost of gas reach extreme highs. Because of such high costs many decided enough was enough and turned to riding bicycles.

"It is good for my soul, the environment, my health, my wallet and I enjoy it," Cody said. "In my opinion, the automobile is the main cause of the urban sprawl that surrounds every city and town. I also worry about the day when energy shortages will bring this all to a screeching halt."

There are many economic and personal benefits that come with bicycle transportation, however there are some dangers.

"I was broadsided by a bulldog one time and knocked off my bike. I also had a head-on collision with a roller blader," Cody said.

As well Horas has been a part of some dangerous collisions while riding his bike.

"I have been hit twice by cars," Horas said. "The first time there was about \$150 damage to my bike. The second time my bike was totaled. On neither occasion was I hurt."

Jeffrey has been fortunate enough not to have been in any accidents related to riding his bike.

"Usually cars don't get mad or honk at me because I avoid them by riding on the sidewalk," Jeffrey said.

"I try to be as safe as possible because bikes aren't cars."

While the number of people who commute to and from CHS by bike are outnumbered by those who ride in cars of buses, they enjoy the exercise, tranquility and economic and environmental benefits of commuting by bike. ☺

# Electric cars jump start into future environment

**Jeremy Bleeke**  
Staff Reporter

Tesla Motors has recently unveiled a sports car that goes 0-60 mph in four seconds, has a projected top speed of 130 mph, and has 248 horsepower. But here's the kicker: the Tesla Roadster, which will be on the market in 2007 at a price of \$100,000, gets the equivalent of 135 MPG. It's smooth, quiet, and is fully powered by electricity.

This past summer the documentary *Who Killed the Electric Car?* directed by Chris Paine and narrated by Martin Sheen was released in theatres across the country.

The film looks at the history of electric vehicles (which have been around since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, at which point they outnumbered gasoline-powered cars) focusing on GM's EV1 which was released during the 1990s.

The documentary is fast-paced and engaging and depicts the process of the destruction of the EV1s due to factors such as pressure from oil companies, car companies, and various committees and review boards.

All the EV1s have now been taken out of service by GM and were either crushed and shredded, or put on display in automobile museums.

The EV1, which stands for electric vehicle, was supposed to be the first widely distributed, cost accessible electric car of its kind. It was launched in California

and was predicted to be retailed at around \$20,000, although the car never made it to that stage. Only about 1100 were manufactured and were leased for a composite price of between \$30,000 to \$40,000.

The EV1 could be recharged in one's own garage with a plug-in recharger or at gas stations at recharging kiosks.

One of the main downfalls that critics have sighted for the impracticality of electric cars is their limited range. The EV1, for example, could only go from 50-100 miles on a single charge, which takes several hours and is best if done overnight. New lithium battery technology, which is still being perfected, could cut this charging time down to a matter of minutes.

While a 50-100 mile range would fit the needs of a daily city commuter, it would be impossible to take the electric car on a long road trip. However, with improved battery technology, cars like the Tesla can go as far as 250 miles on a charge.

The most common clean-energy cars in the United States are the hybrids. A handful of major automobile manufacturers, including Honda, Toyota, Mazda, Nissan, Ford, and GM now market hybrid vehicles, the most well-known being the Toyota Prius.

Hybrid technology uses both electricity and gasoline to power the car, with an internal computer deciding when either or both should be used. When the car is idle or stopped, the energy is used to power a battery, which is recharged from other functions of the car



Susanna Frohman/San Jose Mercury News/KRT

The dashboard of the new 2007 Toyota Camry Hybrid sedan indicates speed as well as the number of miles per gallon the car gets as it alternates between electric and fuel power.

as well. This battery then is used to power the car using what would have otherwise been wasted energy.

As far as fuel economy goes the numbers are slightly staggering. The Prius gets around 60 MPG during city driving (according to the EPA), the typical SUV gets 19.2 MPG (according to www.TheAutoChannel.com) and the Hummer H3 gets 14 MPG (according to Consumer Reports).

If the average car drives 10,000 miles a year, the number of miles traveled in a month, give or take, would be about 850. In July 2006 the average price of gas in America was \$2.90 (from the U.S. Department of Energy). Using these averages, the cost of fuel for

the month of July would be \$41 for a Prius, \$128 for an SUV, and \$176 for an H3. For an owner of the Tesla Roadster it would be the equivalent of \$18. It pays to drive a fuel efficient car.

The United States uses over 360 million barrels of gasoline a day. Although electric and hybrid fuel technologies are still small in scale the demand for alternate energy sources is growing. As these cleaner fuel options become more and more available the U.S. may be able to lessen its dependence on foreign oil.

But of course, if Hummers continue to be sold at the current rate, gasoline consumption may just continue to go up and up. ☹

# Looking for a car? SUVs out, safety features in

Safety, gas mileage and reliability prove to be the best features when purchasing cars.

**Sam Blumenfeld**  
Staff Reporter

What should a teenager look for and avoid in a new or used cars? According to Geoff Sandt, the things to look for are safety, gas mileage, insurance, reliability, and cost effectiveness. Sandt works at Lou Fusz Toyota in Kirkwood, and is a Leasing and Sales Consultant.

**Globe:** What should a teenager look for in a warranty?

**Sandt:** Most warranties are 3 years, but for parts that are not supposed to break the warranty is much longer.

**Globe:** Would an SUV be a good first car for a teenager?

**Sandt:** Teenagers shouldn't drive SUVs as their first car. They won't know the emergency procedures needed for an SUV. I recommend a sedan or possibly a mini-van. An SUV is very susceptible to rolling over, and does not have the same steering capabilities. The insurance costs can skyrocket.

**Globe:** Would you suggest a used car or a new car for teenagers?

**Sandt:** That depends on the budget. I recommend new because of the heightened reliability and for some insurance reasons.

**Globe:** Do you suggest front wheel or back wheel drive?

**Sandt:** Most definitely front wheel. No doubt about it. It's safer.

**Globe:** How much horsepower is needed?

**Sandt:** At least 110 horsepower.

**Globe:** Do hybrids save money?

**Sandt:** The hybrid is more of a statement that we care, but it doesn't really save that much money. Hybrids only save compared to Gas-guzzling SUVs, or a sedan after many years. A hybrid is not a good first car.



Globe Staff

Used cars are great first cars for teenagers. Used cars can be found at dealerships around St. Louis such as the Volkswagen dealership on Manchester Road.

# Car stereos making noise

**Philip Levine**  
Staff Reporter

Going down the street, the occasional uproar of a giant boom enters the ear and vibrates throughout the inner ear. The harmonic beat and rhythm of a sound similar to a giant's footsteps have been activated by the all powerful electronic machines. The subwoofer; along with its partner in crime, the amplifier are the source of this massive sound.

Many students at CHS have saved up their hard earned dollars and annual birthday present money to invest in the sound system additive.

"I had to save up for a while and eventually I got enough to pay for it," junior Scott Belsky said. "My parents let me get one when I turned 17, and they agreed to chip in a little for the cost as a birthday present."

The costs of the subwoofer, amplifier, speakers and more all add up. Especially with the cost of installation these days, the prices skyrocket even more. The cheapest quality subwoofer will not be under \$100 while the lower quality amplifier will not start under \$300. Most interviewed students had \$1500 systems while some had systems worth even more.

At that price, students must have some sort of drive and reason to buy this expensive equipment. The explanation lies in the high school character.

"When I was in middle school and a freshman, upperclassmen and my sisters' boyfriends had sweet systems," junior Drew Sandler said. "To tell you the truth, that just made me want one; they sound sick."

The coolness in having one of these systems completely justifies the purchase. A sense of the own-



Abbie Minton

**Senior Zander Kanefield's** stereo and sub woofer take up a prime place on his dash and a fair amount of room in the back of his car. Zaneifield and other sub-woofer fans like the musical experience they get from their systems and think they are worth the hefty investment.

er's coolness kicks in, whenever all cars within half a mile away begin to rock back and forth from the vibration.

Although having a high quality sound-system in a car is simply cool, there are other reasons that provoke students to buy.

"When my sub is on, I just get the full musical experience," senior Zander Kanefield said. "I like to hear the entire sound, not just the vocals. With rap, the bass works well and with rock, I can actually hear the drums. I want to hear how the music should sound and my sub helps with that."

Having a sub is good for the music, but it is also simply fun.

"I like how it enhances my listening pleasure," Kanefield said. "It makes riding in the car 10 times as fun. I also got it so they could hear me coming down the street."

Even though students do have these subs and amps, many students do not like the sound and would not like a subwoofer.

"There are a few reasons why I

wouldn't want a sub," junior David Luten said. "The main reason is that I can't hear the lyrics and the actual music. All that I hear is just this loud booming sound that vibrates my ears. It really doesn't do anything to the music; it is just this loud annoying sound that gives me a big headache."

The continuous drum of this huge sound can be bad for hearing and in some cases it can even get annoying. The powerful subwoofer can be a cool part of the car, serve to enhance the music but, at the same time, can be an outrageous annoyance and the source of massive headaches.

Some people like them and others don't but no matter which way they feel about it, the "system" will always serve a great purpose in life.

"Because I have a sub, I get to pull up beside old people at a stop light, turn it up all the way, and watch their reaction," Sandler said. "It just makes me feel really good inside." ☹

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# Glass menagerie shines at Botanical Gardens

**Gila Hoffman**  
Section Editor

The main tourist attraction in St. Louis this year is "Glass in the Garden." For the past four months, St. Louisans have been pouring into the Missouri Botanical Gardens to view this magnificently beautiful glass art exhibit by Dale Chihuly.

Chihuly, born in Tacoma Washington, had no intention of going to college until his mother convinced him to attend the College of Puget Sound in Washington. He later transferred to the University of Wisconsin where he enrolled in the hot glass program, the first of its kind in the United States. He then was admitted to the Rhode Island School of Design where he created a hot glass program for the school.

From there his career sky rocketed. Chihuly is known for revolutionizing the studio glass movement to a team-based studio. Since he lost his vision in one eye from an automobile accident, he can no longer handle the hot glass himself. He employs a team of artists to create what he meticulously sketches and plans.

He works in his 25,000 square foot studio called "The Boathouse."

Currently Chihuly has over 25 permanent exhibitions around the world and several other temporary exhibitions as well. Currently, one can see his art in Venice, Jerusalem, Chicago, London, New York, the Netherlands and now St. Louis. One of Chihuly's most spectacular exhibits is found in the lobby ceiling of the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas. His work is also to be found in 200 museums worldwide.

The exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Gardens opened on April 30, 2006. It will run until Oct. 31.

"It is an exhibition of hand blown glass created by the Chihuly Studio, designed specifically for the Missouri Botanical Garden," Public Relations Manager for the Gardens Lisa Brandon said. "About a third of the glass is outdoors on the grounds and can be seen with the price of general Garden admission."

The majority of the glass is inside the Climatron and Shoenberg Temperate House. An extra fee is charged to enter these conservatories.

The exhibit was made possible through a very generous donation by Emerson Electric. The value of the exhibit is between \$10 million and \$12 million.

Visitors comment that this exhibit is very unique. "I enjoyed the exhibit because of the way in which it was arranged to be a part of the various sites within the Gar-

dens," art teacher Russell Vanecek said. "The combination of these beautiful created objects with the beauty of nature. The way in which the glass forms seems to almost come alive like a real plant."

The Garden has been in discussions with the artist about the exhibition since 2002.

"The Chihuly Studios contacted the Garden about hosting an exhibition of Chihuly's work at the Garden," Special Exhibits Marketing Manager of the Garden, Lynn Kerkemeyer said. "The studio was interested in working with world-class gardens."

The installation process began in January when a 20 foot glass sculpture was placed in the entryway to the Garden's Ridgway Center. This was installed as a preview for the exhibit that was to be installed three months later.

With this new exhibit at the Garden, the attendance is up by about 30 percent.

"We expected an attendance boost, based on what we were told by other gardens that exhibited Chihuly's work," Brandon said.

The Garden hosts Chihuly Nights on Thursdays from 6-10 p.m., when the glass is seen glowing after dark under lights. A second "Chihuly Nights" now occurs on Mondays. "Chihuly Nights" admission price is \$15 for non-members and \$10 for Garden members. Admission is limited, so it is recommended that one purchases tickets in advance.

Vanecek is a fan of Chihuly's work and visited the exhibit this summer.

"I have always been interested in his work," Vanecek said. "I have seen it many times elsewhere in museums and galleries. His work reminds me of forms from nature so I think it is a perfect fit to be displayed in a garden."

Vanecek also visited the Garden this summer because he was teaching a summer art class and he enjoyed taking students there to paint and draw.

"Several of the students I took to the Garden to paint this summer incorporated these images in their own paintings," Vanecek said. "The display of Chihuly's work inspired the students to include the vivid colors and textures he uses."

The exhibit is a unique and rare opportunity for local St. Louisans to experience Chihuly's art in an outdoor setting.

"One of the great benefits of hosting the exhibition has been the opportunity to introduce the Garden to many new visitors," Kerkemeyer said. "They truly appreciate the plants as much as they do the stunning works of art." ☺



Erin Whitson/Used with permission of Missouri Botanical Gardens

A CHIHULY GLASS figure is located in one of the several ponds at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. An exhibit of Dale Chihuly's work will be displayed until Oct. 31.



Wenny Dong

## CHS collects corporate cash

**Jacob Blumenfeld**  
Staff Reporter

The newly renovated multi-purpose athletic complex has created a buzz in the Clayton community. But students may not know about the lucrative possibilities generated by the recent decision to sell Gay Field's naming rights.

Some students voiced their disapproval when the venerable landmark of Clayton tradition was renamed "Centene Stadium at Gay Field." This follows the same recent trend of blatant indecision that has produced "The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim" and "Invesco Field at Mile High."

Cheerleader Dipsy Cutebottom was particularly confused by the name: "'Sen-Teen?' Isn't that some Asian chain restaurant?"

Not only is the name awkward and long, it's also unoriginal. In 2003, Legion Park in Great Falls, MT, home of the Great Falls White Sox (a Minor League Baseball affiliate of the Chicago White Sox), was renamed *Centene Stadium*.

Despite the new name, many students, athletes in particular, are thrilled with the renovations.

"We love the new Gay Field," said varsity linebacker John "Crush" Andsmak. "I mean, the playing surface is outstanding - it's like you're being supported by millions of tiny little rubber bits. They've become my friends...they're there for me, you know? Plus, the lights are great, the sound system is over-the-top, and the track...well okay, we don't really use the track, but it looks tight with like, the black and stuff."

But school officials say that they've earned so much dough from selling Gay's naming rights that they are considering putting other aspects of the school up for sale as well.

"Oh, we've got a number of things in mind," said financial consultant George Cashpockets, stroking the white cat in his lap while peering sinisterly over his desk. "Just picture the profit. Think of all the *SmartBoards* we could buy. We wouldn't even need teachers! Imagine the money we'd save!"

Indeed, The Centene Corporation, a health care service provider, acquired the name for \$400,000, which could purchase approximately 65 SmartBoards.

Chief advertising executive Hugh Jadd says that getting students used to the idea of the new name was easy.

"What we had before was essentially a field with

bleachers," said Jadd. "What we have now is a lit-up, fake field with bleachers. There's an important distinction: now we can get away with calling it a 'stadium,' and in the process, make it sound that much more grandiose than it really is...Wait a sec - you're not gonna print that part, right?"

Administration official Moira Meetings describes the various options CHS is considering.

"You just have to stretch your imagination and burst the Clayton bubble," Meetings said. "We've had a variety of customers coming to us with exciting endorsement ideas. Just picture it: 'McDonald's Gym at Stuber,' or 'The Starbucks Black Box/Black Coffee Theatre,' or 'The Qdoba Quad.' Heck, Greyhound buses just bought the naming rights to our athletic teams - given their similar name, we figured no major changes would be made."

"Ralston-Purina has bought the Commons, Borders bought the library, Anheuser-Busch bought the rights to the Prom, and Exxon-Mobil is the new sponsor for the Young Republicans Club. And the Math Department has officially been renamed 'Parent Magazine's Mathematical Learning Team.'"

"We're making millions by effectively turning our beautiful campus into a NASCAR vehicle. The possibilities are virtually endless."

School Board representative Ivan Evertott says that these changes will benefit CHS in the long run.

"Advertising doesn't really affect the student learning experience," said Evertott. "Is it truly that big of a deal to have a little T-Mobile ad on your textbook cover?"

Evertott went on. "Besides, students are already exposed to this kind of stuff every day. Advertisements are all over television, movies, malls, billboards, you name it. So we figured that homogenizing the school by placing a few promotions here and there couldn't hurt anyone. Why not reap the rewards, especially when it provides such a nice cushion for the budget?"

When asked whether or not this additional money could be used to protect CHS's diversity by retaining the desegregation program, Evertott chuckled to himself.

"Wait - you're being serious?" he said, with his smile fading into a somber expression.

"...No, that, um, hasn't come up yet."

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## Facebook goes presidential

**Percy Olsen**  
Staff Reporter

The White House has switched over to Facebook, sources say.

"It was bound to happen, times change," Secretary of Defense and Administrator of the "I really hate wearing socks" group, Donald Rumsfeld said. "Myspace froze my computer up way too much, y'hear? And their services were ill-conceived at best. It's like, 'I know you like "Milkshake," Cheney, but I shouldn't have to hear it every time I want to see that sweet picture of you with the beer bong,' you know?"

Unfortunately, the constantly looping songs weren't the only problems with Myspace.

"Oh, it was awful," President George W. Bush complained. "I got this totally fly message from La Tigre. She looked fantastic. She said she was a model for Victoria's Secret or something...she wanted to use me in her upcoming photo shoot as a background guy or something. I asked Dick and he said I should go for it, so I left immediately. The next thing I know, I'm cold, I'm in a dumpster!"

"Our relationship went downhill from there," Bush added.

That night, Bush set up his Facebook account and made about 100 million friends, roughly 33 percent of the American people, in 24 hours. Of course, it hasn't been all fun and games.

"Well, I was looking at Rove's status the other day, and apparently 'Karl is crying his eyes out.' So I posted on his wall, and asked him what the problem was," Bush explained. "He must have been really desperate for attention, he replied in less than two minutes."

Former Bush Chief of Staff Karl Rove wrote about how he has no friends on Facebook, and how it's "totally un-cool" how Bush has all the friends, just because he's the "prez." Rove blamed The United Nations' policy for his lack of friends, and his mom, for turning the power off right in the middle of his "jam-session."

Rove isn't the only person to get obsessed with Facebook. After being publicly torched and flamed for having "the lamest facebook evarrrrr!" Republican Senator Bill Frist locked himself up in his room for five days straight. It wasn't until Scuffy, the janitor, went on his weekly rounds that Senator Frist was found.

"Yeah, I found him up in that there corner up on

'dem ceilings up there," Scuffy said, pointing vaguely. "I reckon he hadn't seen anyone's face for a few days or so, he tried to jump out the window over there. I laid some crackers down on the ground, making a trail-like path for him to follow. Then I threw a net on him. I do the same thing with my dog when he be misbehavin'."

Not everybody is jumping onto the Facebook bandwagon, however. Democratic Congressman Robert Brady still prefers good-old fashioned Myspace.

"I know people are saying that it's the way of the future and all, but I mean, I think there's still a need to respect Myspace," Brady stressed. "I believe there's a Tom inside each and every one of us, and the more we fight him, the angrier he gets. Pretty soon, he'll come

to our houses in hockey masks and he'll chop our hands off with butter knives if I don't send this bulletin to 10 friends in the next 24 hours."

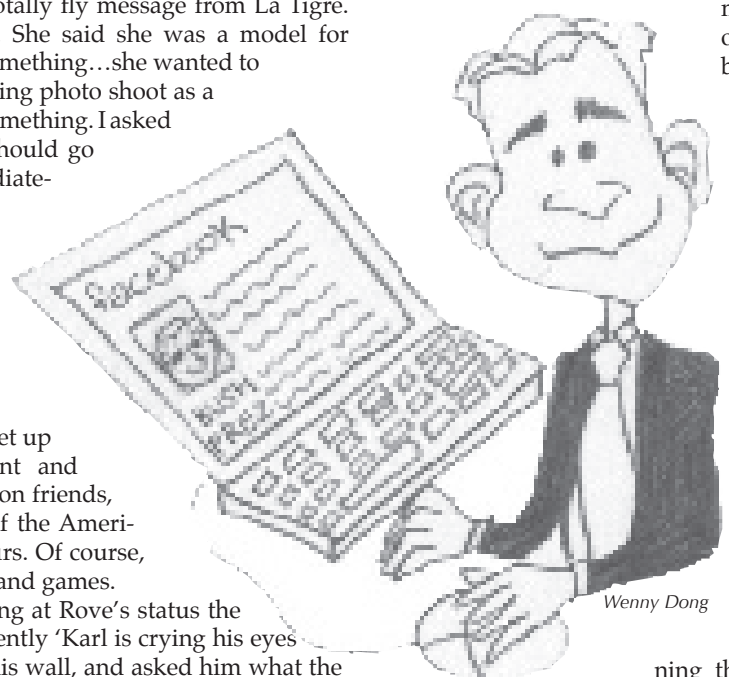
"Rob's just mad because the only friend he could ever get was Tom," Bush said.

Even with the overwhelming consent that Facebook is superior, at this moment, House Resolution 456.22 has just been passed

by the House, "Banning the use of the 'News Feed' because it's an invasion of privacy, yo!" It looks as if it's on

its final legs, however, as President Bush has made it clear that he intends to veto the bill if it makes it to his desk.

"Oh yeah, I'm definitely going to veto that sucka, I love seeing what's going on in the world, it's one of my passions. Here, I'll show you what I mean," Bush said, typing away on his iBook. "It says here that Muhammad Jibar has added "exploding The White House" to his Interests. Good for him! We need more people out there with real hobbies, don't we? I mean, it's not like they have any other obligations, right?! Huh? Huh?!...why aren't you smiling?...Okay, sure, you can run away. I'll make sure you take you off my 'To Poke' List." ☺



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## Pucker up for a juicy Last Kiss



☛ **Sophia Agapova**  
Senior Managing Section Editor

Movies about adultery seem to be everywhere these days. "The Last Kiss" should not be dismissed as just another one of them; while adultery is part of it, the film focuses on the fears associated with finally growing up and settling down, rather than unfaithfulness.

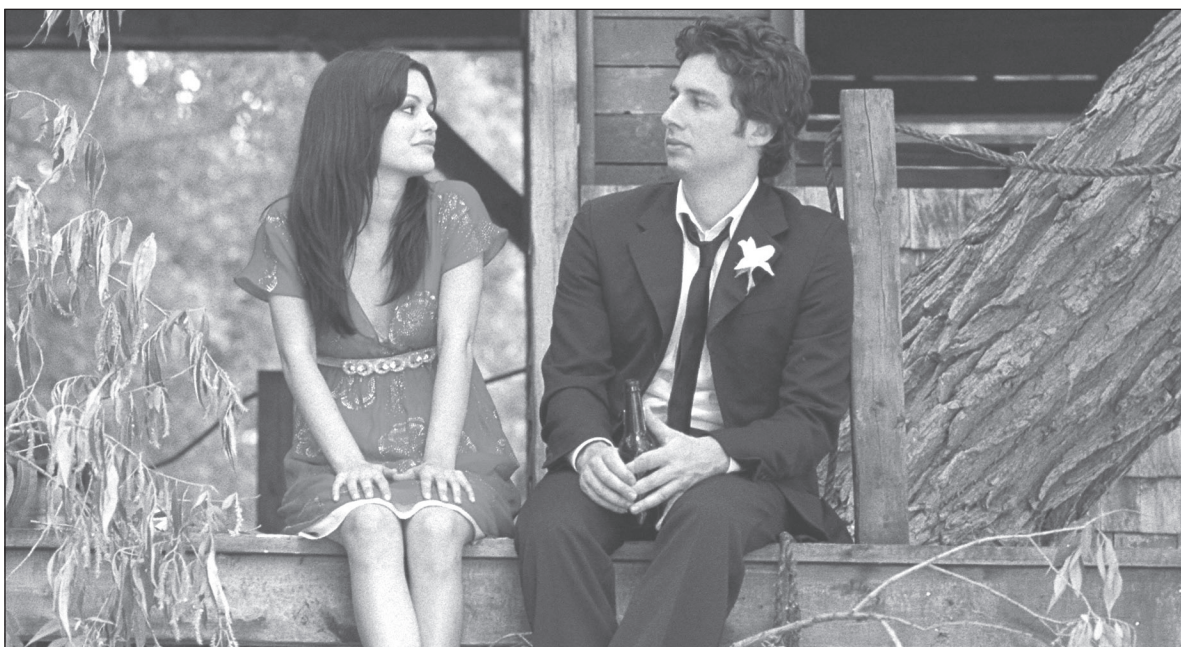
"The Last Kiss" follows Michael (Zach Braff), a 29-year-old who is struggling to come to terms with his age as well as the idea of commitment to his 4-month pregnant girlfriend, Jenna (Jucinda Barrett). Just as Michael has trouble accepting his age, his three closest friends, Chris (Casey Affleck), Izzy, and Kenny each experience similar problems, though all are in different situations.

As the five characters attend a wedding, all of their struggles seem to surface. Chris' relationship with his wife has deteriorated into a screaming match after the birth of their first child, Izzy cannot get over his ex-girlfriend, Kenny searches for a relationship strictly based on sex, while Michael starts to fall for a college girl named Kim (Rachel Bilson).

As Michael and Jenna's seemingly perfect relationship begins to unravel, so does that of Jenna's parents. Jenna's mother, Anna (Blythe Danner), feels trapped in her marriage because of a lack of passion and attempts to rekindle her romance with a former lover, while threatening to divorce her husband and moving out of the house.

"The Last Kiss" is a remake of "L' Ultimo Bacio," the Italian film which was released in 2001. While some parts, such as the ending are modified to a great extent, certain scenes seem to be almost exact recreations of their counterparts in the original film. And while the director, Tony Goldwyn, largely succeeded in giving "The Last Kiss" a unique flavor that is clearly different from the film of which it is a remake, this is not necessarily a good thing.

The original Italian version of the film somehow seemed more realistic and therefore like it represented the lives of real people, whereas its American counterpart was more like a specific story about specific characters that wouldn't necessarily hold true in the real



Handout/MCT

**Zach Braff (right)** and his lovely, sensuous lover, Rachel Bilson, share a tender moment in what appears to be a tree. The "nature" of their romance is such that they need not wait until Arbor Day to celebrate the natural wonder of a tree.

Part of this discrepancy between films is caused by a difference in the portrayal of Kim. In "The Last Kiss" Kim is so naïve and immature that it is difficult for the audience to understand why Michael would be attracted to her when he has such an ideal relationship with his beautiful and intelligent girlfriend.

While the acting leaves something to be desired, one of the biggest strengths of "The Last Kiss" lies in the idea behind the film itself. The movie provides an interesting look into the problems that come with settling down and starting a family.

In addition to showing the trials of a fairly young relationship like that of Michael and Jenna, it also gives insight into the problems faced by an older generation, their parents, who have fallen into the monotony of their long marriage and are also trying to come to terms with the idea of death.

While other aspects of the film were not as well executed as in "L' Ultimo Bacio," the dialogue of "The Last Kiss" seemed, with the exception of a few questionable and almost laughable lines, to be very realistic without appearing overly emotional or clichéd. The few humorous lines interspersed throughout the film also served to make the movie a bit lighter despite the serious subject, though they did not warrant the film to be called a comedy as it was advertised.

While the subject matter of "The Last Kiss" may seem to be completely irrelevant to the lives of teenagers, the fact that the stages of life portrayed in the film are still far away does not mean that it should be ignored.

While by no means perfectly executed, "The Last Kiss" offers some great insight into the obstacles that must be faced later in life and helps give some perspective, even to high school students. ☺

## Serpentine cinema slithers, Samuel L. sizzles

☛ **Dakin Sloss**  
Section Editor

Though the concept of a film about hundreds of poisonous snakes being released on an airplane mid-flight is preposterous, "Snakes on a Plane" was an extremely amusing and enjoyable movie.

The title sums up the plot with the exception of a few minor details. The movie begins when a young man named Sean witnesses a murder and escapes the mobsters responsible. He does not report the crime to the authorities, fearing that the cops are corrupt. Soon after, the mobsters break into his apartment to prevent him from being able to testify, but Samuel L. Jackson arrives just in time as FBI agent Neville Flynn. He tells Sean, "Do as I say if you want to live," and then proceeds to kill the mobsters.

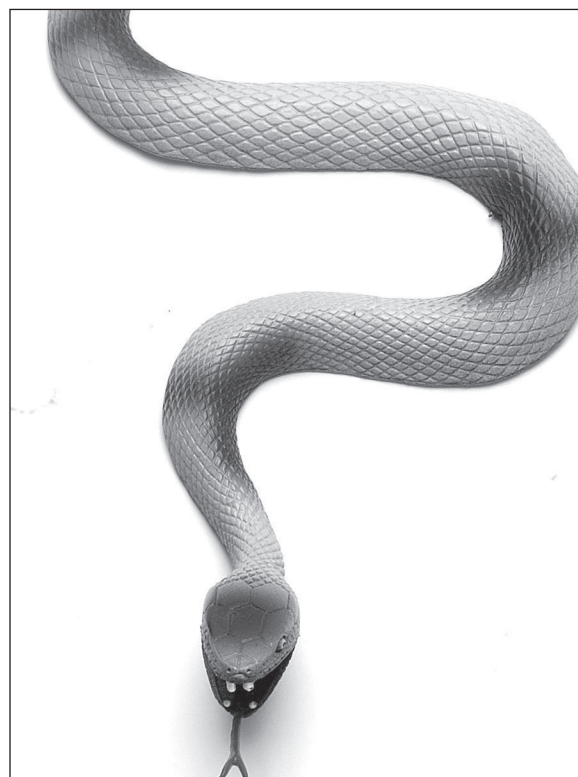
After convincing Sean to testify in Los Angeles, Jackson transports him from Hawaii via an airplane flight. Here the film's true attraction takes place; Jackson fights to save the passengers from a variety of "snakes on crack."

The only well known actor in the movie is the lead, Jackson. He doesn't have to do any difficult acting in the movie, but delivers a variety of hilarious one-liners as he uses a taser, torch, harpoon gun and many other interesting weapons to kill the snakes. "I'm tired of these mutha--- snakes on this mutha--- plane," serves as Jackson's catchphrase in the movie. He is perfect for the role, managing to inspire laughter mixed

with suspenseful action. The other characters really are not important, but the plane is full of smaller characters that provide entertainment. There is a rapper, kick boxer, metro-sexual flight attendant, and a few other random passengers who all appear in funny, insignificant scenes.

The directing is not as good as Jackson's acting, but does keep the movie interesting. Clearly the story line is ridiculous, but director David Richard Ellis makes a few decisions that keep the movie both scary and comical at the same time. As the flight takes off the audience gets a slow creepy zoom in on the cargo hold and the crate of snakes. Then as the flight continues the crate is revisited every few minutes until finally the snakes are released and the screen is shot in snake vision as the snakes slither off to terrorize passengers. The first passengers to die are killed in the bathroom, in very funny ways. From that point on Ellis continues to mix humorous lines with suspenseful build up. The soundtrack also contributes to the frightening aspects.

The movie is rated R for intense violence, a sexual scene and drug use and language, but does not leave the impression of a horror movie. Instead it is a roller coaster ride with pop out snakes and memorable jokes from Jackson. It is a must see for anyone looking for an hour and 46 minutes of entertainment. It also helps to have an interactive audience producing noises of disgust, screams of shock and bursts of laughter at the correct times during the movie. Go see "Snakes on a Plane!" ☺



Handout/MCT

**Above, a horrific** snakes lies ready to attack the passengers aboard the trans-Pacific flight featured in "Snakes on a Plane."

## Addiction to 'Weeds' is a desirable habit to form

☛ **Jon Igielnik**  
Staff Reporter

You know it, I know it, and everyone knows it: HBO is the absolute leader of premium cable, and certainly is on the royal court of all of television itself.

At this year's Emmy awards, the home of "The Sopranos" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm" took home more statues than any other network with 26. However, Showtime, the long-time second to HBO has been trying to de-throne the king for several years, with shows like "The L Word" and the failed "Huff." Now while these shows were great, neither of them could ever really stack up to Larry David, Vince Chase, Tony Soprano and all the rest. However, Showtime's show "Weeds," (Mondays at 9) which premiered last year with a short but acclaimed season, is now in its second season and looking even better than before. "Weeds" may be just what Showtime needs to attempt a rebellion against HBO's rule.

The story of "Weeds" focuses on Nancy Botwin (Mary-Louise Parker), a housewife living in the quaint, perfect suburbia town of Agrestic, California, who af-

ter her husband's death sells marijuana to keep up her suburban life. Nancy also lives with her two children Shane Botwin (Alexander Gould, his voice recognizable as Nemo from "Finding Nemo") and Silas Botwin (Hunter Parrish) as well as her clever but stupid brother Andy Botwin (Justin Kirk) who moved in during the middle of the first season.

The short but sweet pilot season that aired in the fall of 2005 had Nancy selling weed to the local husbands, including Doug Wilson-played by former SNL cast member Kevin Nealon -and getting her weed from a dealer named Heylia James (Tonye Patano.) As the season developed, she became friends with Heylia's helper Conrad (Romany Malco from "40-Year-Old Virgin") who eventually convinced her to go into business with him to grow the weed themselves. The season ends however on a different note as Nancy discovers that the man she has recently been dating- and falling for- is a DEA agent.

The second season of "Weeds" picks up exactly where the first left off, and so far has been even better than before. "Weeds" is filled with outrageous comedy, not just about drugs, but the show mocks the entire

suburbia idea, right down to its opening theme song.

All of the members of the family have their own stories going on, Shane is having trouble with puberty, Silas is worried his girlfriend will leave California to go to college elsewhere, and Andy, who was called up for service in the army, decides to become a rabbi to avoid the service. Even the family's housekeeper Lupita (Renee Victor) has a story, as she discovered Nancy's "business" and uses it to get a higher pay.

"Weeds" is a wonderful show, with satire everywhere and nonstop comedy; anyone who has Showtime should be watching it.

If you like any show on HBO, you will like "Weeds" as it hits you every moment with that perfect blend of comedy, social commentary and gripping storylines that HBO viewers know and love.

For the first time in years, HBO has some real competition and for HBO lovers like me, this can only be a good thing, two networks fighting to make better shows means that we get to just sit back and enjoy them all.

For anyone who can, make the smart decision, and get addicted to "Weeds." ☺

## Pokemon music beings memories=

Once again, I found myself sitting in the Globe office a day before the issue was supposed to go to the presses with no edition of Sounding Off written. Unthinking, I typed in a search for Pokemon on iTunes. I guess I did it because Pokemon is making a fantastic comeback. Trust me: I love Pokemon. I keep my Game Boy and copy of Pokemon yellow in my glove compartment. I don't play my copy of Pokemon Blue because my Pokedex is 147 and I'm searching for the elusive last few.

I hope I've sufficiently established my Poke-cred.

Anyway, to my momentary surprise, four different CDs came up. After initial bafflement about how there could be four Pokemon CDs in existence, one caught my eye. It was "Pokemon: 2.B.A. Master."

I was ushered back to fifth grade, when I was blessed to have my own personal copy of this CD. I remembered numerous allowances spent on Pokemon cards. I thought of seeing the Pokemon movie on opening day. Countless hours spend imitating my favorite Pokemon in my driveway seemed like only days ago.

Brushing my nostalgia aside, I decided to listen to a few of the tracks. The first one I clicked on was the Pokemon theme song. Much to the annoyance of my co-editors, I began to dance around the room singing the lyrics, using a keyboard for a guitar. After about one second, though, I immediately felt lame. For the first time, the words "Pokemon / gotta catch 'em all" did not seem terribly insightful.

Slightly embarrassed, although still stimulated by this intense blast from the past, I clicked on "Double Trouble (Team Rocket)." Dis-chordal moaning bombarded my ears, followed by a talent devoid rap. Honestly, though, the horrendous of the song was too hilarious to contain. Trying to release some of my intense reaction, I smacked the table, almost breaking my hand.

After this brush with disfigurement, I decided to listen to a few songs from a CD I had not heard before, "Pokemon: Christmas Bash."

I was stunned. The highlight of the CD was "I'm Giving Santa A Pikachu for Christmas." I couldn't help but feel, as I listened to the nasal and insipid dialogue that comprised the song, as though I was trapped in some sort of maniacal Christmas Hell.

"Nobody Don't Like Christmas," sung by the charming singer, Meowth (also prominently featured in "Double Trouble (Team Rocket)"), can hardly compare to "I'm Giving Santa A Pikachu for Christmas." Despite the potential for it amounting to absolute trash as indicated by its grammatically incorrect title, it comes in a distant second for worst song ever.

As I listened and absolutely panned the Pokemon music collection in my head, I came to a startling realization. The songs sounded familiar: too familiar to have last been listened to in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I just knew I had heard some of the songs more recently than half a dozen years ago.

Then it hit me. In fifth grade, time not spent pretending that my now "worthless" Beanie Babies were Squirtles and Charmanders was devoted making the Glenridge 5<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation video. Specifically, I was in charge of selecting the background music. I guess I was drawn to musical things even then. Making the video was a great experience, and I probably watch the film once or so a year, which is more than I listen to the Pokemon CD.

Since I picked the music, I naturally selected what in my youthful taste was the pinnacle of serious musicianship. In fifth grade, there was nothing I took more seriously than Pokemon.

Almost the entire soundtrack to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade video was the Pokemon CD. If you went to Glenridge, and are a senior, you now know what is playing behind those cute pictures of you dressed as an elf for kindergarten Halloween.

Sure, I put in the obligatory two minutes of "Graduation" by Vitamin C. But those were a bitter two minutes, sacrificed to appease the philistines who did not properly appreciate the veritable symphony that is Pokemon music.

Now, over six years later, fact that I choose the soundtrack to a moronic television show as the background to a video commemorating the end of six years in elementary school seems odd.

Why did I decide to put music about fictitious animals from Japan as the soundtrack to the graduation movie? Even then it would not have seemed logical.

Or, why did the teacher who made the video with me not raise an eyebrow when I insisted on putting irredeemably bad music in the film?

After I little introspection, the choice of the Pokemon music as the soundtrack to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade video actually doesn't seem that strange. In many ways, it reflected who I, or even the collective we were at age 11.

We were superficial in our tastes, having experienced very little of the world.

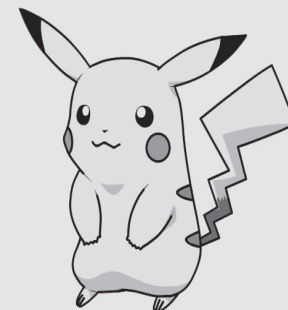
We loved justice, and rooted for Ash and his posse against the maniacal forces of Team Rocket.

We were babyish, and felt attached to the stuffed animal-like facades of Pikachu and Squirtle. Beasts like Onyx and Gastly struck terror in us.

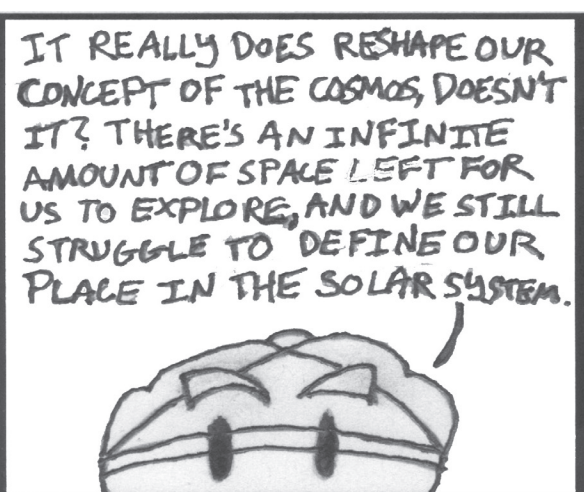
Most of all, though, we were children. We didn't need to make excuses for our tastes. What we liked we liked, and it didn't matter if it "made sense." Our minds had their own perfect logic. In that way, choosing Pokemon as the soundtrack to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade video needs no justification.

Although I will say: in retrospect, "2.B.A. Master" likely the worst album I have ever heard. ☹

### Sounding Off



Rebecca Wall



Styx by Alex Ferguson

# 'Hollywoodland' lacks Hollywood glamour

**Percy Olsen**  
Reporter

When Superman returns, he does it in a, well, super fashion. I thought he was done with me when the incredibly cheese-tastic "Superman Returns" forcibly knocked me out, only to cruelly revive me in time to watch a dog eat another dog, but he wasn't done by a long shot.

Enter: "Hollywoodland," a decidedly different, "Behind the Cape" version of Superman's life. Superman, always the gentleman, steps aside, allowing his mere mortal actor to take the stage. Although the murder/mystery plot is based on an actual un-solved case, I couldn't help but feel a lack of closure as the credits rolled.

George Reeves (no relation to the late Christopher Reeves) is played by the impeccable Ben Affleck, who strikes the perfect balance between heroism and depression. Detective Louis Simo is "brought to life" (if you could call it that) by Adrien Brody. Brody seems to channel whatever it was that won him his lone Oscar in "The Pianist," but like his performance in "King Kong," Brody's performance ended up being a little too mellow for my tastes.

This movie is easily Affleck's best performance since "Good Will Hunting." I don't know if I'd be happier if Affleck could be my personal life actor or if I would rather be able to jump buildings in a single bound; Affleck has got it going. This movie is the directorial debut of HBO mainstay Allen Coulter (who is of no relation to



Handout/MCT



Handout/MCT

**Left:** Diane Lane and Kathleen Robertson in "Hollywoodland" **Above:** Adrien Brody plays the Los Angeles Police Department private detective Louis Simo who investigates the death of a Hollywood actor.

our beloved Ann Coulter). He successfully brings the 50s to life with stark and sweeping cinematography. HBO only hires the best of talent. "Hollywoodland" has the amazing director and the acting prowess, but like this year's Cardinals, no supporting cast.

Herein lies another big detractor from this movie: Hype. All the hype

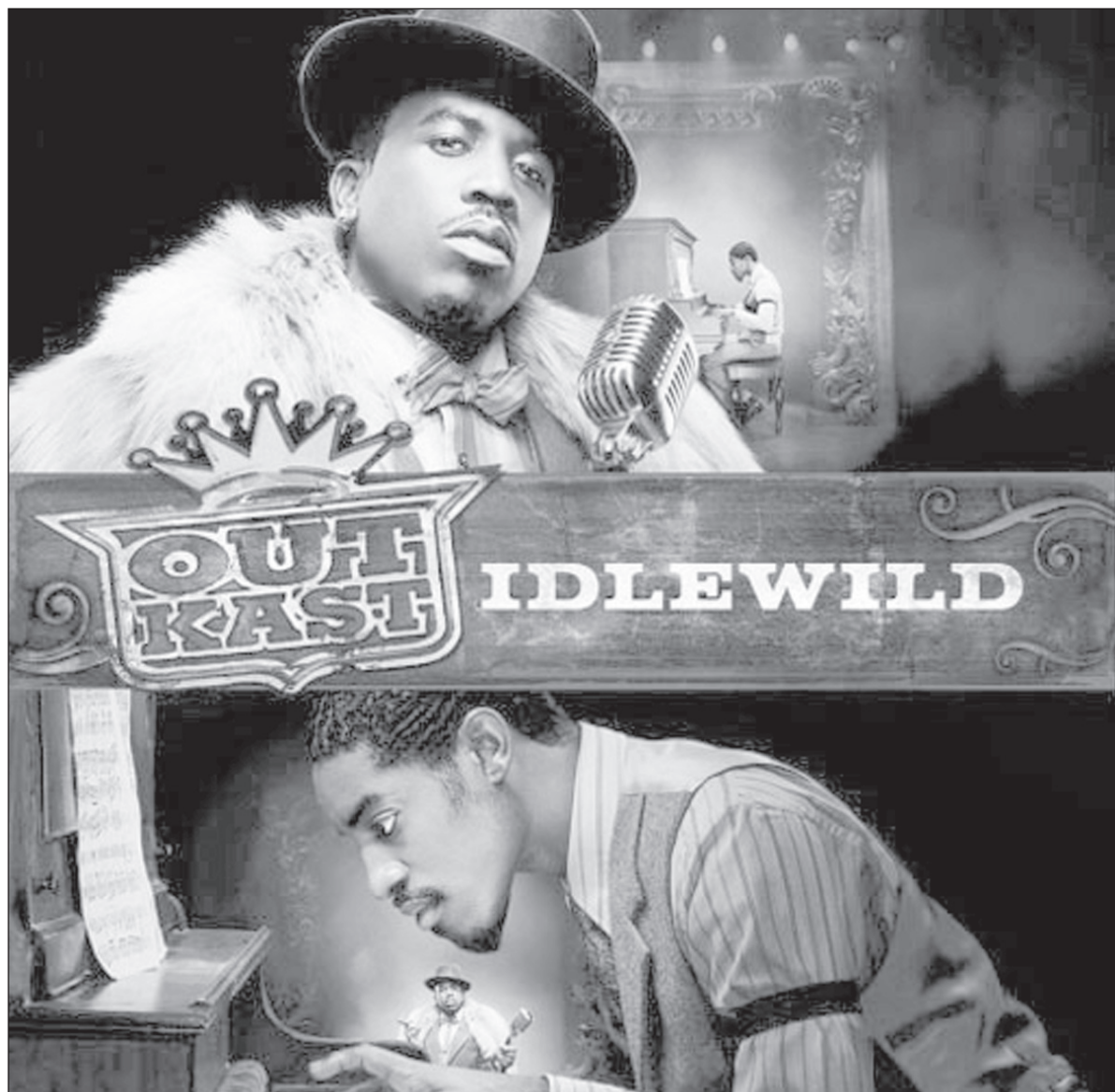
for this movie killed it from the get-go. In one corner, there's Affleck, an Oscar-winner but currently in the dumps actor who's just trying to make it in Hollywood (right....). In the other corner, you've got new (and streaking) Adrien Brody, still riding that Oscar high. He's given the lead role, even though it seems that Affleck has a bigger part.

Sprinkle in Diane Lane, another Oscar nominee, a killer story, and a true mystery, and you have got a flick, right? Not really. If it only it was that easy.

The producer for this movie should have done his homework, because Affleck always brings his A-game, despite the quality of the movie he's in, and viewers know

that. Instead, Focus Features—one of my favorite production companies—decided to play it safe and highlight the temperamental Brody and Lane in all of their advertisements. I have yet to find a poster with the star of the movie, Affleck, front and center. He's either covering in the background or non-existent. In fact, I did not even know that

Affleck was in the movie until his prosthetic-chinned mug popped on to the screen. False-hype has made "Hollywoodland" dead in the water, and as much as I love a good mystery, this one doesn't bring the goods. With all the false-hype, misleading ads, and mediocre acting, it felt as if some bigwig had played me for a chump. ☹



Handout/MCT

## OutKast's 'Idlewild' wildly fulfilling

**Joe Evers**  
Reporter

On OutKast's new album "Idlewild," which serves as a sound track to a musical of the same name, and is the follow up to 2003's Speakerboxx/The Love Below. On which both members of the group made separate albums, "The Love below," being an odd yet poppy jazz/hip-hop album, featuring the mega hit "Hey Ya!" "Speakerboxx," a more traditional hip-hop album featured the hit single "The Way You Move." OutKast's two members, Andre\_ "Andre\_ 3000" Benjamin and Antwan "Big Boi" Patton reunite... sort of.

While the two made the album together, it was for the most part recorded in separate studios, and Patton and Benjamin only appear together in four of the albums 25 songs. However, while many of OutKast's hardcore fans were expecting more of a reunion, there is no denying that the new OutKast formula works well.

This album undoubtedly has some of the group's best tunes. A personal favorite is "Morris Brown," which serves as Big Boi's first single. The song features horns courtesy of the Morris Brown marching band. It has a solid beat which combines R&B, swing, and hip-hop (like many of the album's songs), a catchy chorus from vocalists Scar and OutKast veteran Sleepy Brown, but most of all Big Boi delivers some of his best

rhymes since OutKast's 1998 rap epic "The Aquemini." This song will stay in your head for days.

Benjamin's first single, "Idlewild Blue," doesn't quite deliver the punch of "Morris Brown." However, this is one of the most original songs on the album. A blues song with a hip-hop twist, "Idlewild Blue" features Benjamin singing again, as opposed to rapping, and seeing that it is his single it will most certainly be compared to Benjamin's 2003 smash hit "Hey Ya!" But these are two very different songs, while both possess the same catchy/poppy likability. "Idlewild Blue" sounds more like something from an old 1940's blues singer than something from 2006. And that's just the kind of thing that makes this album what it is.

Some other key tracks from this stellar album include "PJ and Rooster," one of the four tracks where Patton and Benjamin join forces. It features Benjamin singing a catchy swing line, while Patton raps. And I could not talk about this album without mentioning "Mighty O" simply because it features Benjamin rapping for the first time since 2000's "Stankonia," (which catapulted OutKast into super stardom with the hit "Ms. Jackson") and after all this time he definitely hasn't forgotten how.

This album is full of great tracks. Go out to a record store, or go on the iTunes and buy this album. Don't download this off the internet; this album deserves the money. ☹

## Mew creates new depth in progressive-rock genre

**Matt Muslin**  
Reporter

Mew is a Danish prog-rock band that has just released their sophomore effort and their first wide released US record. Whether or not if the name of the band is named after the sound a cat makes when you squeeze it or the name of the 151st pokemon is entirely up to the listener. And just because the album is called "And The Glass Handed Kites" means there is anything to with glass hands, at all.

The thing about mew is when the sound first hits your ears you can easily make the assumption: "Hey, this sounds like the Backstreet Boys covering songs off Genesis!" And yes, they do kind of sound like that (minus the harmonizing voices). But so many other factors that come into play with Mew that completely negates that fact. There's guitarist Bo Madsen who plays a lot like the guitarist of Radiohead, strumming and soloing on the 5th and 6th strings on each song. They have a drummer who keeps the beat like a speaker-blown metronome. And

ummm...a keyboardist who happens to be a great singer (albeit very effeminate). They basically are like Panic At The Disco, but better, more epic, and less sexist!

Unlike Panic At The Disco, who finds it's influences mainstream rock, Mew digs deep into British progressive rock bands like Genesis, Yes, Queen and Gentle Giant. The amount of depth that Mew is almost endless.

It has the Bombastic intros, epic keyboard build-ups and breakdowns, and rhythms that are often reliant on non-traditional time signatures. At the same time Mew dispels the one thing that usually makes a band prog, namely song length. Only two songs are longer than five minutes, and they're the last two, which makes for an epic finale.

At the same time Mew owes a debt to shoegaze rock bands like Sigur Ros and Yo La Tengo with the dreamy fuzzing and buzzing that the melodies seem to flow on to the listener and encapsulate a "floating" effect to the songs.

Often complex and catchy, the melodies are frequently mimicked note for note by another instrument, be it guitar, piano, or xylophone. "Zookeeper's Boy" is the height of the album. Mel-



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ody that's either wordless or repeats the phrase "Are you my lady?" At the same time Mew assures us that life "is just like a giraffe / you have to climb to find its head."

**“It has the Bombastic intros, epic keyboard build-ups and breakdowns, and rhythms that are often reliant on non-traditional time signatures.”**

"Special" is what would happen if you tried to make the songs from Yes danceable, a remarkable experiment indeed.

"Why Are You Looking Grave?" Sees Mew belting a noisy epic about hiding foxes until, lo and behold, up pops J Mascis (lead singer and guitarist of Dinosaur Jr.) himself to release his trademark stoner-ish growl to course through the song like ivy tearing apart an old man-

reaches notes that no fully developed adult male should be able to reach. Drummer Silas is on

some special odyssey of his own; tempos forever changing and leading the music in a way drums rarely get to do.

But there is one problem that keeps this album from maintaining any sort of "classic" status. Namely, the production. Calling this album "Overproduced" would be a minor assumption. Making the album sound like the band are inhuman cyborgs from the future that can play 12 instruments at the same time is a better term, the album at times seems so fake that in all that bombast you forget that the band can actually play. The one-two punch of "Apocalypso" and "Special," for example, is tight and inventive. It's just that it sometimes sounds like 200 people are playing it instead of four.

And then they try to pull the infamous "Eliminate that second or two of dead space between each song making one big song" trick, which embarrassingly fails. The listener is still able to distinguish between where one song ends and the next begins, especially when the songs are in entirely different keys and rhythm.

No matter, which direction listeners come from on this one, they'll find the same thing: If you're up for that fairy-tale rock glory, these guys have it down. ☹



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# A Hard Day's Night

Back for its second year, the 24-Hour Musical is still going strong



Blair Klostermeier

**Above: junior Mitch** Duncan takes a break while composing music for one of the skits. All five skits that were scheduled to be performed included their own music written during the 24-hour period and performed live with the musicals on Saturday night.

**Blair Klostermeier**  
Staff Photographer

What do you get when you combine talented high school students, lots of food, tai-chi, three hours of sleep, and one big stage? The 24-Hour Musical, of course.

This year marked the second time that actors, writers, directors, musicians, and tech crew got together to put together five—well, in this case four—mini-musicals.

Many people were curious as to why the fifth show wasn't run. The short version is that the folks in charge didn't think it was appropriate for the venue.

"Even though I was angry that the show was canceled, I really enjoyed the directing experience and I learned a lot from it," junior Brad Rolan said.

All of the shows, regardless of the number of actors or their respective experience, took a lot of practice to get ready for the performance.

"It took a lot of hard work, but after you perform, you leave with a really good feeling," said sophomore Molly Brandt, who had many lines to learn.

She and fellow actor Adrienne Stormo shared a majority of

the dialogue in the show that they were in. For the short time that they had, a lot of memorization happened. What wasn't memorized was replaced with the next best thing, improvisation; a key skill when performing on little sleep.

With the small amount of rest that most participants had and the close quarters, surprisingly few "shouting matches" occurred.

**“It took a lot of hard work, but after you perform, you leave with a really good feeling.”**

**Molly Brandt**  
Sophomore

In fact, it was the opposite in many cases. "You bond with a lot of random people that you wouldn't normally talk to because you don't choose your groups," sophomore Caitlin Bladt said. "In the time before the performance, there were a lot of nerves going, but right when you are about to go on stage, you get a big adrenaline rush that gets you through the show."

Sophomore Nathan Crall also found the close environment to be advantageous.

"I met a lot of juniors and seniors," Crall said. "We pretty much got no sleep and the whole thing was very tiring. You could tell how tired we all were from the dress rehearsal. After that, we got an unexpected burst of energy that got the shows together and performed." ☺



Blair Klostermeier

**Above, from left:** Senior Andrew Davidson, junior Dakin Sloss and senior Stephen Pohlman rehearse their skit on the auditorium stage.



Blair Klostermeier

**Above, from left:** Seniors Marie-Sophie Ritter and Alyssa Hartel and Sophomore Caitlin Bladt enthusiastically practice their lines in the auditorium.



Blair Klostermeier

**Above: junior Vanessa** Moore relaxes during downtime. Since the event lasted 24 hours, students tried catch some sleep during free time.