



For every rule we create students try to find a way around it, and adults are no different.

Louise Losos  
Principal

# A life on Facebook



**S**ocializing. Late night procrastination. Homework. Facebook isn't just for posting YouTube videos on friends' walls and commenting on photos from last weekend anymore. It's the place where CHS students post all kinds of information about themselves and manage aspects of their busy, event-filled lives.

In more recent years, Facebook has become more and more enmeshed in the everyday lives of CHS students. Students rely on Facebook to find out about events, school activities, and, in some cases, even complete homework.

Although many students see this as a positive development, others question whether Facebook has become just a little too important.

"Facebook is programmed to use the information provided by its users to help them connect with others as well as provide advertisements about things they may be interested in," senior Marquise Griffin said. "Sure that sounds great initially, however, it also encourages users to invest more of their persona and identity online than in real life. To me, that's not healthy."

Facebook, pg. 6

Paul Lisker

## Clayton falls short of state achievement benchmarks

The School District of Clayton was deemed to be 'in need of improvement' by the state of Missouri after last year's standardized test scores, but is this a cause for concern?

Noah Eby  
Co-Editor in Chief

To some, it may have seemed a sign of the apocalypse. Clayton, the paragon of public school education, failed to meet progress benchmarks on state standardized tests for 2009-2010 and was designated as "in need of improvement." Yet this label is no harbinger of future doom; it is partly the result of inadequacies in assessment methods employed by the state and the nation.

Clayton has been placed in Level Two of District Improvement because of its failure to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Each year, a certain percentage of students in each grade level and each subgroup must score in the proficient or advanced categories of their MAP tests or End of Course (EOC) exams for high school students.

A subgroup is defined as any group of 30 or more students of a certain ethnicity in a certain grade level. Clayton's ethnic subgroups include Caucasian, African-American and Asian students. Subgroups are also determined by socioeconomic measures, including free/reduced lunch and non-free/reduced lunch students, and by whether a student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

For the 2009-2010 school year, Clayton needed to have at least 67.4 percent proficiency in communication arts and 63.3 percent proficiency in mathematics. Only 61.5 percent of third grade communication arts students scored proficient or above, the only grade-level score that was inadequate.

In addition, scores in the African-American and free/reduced lunch subgroups, which are measured District-wide, not by grade level, did not meet targets. As a result of these subpar scores, Clayton did not meet AYP for the second year in a row and was designated as in need of improvement. Interestingly enough, all 24 St. Louis County districts are in some level of District Improvement.

Being in District Improvement requires the superintendent to send out a letter to parents in the community informing them of Clayton's status and what it means, and it also mandates that each school develop an improvement plan.

"You try to look at the student and try to figure out what's causing those difficulties, and what would be the best strategy for that child to start meeting grade level expectations," said Heidi Shepard, Director of Assessment for the School District of Clayton. "And it does vary so much from building to building and child to child."

She said that could entail study halls, tutoring, after-school help, support classes at the high school, strategies classes, and time in the learning center.

This system of assessment and punishment for not meeting standards comes from No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the education legislation signed by President George W. Bush in 2002. Prior to NCLB, schools did not have to measure progress in subgroups. Now, many urban and suburban schools with diverse populations are having trouble meeting expectations.

"What you'll find is that when you start doing research and you find districts outside of St. Louis who are making AYP in our state, they don't have all these subgroups - they're very homogeneous populations," Shepard said.

She added that NCLB was "not addressing Clayton, per se," but was instead going after schools that were satisfied with district-wide performance and ignored the achievement of their minority populations. And though Shepard said that NCLB is useful in that it forces schools to focus on those subgroups, its problems are numerous.

For starters, standardized testing is by no means a comprehensive method of measuring student achievement. Shepard called it just "a piece of the puzzle." Extracurricular activities and course grades are just a couple other metrics of student performance.

"There's so many ways to demonstrate learning, and so you want to look holistically at a student and not just focused on one moment in time," said Clayton Superintendent Dr. Mary Herrmann.

Furthermore, NCLB's goal is to achieve 100 percent proficiency by 2014 - every single student scoring proficient or advanced. Shepard said that this will never happen. To achieve this lofty goal, the percentage of students that must score proficient or above for districts to meet AYP goes up each year.

As expectations increase to get to 100 percent, more and more schools will not meet AYP. In 2014, it seems very likely that every district in the nation will not meet AYP and be in some level of District Improvement.

In addition, nation-wide standards are lacking. The number of students that defines a subgroup varies by state - in Missouri it is 30, in Illinois 45 - and NCLB does not specify how high school students are tested or even which high school students should be tested.

Illinois uses the ACT, whereas Missouri uses EOCs because its primarily rural population does not do well on the ACT, according to Shepard. The result of these discrepancies is an inability to compare schools across state lines based on standard-

Standardized test scores, pg. 4

## New elementary school science labs enhance student learning

Zach Praiss  
Community Editor

Science at the elementary schools is evolving.

Over the past three years, the science program at the three elementary schools in the School District of Clayton: Captain, Glenridge, and Meramec, has been completely overhauled.

Each of the elementary schools now has a dedicated science teacher and brand new state-of-the-art science lab with the completion of their Proposition S construction.

The former textbook-based curriculum has been replaced by an interactive and hands-on science curriculum. The goal of the new program is to significantly enhance the elementary science education by engaging young students in labs with a motivating science teacher.

Prior to the implementation of the new science program, there was a tub system for science at the elementary schools. During each unit, a teacher would receive a tub full of that unit's materials.

However, Tom Sprengnether, the science teacher at Meramec Elementary School and former teacher at Glenridge Elementary School, explained the significant limitations to the tub system.

"We had a tub system where the materials would rotate school to school and...that became very limiting," Sprengnether said. "When you were teaching science, you only had a set number of weeks to teach that particular unit because you had to send the materials on to the next school. So, the materials were driving the curriculum and driving the planning of the teachers instead of the needs of the students."

In the new science program, classroom teachers co-teach science with the science specialists and

readily use the new labs, saving them the time and effort previously involved with teaching science only in classrooms.

"[Teachers now] don't have to worry about the preparation and clean up involved with science that can sometimes be overwhelming if you are also teaching math, social studies and literacy," Sprengnether said.

The three new science teachers also ensure that all students have equal science education in elementary school instead of different levels of engagement in science with individual teachers in the past.

"A program like this would definitely make the community feel confident that all kids are getting the same quality education in science whereas in the past that may not have been the case," Brendan Kearney, the science teacher at Glenridge Elementary School, said. "When you have a specialist in each building, you are definitely ensuring that these kids are getting a quality education across the board."

Furthermore, the new science labs, some of the few in public schools in St. Louis, have facilitated an exciting in-depth study of science for the elementary school students.

"It's a dream come true because it allows us to really focus on one content area and drive deeply into it," Kearney said. "To have these facilities with all these resources at our fingertips is just motivating for us and the students."

Currently, kindergarten through second graders spend about a third of their science curriculum time in the labs during their life sciences unit while third through fifth graders spend a majority of their science time in the labs.

"We're really excited about the new schedule we have for science," the School District of Clayton's Science Coordinator Nathan Peck, who helped



Macklin Fleming

Students at Glenridge Elementary enjoy their recently added science labs. The labs are part of an improved science curriculum for Clayton's elementary schools, which is less textbook-oriented and more hands-on.

develop the new elementary science program, said. "Last year, the [elementary school] science teacher would get to teach the kids about one third of a time in a grade level.

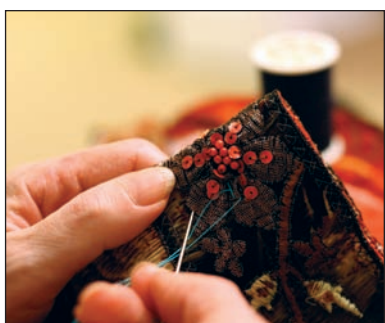
The way we have it set up now is that kids from third, fourth, and fifth grade will be in the science lab for two-thirds of their science program.

From a student's stand point, this year with the labs, they get a lot more exposure to laboratory science... that really helps a lot in getting the kids engaged in science."

Science labs, pg. 2

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# Administration, teachers enact academic integrity policy

Jackie Leong  
Managing Editor

With the school year barely begun, CHS students this year found themselves presented with something they'd never seen before: an honor contract.

This year, a new integrity policy has been enacted in an attempt to raise student awareness about the consequences of plagiarism and other forms of cheating. After reading the policy, which featured an extensive—but not exhaustive—list of examples of such dishonesty, students were asked to sign the bottom of the sheet.

The widespread plagiarism incident that occurred in one of last year's AP Chemistry classes served as a factor in the decision to enact a set of new integrity guidelines when it spurred a considerable amount of discussion within the community.

The policy, which was presented to the school board last year before its current enactment, seeks to better define what is deemed unacceptable in academia, as well as outline possible penalties. However, it is not meant to strictly define set infractions and consequences. The policy was not meant to be "Draconian" but rather a guide, according to Principal Louise Losos, due to the delicate—and complex—nature of defining dishonesty.

"I believe there are layers of what could be considered cheating," Losos said. "Do we treat someone who turns in someone else's English paper the same as a kid who copies someone's math homework? I don't think we should... anytime we put something in black and white, it becomes stilted."

Losos notes that the only official disciplinary policy that CHS employs is its drug and alcohol policy, the others being merely guidelines, as to allow maximum response flexibility.

Such flexibility is especially valued in the integrity policy, as every case is different—the number of infractions a student has already, the nature of the case, the impact overall. Since the number of elements that need to be considered is hefty, it is preferred that should such incidents occur—and they do, a couple times each year—the matter be kept between the student and teacher if possible.

Thus, a document for teachers was prepared as well, consisting of a list of general processes, including how to deal with cheating incidents in terms of who to tell. Though isolated incidents of cheating are usually unique in their circumstances and thus their consequences as well, Losos strives for response consistency within a department.

"In the past, we've had cases in which two teachers disagree," Losos said. "One wants to do 'X' and the other wants to do 'Y.'" In that case, either a compromise must be reached or a third party – perhaps

an administrator must step in and choose the penalty instead.

An ongoing debate within the English department, which has already had its first plagiarism incident this year, concerns the website turnitin.com, which could potentially serve as a guard against essay plagiarism. Papers uploaded to the site are checked against websites as well as a vast database of students' essays for plagiarism, and phrases that come up with matches from either source are highlighted. The papers are automatically added to the collection for future use.

The site could benefit students as well, Losos said, as a check against inadvertent plagiarism.

"None of it is about a 'gotcha,'" Losos said. "But, at the same time, as a school we need to be proactive and use the resources that are available to us."

English teacher Adam Dunsker agrees. "I would want to remove the temptation from students if it's there," Dunsker said. "In those cases that I've caught, there have been a couple sentences woven into the students' own work. And the kids knew that they shouldn't have been doing it. I think the website helps the student, who might be tempted, to take the process seriously and do his or her own best work."

English teacher Sheri Steinger, however, is far from sold on the idea.

"I'm pretty opposed to it," Steinger said. "I think it might have its uses, but I don't want it to become standard practice here... I think the concept is predicated on the belief that we can't trust students to do what they're supposed to do, at least that we can't trust enough of them, that we need to start screening everybody, and to me it's a little bit like asking everybody to go through metal detectors before they come into the school."

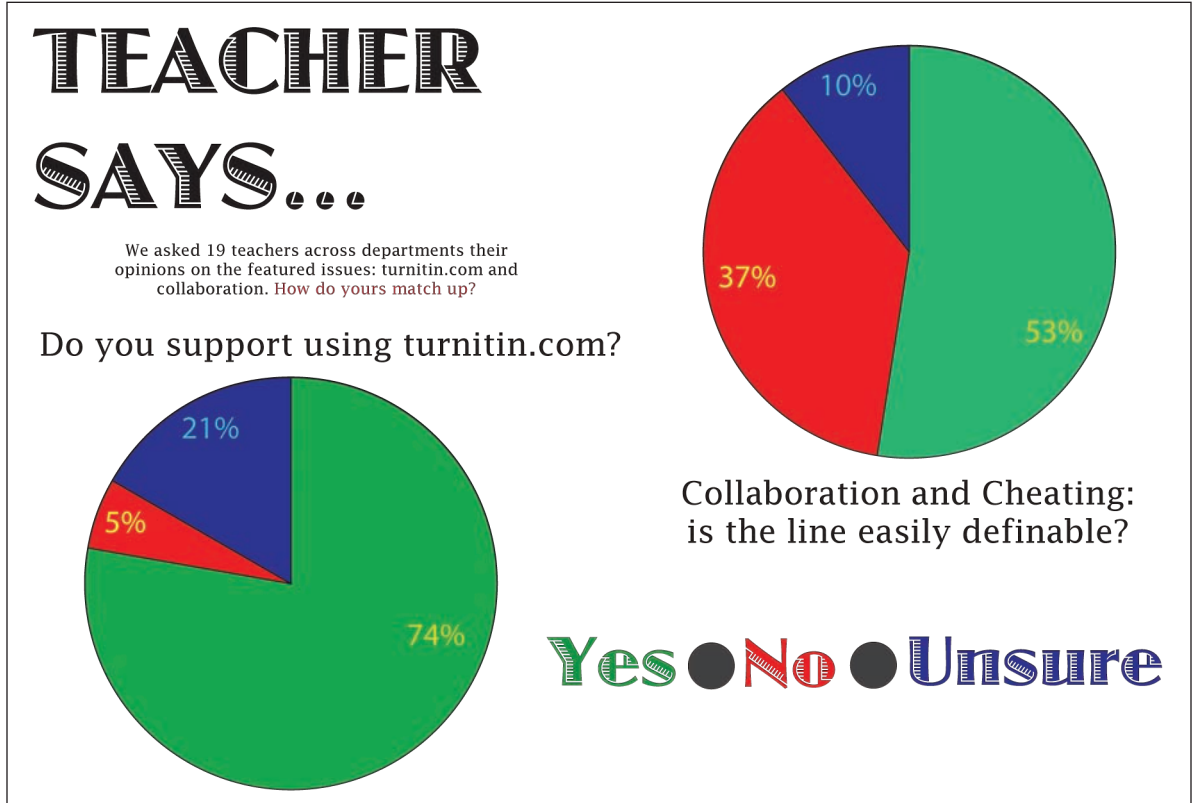
Another potential use of the website would be for students to upload papers themselves. In this way, they might avoid inadvertently plagiarized phrases.

"It sounds as though it might make it easier for students to cheat," Steinger said. "Oh, look, they've highlighted this for me, I'm going to have to choose a couple of synonyms and then it won't highlight it anymore."

Though online tools such as turnitin.com have potential, Losos is aware of their limitations as well.

"I know the students can game that system as well," Losos said. "For every rule we create students try to find a way around it, and adults are no different. If there's a loophole, they'll drive a truck through it. It's not magical... it won't fix the issue."

A much more perplexing issue than plagiarism, though, is that of collaboration. It isn't easy to define broadly, another reason for the integrity poli-



cy's flexibility, as collaboration could mean different things between individual teachers or departments.

"There is an extremely grey area between collaboration and cheating," Losos said.

Though individual teachers harbor particular ideas as to define the terms, all seem to have clear ideas as to where to draw the line.

"It depends on the assignment, the objectives and the work within the group," social studies teacher Paul Hoelscher said. "It is not easily definable, yet I think most teachers understand for each of their own students where to make a clear distinction."

Other teachers have their own standards for defining the dividing line.

"Collecting data as a team in the laboratory is collaboration," physics teacher Rex Rice said. "Discussing the results of the experiment with your lab partner is collaboration. Writing a conclusion together on a lab report that was intended as an individual assignment is cheating."

Other teachers across departments hold the same opinion.

"[Collaboration] does not mean that an assignment is divided into parts and each student does his or her part and then the completed parts are combined into a finished product that each person claims as his or her own," social studies teacher Rick

Kordenbrock said. "In general I am not opposed to collaboration, at least as I define it, unless the assignment, such as an exam or essay, is specifically designated or clearly understood to be for individual work only. And I do think students know the difference between collaboration and cheating, even if they don't want to admit it."

Rice agrees. "I've had students whose conclusions were obviously slightly changed versions of the same thing act surprised when I split the credit—intended for one lab report—between them," Rice said. "In reality I think they knew they were wrong, and thought I wouldn't catch it."

No matter where the teachers—or administrators—stop on the issue, where collaboration definitely stops and cheating begins is where the academic integrity policy steps in. The same can be said for any issue concerning academic integrity—or lack thereof. In the end, though, it's on the students. In the age of technology, smartphones, and the Internet, there will never be a fail-safe way to prevent cheating and plagiarism—inadvertent or not.

"Integrity is what you do when no one's looking," Losos said. "What do you do when there's no teacher around? And I think it's on the student to decide what kind of person they're going to be."



The new science lab at Captain Elementary School facilitates the exploration of hands-on, inquiry based science.

## Labs solidify science program

Continued from pg. 1

"They love to come in here," Christina Hwande, the science teacher at Captain Elementary School, said. "They love to see anything that we have out...they check out the microscope every time they come in. It's a place for them that they can explore."

Sprengmeyer's second graders were overjoyed when the seeds that they planted sprouted into a little seedlings.

In addition to the new labs, the elementary schools adopted a new science curriculum, the Full Option Science System (FOSS), which is a hands on, inquiry based, and up-to-date curricu-

lum used in many school districts across the country.

"It's no longer just the content that we are teaching, it's also the process of science," Hwande said. "They have to be proficient with both of those ideas. They absolutely need to know the content but they also have to figure out how to go about answering those questions that they have."

By introducing and engaging elementary school students in these labs and scientific inquires, there will hopefully be a trickle up effect into Wydown Middle School as more students will enter middle school with a basic understanding of science. Ultimately, as Peck explained, the new elemen-

tary school science program will lay the foundation and framework for the rest of the district's science program extending all the way to the high school.

"We're going to see a substantial impact in the middle school program, where all our kids are going to be coming in with laboratory experience where before they had much less," Peck said. "Having labs at the elementary schools also helps us in teaching our enduring understandings in science in the kindergarten through twelfth grade program... With our new curriculum, we really have a kindergarten through twelfth grade science program now."

## Clayton evaluates test performance

Continued from pg. 1

To address these issues, many groups have proposed changes to the law. Nationalized standards are surely important, and a forerunner in the discussion is the growth model, which is seen by many as a more significant way of measuring progress. The model would measure a student's growth over time rather than their performance relative to a benchmark.

"The growth model is really important because it helps us look individually and collectively," Herrmann said. "It not only helps us look at how we're doing with our students, it helps us look at each individual student in a meaningful way."

Tennessee has been using the growth model as a sort of pilot for several years, and Shepard said she

is hopeful that it could be implemented on a larger scale in the near future.

So what is the true significance of Clayton being labeled "in need of improvement"? Citing Clayton's ranking as one of the top public schools locally and in the state, high ACT and AP scores and great high school students, Shepard said that "we have a lot of data to refute" what the label implies.

Herrmann agreed that Clayton's designation as needing improvement is by no means a condemnation of Clayton schools, which continue to strive for academic excellence.

"It helps us, as educators, to be mindful of the work that we need to keep working on," Herrmann said. "But just from my perspective, this is a pretty incredible place and a pretty high-performing school district, so you have to keep that in perspective."

## Upcoming theater season features fairy tales, large plant

Parker Schultz  
Reporter

The Clayton High School Theater Department has packed an ambitious show line-up this year. They will be performing two plays and two musicals, one that will be entirely student run.

Already work has begun on the fall play, "The Secret in the Wings," which will debut on Oct. 7. The show by Mary Zimmerman is an interwoven collection of rarely told fairy tales. Several parts of the show will include music written by Ian Miller, the head of the theater guild at CHS. He has already started composing pieces for the show.

"They just provide the lyrics, and you make your own music," Miller said.

Following "The Secret in The Wings" is the freshman/sophomore play, "Haroun and the Sea of Stories," which will take place on Oct. 14-17. The play is based off the original book by Salman Rushdie, which is a freshman honors-English core text.

Kelly Ryan, head of the theater department at CHS, has set up a special event for the two plays.

"The fall play and the freshman/sophomore play are going to be two week-ends in a row, and there will be events going on in-between that," Ryan said. "We're doing a kind of festival, and the theme is 'fairy tales you've never heard.' They're very dark, kind of creepy fairy tales."

During the festival, Metro Theater Company will also perform "The Tomato Plant Girl." Although no students will be in the cast, the show will be held at CHS.

The two musicals this year will be "Oklahoma" and "Little Shop of Horrors." Both of these will bring new opportunities to students working on the shows.

Oklahoma in particular will require a lot of creativity and fresh ideas.

"It will be challenging to make something that's a classic, fresh and new, and to do it very well," Ryan said. "Some of the best plays and shows that I've already seen a bunch of times, are done so well I think 'Now I get it, now I understand it.'"

"Little Shop of Horrors" will also challenge the production crew, but in a different way – technically. In the show, a florist accidentally raises a man-eating plant. As the plant devours more people, it grows to a monstrous size. This will be quite a technical feat on stage, and Miller has some ideas how to do it.

"I've been thinking of using the plant as a vehicle to add in more people," Miller said. "You would know they were the plant without them literally being the plant. As the show goes on it would start out as just one person, and then it would continue to grow. As it eats people, that person would join the big group."

Although Miller wasn't sure on the technical details, he thought his idea could really add to the show.

"I figure every show that's ever been done of 'Little Shop of Horrors' has used a puppet," Miller said.

Even before the first rehearsal, a lot of work goes into these shows. Deciding what to perform can be a challenge on its own. Each year Ryan is faced with lots of tough decisions.

"I want students to have a variety of shows to work on over their four years," Ryan said. "I also try to choose things that are challenging."

Most importantly, Ryan has to choose shows that will give opportunities to as many people as possible.

"The biggest thing in my mind is that I try to choose shows that are ensemble based, which means it has a large cast where the ensemble is really important," Ryan said. Miller also thinks that including more stu-

dents should be a priority. "I think a lot of the times the theater department can be kind of exclusive as far as how many people are involved," Miller said.

Despite this, Miller is very optimistic about the shows this year.

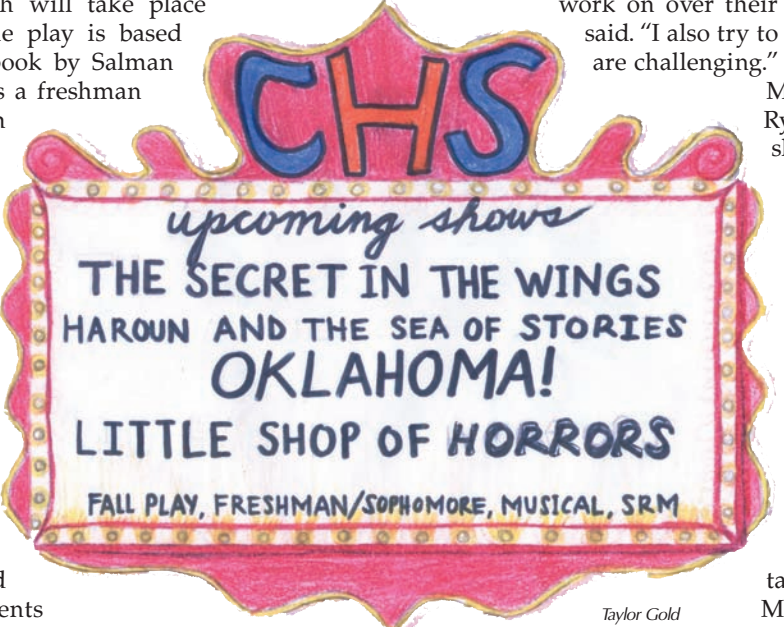
"I think this year we have a dynamic group," Miller said. "We have a lot of energy and passion."

Even though there is such a diverse group of people working on the shows, the theater needs an audience. Ryan hopes that the festival will drum up excitement for more students to come.

"I would really encourage students to come and see the shows," Ryan said. "Students should mark it on their calendars, get friends together, set a date, go out to dinner, and make it an event."

For Ryan, one of the most important aspects of a high-school show is the audience.

"The other goal that the theater department has within a school community is to foster future patrons," Ryan said. "Even though kids who aren't involved in the theater department might not ever get on the stage, hopefully theater and going to performances will be a part of their life."



Taylor Gold



Marci Boland and CHS students are dedicated to learning the ways of the business world in DECA. *Paul Lisiker*

## DECA anticipates exciting year

**Katherine Ren**  
Reporter

Passion drives success. Recently, you may have seen black T-shirts among the CHS community displaying the phrase "Beat it" in vibrantly colored print. These shirts reflect the efforts of DECA, a CHS club that focuses on the development of future leaders in marketing and management.

Students participating in DECA attend many workshops, social events and competitions throughout the year that provide them with the opportunity to develop the poise, leadership and social skills necessary in the business world.

"When the students participate in the chapter projects, they have to work with businesses, not for profit organizations and leaders in the community to have successful projects," DECA sponsor Marci Boland said. "These encounters teach the kids leadership and how to conduct themselves in business situations."

Likewise, these events also provide a chance for students to turn the knowledge they have learned in the classroom into skills acquired from experience.

"I joined DECA because I wanted to take place in the marketing based competitions that they offer every year," senior Carter Ellston said. "I feel that it is a rewarding experience and gives you the opportunity to apply the things you learn in marketing class to real life scenarios during the competition."

Boland thinks DECA is an important part of CHS because it provides students with an opportunity to get involved in something that they are truly passionate about.

"DECA is really fun," Boland said. "Students can go on the New York trip, they can attend the district or fall leadership conference and they can compete in the district, state and

hopefully international competitions."

This year's annual New York trip will be Nov. 13-17. During the trip, students attend seminars with businesses such as Tommy Hilfiger and Sport Illustrated. Students also visit different industries and talk with people about what they do, how they got into the field and the kinds of jobs presented in particular businesses.

"It is a five-day trip jam packed with learning and exploring," Boland said.

Tourism is no exceptions to the things students learn as they also find time to tour the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty as well as attend sporting events and the viewing of a Broadway show.

"I am expecting to discover things about the business world and uncover ways to succeed," sophomore Dylan Brown said about what she hopes to gain from this year's experience. "Also, I am looking forward to the conventions and everything that comes with it."

Students join DECA looking for an opportunity to grow and explore directions undiscovered.

"I feel that it is a rewarding experience and gives you the opportunity to apply the things you learn in marketing class to real life scenarios during competitions," Ellston said. "It is also fun meeting other DECA members from around the area and, if you make it far enough, around the globe."

Like all of the clubs offered at CHS, DECA presents a warm welcome to all who are interested in participating—whether they are aiming for internationals or just wanting to provide a helping hand.

"Mrs. Boland is an amazing sponsor and she makes the club really great," senior Phoebe Raileanu said. "DECA gives everyone the opportunity to be something great!"

## CHS musicians seek challenge

**Arya Yadama**  
Reporter

CHS offers many opportunities for talented musicians. CHS Symphonic Orchestra is offered for kids who want to go above and beyond CHS Concert Orchestra. Sometimes those opportunities are not enough to challenge very advanced musicians at CHS. St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra is made up of highly developed high school musicians. This orchestra offers the highest level of playing opportunity for advanced students. These students must be serious and usually take private lessons. According to the CHS orchestra director Julie Hoffman, students need to make a serious commitment to being a good player and have a strong passion for music to be qualified for Youth. Many of these players have gone through years of individual practice and playing in orchestras.

"These students play at a higher skill level and have gone through other orchestras," Hoffman said. "Youth Orchestra is a great resource allows students to achieve that what is not offered in school."

Plenty of students audition for Youth Orchestra every year and go through the same grueling audition process. They first play in the preliminaries. They play two scales and a piece of their choice. Then, if the judges think they have what it takes to compete in the next round, the students advance to the finals. There they play in the prestigious Powell Symphony Hall. This is same hall in which the St. Louis Symphony plays.

Senior Elle Jacobs has gone through this process a total of six times, including this year.

"I think the audition process is a stressful two weeks, but I feel great when it's over," said Jacobs. "Making the orchestra is really rewarding because a lot of people work really hard to get in, and some don't make it. It takes great sound, accurate rhythm, style and a contrast in dynamics."

Some students, like junior Matthew Millett are auditioning for the first time. Millett was very nervous he was when he had to perform in Powell Hall for the first time. He also emphasized what it took for him to really push is playing to the limit.

"I practiced a lot more than I usually would," Millett said. "To get into the orchestra, it takes a lot of work. The people who play in these orchestras can be skilled beyond belief, and the only way to really rise to their level is to practice, practice, practice."

Youth Orchestra puts these talented musicians to the test, a far greater challenge for them than those offered at school. These students also get support from teachers. Orchestra director Julie Hoffman tries to give them time to practice before the audition. A few days before the audition, the students audi-



Senior Henry Myers plays cello in the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra and CHS Symphonic Orchestra *Dustin Kessler*

tioning had an opportunity to play before the CHS orchestra so that his or her peers could offer their support. Youth Symphony is a great opportunity for young musicians hoping to go far with their music. All their practice and weekly rehearsals lead up to a final result: a concert that shows off all their hard work.

"I've sat in those concerts and am amazed that I am hearing high school students," Hoffman said.

The challenging repertoire and the difficult audition process makes a great learning experience for those who audition. They are just grateful to have a chance to express their talent and passion for music outside the boundaries of school.



*Globe Archives*

### SLYSO Concert Dates:

Sunday, Nov. 14 at 3 p.m.  
Sunday, March 20 at 3 p.m.  
Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m.

## Show Choir swings into new season

**Caroline Greenberg**  
Reporter

CHS Show Choir is becoming stronger and stronger every new year. Something different is always happening.

"We had try outs and a lot of people tried to get in," senior Ruthie Polinsky said. Even though many people tried out, a lot of the same faces from last year are still in the group. With the old faces there are many new. Because so many people tried out there is now the same amount of boys and girls in the club. There are twenty people in Show Choir with ten girls and ten boys.

"Since we have the same amount of boys and girls we will be doing a lot more partner work," sponsor Alice Fasman said. There are three different big performances in which Show Choir performs. In each performance they have new dance numbers and new songs.

"A lot of the songs we are doing now are really different from last year, there is a lot more dancing to them than when we did it last year," sophomore Evelyn Fleisher said. Seniors Ruthie Polinsky, Erica Hill, Adie Wexelman, and Ian Miller will be choreographing all of the dances for each song. The choreographers have been in show choir for four years. Many of the people in show choir this year are seniors, which means at the end of the year it will be a great loss to see them go.

"It's my last year but I think we are really working to make it the best year," Polinsky said. There are about seven incoming

freshman in the group. Three new freshmen are boys, including Aaron Arygeres, Sam Stern, and Ben Diamond.

"I decided to try out for show choir because I like to sing and it sounded like a fun club to join," Stern said. "It's hard to wake up and automatically be doing something but its always fun which makes it easier."

The new freshman girls are Sophia Rotman, Caroline Avery, Allysa Fritz and Alessandra Silva. These girls will bring strong new positions to the group. Three of the girls will be doing dancing and back up singing.

"The dancing is a challenge for me but I really like having the chance to do it and there always patient with me to get all the steps," Fritz said.

Sophomore James Kerr and Junior Montel Harris are two new members from other grades. Show Choir is a zero hour class that meets every morning except Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. To be in show choir you must be in band choir or orchestra.

"The first week of waking up before school is always the hardest, but it's starting to be a lot easier as we go on," Stern said.

This group of kids ranging in age and ability all seem to be excited and ready to impress CHS with their singing abilities which we will see at their different performances.

"We really will have a good year especially with all the new assets we have now. I can't wait to really get into the throng of it and get it all started." Polinsky said.

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# Interns accept the challenge of teaching students in stride

Dylan Schultz  
Editor

Ambitious students from Truman University have begun internships working with teachers during this school year at CHS.

These interns aid their teacher mentors inside and outside the classroom with responsibilities ranging from handing out papers to giving one on one sessions with students who need a little more help.

The staff includes physical education intern Kevin Davis and social studies interns Audrey Lampe and Sarah Jenkins. These interns took on a heavy workload when they signed up for one of the most important and underrated jobs in society.

The added work of being a part of a functioning classroom to the other duties as a graduate student proves to be a difficult yet rewarding task.

"Teaching at the high school has been a wild ride," said Davis, who plans to teach in the areas of physical education and health. In addition to his graduate school work, Davis also teaches seven classes at the high school and spends time coaching. "Free time becomes a thing of the past. You really have to love to teach."

Lampe agrees when it comes to an increased workload. The active environment keeps her constantly busy.

"You never have a dull moment, which I like," Lampe said. "I think it will keep getting even more involved when we start taking over the classrooms." Lampe also coaches some field hockey just to add to her already demanding day.

Jenkins, too, has realized the full scale of teaching in a high school. She foresees the challenge increasing as the year goes on.

"It takes a long time to prepare lessons and even more time to grade student assignments," Jenkins

said. "As the year goes on, I'll be taking on more responsibilities in the classroom, which means more work, but will also be more fulfilling and enjoyable."

Despite the massive work load, each intern has reflected positively on their experience.

"The internship at Clayton has been a great experience so far," Davis said. "In the college classroom you can learn about teaching styles, course material, lesson plans, but I feel you never actually learn how to teach until you are thrown into the classroom."

According to Davis, the high school experience gives a level of education that a college classroom cannot provide.

Each of the interns has a unique perspective on their favorite aspects of the job. For Lampe, it is the teaching environment.

"I love the history department," Lampe said. "They're funny, great people to work with."

Lampe also would prefer teaching students at the high school level.

The experience of working with the talented and intelligent students at CHS was the best part so far for Jenkins, who would also like to work with high school scholars. Davis has a slightly different opinion on what level of students he would like to work with.

"I have learned a lot and would still be willing to teach at this level," Davis said. "However, while I'm younger I would love to teach at the elementary level. The younger kids bring an energy to class that makes physical education a blast."

While Davis, along with the other interns, has certainly enjoyed his time so far, he does not look forward to a certain, unavoidable part of the job.

"My least favorite part of interning at Clayton is the thought of leaving at the end of the year," Davis said. "Clayton is an amazing district; the students don't know just how lucky they are." ☺



Malnourished sub-Saharan children, like those above, are in need. Danforth will be packaging 200,000 meals on World Food Day to send to Africa, and they need 1500 to 3000 volunteers to accomplish this task.

# World Food Day reaches out to the hungry in Africa

Jake Bernstein  
Editor

A child dies every six seconds from malnutrition. This is one of many staggering facts offered by the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in order to promote the World Food Day Commemoration.

World Food Day, observed Oct. 16, is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and year-round action to alleviate hunger. The Danforth Center will commemorate the day by packaging 200,000 meals to help the hungry in sub-Saharan Africa.

In order to prepare the packages, the Danforth Center needs between 1500 and 3000 volunteers. Volunteers will, in assembly line formation, fill plastic bags with rice, dehydrated vegetables, soy and vitamins. Nancy Clark, Assistant Director of Development at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, called volunteering a "hands-on, education experience."

Junior Elizabeth Krane, member of the Community Service Club and an advocate for the World Food Day Commemoration, agreed that packaging will be an interactive experience.

"The fact that volunteers get to package the food which is going directly to people is unique because volunteer opportunities often just involve raising money," Krane said.

Each packaging table has room for 12 volunteers. Krane said that a goal was to find enough students to volunteer so that there could be a table of just CHS students working together.

After packaging food for one hour, volunteers will get the opportunity to tour the Danforth Center. Clark explained what volunteers will experience during the tour.

"After having the opportunity to work with friends and family on a worthwhile humanitarian cause which will provide a short-term solution to world hunger, volunteers will get to learn about long-term solutions to malnutrition that are being developed right here in St. Louis," Clark said. "They will be able to tour the Danforth Center, meet our scientists, and learn about St. Louis' work to make food more nutritious and available to people all around the world and eradicate world hunger."

Junior Karley Woods is on the Junior Board for the event and took the tour upon orientation. She

agreed with Clark.

"The tour is not only interesting but exposes students to more long-term solutions because that's what the Danforth Center is all about," Woods said.

The World Food Day Commemoration has been largely organized and powered by students. Clark was thankful for all the help students have offered.

"This is a first time event for the Danforth Center and thanks to our 70 high school Junior Board members and Center volunteers and supporters, the difficulties have been minimal," Clark said.

"I have had a good experience as a board member," Woods said. "I have gotten a much better sense of what the scientists do at the center and have been pretty involved in promoting World Food Day."

Since learning about the World Food Day Commemoration, Krane has expressed great interest in volunteering and spreading the word at CHS. A main reason for her interest in the World Food Day Commemoration is the fact that students have played such a large role in organizing the day.

"I know this commemoration day has been heavily student oriented, with the junior board doing a lot in organizing the day," Krane, a member of the Community Service Club, said. "Also, we will get to work alongside kids from other schools."

Since this is the first time event for the Danforth Center, getting the word out has been a major difficulty. According to Clark, spreading the word has been the greatest challenge, but the Junior Board and other supporters "have been working hard to help us do so."

"Corporations, schools, religious organizations, professional associations, the media and countless individuals have been extremely positive and supportive," Clark said. "But we can always use more packaging and leadership volunteers to help us fulfill our goal."

To help with the cost of the food, packaging and shipping to Africa, the Danforth Center is asking for a registration fee of \$15 per student and \$20 per adult. More information about the event and registration is available at [www.danforthcenter.org/wfd](http://www.danforthcenter.org/wfd).

The Danforth Center World Food Day Commemoration is a great opportunity for students not only help alleviate hunger, but also work alongside people in the community who share the same passion to help others. ☺

# Fashion Club a refuge for old wardrobe students



Lauren Friedman  
Reporter

As students are reacquainted with their routine school schedules, many are eager to get involved in clubs. The extra-curricular activities are a way for them to do what they enjoy, while getting to spend time with other students who share common passions and interests.

In addition to the several unique student-run clubs offered at CHS, Fashion Club has been brought to the table this year as a way for students with a love for fashion to come together and share their creative ideas as well as combine their skills and input to design original works of art.

Seniors Grace Brumley and Andrea Glik, copresidents of Fashion Club, are very passionate about the club. They are eager to get others involved and excited their plans for this year.

"Fashion Club is not selective at all," Brumley said. "Everybody likes fashion, and the group is really open to any type of person."

As a result of former FACS and Wardrobe teacher Mrs. Williams' retirement last year, Wardrobe is not offered as a class for CHS students this school year. The club

was created as a way to bring together all CHS students who have a passion for fashion—even those who do not sew or have any background working with fashion.

According to Principal Louis Losos, there is not a teacher to teach FACS and Wardrobe right now. She is uncertain whether the school would have had time to hire the quality of a FACS teacher that they are searching for in time for this school year.

"The class is on a hiatus," Losos said. "It is not permanently cancelled, but I do feel sorry for a few seniors who would have participated in the class, had it been offered this year."

Fashion Club is trying to compensate for the lack of wardrobe class this year. The students get an opportunity to learn about, create, and experience fashion with originality.

Junior Caroline Kennard, a member of the new club, is thrilled to share her love of sewing with friends and classmates who are also interested in exploring and designing new fashions.

"It will be a great opportunity to work with all different people, while being introduced to so many unique styles and ideas," Kennard said.

Members of Fashion Club are excited to consolidate their designs and ideas to produce a fashion show that will be completely original.

"I cannot wait for the fashion show this year," sophomore Wayne Sexton said. "I have never worked with other people to make a collection, and I think it will be really interesting. This is right up my alley, so I am really thrilled."

Just like Sexton, Brumley and Glik are also really looking forward to producing a fashion show as a way to display members' authentic creations.

"We are most excited for the fashion show," Brumley said. "As a student run show, it will feature students' ideas and what they want to see. It will definitely be the superbowl of Fashion Club."

Fashion Club meets Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Andrea Glik's house. Members are only looking forward to working on projects, but also to hanging out and having a good time.

"There are guys and girls of all different personalities and styles who are involved," Glik said. "This shows that anyone who has an interest in fashion can be a part of this club." ☺

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# Summer journey to China yields cultural knowledge

**Philip Zhang**  
Editor

"I just wanted to see the world," history teacher Kurtis Werner said. And so he did.

This summer Werner spent 15 days in China as part of a program called the International Education Consortium, supported by Cooperating School Districts. The group this year included a total of 20 teachers from the greater St. Louis area and parts of Illinois.

Many preparations were made prior to the trip. "We attended 10 different meetings and listened to several lectures by Washington University professors, both in language and in history," Werner said. "We also read five different books and several articles that related to China. We were prepped and ready to go."

The trip's destinations included some of China's most populated and fastest growing cities like Shanghai and Beijing.

"Attending the Shanghai World Expo was an amazing experience," Werner said. "Our group was a big hit in the USA Pavilion to say the least."

Werner said his greatest thrill was seeing the Great Wall.

"You can go up the St. Louis arch, check out the view, but you have to come back down," Werner said. "The Wall just extends for miles in the beautiful countryside outside of Beijing."

Although he traveled to many tourist sites, Werner's experience in China was much more than just as a tourist. The program arranged for the group to stay in Peking University, where Werner had many opportunities to interact with the students, teachers, and other locals.

"The students wanted to speak English with you," Werner said. "They wanted to improve their English because it is the international language."

Werner's perspective changed slightly when it came to shopping in the local stores, where he learned a few bargaining tactics.

"I learned quickly that the international sign of communication is the calculator," Werner said. "It's culturally respectful to bargain and in some ways I enjoyed that."

Visiting small towns and cities in rural China like Pingyao was a completely different experience for Werner.

"Once you get outside of Beijing and Shanghai, you saw the rural countryside of China, the faces of the people, the 500 million rural farmers across this great nation," Werner said.

"You also saw the economic disparity between big cities and the rural countryside," Werner said. "This issue is certainly something China needs to deal with as people gain more rights."

Prior to the trip, Werner was aware of the many differences between China and the U.S.

"We knew going in that there were certain issues that you just didn't bring up respectfully, issues like Tiananmen Square," Werner said. "But the tour guides would pretty openly talk about it."

Werner talked to one lady who protested in the Square everyday during the 1989 demonstrations.

"The lady said that her kids just don't care about issues like the Tiananmen Square protest because they have everything that we didn't," Werner said.

China recently surpassed Japan and became the world's second largest economy in terms of GDP. Werner's experience in China helped him realize some of the reasons for such rapid growth. On the other hand, he also saw some potential problems.

"The government offered ideas of capitalism inside the country, hosting events such as the Beijing Olympics and the Shanghai World Expo," Werner said. "Can they do better with human rights? Yes. Can any country do better with human rights? Yes."

The economic growth has begun to take its toll on the environment. When Werner was in Beijing, sands of the Gobi desert blew into the city. Desertification is just one of many environmental problems that China currently faces.

Werner's trip was filled with surprises. Many of his previous views of China were changed.

From speaking with the locals, Werner realized that the language barrier was not as great as he had imagined.

"In the lines for the USA Pavilion in the Shanghai Expo, I spoke to a 10-year-old girl who went to a foreign language school," Werner said. "Her English was very fluent."

Outside of an elementary school in Quiling, Werner saw the students buying expansive read-along machines that talked to the students in English.

"Each student was buying them like they were hot cakes," Werner said. "I couldn't believe the amount of money that was being exchanged just so that students can have the technology to learn some English."

Werner predicts that the pouring of Chinese immigrants into the U.S. will slow down and that the Chinese economy will slightly reshape itself, all because of the growing sense of nationalism.

"I felt a strong sense of nationalism in China," Werner said. "As the world's largest exporter, China economy is currently producing products for America and other countries. I think they want to make cool products for the Chinese people."

In China, Werner wondered why he saw a lot of grown men wearing pink shirts.

"I had to ask men why are you wearing pink shirts, they said pink is a shade of red, which is supposed to reflect the color of the Chinese flag," Werner said. "That is one thing that really stuck with me."

Werner thinks that his trip to China will influence his curriculum.

"The goal was to try to relate any real life experiences into my curriculum. I will definitely use more artifacts," Werner said, pointing to the Buddha and the Shanghai Expo mascot Haibao on his shelf.

Werner wishes everyone could have the experience he had.

"Go to China, see the economic superpower at its height. And take in all the cultural experiences possible," Werner said. "Meet people, talk to people, and exchange stories. The number one thing is the communication between two different cultures." ☞



Courtesy of Kurtis Werner

ABOVE: History teacher Kurtis Werner in front of the Forbidden City. BELOW: In Tiananmen Square, Werner with teachers he traveled with. Werner traveled to China with a group of teachers from the St. Louis area.



Courtesy of Kurtis Werner

## News Briefs *What you need to know:*

On Sept. 21, the Senate blocked a procedural motion that would repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Tea Party candidates scored several GOP primary victories in states like Alaska, Delaware, and New York.

The European Union is set to decide next month if France's recent evacuations of illegal Gypsy, or Roma, camps have violated EU law.

China's premier threatened Japan after Japanese coast guard vessels took a Chinese sea captain captive.

Strikes in South Africa have closed hospitals and schools, leaving little care for AIDS and TB patients.

Several were killed in Afghanistan during protests over a rumored Koran burning by a Florida pastor. The plans for the burning were never carried out.

India sent lawmakers to Kashmir, in an effort to calm recent unrest. Over 100 Kashmir civilians were killed by Indian security officers.

## Optimistic outlook for trapped Chilean miners raises hopes

**Jocelyn Lee**  
World Editor

After 33 Chilean miners were trapped in a mine in early August, expectations were that it would take months to rescue the men. President Sebastián Piñera said that they would be home by Christmas at the latest. However, both rescuers and Piñera have recently expressed optimism about bringing the men up much earlier.

The process of drilling chutes into the mine and designing a capsule able to retrieve the miners has been progressing with few obstacles. According to The Associated Press, drills could reach the miners by the second week of October and the installation of a system to transport them up could occur without much delay. Originally, officials had projected the rescue to take place in November if all went smoothly.

"We're going a bit better than what we had expected," Chilean Mining Minister Laurence Golborne said, according to The Associated Press. "The timeline we have presented takes into consideration contingencies that always present themselves in these circumstances, and they have been fewer than expected. At this point we're a little bit ahead."

On Aug. 5, a cave-in of the mine trapped the miners, burying them 2,000 feet underground. For 17 days, they had no contact with the outside world. According to CHS psychology teacher David Aiello, being isolated from society for so long can make it difficult to survive mentally and physically.

"First of all, the brain craves stimulation," Aiello said. "Our 100 billion neurons and the countless amount of neural connections need constant stimulation to

keep ourselves mentally alert and fully functioning. Without that stimulation, we slowly begin to lose the ability to focus our attention on anything significant, even to the point of "forgetting" to eat or exercise."

On Aug. 22, they were all found to be alive and none were reported being severely affected by the isolation. Since then, they have been receiving water, food, and medical supplies through small holes that have been drilled. Video and modified telephone calls have made contact with the government, family, and friends possible.

Aiello said that sending the miners items that will help them

keep ourselves mentally alert and fully functioning. Without that stimulation, we slowly begin to lose the ability to focus our attention on anything significant, even to the point of "forgetting" to eat or exercise."

Several days after the men were discovered to be alive, the men filmed their living conditions, as well as messages to relatives, by way of a small camera sent down through one of the drilled holes. The video showed most of the miners to be in relatively good health and spirits. It also showed that they had organized their living space into areas for sleeping, eating, storing waste, and playing games.

The oldest of the men, Mario Gómez, has become a leader among them and has proven helpful to psychologists holding therapy sessions with the men, according to The New York Times. There are some concerns that separation from the outside world for so long may have negative psychological effects.

A couple of other men are also helping to maintain the health and organization of the men, while communicating with officials above.

"With the miners, the presence of their fellow miners probably served them well, as the strongest, both physically and mentally, urged the weaker members to keep active, alert, and alive," Aiello said. "My understanding is that they tried to set up some routines to fill the time, and they strongly helped make sure that all of them engaged in all of the activities virtually everyday."

The rescue effort needs to occur from both above and below. The New York Times said that the miners must clear up to 4,000 tons of rock falling from the rescue hole, and must do so in constant shifts around the clock.

Many have been impressed by the strong organizational effort of the miners, and Piñera said their unity is a strong message for all of Chile. ☞

"With the miners, the presence of their fellow miners probably served them well, as the strongest, both physically and mentally, urged the weaker members to keep active, alert, and alive."

**David Aiello**  
Psychology teacher

create a functioning mini-society, as well as tangible reminders of what they care about, is important. This includes photos, games, music, and books such as the Bible.

"If they could send down a television, they probably would," Aiello said. "It is these sort of mundane things that we miss when we don't have them, and when we do have them they lend



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# facebook

## Private information online

High school students increasingly post private information on their Facebook profiles, with many unaware of the potential consequences.

It's not uncommon to come across a photo on Facebook and wonder, "What were they thinking?"

Professor of Journalism at Kent State University Mark Goodman believes that students tend to post too much information about themselves online for all the world to see.

"Information that traditionally would have been considered private is no longer," Goodman said. "Students, by revealing aspects of their lives on their social networking pages and elsewhere, give information about their activities and interests that would only have been known by their closest friends in the past. Now anyone with an internet connect can know all about them."

Even though many students have strict privacy settings on their Facebook accounts, Goodman does not believe that this is enough.

"[Facebook profiles are] not secure at all," Goodman said. "Anyone who believes only their 'friends' will see what they post on a social networking site is living in a dream world. It only takes one friend cutting and pasting (or doing a screen capture) and forwarding that information on to others for the information to become viral and accessible to millions around the world. Anyone who posts anything cannot prevent that."

A thought lurking in the back of many CHS seniors' minds is what would happen if a college admissions officer were to stumble upon incriminating photos posted on Facebook.

The question as to whether or not colleges actually look at applicants' Facebook profiles is still up for debate.

Julie Shimabukuro, Director of Admissions at Washington University in St. Louis, confirms that they "do not look at students' Facebook accounts as part of the admissions process."

However, according to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal, 10% of admissions officers look at social-networking sites to evaluate applicants.

Of the colleges who used online resources to further evaluate applicants, 38% said that their views of the applicants were "negatively affected" and 25% said that their views of the applicants were improved.

CHS College Counselor Carolyn Blair believes that CHS students need to consider what they put on their Facebook profiles, both for schools and even for future jobs.

"Students, by revealing aspects of their lives on their social networking pages and elsewhere, give information about their activities and interests that would only have been known by their closest friends in the past."

**Mark Goodman**  
Kent State Professor

Blair believes that because colleges have their own pages on Facebook, they can be used to view profiles with fewer privacy restrictions.

Additionally, although Blair believes that finances would be a deterrent for colleges hoping to use Facebook as an admissions tool, that there are other less official ways that a student's Facebook could come under consideration. As the young, Facebook-using generation grows old enough to actually have positions in the admissions offices, these officers could easily have mutual Facebook friends with applicants and see their profiles.



Dee Luo

"Colleges don't have to be out there looking for things to get information on Facebook that's out there," Blair said. "It's a public domain, so both for college applications, as well as later for employment, you have to be smart about what you have out there online."

Students are also legally liable for what they post on Facebooks, even if it's posted from home. "If a student libels someone or invades someone's privacy, for example, that student is legally responsible for the consequences of their actions and could be sued for what he or she posted," Goodman said.

Many CHS seniors change their names temporarily through the college process to avoid col-

lege admissions officers finding their profile. Senior Jessica Merrick, or "Jss Merc," as she is called on her Facebook profile, created a false name on Facebook more for fun than to avoid prying college admissions officers.

"I don't think my Facebook should be used as part of the admissions process," Merrick said. "Even though I don't really have anything to 'hide,' but I also think it's a senior tradition."

In fact, Merrick thinks that using Facebook profiles wouldn't actually be a good indicator for colleges in the admissions process.

"I don't think my Facebook should reflect if I'm a 'good fit' for the school," Merrick said.

## The invasion into

By Dawn Androphy  
Co-Editor in Chief

### Newsfeed

What's your worst Facebook procrastination?



**Colleen Layton** sometimes I will go through my homework. that makes me sound like an extra credit person.  
2 hours ago . Comment . Like



**Blayke Jaques** my worst facebook procrastination pop up on my computer and i do my homework... but find my self roaming through the internet.  
3 hours ago . Comment . Like



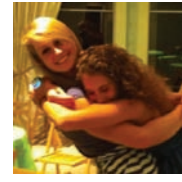
**Jonah Lindhbad** I had a research paper due and I was procrastinating by chatting someone I had never met before.  
3 hours ago . Comment . Like



**Becca Steinberg** since I have math class I don't want to start anything big beforehand, so I procrastinate. when I get home I need to eat dinner and then I need to chill for a bit, right? Two hours later, it's 11:30.  
4 hours ago . Comment . Like



**Dylan Brown** I got home from school and I was procrastinating my homework I went on Facebook and I found my research paper at 1 am...  
5 hours ago . Comment . Like

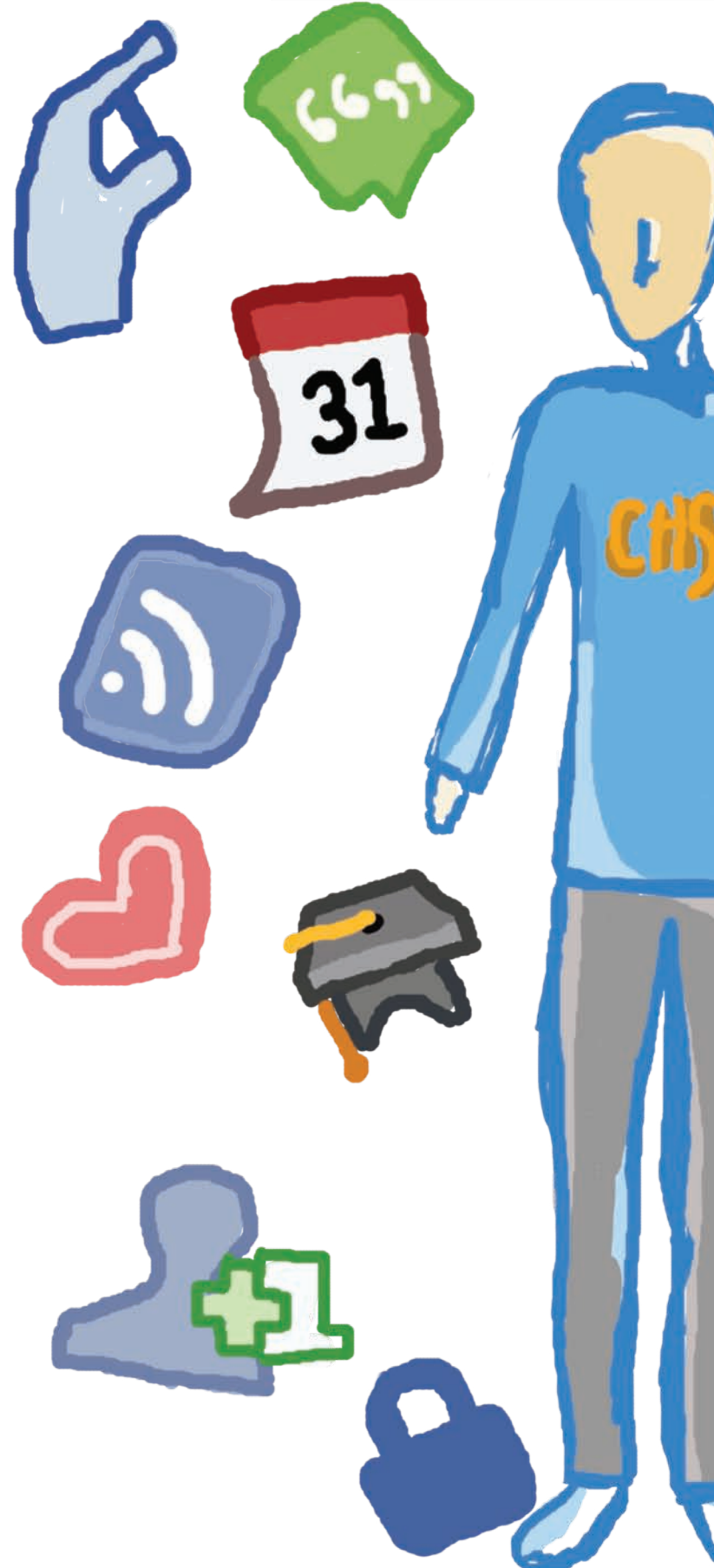


**Stephanie Avery** I once stayed up until, like, 3:00 AM, I checked facebook.  
5 hours ago . Comment . Like

## By the Numbers

-  Facebook has more than 500 million active users.
-  The average Facebook user is connected to 80 community pages, groups and events.
-  50% of active Facebook users log on to Facebook on any given day.
-  People spend over 700 billion minutes per month on Facebook.
-  More than 30 billion pieces of content (web links, news stories, blog posts, notes, photo albums, etc.) are shared on Facebook each month.
-  More than 150 million people access Facebook from their mobile devices. These people are twice as active on Facebook than non-mobile users.

Statistics are from Facebook.com



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in story?

ugh every single photo of a friend or two just to avoid creeper.

destination is when i'm doing homework and i get a notification to check it and return right back to my home—all my friends facebook stats!!!

ue the next day and I spent the entire night facebook

on Tuesday night from 6:30-9:00 it can seem silly sometimes waste the entire time on facebook and then then i just got home from math class, so I'm allowed t's 11:30 and the homework has not yet been start-

I had a driving lesson for two hours instead of start- d watched a TV show premiere for 2 hours, I started

ke, 2 a.m. doing homework. Then, before I went to



# A QUIXOTIC TASK

CHS students who don't want to join Facebook find staying off the social networking site to be a nearly impossible task.

As Facebook becomes more essential to everyday life at CHS, more students find it impossible to avoid the site and the conveniences it offers.

During the process of writing this article, it was nearly impossible to find a CHS student who wasn't on Facebook at all. Finally, Senior Marquise Griffin agreed to be interviewed about his choice to stay off Facebook. However, by the week of the interview, Griffin had finally relented and joined Facebook after previously refusing to join for the entirety of his time at CHS.

"I finally (and unenthusiastically) decided to join Facebook in order to stay connected with my extracurriculars and so I could be reached for important events or meetings," Griffin said. "Apparently, in almost all of my clubs, I was the only one solely dependent on my email and cell phone as my means of being notified about important things."

Events for CHS activities such as the Politics Club, Community Service Club, and even plans for Homecoming festivities have all turned to Facebook to spread the news about upcoming events and meetings.

Without a Facebook account, it can become nearly impossible to participate in any CHS activities at all. Otherwise, a student might never find out that the day of a meeting has changed or know where their class is building their Homecoming float that weekend.

Since joining Facebook, Griffin has noticed that keeping up with his extracurricular activities has become easier, but worries about the extent to which Facebook has become tied to his life after joining just weeks ago.

"I understand the advantage it provides in terms of staying connected with others, but I do not like how Facebook facilitates largely impersonal, electronic interaction, which is inherently addictive due to all of the things one can do on Facebook," Griffin said. "It is well known that because of the ease and convenience by

which people can connect with others as well as advertise themselves, people are increasingly spending more time on Facebook versus committing their time to more productive venues."

Griffin is also worried about the ways in which Facebook or other parties could po-

tentially use the information he puts on Facebook.

These concerns are, apparently, justified. In 2005, two MIT students did a study on Facebook privacy.

The students were able to download information from over 70,000 Facebook users using an automated script, thus proving that "private" information on Facebook is indirectly accessible even to those outside the corporation. They determined that information people place on Facebook, even privately, is not completely safe.

The study also found that a vast majority of people had never read the Privacy Policy or Terms of Service, thus insuring that most Facebook users don't know what Facebook can or can't do with the data they post online.

As Griffin continues to use Facebook to aid his participation in school activities, he plans to tread cautiously and not post what he believes to be too much information about himself.

"From my perspective, it seems that through activities such as "status updates" or "what's on your mind?" users voluntarily give up their privacy until there comes a point where everything a person does, says, or thinks is advertised over Facebook," Griffin said. "When all of that is posted online, it's permanent. Is it really a good idea to have everything you do or say be on indefinite display for the world to see?"

"I finally (and unenthusiastically) decided to join Facebook in order to stay connected with my extracurriculars and so I could be reached for important events or meetings."

Marquise Griffin  
Senior

## Attendance by Class

Courses		Q1	Q2	S1
Class	Teacher	F	F	
Facebook	Independent study	A+	A+	
Class	Teacher	F	F	
Class	Teacher	F	F	
Class	Teacher	F	F	

Dee Luo

## Facebook fosters environmentally friendly, interactive assignments

CHS students may not be allowed to use Facebook at school, but students in CHS science teacher Chuck Collis's AP Environmental Science classes access some of their schoolwork on Facebook.

Collis created a Facebook page entitled "CHS APES" separate from his own account.

Each week, he posts approximately five to six articles about current events related to environmental sciences. Students are required to post a "substantive" comment on one article each week.

After a less-than-successful attempt at a similar system on Twitter last year, Collis turned to Facebook because it is a much more commonly used social networking website among students at CHS. With that switch made,

Collis noticed that the students were much more receptive.

"I had hoped that it would turn out something like this on Twitter last year, but quickly I saw that it wasn't working," Collis said. "I think that almost nobody ever read any of the things that I posted. So, it wasn't a method that I ever used for collecting assignments."

This year, however, Collis has been impressed by the success of the system this year and the participation on Facebook. In particular, he like the interactivity that Facebook al-

lows in comparison to a typical written assignment that might be turned in otherwise.

"Referencing other students' comments, I think, is always good," Collis said. "I like it when they turn into discussions, rather than just a recitation of what has been learned."

Additionally, in a tie-in to the overall theme of environmental awareness in AP Environmental Science, Collis is excited about the idea of doing these assignments completely electronically without having to waste any paper.

"I think that it gives them more diversity about what they can choose to read," Collis said. "I mean, I certainly wouldn't photocopy six articles and hand them out in a weekly packet and say, 'Choose one out of these to read.' It would be a fantastic waste of paper."

Collis also feels that, although these assignments are being done on a website that CHS students normally reserve for joking wall posts or commenting on photos from weekend festivities, the system doesn't interfere with the social lives of the students.

"I never really thought about it because, while Facebook is a social medium, I don't feel like I'm jumping into my students' social lives," Collis said. "This is just a vehicle for getting them a variety of articles that they can read."

Dee Luo

# SOLAR STORMS

These powerful geomagnetic fields threaten to disrupt communications, satellites and electricity on earth.

Shuyang Li  
Reporter

Every few days, the sun is wracked by explosions. Though they release enormous amounts of energy, these solar flares are fairly benign. Most have no appreciable impact on the earth. Solar storms, however, are a different matter.

The Southwest Research Institute (SWRI) classifies solar storms into two categories.

"Recurrent storms occur every 27 days, corresponding to the Sun's rotation period," says the SWRI website. "Non-recurrent geomagnetic storms, on the other hand, occur most frequently near solar maximum."

The solar maximum often occurs within three to four years into one of the "11-year sunspot cycles," according to Dr. Tony Phillips on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) website. That would place the next one in 2012, four years

into the cycle that started in December of 2008.

However, even if a solar maximum occurs, Phillips says there is no obvious pattern to their severity.

"Solar maxima can be intense, as in 1958, or barely detectable, as in 1805," Phillips said.

In an article on the NASA website, astrophysicist Richard Fisher describes the sun as "waking up from a deep slumber and in the next few years we expect to see much higher levels of solar activity. At the same time, our technological society has developed an unprecedented sensitivity to solar storms." Mausumi Dikpati of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), however, seems to have made a breakthrough. As Phillips explains, Dikpati utilized the theory of a "conveyor belt on the sun" to predict the upcoming solar maximum.

It will be "the most intense solar maximum in 50 years... a burst of solar activity second only to the historic Solar Max of 1958," Dikpati said.

But what does all this have to do with Clayton?

"Due to the seething plasma that compose the star, there are magnetic storms that spew large quantities of space particles our way at periodic intervals," chemistry teacher Nathan Peck said.

Because of these particles, the earth's magnetic field is reversed.

"The high energy protons can cause biological damage," Peck said. "Mostly we don't worry about these because the atmosphere shields us fairly well."

"Widespread voltage control problems and protective system problems" could occur, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website. Satellites "may experience extensive surface charging, problems with orientation, uplink/downlink and tracking satellites" as well.

Peck concurred: "If a big one occurs, which will eventually happen, we'd be without electricity or satellite communication for an extended period of

time, maybe even a month or two."

It is still uncertain whether Dikpati's predicted storm will hit or how large it will be. However, researchers agree that a large solar storm hitting the world will cause widespread infrastructural damage.

"Radiation is trapped at the poles," astronomy teacher Jennifer Adams said. "What happens then is the aurora."

"It has the potential to knock out our communications and radio," Adams continued. "There's really no way to protect against that."

So are we then helpless in the face of the predicted solar storm?

"I think that when there is a need for something, especially in a crisis, usually people will find a way to solve this problem," Adams said.

The solar storm will hit the earth at some time whether we like it or not, but it's up to humans to determine the outcome. ☛

## Oil damage serious, but not permanent

Caitlin Kropp  
Features Editor

April 20, 2010, was a day like any other. Business people went to work, children went to school, the sun shone, and, out in the Gulf of Mexico, an oil rig went about its daily work of drilling underwater wells for oil recovery. Unfortunately, that complacent normalcy could not last.

That rig, named the Deepwater Horizon, exploded on April 20, after an uncontrollable burst of methane gas shot from the well and ignited on deck.

Eleven workers were killed and 17 injured, and, beneath the ocean's surface, a leak had sprung in the oil well. That leak turned into a spill, which in turn became the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, commonly referred to as the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill, the largest accidental marine spill in history, according to Encyclopedia of the Earth.org.

After numerous failed attempts to stop the oil spill, including caps and blowout valves, it was finally capped on July 15, 2010. However, the damage had already been done.

In the 86 days the oil was permitted to flow unchecked, researchers estimate that about 4.9 million barrels of crude oil were released into the Gulf of Mexico.

While the extreme addition of so much oil is troublesome, the presence of oil in the ocean is far from new. Oil has actually been present in marine ecosystems for years, due to a much more natural source.

"There are natural oil leaks on the ocean floor," said David

Kirschner, the Associate Professor of Geology at Saint Louis University. "A lot of oil seeps into the ocean. To have an oil rig leaking is definitely not good, and the catastrophic-ness of the leak is far above the magnitude of what you would find naturally leaking into the sea. But there are still small, natural leaks that are always seeping oil."

The effects of the oil spill range in scope from ecological disasters to economic pitfalls. Oxygen depletion and the toxicity of the petroleum can poison ecosystems far and wide, leading to mass deaths of marine life.

"What has been affected the most are the near shore habitats, with the oil coming up onto beaches, sitting on curbs, etc.," said Chuck Collis, the CHS AP Environmental Sciences teacher. "They're still trying to figure out the extent of coverage under the water, because we're just not sure at this point."

The globs of oil circulating through the environment congest waterways and pose hazards to any animal unlucky enough to cross its path.

"It kills birds when it coats them, and it kills other animals, sea turtles and things like that, when it coats them," Collis said. "Sometimes people are able to find these animals and clean them, but I've read some reports that said most of the animals that have been cleaned are going to die anyway."

The clean-up efforts are ongoing, and include an array of deflection, dispersal, and removal techniques.

The most commonly used

is containment, wherein large stretches of containment boom (specially designed barriers to hold back floating surface oil) are deployed to either corral the oil, or block it from entering marshland or other aquatic environments. The contained oil is then skimmed off and recycled for product, or burned in massive controlled fires.

These methods are only semi-effective, as the containment booms only really operate in calm or slow-moving water, which isn't always the case in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, the booms only corral the oil on the surface of the water. The oil globules dispersed throughout the water itself, lower down, are not reached by these devices. Also, the use of fires to destroy the oil can be potentially harmful for any and all surrounding marine life, as well as the airborne types, as the fires emit huge clouds of smoke and gas.

"It's pretty black stuff that comes up off of these burns, which means that there are going to be a lot of particulates," Collis said. "I don't know what harm these particulates are actually going to do, seeing as they're burning them at least ten miles away from shore. You'll also get greenhouse gases, like carbon monoxide, but much of that oil was going to be burned anyway, in cars and whatnot."

The other technique in effect currently is that of dispersal. Airplanes are used to spray large quantities of chemical dispersants, normally COREXIT, over the oil slicks. Over time, the chemicals will cause the oil to break down far enough that it



Boaters make their way along the edge of the oil slick about a quarter mile from the eastern shore of Louisiana's Chandeleur Islands, part of the Breton National Wildlife Refuge not long after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

can be consumed by natural processes.

COREXIT, while effective, is also deleterious to the health of the marine life. It has been reported to cause genetic mutations as well as cancer among the animals and plants within the spray zone. In addition, the bacteria and such that consume the broken down oil molecules consume an excess of oxygen, stealing it away from the already oxygen-depleted environment.

In addition to the environmental cleanup, many have been calling for a cleanup in oil rig procedures, especially after a special report released by BP sighted eight reasons why the Deepwater Horizon originally blew up.

However, many forget the true nature of drilling for oil, looking only at such catastrophic and widely covered events as the Gulf Oil Spill.

"Drilling is a hard profession, especially when you're dealing with such depths," Kirschner said. "There are explosions and problems probably once a month. So people who think, 'Oh, it's so easy and they just screwed up their procedures,' have never worked on a rig."

As the cleanup efforts continue, both on- and off-shore, several wonder when the oil will be completely gone from the Gulf of Mexico. The answer from scientists? They simply do not know. "It's impossible to say," Collis

said. "The last giant oil spill in the United States happened a couple of years ago, and it was down in Alaska. It was completely different conditions: it's much warmer in the Gulf, and it has more room to spread out."

Despite this lack of a definitive timeline for the cleanup, the ocean will eventually clear up, with the coastal areas taking longer to do so.

"The damage to the ocean from the oil is not permanent," Kirschner said. "The damage to the coastline, with the mangroves, can be, because the oil gets stored in there for a long time and doesn't break up. But the ocean itself will be able to recover from it over time." ☛

Helen Wiley

Carolyn Cole/Los Angeles Times/MCT



## CHS graduates reunite on turf

Anat Gross  
Sports Editor

It's a high school reunion; on turf. On Saturday, Sept. 25, the Washington University Bears will face the Westminster College Blue Jays. Playing on each team are three CHS graduates.

Hal Lewis (CHS class of 2009), Adam Banks (2009), and Jake Lewis (2007) currently play for the Wash U. Bears, while Rodney Lyles (2007), Brandon Powell (2007) and Jared Neely (2007) play for Westminster. Sophomore linebacker Hal Lewis is excited to face some of his former teammates.

"I am definitely looking forward to playing some former teammates on Westminster this Saturday," Hal Lewis said. "It's going to be an exciting game and a real dog fight."

Similarly, junior defensive lineman Lyles is eager and quite confident about Saturday's game.

"I feel good about going against my old teammates because they already know what I'm going to bring to the table," Lyles said. "So in other words, they better bring their A games."

Despite the new uniforms, team mascot, schools, and teammates, each of these players began their football careers as Greyhounds.

Looking back on the years, each player had very fond memories of their high school football careers, ranging from gathering with teammates in the locker room to winning the state championship.

"I definitely think about beating 'The Team to the West,'" to quote Coach Horrell, year in and year out," said junior offensive lineman Jake Lewis. "Especially my senior year when we were 1-4 going in against a 4-1 Ladue team to beat them by 30 points with Charter there broadcasting it."

"I remember being a loose cannon, that always showed up on game day, despite my disruptive approach during practice," Lyles said. "I actually think football is the only reason I graduated from CHS."

Playing in college presented a new challenge to each of the players, becoming more of a time commitment and more like a job.

"College is a lot faster and more mentally challenging than high school," said junior wide receiver Jared Neely. "The pace is a lot faster and the players are a lot stronger."

Along with the faster pace, the college teams put more emphasis on skills and technique pertinent to a player's specific position.

"Also, practice in college is only on one side of the ball, for me offense, so it has much more emphasis on technique and position specific periods with competition periods being heavy on the contact," Jake Lewis said. "I love my position coach here at Wash U and he has really helped me develop my skills and technique to give me the confidence that I should never lose a one-on-one battle at this level."

While the practices may be far more rigorous than those of a high school team, making it extremely difficult to balance school and athletics, football has benefited both the player's college experience and work ethic.

"I have enjoyed college football but it is a lot more challenging than in high school," Hal Lewis said. "It is extremely difficult to balance the college workload with sports... However, I think college football has ultimately improved my work ethic."

Continuing to play with their high school teammates has enhanced the players' experience, providing extra motivation as well as a foundation for stronger friendships.



Abbie Minton

Former CHS Greyhounds Jake Lewis and Rodney Lyles will line up against one another in Saturday's game.

"It's great being able to play with my best friends," Lyles said. "Us being on the same team and all wanting to be the best, makes us step our game up to the next level, just to impress or show the other friend up."

Along with the bonds and memories between friends, brothers Hal and Jake Lewis have been able to improve their relationship through the sport.

"Playing with Hal is a lot of fun," said Jake Lewis. "We have so much in common now being on the same football team as well as being in the same fraternity that he is one of my best friends, my brother, and my fraternity brother. I really root for him whenever he is in."

Lyles had some advice for football players hoping to continue playing high school.

"Make sure you stay in your books, because without the grades, more than likely you're not going to

get a chance," said Lyles.

Hal Lewis would advise current athletes "to work extremely hard in the weight room. It may not make much of a difference in high school but it is the difference between average and good football players in college. Also, never take high school football for granted."

Jake Lewis would remind would-be college players that "ability alone is not enough. Every lineman in college is as big or bigger than the biggest lineman in high school. Every skill position player is as fast or faster and as good or better than any skill position player in high school."

Despite the separate paths they have taken, the players will remain connected by their high school football experience together.

"We all will be greyhounds till the day we die," said Lyles. ☺

## A student perspective: NFL PREVIEW

Srijesh Panth  
Reporter

### WHO'S HOT

**Saints** – Sure, they may not have acquired any stars, but the former Superbowl champs are still the team to beat and they have all the tools to win it again. Drew Brees looked "breezy" as usual, racking up 237 yards along with one touchdown to grab a 14-9 win in the Saints' season opener against Brett Favre and the Minnesota Vikings. The tough Saints' defense held Brett Favre to a mediocre 171 yards, one touchdown, and forced one interception. Both the Saints' defense and offense looked great and if they keep up this type of play, they are going to be difficult to beat.



Brian Peterson/Minneapolis Star Tribune/MCT

**Jets** – With a five time pro-bowl running back (LaDainian Tomlinson) and the MVP of the 2009 Superbowl (Santonio Holmes) joining their ranks, the Jets' offense is going to be extremely difficult to bring down. That's not to say they don't also have a tough defense, led by one of the league's best cornerbacks, Darelle Revis. However, what separates the New York Jets from other teams isn't just their hot trade-deals, but their hot mentality. They have the fire to believe; a will so strong that if any foe lets their guard down, the Jets will rip them to shreds. Though they narrowly lost their season opener, 10-9, to the Baltimore Ravens, I believe that they still are capable of being a powerhouse in the NFL.



David Pokress/Newsday/MCT

**Patriots** – Despite being hammered about their young secondary, the New England Patriots silenced pessimists by dominating 34-24 in their season opener against the Cincinnati Bengals. Quarterback Tom Brady had a solid 258 yard game, along with three touchdowns. Receiver Wes Welker, who recently returned from surgery, played well with two touchdown receptions and 64 total yards. The young New England secondary played decently by limiting Bengals' QB Carson Palmer to two touchdowns, and forced one interception. However, Palmer was still able to pass for a whopping 345 yards. After some brush-ups on defense, the veteran Patriots will be a team to reckon with due to their strong receivers, and legendary QB.



Bob Pepping, MCT

### WHO'S NOT



Bob Snow/Macon Telegraph/MCT

**Steelers** – Ouch, it isn't fun losing your superstar receiver (Santonio Holmes). Double ouch- neither is losing your star quarterback, even if it is for four games. After being accused of sexual assault, QB Ben Roethlisberger is suspended for four games in the regular season. Talk about loss of faith; how can Big Ben's teammates look at him the same way? Even when Roethlisberger comes back, there's going to be problems with leadership, trust, etc. All in all, the Steelers are not going to be the same. They barely scraped past 15-9 in their season opener against the Atlanta Falcons. Steelers' quarterback Dennis Dixon had a mediocre game with 236 yards, zero touchdowns, and one interception.



Chris Lee/St. Louis Post-Dispatch/MCT

**Cardinals** – No team is going to miss a player more than the Arizona Cardinals will miss Kurt Warner. Not only did Warner lead the Cardinals to two playoff appearances (including one Superbowl), he displayed leadership, efficiency, and sturdiness. In their 2010 season opener, the Cardinals narrowly defeated the Rams 17-13. Cardinal quarterback Ryan Anderson was played decently with 297 yards and one touchdown. Despite his good start, it will be difficult for Anderson to fill the wide gap Warner left in the team, as he is new to the team and has yet to synch with them.



Zia Nizami/St. Louis Post-Dispatch/MCT

**Sam Bradford and the Rams** – The supposed messiah for the St. Louis Rams did not have a good NFL start. He threw 253 yards, one touchdown, and three interceptions in the Rams' season opener against the Arizona Cardinals. Bradford did not show the formidable play he demonstrated in the NFL pre-season. Though Bradford seems to be an efficient, strong, and quick quarterback, he has to improve those stats if he wants to maintain his influence in the team. Hometown Hero? To live up to that expectation, Bradford has got to perform much better than he did against the Cardinals. ☹

## BRIDGET DOUGAN



Lizabeth Skora

### female athlete of the month

Sarah Tait  
Editor

The ideal athlete not only works to better herself as much as possible, but also strives to better those around them. Bridget Dougan, a defensive player on the CHS volleyball team, fulfills both of those criteria.

"I try to keep going and keep everyone else positive as well," Dougan said.

Dougan is the libero on the team, a strictly defensive player whose job it is to add ball control to the court and keep the ball in play.

Because the libero has no offensive duties, they are largely responsible for maintaining the team's defense.

Dougan has not only proved herself capable of handling this responsibility, she has shown that she can excel at this position.

Already this season, Dougan has 38 digs (the receiving of a spiked or hard hit ball), six aces, and has the best serve-serve percentage on the team with 93%.

"Bridget has been very consistent this season," said varsity head coach Liz Hickox. "Her consistency and work ethic are what sets her apart on the team."

Junior Nikki Tomova agrees that Dougan has made herself stand out. Tomova plays defense with Dougan on the team and has played with Dougan for the past five years.

"Bridget's really good at defense," said Tomova. "She talks well to the rest of the defense to let them know where the hit is going."

Dougan's level of play is the result of years of hard work. Since sixth grade, Dougan has pushed herself so that she can reach her full potential.

"I've played almost every position on the court," said Dougan. "Over the years, I've improved a lot on serving, passing, and hitting."

Despite her many accomplishments, Dougan isn't planning to stop working any time soon. She's still dedicated to working on anything that could help improve her play.

"I want to work on keeping my feet moving throughout the game this year and getting to the ball," said Dougan.

Dougan's work ethic hasn't gone unnoticed, her team and her coach are all witnesses to the effort she has put into her game.

"Bridget leads by example," said Hickox. "She has great work ethic and she's always wanting to improve and play more."

However, Dougan's performance is only one aspect of her playing. Above all else, Dougan is an exemplary teammate.

Sophomore Katherine DeBoer recognizes the notable effect Dougan has on the team.

"Everyone feeds off of Bridget's positive energy," said DeBoer. "We all do better when she's on the floor cheering us on and pumping everyone up."

Tomova echoes DeBoer's sentiments about Dougan's value as a teammate.

"Bridget is always smiling," said Tomova. "She's good friends with everyone on the team and really motivates them."

Such a high level of comfort with the team is perhaps a product of Dougan's experience level. As a returning Varsity player, Dougan has begun to come into her own as a player.

"This year, Bridget is a lot more seasoned and comfortable" said Hickox. "She's really coming into her seniority, and I can see the improvement from last year to this year."

Though plenty has changed through the years of Dougan's playing, one thing has remained constant: her love for the game.

"I love the momentum of volleyball and how close you can be with your team," said Dougan. "I look forward to the rest of the year." ☺

# Hounds demonstrate marked improvement on field

**Jon Knohl**  
Reporter

After a highly disappointing 2009 football campaign, the Greyhounds hope to improve. The team has already doubled its win total from last year's losing season. The Hound's record is 2-2.

One reason why the team is so successful this season is because of its offensive strategies. One offensive strategy that has really done so damage to the scoreboard is the Crazy Greyhound, otherwise known as the Wildcat offense. The Crazy Greyhound came into the mix when senior quarterback, Chase Haslett got a concussion in the game against Afton. With Haslett out, Coach Sam Horrell decided to shake things up a little and put sophomore Tyler Walker in charge of running the Crazy Greyhound.

"Chase was out and the coaches wanted to try something new." Sophomore Tyler Walker said. "They threw me in and called it the crazy greyhound. I felt pretty comfortable running it and when I got the first snap I ran right behind Big Jeff (Jeffery Rothenberg) and I knew right then it was going to work."

Other key factors that add to the Greyhound's season are the spread offense and the running game. With Running backs Kameron Stewart and Tyler Walker leading the way on the ground, the hounds have one of the best running games in the metro area.

"Kam is a beast." Sophomore and JV Quarterback Aaron Adams said. "He runs down the field bumps into opponents and never falls down. He is one of the hardest working players on the team and that is what allows him to be so successful. He is definitely a

huge asset to the team."

Stewart has run for 544 yards in four games and averages 5.4 yards per carry.

The running game wouldn't be so successful if it wasn't for the offensive line. On the line is Jeffery Rothenberg, Tyler Robertson, Wolfy Gaidis, Brad Puricelli, and Ben Williams.

If it wasn't for the offensive line the passing game also wouldn't be as effective. Helping Haslett score the touchdowns are receivers Jeremy Phillips, Seth Thornton, Cody Peck, and also Tyler Walker.

Leading the team in receiving are Tyler Walker and Jeremy Phillips.

Offense wins games but defense wins championships. The Greyhound's defense has also come up strong this season. The defense has accounted for eight sacks, three fumble recoveries, and two interceptions so far this season.

"The strongest part of our defense is shutting down the run game." Senior running back and linebacker, Kameron Stewart said. "We have big hogs on the line pushing everything back and we have linebackers and defensive backs who like to hit hard."

The defense on average is allowing 21.5 points for game.

The Greyhounds still have a long season ahead and a tough district pool to play in. District play starts on Oct.16 at University City, followed by a two game home stand to finish off the season against rivals Ladue and M.L.C.D.S. Also cheer on the Hounds on Saturday Oct. 2 against conference foes, the Normandy Vikings, for their homecoming game. The game starts at noon immediately after the parade. ☘



TOP: Dominic Mena (40) chases an Afton player on Sept. 10. BOTTOM LEFT: The Greyhounds walk across the field during the Lutheran North game. BOTTOM RIGHT: Tyler Walker (5), Kameron Stewart (23) and Brad Puricelli (54) share a high five during the Lutheran North game.

Photos by Thala Sass

## KAMERON STEWART



Thala Sass

## male athlete of the month

**Anat Gross**  
Sports Editor

Senior Captain Kameron Stewart leads the Varsity football team in their trek towards a redeeming season. With three games thus far, Stewart leads the team offensively with five touchdowns and 450 yards rushing.

Head Coach Sam Horrell has high expectations for the returning starter this year.

"We expect Kameron to be a positive leader in the school and on the football field," Horrell said. "He should be one of our most productive members of our offensive and defensive units."

In the first game of the season, Stewart proved to be quite productive. According to Horrell, "He rushed for over 100 yards in the first game of the year and led the defense to shutting down Lutheran North's offense to 139 yards. He individually had as many yards as the entire Lutheran North offense."

Stewart would follow with another outstanding performance in the second game against Borgia. He rushed for a total of 269 yards and had 3 touchdowns. The Clayton run game was unstoppable with Stewart in the backfield.

Yet, his performance does not happen without hard work. Stewart spent the offseason weight lifting and running to prepare for his last season as a Greyhound.

According to Assistant Varsity Coach Barry Ford, Stewart spent the summer running each morning at 6:30, and "deserves to be athlete of the month because he has worked for it not only on the field, but in the offseason."

Stewart's work ethic is respected by both the coaches and his teammates.

Sophomore Co-Captain Tyler Walker sees Stewart as having the same role as his teammates, but who is also a reputable leader.

"Kameron's role is just like everyone else on the team," Walker said. "He's supposed to stay in his correct alignment and do his correct assignment. But since he's a captain he's looked up to more than others and to come through when the team is really in need. He offers a great amount of leadership. I respect how hard he works on and off the field. Practice, game, school, weight room. But he also is like a big brother. If I ever need anything I can go to him."

Along with offseason training, according to Stewart "to be a good football player, you have to be fearless and prepared to make a game changing play. A good team has to trust each other to play their responsibilities and be accountable."

Walker enjoys playing alongside Stewart both offensively and defensively.

"Playing alongside him is pretty fun," Walker said. "He always encourages me when I'm down and picks the team up with his play making ability. [He's] by far the best running back I've seen."

Every game the football team's ability to trust one another is put to the test. And it is this test and challenge that each game presents which Stewart enjoys most.

"My favorite thing about playing is working hard with my team and putting everything together on Friday nights," Stewart said.

It is clear that each play Stewart is unwilling to quit, he struggles against the eleven opponents attempting to take him down, and each play he gets up again ready to pound the ball through a second time.

"What separates him from others is his work ethic and his game play," Walker said. "He never quits on himself or his team, always going 100%."

Stewart has high hopes for the future of his football career, hoping to play Division I or Division I-AA next year. ☘

## Swim team making strides

**David Androphy**  
Reporter

Despite many seniors graduating last year, CHS boys' swimming coach Wally Lundt is expecting nothing but success for his young team.

An experienced coach, Lundt was a long-time coach at CHS from 1957-1990 and returned again to coach at CHS in 2004. The team wasn't as successful as they had hoped last season because of their small team of 15 swimmers.

This season, returning players are the key to the team's success. These returning players must learn to build on the ups and downs from last year in order for them to improve. The upperclassmen in particular need to show veteran leadership, as they will be some of the core players on the team who will hopefully have a shot at qualifying for state.

J.B. Garfinkel (CHS '10) was the only swimmer last year to qualify for state. Lundt realizes that this leaves a very young roster of swimmers for this season.

"We have a young team, mostly freshman and sophomores," Lundt said.

Many of the players, who are already making a lot of progress, are sophomores Aaron Graubert, Jack Layden, Nico Salavaggi, and Roger Taylor and freshman Noah Youkilis.

The enthusiasm is high among these swimmers, as many of them will be on the swim team for the next three to four years. Lundt hopes that this enthusiasm will make up for the lack of experience.

"We have goals of improving," Lundt said.

Lundt noted sophomore Roger Taylor as a young

swimmer who is already showing signs of a mature swimmer, despite only having joined the team this year.

"Roger Taylor, who just joined the team, is doing really well," Lundt said.

This is a good sign for the team as it shows that newcomers are catching onto the system very well and are recording impressive times. Juniors and seniors are not the only ones improving with their swimming times as the freshmen and sophomores are taking a huge leap forward.

Improving swimming times are not the only aspects of the CHS swimming team that will allow them to succeed. Good chemistry between the players and the coach are important, as well.

"He's a great coach," freshman Mo Mills said. "He's really supportive and competitive at the same time."

Senior Charlie Beard probably has the most pressure to succeed this year as the only returning senior. He has high expectations for how well his team is going to perform.

"I think we are going to do better than last year," Beard said. "We have young talent with a lot of quality freshmen and sophomores. Our juniors are also really good. Unfortunately, I'm the only senior."

Beard also feels a responsibility to be a team leader because of his seniority.

"I think I'm sort of like a pack leader," Beard said. "I feel I'm an inspiration to the rest of the team."

The CHS boys' swim has already had a great start to their season by defeating University City High School in their first match. ☘

"I think we are going to do better than last year. We have young talent with a lot of quality freshmen and sophomores. Our juniors are also really good. Unfortunately, I'm the only senior."

**Charlie Beard**  
Senior



Hannah Feagans

Charlie Beard, the lone senior, swims the butterfly. As captain, he leads the team through another season.

# Row, row, row your boat

Eudora Olsen  
Reporter

Since being among the original sports of the modern Olympic games, rowing has blossomed into an intensely competitive sport. Although rowing gets little publicity compared to other high-powered sports such as football and baseball, many CHS students have found it to be special in different ways.

The sport itself is a unique one. Teammates sit facing forward in a long boat either "sculling", meaning to have an oar in each hand, or "sweep rowing" with both hands on one oar. The key is to keep one's strokes in sync with that of your teammates'. This proves to be quite difficult, but for junior Katherine Nachbar, it's her favorite part.

"My favorite thing about rowing is that it is a team sport," Nachbar said. "No one can slack off without affecting the speed of the boat. Every single person has to do their best."

Nachbar has been rowing for a year and is already adjusted to its intense conditioning schedule. She is a member of the St. Louis Rowing Club, which practices six days a week and throughout the entire year. The team has regattas on Creve Coeur Lake, and in the winter the rowers condition on rowing machines.

Rowing is the second most aerobic sport next to cross country skiing. It focuses on upper body strength, but also targets many leg muscles and abdominal muscles, too.

Freshman Alex Watkins started to row for the St. Louis Rowing Club last year and says that she has never been so passionate about a sport before.

"My favorite thing about rowing is the way I feel after my team wins," Watkins said.

Both Watkins and Nachbar defined the sport as the ultimate team sport, as rowers are literally in the same boat as their teammates. Every stroke of the oar affects the group.

Tim Franck, who has been coaching for five years at the St. Louis Rowing Club, says that rowing is all about technique.

"It takes several weeks, even months, to learn the technique," Franck said. "But once you've got it, you can get right into the sport."

Franck's favorite thing about rowing, like Watkins, is the competition.

"Everyone has to train hard and support each other," Franck said.

For Watkins, her introduction to rowing was overseas.

"I lived in Italy for a year," Watkins said. "There, the sport is huge! I rowed a lot but stopped until high school."

Rowing as a competitive sport has gained publicity through the annual, highly anticipated Harvard v. Yale regatta. The rowing opportunities among Ivy Leagues is what influenced Watkins' choice to pick the sport up again.

Nachbar also enjoys rowing for a much different reason than sportsmanship.

"I love that rowing has its own vocabulary and set of words," Nachbar said.

Rowers have adopted phrases such as "catching a crab" to mean oar problems and water conditions, yet another thing that makes the sport so unique.

"Catching a crab means to have the oar swing back and hit you," Watkins laughed.

Although it is not well known, rowing is popular among some CHS students because of its true team spirit and exhilarating work out routine. ☺



Courtesy of Katherine Nachbar



**ABOVE and LEFT:** Varsity rowers pull through the water at Creve Coeur Lake. The St. Louis Rowing Club attracts rowers of all ages. High schoolers from across the St. Louis area come to the boathouse for practice six times a week. The teams practice all year long to keep up their strength and endurance.



Elizabeth Skora

The varsity girls' volleyball team huddles to discuss new strategies against their opponent. The team's season is off to a slow start but with Coach Liz's advice, they are sure to improve both strategically and mentally as the season progresses.

## Varsity volleyball team hopes to finish season strong after 2-4 start

Paul Kieffer  
Reporter

Although the volleyball team is coming off a difficult season where they had only one returning varsity starter, they look to have a strong year.

Despite having seven returning varsity players, the team is also bringing in six new players. Working together and getting to know each other's playing styles are some of the new challenges for this year's team.

After losing major role player and team captain Maggie Lanter, the team has found a new leader in senior Erin Bax. The team has fallen into a 2-4 start, but plan to have a strong finish and really want to finish games.

"We have many goals," senior player Kaily Sciaratta said, "Such as beating Ladue High School, staying intense the whole game, staying strong the whole season, and winning our conference."

These are just a few goals of the girls hope to accomplish this year. To accomplish these goals the team needs to win games and to accomplish that they need to get pumped up. "We usually meditate and then we will play a game," Sciar-

ratta said, "Then we huddle up and discuss our goals for the game."

Getting pumped up is a great process for the whole team. These pre-game routines help establish routine and discipline. These two things are very important in winning volleyball games.

"Winning a game in volleyball is based a lot on momentum, so upsets happen all the time," Bax said, "because of that, my team knows that we can never get too confident in games, but we also can never give up against harder teams either."

Trying hard and having fun are also goals for this team. Keeping a level head through tough losses and big wins will be a big part of this team's success.

"I think there's a time and place for having fun," Bax said, "As a team we have fun when we play well and win games, so in order to do that we need to work hard and stay focused during practice."

Although winning is fun, games are not always about the win, and the scoreboard never tells the whole truth. Despite hard and long practices, the girls still love playing and find lots of ways to have fun. ☺

## Cross-country squad adds new runners, ambitions

Anna Williams  
Reporter

This year the CHS cross country team went from having a substantial number of runners to being loaded up with new team members. This was a huge shock for some of the participants, and it betters the team's chances of going to state later in the fall.

Sophomore Derrick Stone describes his initial reaction as being overjoyed.

"When I was a freshman and I had to come out for the team, there were a few people," Stone said. "I felt like we needed more, so when I came to the first few practices this year I was very happy to see that a lot more people have come out."

Although the majority of the new runners are freshmen, there are many upperclassmen as well.

"I'd say we probably have 12 freshmen that are on the team," coach Kurtis Werner said. "Overall, the majority of us are upperclassmen and that's the first time we've had that since I've been head coach."

However, not all of the cross country runners coming out for the team are solely focused on long distance running.

"Not only are we getting freshman, but we're getting a lot of upperclassmen coming out to train for other sports," Stone said.

The reason for the addition of all these new runners is mostly because cross country is a sport that anyone can get involved in without having previous experience.

"It's been sort of a growing process where it's something younger kids can get involved in, and be successful and have a lot of fun," Werner said. "And that's sort of spread. Coach Etling and I are fairly young. We still run with the team. I think that sets a good example of younger students of what to follow."

One would think that having a large team would be a good thing, but it does have its ups and downs.

"Numbers score you points in cross country meets," Werner said. "Obviously your top five are actually what score in a cross country meet. It's just a lot of fun to have more people. It's a large atmosphere and everybody gets along really well."

Werner also said that large teams are

very hard to keep track of.

"You have to differentiate with students and their ability levels," Werner said. "That being said we have three coaches so it's a little bit easier. We split up the freshman; they go do their thing. Coach Etling runs the five-mile with one group and I'll run the six-mile with another group."

Bigger teams may be able to score you more points and beat the opposition, but sometimes your opponents can end up being on your team. Competitiveness has grown tremendously amongst the runners.

"I think especially among the boys you see some competition for those varsity spots," Werner said. "This is the first year where I've really seen seniors battling for a spot on the varsity roster. It used to be if you were a senior, you're almost automatically going to run on the varsity team."

Stone also said that he thinks that individual players will have to step up their game because some of the new incoming freshman will be a bit of competition.

Although there may be some competition, the runners are still supportive of one another.

"I think having support makes me run faster," Nonet said. "When I see someone I know I just want to keep going and show them my best. It makes me feel good when people watch and cheer me on."

Along with the large team, old rivalries will be re-kindled this season.

"Our whole goal in our school is to beat Ladue," Werner said. "I would also like to qualify a boys' team for state and a girls' team. I think both are obtainable."

Nonet also says that with a larger team they will have a better chance at having a runner faster than one from University City or Ladue in the meets.

With an incoming season Nonet and Stone both hope to increase their running times drastically in order to make it to state.

The extraordinary number of runners this year will make a huge difference this season and in the many seasons to come.

"I want them to take away from cross country that this is a life long activity," Werner said. "Running doesn't necessarily go away. It's a great way to meet people, get involved and have a little bit of fun." ☺

## Building for Your Future



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# WOODEN WONDERS



Elizabeth Skora

Two ladies study a piece of work by artist Aaron Hequemourg. Hequemourg used the wood from abandoned slave houses on his farm in his work. Hequemourg decided to make his work out of wood in college when he didn't have much money. Many of the pieces also integrate printed newspapers or sheet music. Hequemourg presented his work at the 2010 St. Louis Art Fair, where there were 181 artists.

Artist Aaron Hequemourg presented work at the 2010 St. Louis Art Fair. He incorporates wood into his mixed-media pieces to create a more innovative style of contemporary art.



Elizabeth Skora

By Payton Sciarratta

In life, everyone has a unique story as to how they got to where they are today. For artist Aaron Hequemourg his motivation came from his mother. She was an artist, a painter in fact, and after watching her day after day, Hequemourg finally took after her lead.

"My mom painted," Hequemourg said. "She only sold work in a couple venues every now and then, but she painted a lot."

Even though Hequemourg got his inspiration from his mother, he didn't take after her same work. In fact, his art is very unique. Hequemourg creates a mixed-media, which includes a mixed collage with a painting engraving.

Hequemourg came up with this idea when he was attending the University of Iowa. Since he didn't have much money, Hequemourg decided to make his own art out of wood.

"I couldn't afford a press, so I started making paintings out of wood," Hequemourg said.

He acquired a lot of inspiration for his work when he found slave houses on his farm that had been vacant for years. Hequemourg burned these houses down and began to use this wood for his contemporary work.

Hequemourg's most famous pieces are "Slave Ship Gown" and "Strange Fruit." These are both pieces that are historical works.

"Slave Ship Gown" is a picture of a woman whose dress is created out of slave ships. "Strange Fruit" also deals with slaves, but in this picture the fruit is created from pictures of actual lynchings that took place.

"I wanted it to affect people, and it

worked," Hequemourg said.

Hequemourg didn't realize the affect his art would have on the people. However, once he began to show his art, many viewers reacted emotionally.

"I wanted a simple depiction of history that is common to all of us," Hequemourg said. "There needs to be something unique about it."

Not only did he show his pieces to just a few people, but he also began attending art shows.

This year, the 2010 St. Louis Art Fair ran from September 10-12 and featured 181 artists.

Although Hequemourg presented a mixed media at this year's art fair, there were also many other types of art as well, some of which were ceramics, digital art, printmaking, and photography.

Attending art fairs was just the beginning for Hequemourg, because soon after he began presenting his work to the public, he began to win more and more awards. Even though Hequemourg was winning many awards, he feels that he could always be more successful.

"In two years, I was supporting myself just from selling artwork," Hequemourg said.

Hequemourg believes that if students are seeking an art career, to be completely successful, they should take many different art classes in college.

"If they are going to art school, take a little bit of everything," Hequemourg said. "You have to mess around with all of it because you may go back to it later."

Even though Hequemourg believes that nobody can be as successful as Picasso, he thinks that everyone has something to bring to the table. 🐾

For more on Hequemourg's work, you can visit him at [www.bigwhitedog.net](http://www.bigwhitedog.net).



Elizabeth Skora

Hequemourg (above) uses a mixed-media for his artwork, including collages and engraved paintings, as seen in one of his works (left). His unique style is a type of contemporary art.



Elizabeth Skora

At the St. Louis Art Fair Hequemourg presented his mixed-media artwork. Other artists at the fair presented photography, ceramics, digital art, and many other art forms.

## House of Art

Artists find a productive and stress-free environment in The Luminary.

Laura Bleeke  
Managing Editor

The St. Louis art scene has long been an important part of the city's culture. From museums and galleries to art groups and fairs, St. Louis has remained a solid player in the art world.

But to continue on this path, the city must maintain its steady support of artists. This is the goal of one couple in South City.

James and Brea McAnally first began The Luminary Center for the Arts in 2007. They wanted to create a space that would allow artists to work on their art without having to worry about supporting themselves financially.

"There's a statistic that's been floating around for a long time that says about 90 percent of artists stop making work within 10 years of graduation," Director of The Luminary Center for the Arts James McAnally said. "And we've noticed that artists move away in search of other opportunities because they didn't feel like they could find them here, or they needed to get another job, or they just get busy with the rest of their life."

The building for The Luminary is an old convent. The McAnallys were able to turn the simple nun dormitory rooms into artist residencies. These rooms are open for artists to apply for and then be able to stay at The Luminary for free. The center also supplies them with a network.

"We are really interested in

working with emerging artists specifically," McAnally said. "People who are out of school but are attempting to make [art] into a career and a livelihood but maybe need resources, or connections, or a network."

The Luminary also provides artists with a studio to work in and the support that other artists give them.

"Even the social connection of being with other artists and other people at the same stage and going through the same process helps the creative process," McAnally said. "But it also helps the quality of life of being an artist as well."

The Luminary has a gallery room downstairs, as well as a separate space upstairs that they give to artists one at a time. The art displayed is not usually by the resident artists because of differing schedules, and the work must fit the theme of the exhibit.

"In the interest of trying to present the best end product we have to seek out artists from all over and we do it based on a theme," McAnally said. "So it's a concept first and then we find the work that fits that concept, and that doesn't work as well when it's just our residents."

Although The Luminary supports artists through giving them a place to live, a studio and a great network, they don't support them through their exhibits.

"I'm planning a retrospective of bringing a lot of people that have been in the studios together



for a show," McAnally said. "Because even though we are supporting their career we don't get to end up actually supporting them through having them in our exhibitions very often, so we're trying to figure out that balance right now."

The space upstairs is a very special and unique part of The Luminary. It is a former chapel, and the space is given to artists one at a time to be converted into an exclusive exhibit created for the space.

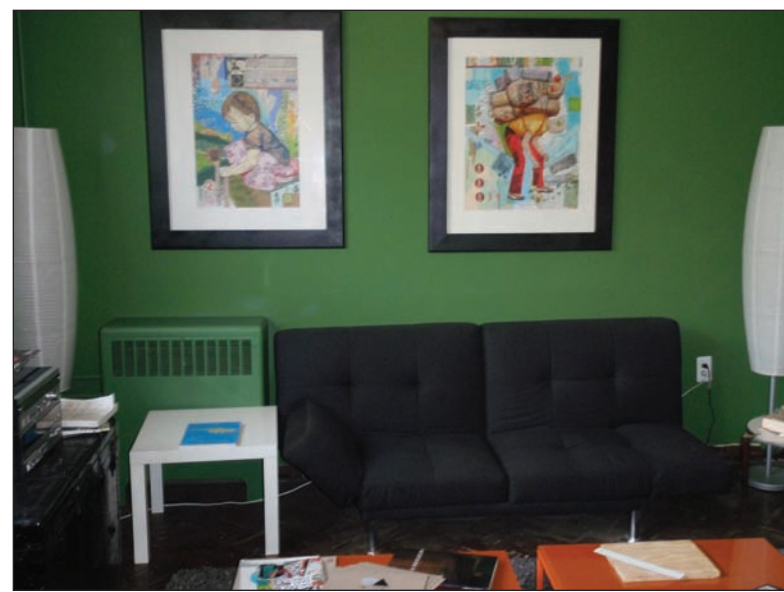
"Artists are really attracted to [the space] because they have a blank space that's enclosed and they can turn it into anything they want," McAnally said. "It's a former chapel so it has arched 20-foot ceilings, and it has really good natural light coming in. And we give it one artist at a time to

work and create a project just for that space."

The artist who is working on an exhibit in the chapel right now is Jill Downen. Downen is well known in the art scene and won a Guggenheim Fellowship Award earlier this year.

"The chapel space is interesting to me because it has qualities that resonate with ideas in my art practice," Downen said. "It is a very intimate and spiritual space. It is also derived from an Italian style of architecture that considers human scale and movement. Many people might not be aware of this installation space, which is a former private chapel. I think that St. Louis has a special jewel here."

*The Luminary, pg. 16*



TOP: The front entrance of The Luminary, which houses artists and helps foster a creative and accommodating environment. BOTTOM: The break room, where artists can rest after working in their studios.

**race to the finish**

Some of the 70 balloons that took flight in the 38th annual Great Forest Park Balloon Race. The two-day event drew nearly 150,000 visitors from Sept. 17 to 18. For more feature photos, visit [chsglobe.com](http://chsglobe.com).

## Coming Up...

Sept. 27: Spirit week begins

Oct. 2: Homecoming parade at 11 a.m., homecoming dance at 8 p.m.

Sept. 28, 4-9 p.m.: Freshmen and juniors decorate the commons

Oct. 6: Late start day, Junior Challenge

Sept. 29: Freshmen and juniors dress up, sophomores and seniors decorate the commons

Oct. 7-10: Fall play, "The Secret in the Wings"

Sept. 30: Sophomores and seniors dress up, C Club and CHS Club decorate the commons

Oct. 13: PSAT for juniors

Oct. 1: Orange & blue spirit day

Oct. 14-17: Freshman/sophomore play, "Haroun and the Sea of Stories."

## The Globe sits down with Clayton School District's new leader, Superintendent Dr. Mary Herrmann.

Jocelyn Lee  
World Editor

Can you describe your background and where you have worked?

I have come most recently from the Chicago suburbs. I was working as a superintendent in Barrington, Illinois and then Winnetka, Illinois - both very high-performing school districts, similar to Clayton. I worked also as an assistant superintendent, a high school principal, an elementary principal, and as a school counselor, and teacher at the high school level. So quite a wide range of experiences.

How do you like your new position so far as superintendent of the Clayton School District?

I like it very much. I've been very impressed with the school district. I have been in a lot of different school districts in the Chicago suburbs, in Michigan, and then also in Wisconsin - I'm from Madison, Wisconsin originally - and I've been very, very impressed with Clayton. I spent a lot of time this summer with staff, observing professional development experiences, and in new teacher orientation, and it has been very positive. I'm just now getting an opportunity to get into the buildings because school just started, and I'm enjoying that very much.

In what ways is Clayton similar or different from the last school district you served?

It's a very similar kind of community - a very high-performing, well-educated community. One of the things that is a little bit different from my most recent past experience in Winnetka is that Clayton has a high school, and I've really missed that. In the Chicago area, they have a different system of schooling where there are dual districts, so you have a K-8 district, and then you have a high school district. So I really appreciate being in a pre-K through 12 school district.

What do you enjoy most about working in a public school district? How is it rewarding? How is it challenging?

I think all of us that work in public schools do so because we want to be able to make a difference; we want to be able to do something to positively impact the lives of young people. And seeing students grow and being able to experience that journey from pre-kindergarten all the way through high school is just exciting. It's very fulfilling to be able to constantly keep the focus on students and what's right for kids.

I think there are always a lot of challenges in schools. There's so many different constituent groups that you're always working with lots of different people to try to create the most effective journey for kids. It's very rewarding, but it can be very challenging, as well, because people have different opinions on what works best.



Courtesy of Dr. Herrmann

"When I was in Wisconsin we would have eight to ten inches of snow and we wouldn't have snow days. I'm from up north, so it will be certainly a change."

What would you like for students to know about you?

I'm really interested in getting to know students. That's very important to me and very rewarding. So I want to get connected, whether it's through an advisory council or other kinds of things. And then I'm really open to student suggestions, questions, and concerns, and anything that people would like to share with me.

What does the future of snow days for the school district look like?

When I was in Wisconsin we would have eight to ten inches of snow, and we wouldn't have snow days. I'm from up north, so it will be certainly a change. But, you know, I've talked to the superintendents and I've talked to all the people around here, and we make decisions based on what's best for the particular situation, even though I may have a bias about snow days.

For more Q&A with Dr. Herrmann and other stories not found in the paper, visit [chsglobe.com](http://chsglobe.com).



Sarah Blackwell

# Teenage volunteers

Students volunteer at local organizations for feelings of self-fulfillment, fun and joy of helping others in need.

**Sarah Blackwell**  
Editor

Volunteering is a great way to get students involved in their community. At CHS, many students volunteer through the Community Service Club, but many more do volunteer work on their own.

There are many reasons to volunteer: for work experience, for school, for fun, for religious purposes, or just because it feels good to serve one's community.

"I enjoy volunteering, and I need service hours, too," sophomore Ravali Poreddy said.

She spends a few hours each week at Missouri Baptist Hospital to volunteer in orthopedic rehabilitation. She helps the elderly by handing out food trays, filling water pitchers, and setting up welcome baskets.

"It's pretty fun," Poreddy said. "The old people are pretty funny, and they like to tell stories."

Freshman Sarah Casteel also likes to volunteer. She volunteers at the St. Louis Bread Company. In fact, Casteel likes her job so much that she's thinking about spending her lunch hour volunteering.

"I volunteer for an hour and get free samples, and then I get free lunch," Casteel said. "I basically sit around talking about my life to the two cute old ladies who greet people."

Senior John Holland does community service work because he also enjoys his volunteer work. He volunteers at his church, Central Presbyterian, playing music.

"It is a good place to find any kind of work, and I usually find community service in the form of playing music on Sunday mornings for services," Holland said.

Freshman Doren Lan also volunteers at church. He plays music as well because someone asked him to join the church's worship band.

"I am privileged to volunteer my talents as a mu-

sician to play when my church needs me to play," Lan said.

Holland loves to play music for his church, not only just because it is fun, but also because ultimately it allows him to bring the church together.

"It is about how a musician can influence other people through the melodies and lyrics, and not just for empty pleasure of music itself," Holland said.

If he were presented with more community service opportunities, Lan would probably volunteer his time on other things as well.

Others have lots of enough opportunities presented to them to do more than one job.

"I also had this huge fundraiser for the Mexican orphanage I went to this summer," Casteel said. "We ended up raising 2,500 bucks, I think. We got them iPods, pajamas, flip-flops, games, and candy."

Besides working in the church itself, Holland works with Beyond Housing, where he helps older members of his church with lawn care and driveway shoveling.

"The yard work I do is also enjoyable, not solely because of the actual work, but because of the presence of friends all helping someone in need," Holland said.

However, as much he likes doing yard work, he did need help getting a start with volunteering.

"For the music part, I volunteered myself, but I was honestly a little hesitant to volunteer for the other work," Holland said. "However, I am thankful my mother got me involved in helping to care for yards and shovel walks for others."

Others, like Poreddy and Lan, have gotten themselves involved in volunteering. Poreddy said that she would continue her work even if she had a paying job. The work comes with rewards not necessarily seen on a college application.

"Now I can appreciate the good feeling that comes from being with other people and getting good honest work done," Holland said. ☺

## Canvassing creates commitment, changes in collective community

**Chris Cho**  
Reporter

For some, summer means no school, camp, outdoors, and fun. But, for other students, summer means helping those who aspire to be elected representatives for the people in our community.

This summer, the Missouri State senate seat for District 24 was opened after Joan Bray's term ended after she served for eight years.

Two of the candidates vying for the Democratic nomination in the primary were Sam Page and Barbara Fraser. Senior Dawn Androphy and junior Zach Praiss were two of many teens who helped with local political campaigns.

Page, a Democrat from Van Buren, MO, was elected representative of the 82nd district in the Missouri House in 2002. Androphy worked for his campaign. Fraser, also a Democrat, served as the Councilwoman of Saint Louis County's Fifth District and is the Chair of the St. Louis County Council. Praiss worked with the Fraser campaign.

Students contacted the campaign offices and asked how they could help. They got to help canvassing for their representatives and sort some file work for them as well.

"For the campaign, I canvassed throughout different neighborhoods in the 24th district, made phone calls, and helped out around the campaign office," Praiss said. "Then, I electioneered almost all day for the democratic primary back in August."

Praiss said getting involved in a political campaign was a great experience.

"It really opened the door for me into understanding some of the political issues in St. Louis County," Praiss said. "Most peo-

ple follow national politics and what's happening in Washington, D.C.; however, there's a lot of political activity in our community and in Jefferson City that has a significant impact on our lives."

At the same time, Androphy was at work with this Page's campaign both in and out of the office.

"I worked both in the campaign office and in the field doing canvassing," Androphy said. "Canvassing was very interesting for me because I was able to interact directly with voters and gauge their reactions."

Androphy pursued the job out of an interest in politics, but was surprised to find that political campaigns were not exactly what she expected.

"I remember on my first day working in the office, I was expecting the type of really sleek office that one would imagine a relatively large-scale political campaign would be run out of, but it was actually just a very anonymous rented space near a strip mall," Androphy said.

Although Page did not succeed in this election, Androphy was very pleased with what she gained from the summer's work. Fraser won the primary and will face Republican John Lamping in November.

Fraser supports life science research and entrepreneurship because it creates jobs. Lamping supports cutting tax credits that do not create jobs and wants to use this money to increase job training opportunities and small businesses.

Androphy and Praiss were both pleased with the experiences that they had and both recommended this for young teens. Canvassing, file-work, phone calls, and more may seem like heavy work, but for Praiss and Androphy, this work was special. ☺

"Most people follow national politics; however, there's a lot of political activity in our community and in Jefferson City that has a significant impact on our lives."

**Zach Praiss**  
Junior



Sarah O'Brien

Seniors Meris Hoxha and Melina De Bona are students who have moved to St. Louis, MO, from their native countries. They both found that America is quite different from their native countries, but they have been able to make new friends while attending school in the United States.

## Students join American society while retaining native culture

**Christian Thomas**  
Reporter

It is no secret America has some of the best available opportunities available. Whether someone wants to pursue a career in economics, education, or sports, the chances of succeeding are better here than any country.

In recent years, America has seen an increase in foreign students pursuing different opportunities. CHS is no exception. Walking the halls, there are students of various ethnic backgrounds.

"My family moved from Albania when I was about four," senior Meris Hoxha said. "We moved to New York City and relocated to Clayton when I was 10. At first, people thought of Albanians as bunch of terrorists."

Hoxha's family made the move to pursue better economic and educational opportunities. Hoxha speaks Albanian on a regular basis, has adjusted well to Clayton, and is a proud member of the varsity baseball team and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Currently, I am not a United States citizen," Hoxha said. "I don't have plans of taking the test. It's just not that important to me."

Senior Zeina Ziade moved to the United States in the summer of 2002 from Lebanon. Her father pursued a better job and educational opportunities. Ziade has also adjusted to life in Clayton and participates in volleyball, Community Service Club, French Club, Biology Club, and DECA.

"Having to learn to learn English, meet new people, and adjusting to a new environment were my biggest obstacles," Ziade said. Her family speaks Lebanese at home and eats Lebanese food.

"We look at it as a way to hold onto our culture," Ziade said.

Last month, Ziade applied U.S. citizenship.

Senior Melina De Bona had similar difficulties, also citing the cultural differences as her biggest obstacle. De Bona moved from Buenos Aires, Argentina, in June 2005. Eventually, De Bona was able to fluently speak English and adjust well to CHS. De Bona is a great student and participates in volleyball, DECA, and Biology Club.

"I enjoy living America," De Bona said. "I think I have somewhat 'Americanized' myself."

De Bona plans to attend college in America; however, she will not take the United States citizenship test. By passing, she would have to forfeit her Argentinean citizenship.

"Holding onto culture is very important," De Bona said. "Other ways we hold onto our culture is speaking Spanish, socializing with other Argentinians in the area, and watch Argentinean television."

Hoxha's memories about Albania are mostly focused on society as a whole compared to life in America.

"There wasn't as much freedom of speech," Hoxha said. "People knew their places. Here, you can basically say whatever in the right context and it's acceptable."

Ziade's memories were also about the differences of peoples.

"Americans value work more than life," Ziade said. "Lebanon is the opposite. Also, sports aren't really as a big deal in Lebanon as they are here."

All three students have family back home; however, De Bona is the only one who visits on a regular basis. Each plan to attend college in America and pursue different career paths. ☺

# Students strategize, prepare as standardized testing approaches

**Maria Massad**  
Editor

The mention of tests can send shivers up some students' spines, but the magic words "standardized tests" may cause the ultimate freak-out.

With the dawn of the new school year, many students have already begun to study for two of the most dreaded exams.

The ACT and SAT are standardized tests which students usually take in either their junior or senior year of high school.

Students have to take these tests in order to be accepted into most colleges and there is a smorgasbord of ways to prepare.

Some soon to be test takers, including junior Xiaoya Wu, have prepared for the exams in other countries. Wu went to China this past summer to study for the SAT.

"The Chinese study and prep for the test differently than Americans," Wu said. "They do not have the vast amount of vocabulary that Americans do, so they look for generalizations that would still work with a smaller choice of words."

The class Wu took in China taught her how to write strong essays as well.

"I learned tips on how to write essays, such as preparing topics beforehand, the elevation and dips of hard questions in the sections, and how to skim through sentences and paragraphs using key words," Wu said. "I think some tips were helpful. Although the essay is always different, I don't think the American and Chinese versions of the tests are different otherwise because we used the same guide that the Americans use while in China. The class has taught me how to study for the test."

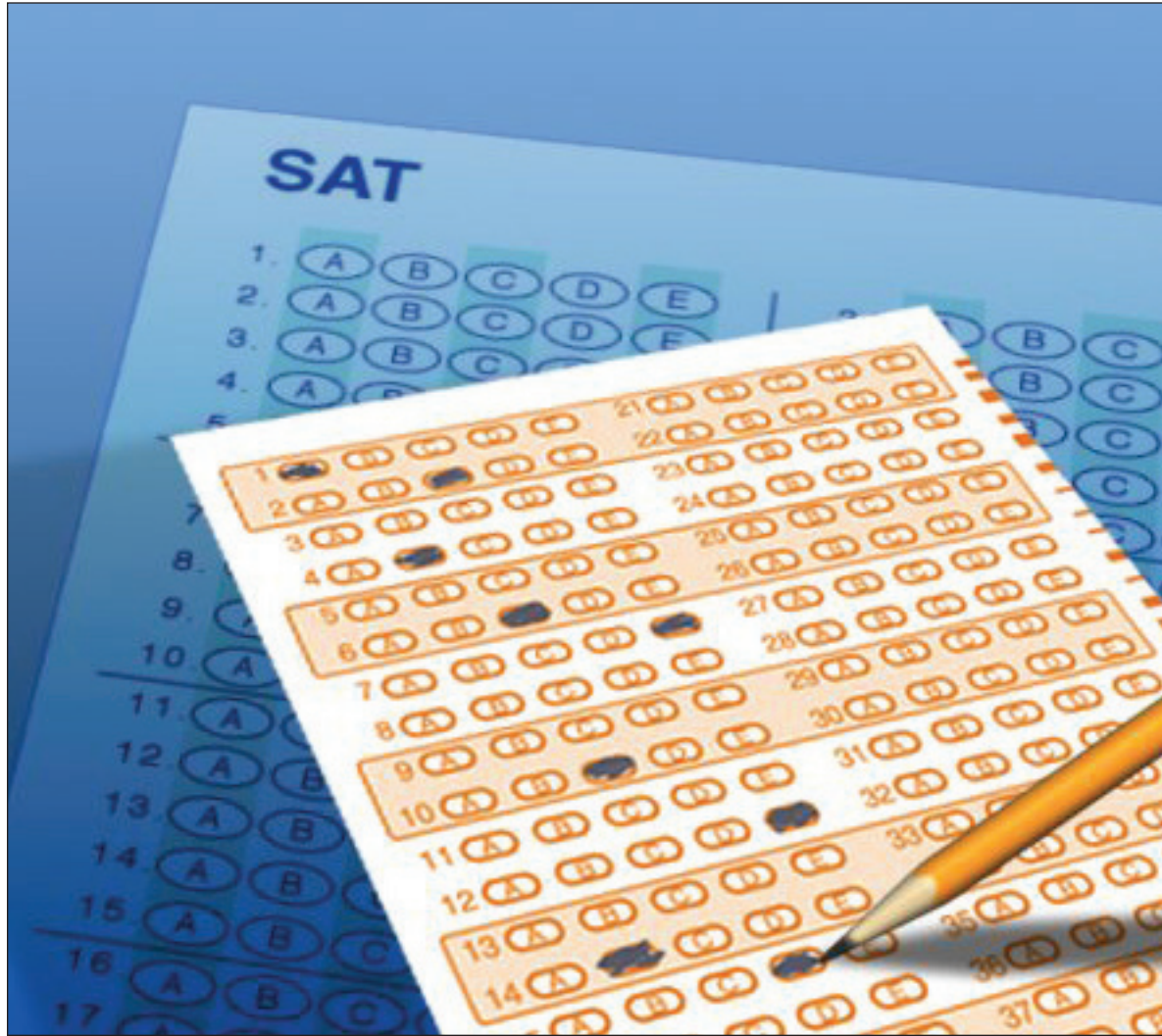
Other students have obtained extra help on the side as well through Princeton Review sessions or tutors.

Senior Ikshu Neithalath sought out the services of a tutor because he views studying as a top priority.

"Studying is definitely helpful," Neithalath said. "You should study. You should always study. Not studying is shooting yourself in the foot. Before the prep, I was consistently scoring in the low 700s on Reading Comprehension. After doing several practices in that particular area of the SAT, I was able to hit 800 on most practice tests. As a slow writer, the practice of the essay was much needed."

Junior Katie Lefton shared Neithalath's sentiments, saying that studying without an instructor is useless.

"Students don't know what is going to be on the test, but tutors and class instructors do," Lefton



MCT Campus

said. "Studying in class is helpful, since the teacher has an idea of what is going to be on the test and therefore will give students useful strategies and test taking tips."

Neithalath also found this aspect of having a tutor especially useful.

"Before the prep, I really didn't have any idea of what kind of an essay they were looking for you to write in the allotted 25 minutes," Neithalath said. "My SAT tutor really helped me in that area, since he knew precisely what the graders are looking for. Honestly, that's half the battle won, since the test is tailored very specifically to examine certain facets of one's writing skills."

Senior Richard Millett, who received a perfect score on his ACT, used a tutor, practice tests, and his classes at school to prepare for the exam.

"Most of the strategies I use aren't all that unique," Millett said. "I would recommend taking a few practice tests and focusing on whatever sections you find most troublesome. Taking practice tests allow you to set goals for yourself and improve. Setting unreasonable expectations, such as getting a perfect score on every section of the SAT, causes more harm than good, since this leads to stress. The most important thing is to take the test in a relaxed but focused way."

This past year, the Clayton Summer Academy offered an ACT prep class to students who wished to improve their scores and test-taking skills.

Junior Drake Pinkston thought this class would be advantageous towards his getting into a good college.

"I found the class very helpful," Pinkston said.

"It is absolutely necessary to prepare for college entrance exams."

Clints are being offered this year at a discount to CHS students for ACT and SAT prep through Princeton Review. Many students are taking advantage of these offers and will continue studying through taking them.

Some students, however, feel that preparation is required, but not necessarily with an instructor's guidance.

Junior Corrine Yap has prepared for the tests alone with resources offered by SAT/ACT.

"I am preparing by going to the ACT website and taking the practice tests that are posted there," Yap said. "These practice tests contain the same types of questions that appear on the real ACT, so it was an extremely helpful source."

Others do not feel the need to go out and buy books or use tutors offered specifically for increasing one's test score.

Senior Becca Steinberg views school and using common sense as enough help for getting good scores on the standardized tests.

"I found one strategy incredibly helpful," Steinberg said. "Basically, when I get to each question I keep in mind that I need to make good choices. Before bubbling in an answer, I ask myself, 'Is this a good choice?' If it is, I bubble it in. If it is not, I look for an answer that is a good choice and choose that one instead. Making good choices is always the right answer."

Yap thinks that most people get anxious before taking the ACT and SAT but feels that there is no need for getting stressed out over the tests.

"One shouldn't be too anxious about them," Yap said. "Some school tests are definitely harder, such as those in AP classes. The only difference is that the SAT and ACT are over multiple subjects. People who freak out and over-study usually over-analyze the questions when they take the tests."

Steinberg agrees with Yap and feels that there are many better things to do besides studying for standardized tests.

"I think the whole ACT/SAT thing is overblown and stupid," Steinberg said. "Take it once, and if you don't like your score, then maybe get a prep book and retake it once. There are so many better things to do with a Saturday morning, like sleep, which, by the way, is a great way to prepare for these tests."

Although Pinkston is not stressed out over these upcoming tests, he still feels that preparing is necessary.

"I encourage all persons planning to take such standardized exams to exercise all possible options to prepare them," Pinkston said. ☺

## Enrollment in state colleges rising steadily

With the downturn in the economy, state and community colleges are welcoming a record number of new students.

**Marilyn Gund**  
Reporter

One of the most important decisions students make in their lives is which college to attend. Increasingly, many students are leaning towards state colleges as an alternative to private schools.

Truman State University, located in Kirksville, Missouri, a small town in the northern part of the state, is one of such colleges.

Caroline Stamp, a 2010 graduate of CHS and a freshman at Truman, is happy about her decision to go to a state school.

"You get the private school feel, without the private school price," Stamp said.

Truman has a total student population of about 5,600 students, compared to the approximately 32,000 students attending the University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou).

However, Stamp noted that Truman's enrollment is growing.

"My class, the class of 2014, is the largest freshman class in 20 years," Stamp said.

According to Stamp a total of 14 CHS students have enrolled at Truman in the last two years.

"It's a pretty popular option," said CHS senior and prospective Truman student Hannah Feagans.

Stamp said that she felt transferring to a large school like Mizzou would be hard after being at a small high school like Clayton.

At many larger colleges, it is common to have lecture halls for many classes. However, Truman students learn in classrooms.

"My largest class size is 25," Stamp said.

Also, the student-to-faculty ratio at Truman is 16:1, making Truman more personalized and like a high school than a large university.

Additionally, Truman offers a top-notch education. According to the university's website, Tru-

man has been consistently listed as the number one public university in the Midwest region by U.S. News and World Report's edition of "America's Best Colleges."

"It's the Ivy League of the Midwest," Feagans said.

Truman also states on its website that it is the only public school in Missouri to have a "highly selective admissions program."

But, is Truman's education really what is making more people go there?

Enrollments for state colleges are increasing all around the state. At Mizzou, the population of the freshman class has increased by about 10 percent from last year, whose freshman class was record-breaking at the time.

Mizzou, which is also a popular option for CHS students, also has had a 20 percent increase in freshman minority students.

At Southeast Missouri State University, the enrollment has gone up almost 5 percent from

last year, resulting in a total of 10,460 students. Their freshman class has grown about 8 percent from last year.

This trend is also evident at community colleges. Twelve Missouri community colleges reported an average of almost 6 percent increase in enrollment with a total of about 5,000 more students than last year.

"The growth seen in Missouri's community colleges over the last year has paralleled a downturn in the economy," said Dr. Jim Kellerman, the president of the Missouri Community College Association, according to the Missouri Community College Association's website. "As the financial situation becomes tighter, people want to put their money into things that will benefit them the most-- and an education is the best investment a person can make, especially when the job market is as competitive as it is today." ☺



Andrea Stiffelman

Heath Kent talks with a student in a CHS hallway. In addition to his duties as campus supervisor, Kent will be heavily involved in CHS athletics.

## Meeting Heath Kent

### New campus supervisor, coach brings winning attitude to CHS

**Nina Murov**  
Reporter

Heath Kent is the new campus supervisor, assistant football coach, and head girls' basketball coach at CHS. Originally from Bay City, Michigan, Kent grew up loving sports.

"I played baseball, basketball and football," Kent said. "Growing up, that's pretty much all I did was play sports. That's probably how I ended up as a coach."

Kent started coaching right out of college at his old high school. He coached football and baseball for a year, and then moved on to a different high school to coach football, basketball and track.

He said that he enjoys basically everything about coaching.

"I enjoy spending time working with kids in the gym," Kent said. "For me the gym has always been my comfort zone. I just enjoy being in there and working with people."

Jonathan Waldman, a CHS freshman and varsity football player, thinks that Kent will be a great addition to the Greyhounds this year.

"He's a pretty calm coach," Waldman said. "He stays calm during the games, but he will tell you what you need to do and be cool about it. I like him as a coach and a person."

Ben Williams, CHS junior and fellow varsity football player, enjoys Kent's humorous side.

"He's funny," Kent said. "He is always cracking jokes in practice and it makes my day a lot easier. He's a funny guy and he's really nice."

Both Waldman and Williams say that the new starburst play that Kent taught the team is ingenious.

"It's tricky, but it works," Williams said. Varsity football head coach Samuel Horrell likes having Kent's extra help.

"He is very knowledgeable about the game of football," Horrell said. "He's organized and passionate about helping his players reach their full potential."

Kent's coaching techniques have obviously worked over the years. In 2007, the football team that he coached won the state championship and the basketball team under his leadership made it to the regional finals the farthest the team had ever gone in 30 years.

Kent plans to change the spirit here at Clayton this year.

"I want to win," Kent said. "I want to change the culture, change the attitude, and become respected as a school that will be able to compete at a high level for a long period of time." ☺

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# Economy, style factors influence CHS car decisions

Adam Ferguson  
Reporter

Like Clayton High School, the CHS parking lot is a busy, diverse place. Filled with cars of all ages and models, it illustrates a point about its students—driving is a big part of their lives.

Just what students choose to drive, though, depends on their individual circumstances. Some buy new cars, others buy used. Some drive hand-me-down cars, while others share cars with family members.

Junior Marc Ritter drives a 2000 Mercury Mountaineer that he shares with his family, which he said “does the job.” Ritter commented on the extravagance of the cars that CHS students typically drive.

“Clayton’s abundance of wealth allows for kids to have really nice cars,” Ritter said. “[They are] way nicer than other places.”

Ritter believes that it is unnecessary for teenagers to have the exclusive use of a car.

“Kids really don’t need their own cars,” Ritter said.

Junior Jocelyn Cooper is another SUV driver. She drives a hand-me-down 2000 Ford Explorer, given to her by her sister, to school everyday. “It’s big and reliable, and I like that I’m up high when driving,” she said.

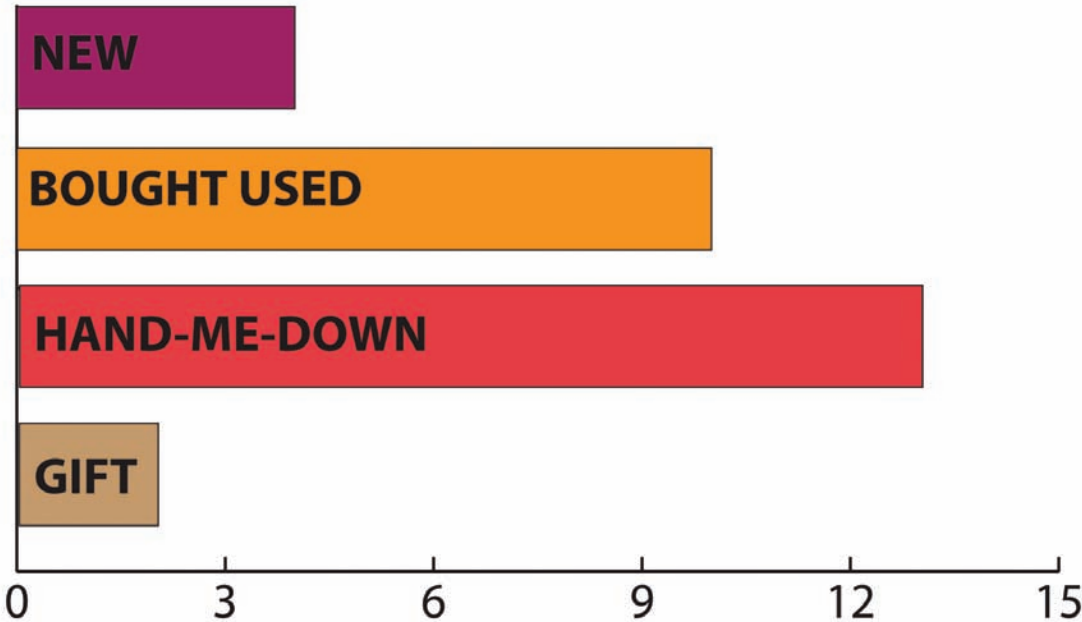
Cooper adds that the car is safe and sturdy. “A metro bus hit it in downtown Clayton, and there was no damage except broken tail lights,” she said.

Another junior, Charlie Harned, shares the use of a 2007 Hyundai Santa Fe with his mother. Although he dislikes the large size, Harned admitted that the spaciousness comes in handy. “I can get lots of people in the car,” he said.

A recent survey conducted at CHS reveals a broad range of students’ feelings about their cars. Junior Jonathan Shumway, who drives a 2003 Ford Taurus, said, “I enjoy the power. I love accelerating in general. The car is fun to drive.”

On the other hand, junior Kate Harrison, who drives a 2002 Honda Odyssey, does not share Shumway’s enthusiasm about her set of wheels. “I hate the car I drive,” she told the Globe. Her unhappy relationship with her minivan is about to end, how-

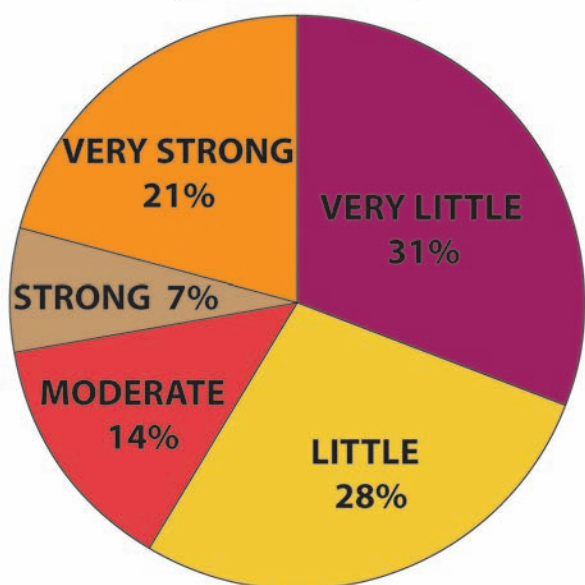
## How CHS students got their cars



SOURCE: Poll of 30 Students, Sep. 2010

Created by: Caitlin Kropp

## How much input CHS students had on the type of cars they drive



SOURCE: Poll of 30 Students, Sept. 2010

Created by: Caitlin Kropp

ever. “I am getting a Jeep Cherokee in a few weeks to be mine exclusively,” Harrison said.

Other students are more ambivalent about their cars. Junior Shuyang Li doesn’t get too emotional when describing his 2005 Honda CR-V. “It’s a legitimately comfortable vehicle for daily transportation,” Li said.

One question on the survey makes it apparent that many CHS students don’t have much input in regard to the car they drive. Some are stuck with cars that clash with their personalities; others luck out when it comes to family hand-me-downs.

Junior Benji Goldsmith, who drives a 2002 Subaru Forester, said, “The sheer power kind of took me

by surprise at first, but I think I’m getting the hang of it. You’ve got to love the Subaru.”

Some CHS students get the luxury of buying their own cars. The rest are left to dream, and dream they do.




When asked about his dream machine, Harned said, “I would have a Ford F-250, white, with lights on top, a brush guard, mud stains, the crew cab, and an extended truck bed... I like big trucks.”

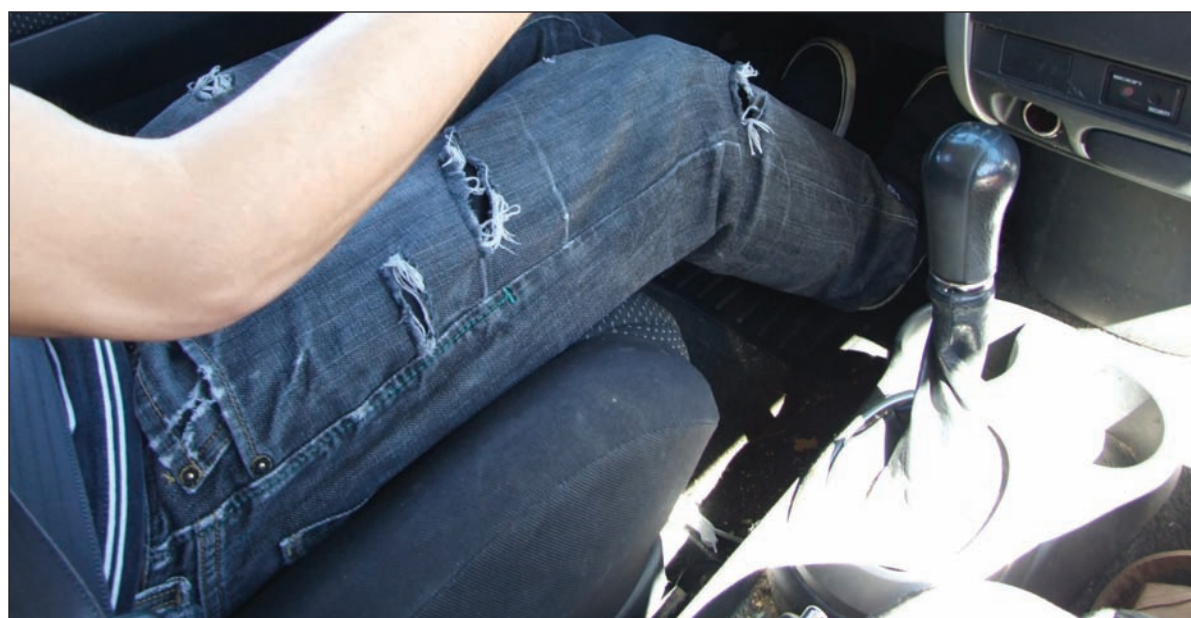
Like Harned, Cooper is thinking big—and white. “I’d get a white Range Rover; it’s super nice and huge,” she said.

Ritter has his mind set on fine German engineering. “I’d be fine with any BMW,” he said. ☺

## Just what you’ve been looking for

If you are lucky enough to be buying your own new car, these are Adam Ferguson’s picks for your best buys in the under-\$20,000 price range.

CATEGORY	CAR	LOOKS	FEATURES	WHY?	PRICE
Best Bang for the Buck	Ford Fiesta		120 hp engine, 29/40 mpg (city/hwy), available SYNC in-car connectivity system, power moonroof, heated leather seats, satellite radio, 6-speed automatic transmission, push-button start, 6 airbags	This car is a looker, with exceptional build quality for its class. Some competitors, such as Toyota Yaris, undercuts its cost, but can’t match it in terms of quality or fuel economy--the Fiesta sips a miserly 29/40 mpg (city/hwy). If saving money is your first priority, the Fiesta is your best bet.	\$13,995 to \$17,795
Best Places for Storing All Your Stuff	Honda Fit		117 hp engine, 28/35 mpg (city/hwy), Front Wheel Drive, navigation with voice recognition, 10 cup holders, USB audio interface, 2nd row 60/40 split-fold “magic seat,” 6 airbags, remote start	The Honda Fit has a...fitting name. The rear seats can do all kinds of gymnastics to accommodate anything you can dream up. Alligator? Covered. 40 gallons of maple syrup? Not a problem. This hatchback has an astronomical 10 cupholders. It’s spacious and affordable, and a great value for those who need something more versatile.	\$14,900 to \$19,110
Most Fun to Drive	Mazda 3		148 hp engine, 25/33 mpg (city/hwy), power moonroof, available rain sensing windshield wipers, auto climate control, available leather, audio-input jack (iPod connectivity), available navigation.	This car’s perky engine produces great power to put a smile on your face (although the car is itself is always grinning), and the suspension setup and steering are sporty yet comfortable. Along with its athletic demeanor, the 3 boasts more attractive styling than its biggest competitors, Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic.	\$16,355 to \$22,395



TOP: Most students prefer automatic transmissions, as they are easier to handle and require less skill to use. BOTTOM: Others like to have manual transmissions in their cars, as they give the driver a better feel for the car.

## Teen drivers weigh transmission options

With the present state of the economy, many drivers are making the choice between automatic and manual transmissions based on fuel efficiency and economy.

Steven Paster  
Reporter

Today manual transmissions are beginning to disappear from many of the cars available, with a relatively small percentage of students at CHS drive a stick.

Some students choose an automatic in order to avoid the hassle of constantly shifting from driving in the city. For commuting everyday to school, the choice of an automatic or manual is simply a personal preference. Many students prefer the simplicity of the automatic: hit the gas pedal and go.

Other students enjoy driving a manual car because they enjoy the challenge.

“I prefer the manual because you get a better feel for the car,” junior Jonathan Matheny said. “In addition, you learn more about your car, and in general is a better driving experience.”

Many car enthusiasts would agree with Matheny’s statement. If you were to ask someone who was serious about driving, more than likely they would be driving a car with a manual transmission.

Today high-end exotics such as Ferraris and Lamborghinis are currently being purchased without a manual transmission. Although one would assume that if someone was serious enough about driving and considering spending a quarter of a million dollars on car they would want a stick, the only reason the exotics are offered in automatics and tiptronic are for one reason: speed.

A tiptronic system most simply put is a clutchless manual. The tiptronic system gives you the option of shifting the gears either with paddle shifters (located on either side of the steering wheel) or moving the gear-shift to a different position and tapping it up or down in order to change gears. The tiptronic system is capable of shifting much more

quickly than any human ever will be able to.

People choose to drive a manual over an automatic for several reasons, even though there might not be any actual advantages over an automatic for city driving situations.

“I prefer driving an automatic because of the convenience,” junior Will Brinkman says. “Having to worry about using a clutch and stalling the car on a hill or in downtown Clayton during rush-hour isn’t something I don’t want to be worried about.”

Still others prefer an automatic transmission because of the easy engine handling, leaving time and attention for other driving needs.

“I like driving an automatic because it’s better on gas and less to worry about so I can keep my bass loud,” junior Jonathan Knohl said. “Otherwise, I couldn’t hear the engine and would not know when to shift. However, I use tiptronic when I feel like showing off my V8.”

One point Knohl brings up is gas mileage. Terry Jackson of Bankrate.com reports that “for drivers in everyday situation, a manual transmission is not likely to provide any difference in fuel economy over an automatic transmission. The reason is that to achieve the optimum fuel efficiency a driver has to execute shifts at precise engine rpms (revolutions per minute).”

With the amount of city driving done by the average CHS student, the difference in gas mileage would not differ that greatly from each other.

In Knohl’s case, the convenience that an automatic provides is enjoyable, but having the option of using the tiptronic is also likeable. Some would consider the tiptronic system a happy medium, and others, like Matheny will argue that there will never be a replacement for using a clutch. Ultimately, the choice of an automatic or manual is up to the driver and which they prefer. ☺

# OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

## Adventures in the Central West End

### Unique Central West End attractions provide escape

Kara Kratcha  
A&E Editor

Youthful yet seeped in signs of times past, bustling yet open, intellectually stimulating yet completely fun, St. Louis's Central West End embodies everything the rest of the city strives to be. This neighborhood, just past Forest Park, offers a wide array of sights, tastes and shopping opportunity to the Claytonite willing to step just outside of the all-too-familiar, bubbled-in stomping ground.

The first detail visitors to the Central West End are likely to notice is the architecture. Every building seems to be embellished with arches, stone detailing, and beautiful old brick facades. Beside the old structures stand some new ones, too, which add texture to the streets but don't interrupt the feel of the neighborhood. Right next to the shopping district are residential streets lined with houses pretty enough to warrant a self-guided walking tour. Just don't plan to park there since most of those communities are gated.

Statues seem to contribute significantly to the population of the CWE. Restaurants and stores alike feature free-standing art

for no apparent reason except that the visual is cool. The feel of the neighborhood is distinctly artsy. Even the Starbucks sits behind a statue of two larger-than-life Chinese businessmen staring expressionlessly down at its patrons.

The visitor interested in shopping will not be disappointed by the Central West End. From boutiques to antique stores, the neighborhood has a lot to offer in its shops.

Rothschild's Antiques was the most eye-catching establishment with its multitude of colorful children's chairs lined up in front. Upon entering, the store's interior lived up to its sidewalk attractions.

Antique toys, a bookshelf organized entirely by color, a collection of frames, and many more oddities and rarities filled Rothschild's from wall to wall. Descend to the basement to find the dustier, though not lower quality, items. None of the pieces were shabby or decrepit, and they all seemed like objects that could actually contribute to the furnishing of a well-decorated modern home.

Of course, no trip to the CWE would be complete without a stop at Left Bank Books.

There the literature enthusiast may choose from a selection of new books on the top floor and an equally vast range of used books in the basement. Available books vary from the very popular, like *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, to the less mainstream, such as Left Bank's impressive collection of used LGBT interest books. When in doubt, the browser in need of a new read can always find the used fiction section and pull down the first interesting spine for an opportunity to purchase an inexpensive paperback.

When the weary visitor needs some caffeine after all of that shopping, Coffee Cartel can provide the required stimulant. The coffee shop, a Central West End staple, is open 24/7.

Or if you're in need of a bit more substantive pick-me-up, the Central West End offers a large spread of dining options. Order a bowl of French onion soup at Duffs or a huge deli sandwich at Kopperman's, stop for a crepe at Crepes Etc., or take a chance on one of many enticing restaurants in the area.

With such a close, multifaceted place to go, there is no reason not to leave the Clayton bubble for some fun. ☘



The Central West End's main intersection is home to numerous restaurants and cafes, including the 24-hour Coffee Cartel, perfect for the student bored with the same old 'Clayton Bubble' attractions.



Kopperman's Deli is a fixture of the Central West End, known for its eclectic atmosphere and home style food.

### Kopperman's entices patrons

Caitlin Kropp  
Features Editor

After exploring the various wonders of the Central West End, it was time for some lunch. The neighborhood presented us with several options, including a sushi bar, a neighborhood grill, several coffee joints, and a couple of locally owned sandwich shops. It was from this last category that we selected Kopperman's, a deli that invited us to "Taste a Bit of the World." It might have been this friendly invite that enticed us to enter, or perhaps the wonderful smells wafting from within. Most likely it was a combination of those, along with the tiki bar stationed out front. Honestly, how could you not enter a restaurant with a tiki bar?

Once inside, an eclectic yet comforting atmosphere greeted us. The deli bars showcased the variety of different delicacies available, and the refrigerators lining one wall were stocked with all sorts of beverages. But what was the most interesting were the walls themselves. The walls were covered in old posters, some dating back from the early 1900's. Here, in Kopperman's, old-fashioned "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" posters can find an easy home next to "Loose Lips Sink Ships!" posters from World War II.

The menus were another pleasant surprise. The array of

foods was fantastic, truly a "taste of the world", and the option for breakfast at any time couldn't hurt either. The sandwich section was an actual delight, as whoever created the menu clearly had a sense of humor. Although I didn't try them all, I would have to say that "Tongue Fu" and "Cry Me A Liver" were some of my favorite sandwiches, as far as names go. The items were all reasonably priced, with most sandwich platters ending at about eight dollars, and with the simpler options ranging from about four to seven dollars.

Our server was friendly, and after we had placed our orders, we entertained ourselves by commenting on the different posters on the walls, along with marveling over Laura's fancy Jamaican Ginger Beer. Thankfully, this helped pass the time, because it took quite a bit for our orders to be placed.

But of course, they arrived in style. My sandwich (a "Queen of Clubs") was placed in front of me, and it actually took me about a minute to process. The sandwich was literally about the size of my head, not including the various sides that came with the platter. In this case, my eyes had clearly been too large for my stomach. Nevertheless, I dug in heartily, though I had to stop after eating about two thirds of the entire thing.

The sandwich it itself was completely satisfying, taking a classic BLT and adding a unique twist that only Kopperman's can create. The addition of the melted cheese, mushrooms, and the extra dressings and vinaigrettes really provided a punch of flavor that was both surprising and pleasing. I did have some difficulties with the fact that it was an open face sandwich, but I managed to cheat with an extra slice of bread they had provided. My lunch companions also seemed to enjoy their meals, Laura particularly relishing the jam that came with her meal.

Kara and Laura chose the daintier options of a Chicken Salad sandwich and Potato pancakes, which was definitely the smarter choice for just a lunch outing, but I didn't really mind. I had enough left over to take home and make a nice lunch for another day.

All in all, Kopperman's was an enjoyable treat after a morning of exploring. The atmosphere was warm and eclectic, the menu varied, and the food superb.

The only drawback was the bit of a wait that we incurred. Nevertheless, this is only natural for any restaurant not partaking in fast food.

Leaving the bubble for this fun little deli was clearly worth the drive; it was one of many enjoyable entertainments in the Central West End. ☘



Jeff Tweedy of the band Wilco performs acoustic versions of Wilco fan-favorites. Mayor Francis Slay declared that day to be Jeff Tweedy day in St. Louis. *Dawn Androphy*

## Loufest outdoor music festival a success

**Dawn Androphy**  
Co-Editor in Chief

The performers were talented, just about every band performed on time, and the weather was bearable considering that it was an August weekend in St. Louis. In a word: the first annual LouFest was a success.

More prominent national acts such as Jeff Tweedy, Broken Social Scene, She & Him, and Built to Spill performed to large, excited crowds on both evenings. However, there were plenty of talented local and lesser-known performers to catch in the early afternoons of the festival as well.

Senior Cole Weiche attended both days of the festival, but the highlight of the festival for him was seeing his longtime favorite, singer-songwriter and Wilco member Jeff Tweedy.

"I've been admiring him since I was little," Weiche said. "It was really cool to see him play. I've been listening to him for a long time, so it was fun to have memories kind of rush back."

Senior Kuang Zong's favorite performance was New Jersey band Titus Andronicus's raucous Saturday morning punk set.

"I loved Titus Andronicus's set," Zong said. "I didn't know what to expect since I hadn't listened to them before LouFest, but they blew me away with their energy and excitement."

St. Louis singer-songwriter and LouFest performer Adam Reichmann enjoyed soaking in other sets after his own performance at the beginning of the festival.

"I really liked this band called Fruit Bats," Reichmann said. "I think they're just phenomenal. They just had this very mellow

sound, the voice is great and just technically excellent."

Reichmann was also happy to have the opportunity to perform at the festival and enjoyed the unique scenery that the outdoor venue provided.

"It's just unusual to play in such a gorgeous park and it doesn't get used really in that way," Reichmann said. "It's nice to be part of the first time that they did something like that there."

Weiche was also thankful for the mere existence of an all-ages, high-profile outdoor musical festival in St. Louis.

"It was really cool to actually live in a city where there's a music festival," Weiche said. "I've never had that before... This was an all-ages event and it was really neat to experience it."

Reichmann noticed that, although the festival was quiet

during the early afternoons, it quickly became more crowded as the day progressed.

"We were kind of early in the day, so I think people were kind of still getting there," Reichmann said. "I mean, you could tell that, as soon as the sun went down, people started showing up... [Our performance] was definitely part of the warm-up act in more ways than one."

After an enjoyable, smoothly run weekend of live music and socializing, Weiche compares his LouFest experience favorably to his experiences at festivals such as Austin City Limits.

"I thought it was very well-run, I thought it was very well-organized, and it reminded me of some of the other really big-name festivals like Austin City Limits," Weiche said. "I would definitely go back again." ☺

## College essays provide view into minds of others

I have a confession to make: I enjoy reading college essays.

No, I am not a crazy person. Most of the college admission essay samples I read in English class were, in my humble opinion, mediocre at best. I have no aspirations to become an admissions officer.

In fact, I'm pretty sure I would abhor such a job. Aside from the horrible number of transcripts and test scores over which I would have to pore, I would probably find most of the college essays that came across my desk excruciatingly boring. Perhaps I should revise my confession: I like reading the college essays of my classmates.

Students at Clayton have been exposed to a wonderful education in composition, and, as a general rule, seem to possess the create prowess necessary to choose creative topics for college essays. Maybe that makes CHS essays better than others, but this is not the reason I like reading them.

In the past few weeks I've found myself approaching any frustrated-looking senior with essay on their desk and red pen in hand and asking, "Hey, can I read that?" Or, if I'm on emailing terms with the student, "Would you send that to me?"

Usually the frazzled essay writer is desperate enough for a creative spin or a new set of eyes to catch comma splices, that the senior hands me their work without much thought. This phenomenon is great, and I must again stress that I am not crazy, because finding out how a person has chosen to represent himself in 500 words proves fascinating, particularly when I don't know the author that well.

The interesting thing about self-perception and personal

world-view is that they exist entirely in one's head. Perhaps the great challenge of getting along with other people is trying to make the life lived inside the brain and the life lived outside of it match up nicely. In writing a college essay, seniors are forced to put some of what goes on in their heads down on paper, and this process inevitably reveals some disconnect between self-perception and reputation.

Of course, the reader of the college essay must know, or at least know of, the writer in order for such a comparative analysis to work.

Perhaps this is not the purpose of a college essay (after all, most students probably just want to be accepted by a college, not bare the very essence of their innermost personalities), but since I have found it possible to glean small insights about my peers' college essays, I think Clayton writers are actually trying to make honest statements about themselves rather than spouting thinly-veiled bushwa in order to look good to an admissions officer.

I like reading the college essays of my peers because most of them seem to capture something essential and otherwise indiscernible about each individual; they're like especially well-thought-out diary entries. Although the essay may not be the only deciding factor in many admissions decisions, each carefully crafted two-page composition has a value beyond the college game.

The opportunity to write introspectively and then share the product does not arise often. Perhaps the school should endorse college essay writing and reading as a regular practice so that students see each other more clearly through short, painstakingly written glimpses. ☺

### Blots and Scribbles



Kara Kratcha

**On Target**

- McDonald's new wild berry and strawberry banana smoothies are servicable at best.
- Lo-fi beach-rock band Wavves writes fun songs and put on a high-energy show at the Billiken Club, but the "high energy" crowd nearly trampled a few audience members.
- The last season of "Entourage" really stepped thing up. It got really crazy near the end, had me clingin' to the edge of my seat during the finale.
- Season premiere of "Glee" returned to the sharp humor of the pilot episode and ditched the tired cliches of the end of the last season. Do like!
- "The Other Guys" could have been over in 30 minutes, but Mark Wahlberg was unexpectedly funny.
- "Takers" was quite possibly the worst action movie ever despite a great cast.
- You will enjoy "The Woods", but if you have read Coban enough to expect the unexpected, this book may not surprise you.
- New movie "Easy A"? Easy F.

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# Dramatic close to "Hunger Games" series excites readers

Steven Zou  
Reporter

After a long and eager year of waiting, the third and final book of the "Hunger Game" series, "Mocking Jay", was released at midnight Aug. 24, 2010.

According to "USA Today," Suzanne Collins' "Hunger Game" series is set in a future dictatorship in North America, where there are districts instead of states. Every year, each district sends one boy and one girl to the capitol and they fight to the death on TV for entertainment. One year, a girl named Katniss decides to revolt against the capitol and its harsh rule.

The CHS library sponsored its first Scholastic book fair featuring "Mocking Jay" from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2.

"It was our first Scholastic book fair because it was right around the release of 'Mocking Jay' and Scholastic was the publisher of 'Mocking Jay,'" school librarian Lauran DeRigne said.

Substitute coordinator Meg Flach said students should read the book immediately.

"You should not make any plans for whatever weekend you are going to start reading because you will want to sit down and read and do nothing else," Flach said. "It is not one of those boring books that the teachers make you read but something you are really going to enjoy."

DeRigne would definitely agree with Flach.

"It is a very unique style genre book," DeRigne said. "I didn't think I would be interested in it, but I loved it. I think it was one of those books that reach out to a large audience. It was one of those books you don't know if you will like, and then you get into it because the writing is very good and written well, and it grabs you fast."

Sophomore Ellie Gund gave the book a very good rating.

"I give it 9.5 because it was not my favorite book I have read, but it was still a very good book," Gund said. "It was not just a good book, but it makes you think of complex themes and apply them to the real world."

Special School District teacher Linda Krygiel also really liked the book.

"I give it an 11 because it read very easily and it is very interesting," Krygiel said. "I liked the first book a lot because I had never read anything like it before."

DeRigne wouldn't rate the book quite as high as Krygiel did.

"I give it a 8 because I think the third book is slightly sloppier and the plot is not written as well," DeRigne said. "I think Collins was pressured to get the book published."

Gund, Krygiel, and Flach all agree that the book is not appropriate for young kids.

"It was definitely a really good book," Gund said. "But it is really violent and somewhat graphic. So middle school kids should stay

away from it until they are in high school."

Flach agrees.

"The third book is very gray and dark," Flach said. "Even people in high school think it is still disturbing for them. So I recommend people lower than high school get older before they read the book. If small kids are going to read it, they will have nightmares forever."

So why is the whole community of CHS is paying so much attention to this book?

"The school is paying so much attention to this book because it is so popular and it is fun to read," Kyrie said. "There has never been a book like this before. It is way different from Harry Potter. There is nothing like Snape, Dumbodore, or Voldemort in the book."

Flach said the book was "simply really good."

"The book at first is more appealing to boys than girls until people realized how good it was and started to pass it around," Flach said. "It also connects to what the English teacher are doing with dystopian literature. And it became a blockbuster."

Some CHS readers disliked some aspects of the book.

"The stuff that I didn't like was that it was pretty violence, but violent sometimes helps the author put across the point," Gund said. "But the violence did not help put forward the theme of the book."

"Collins is telling a lot of the



Sophomore Hanna Park enjoys Collins' new novel, "Mocking Jay," which was featured in the library's book fair.

details instead of showing the details," DeRigne said.

Some readers liked the book so much they want to read the book again the second time or even more.

"I will definitely read it again because there are so many different parts of the book that connected to me," Gund said. "I think it will be interesting to go back and see again how the mini plots came together."

"I love reading books the second time," Krgiel said. "When you read a book a second time, it is like watching a movie a second time so you find all kinds of things you missed the first time you read the book."

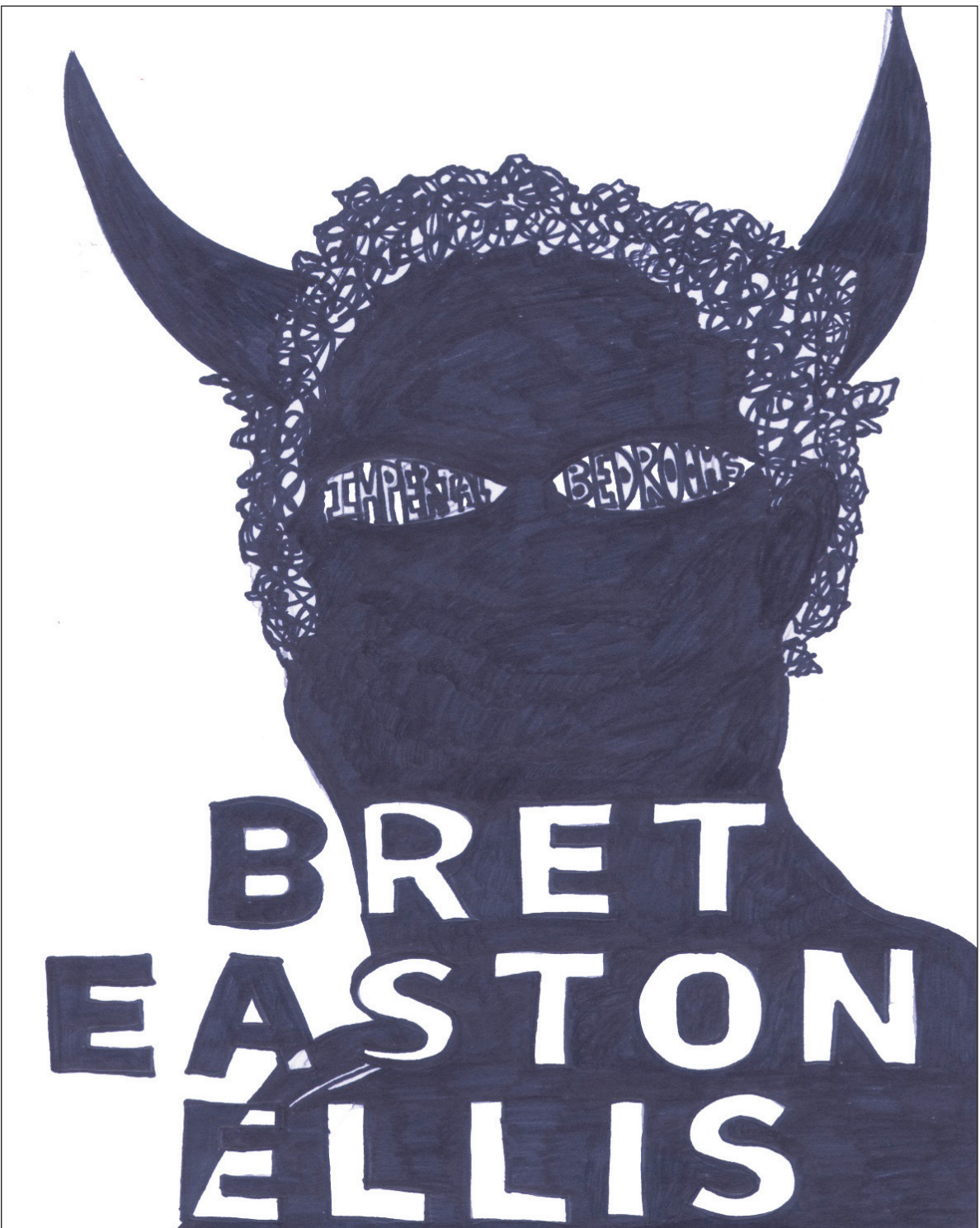
Flach said she is sad she finished the book.

"It was really good, but so reviving," Flach said. "I was grieving for the character for the character I met and loved. People die

in the third book when they don't have to. I have realized that people die when they don't have to die is hard to come to term with."

DeRigne wonders what comes next, and hopes to see more from the author.

"I am really interested to see what Collins does after the 'Hunger Game' series," DeRigne said. "I hope that Collins will have a new series for young adult with a different genre." ☺



Nicole Indovina

# "Imperial Bedrooms" falls short

Andie Glik  
Reporter

Imagine that 25 years after JD Salinger wrote "Catcher In the Rye", he wrote a sequel. In this book, Holden Caulfield was even more depressed, lost, and mentally unstable than he was in the first book. Also pretend that this sequel is not nearly as well written and lacks depth and creativity.

This is kind of what happened with Bret Easton Ellis and his new book "Imperial Bedrooms". In 1985 Ellis wrote his highly acclaimed novel "Less than Zero." This book was called the "Catcher in the Rye" of the MTV generation and was Ellis' first novel.

In "Less Than Zero" the main character is Clay, a rich college student and Ellis' autobiographical character, who has returned to Los Angeles from his east coast school for the winter holidays. The story takes place in the '80s and is a bleak and nihilistic tale of drugs, sex, money, and crime. Clay is your typical depressed, wealthy teenager who gets caught up in everything he tried to escape by going to school on the East Coast.

Fast forward 25 years and you have Clay coming home to LA yet again for Christmas. He is not the same man he was in the '80s. He has an iPhone, violent tendencies towards women, and his binge drinking has turned into serious alcoholism. He

is even more numb and hopeless than he was in the 80's due to middle age setting in and massive amounts of expensive tequila.

Clay runs into the same people he hung out with and tried to stay away from in Less than Zero. Everyone is still sleeping with everyone for power, drugs and money except now they all have had plastic surgery and multiple divorces under their belts.

Every page feels like déjà vu because Ellis is walking us through "Less than Zero" all over again. Ellis has created many parallels between the two books to show that nothing in Hollywood ever really changes. However, Ellis is glamorizing nothing in this book.

Instead, he reveals the filthy, twisted side of Hollywood that the rest of America never sees just like he did in his first novel. He takes it a little too far however with writing about the violent murders of a few friends of Clay's being posted on YouTube.

Bret Easton Ellis has perfected the style of the "cringe as you read" with his other acclaimed novels like "American Psycho." "Imperial Bedrooms" feels like an unimaginative follow up to a fantastic novel.

Ellis took the easy way out with "Imperial Bedrooms" and should have left "Less Than Zero" alone, letting people decide what happened to Clay and his over privileged, under loved friends. ☹

# Eminem impresses once again

Caroline Greenberg  
Reporter

Eminem's new CD, "Relapse", is finally here after a seven-year wait, and he is back. His strongly worded songs and conflicted lyrics are stronger than ever.

Each song has a deeper meaning, making each song even more memorable with the long wait. Track one is called, "Cold Wind Blows." It is a song saying he is ready to take on the world. He is back, and to anyone who wants to fight that well he's ready, or so he says in his songs.

Eminem's new CD features 17 tracks and multiple guest appearances such as Pink, Kobe, and Ozzy Osborne.

As for style, impact, and musical content, "Relapse" gets a little tricky. Most of the beats are of the bouncing-ball variety. Each song has a different take on Eminem's usual spitting of words. Each word he says is understood and delivered in a verity that makes it worth it to buy the whole album instead of a few songs.

The anger in his songs is still there stinging after hearing him bash other celebrities such as Jessica Simpson and Kim Kardashian.

However in other songs he takes a different approach. For example, he says in his song "Beautiful," "Be yourself, man. Be proud of who you are

Even if it sounds corny, never let no on tell you you ain't beautiful."

This lyric is from a guy who has written every single one of his songs and is still finding new and original ideas to write about.

Eminem has never been more truthful about each fault in himself instead of the others he usually makes fun of. He devoted much of the space on the album to trying to use his experiences as a way to connecting to his fans and helping others that are struggling much like he has.

There are already three hits out of his 17 songs and I am sure that more are going to appear on top charts. "Not Afraid" raced to the top after its release and proceeded to impress people. "Love the Way You Lie" featuring Rihanna impressed people and got more people interested in his new album.

There is absolutely no denying Eminem's talent. His flow can be so complex, winding and whirling through his couplets, yet he always manages to come back around and tidy everything up with a joke. Each of his songs has a way of putting a frown on your face, and then a smile when you hear him say something totally unexpected.

Although he just came out with this album, fans hope there will not be a seven-year gap as before since this young man is in even a higher demand.

This album will not disappoint for its strongly worded songs will keep you listening. ☺



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# Talking Points: Ground Zero Mosque

A proposed mosque in NYC near the soon-to-be-finished Ground Zero memorial commemorating the victims of the terror attacks of Sept. 11 has sparked controversy.

**Jonathan Shumway**  
Editor

Although one may have constitutional rights to do something, does that mean that one can use always that right ethically? In many ways, this question encapsulates the debate and discussion that has been held in recent weeks about a mosque being built near Ground Zero.

In New York City, a Muslim congregation has chosen to build a community center, including a mosque, just two blocks away from the site of the former World Trade Center. The Muslim extremists that performed the horrific acts of terror on Sept. 11, 2001 sought to incite conflict between the East and the West.

Indeed in the last nine years, this is just the case. The United States has become involved in its longest war in history, at the cost of much American life, international standing, and at great expense to the United States Treasury.

Although some have tried to put into question the legality of placing a mosque there, I disagree completely with this belief. As it states so eloquently in the first Amendment of the Constitution, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

I am very grateful to live in a nation with the freedom of religion. It is one of the liberties that has made me feel so proud to be an American. Some of my ancestors actually came to America to escape religious persecution. They were Huguenots in France, mistreated simply because of a difference in belief.

The Muslim congregation has without a doubt the constitutional right to build a mosque. At the same time, what has happened since that memorable day of Sept. 11, 2001 must be remembered. President Bush declared a war on terror. The Department of Homeland Security was established. Trillions of dollars and billions of hours have been spent to secure safety of our great nation, and also the world.

## Against the mosque at that site

Clearly, the World Trade Center is a sensitive topic, as it has shaped U.S. foreign policy for last nine years, but also over thousands of Americans have been killed because of the destruction of the World Trade Center.

After 9/11, America and the world changed. There was fear and a questioning of other people's beliefs. Muslims in America and abroad have faced maltreatment and discrimination. Although I believe that the mainstream Muslim faith does not agree with this minority of extremists, it is hard for many to think otherwise.

America is hated and despised, and seen as an enemy in the Middle East. The major religion in the Middle East is Islam. Where have American soldiers been killed for the last nine years, fighting for American freedom? The Middle East also. The mosque planned to be built by Ground Zero is being used by Islamic extremists and America haters to divide the World further.

I would suggest that the leaders of the Muslim congregation in New York City should never have brought up the topic of placing a mosque there. On the official website for the building of the mosque, <http://www.cordobainitiative.org/>, the Cordoba Initiative says the building of this mosque is helping to improve Muslim-West Relations.

If this is so, the Cordoba Initiative is an abysmal failure, as this is not happening. The Muslim congregation should make the choice to build the mosque elsewhere, with not as much proximity to Ground Zero.

I wish they understood the concept of respect for America's history and would not try to divide America and the world further. Without a doubt, they knew the controversy that the placing of the mosque would cause, but they decided to go on anyway. A religious person with good judgment and reason would not engage in such a provocative activity.

The failure of moderate Muslims to stop this tasteful behavior shows a passive acceptance of it.

The attempted burning of the Quran in Florida was roundly criticized by moderate Christians. Where and is the voice of moderate Islamic devotees criticizing and preventing the voice of their radical peers from dominating the media? Perhaps if this voice was heard, there would be greater belief and

trust in the Muslim faith. Reciprocal treatment makes for good friends and neighbors. Unequal treatment yields distrust.

In President Obama's Inaugural Address he masterfully articulated this point:

"To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect. To those leaders around the globe who seek to sow conflict or blame their society's ills on the West, know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you can destroy. To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history, but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist."

Islamic extremism should

not be tolerated in America and abroad. Hate does not create, but repels others.

All people should be given a voice, as long as they are willing to give a voice to others. In this way, the opinions of people that only rally their nations or allegiances by abhorrence of the West is invalidated. This is what I ask.

Just as I would never suggest that a Christian Church be built next to a shrine in Mecca, the act of using our open and free society to advance their religious agenda when no accommodation is similarly given in Arab countries is unjust and hypocritical. Trust and friendship must be based on equal treatment. This is the heart of the problem.

I would like to declare that I wholeheartedly respect the Muslim faith and believe that Islam inspires many believers to do good unto others, but I wish that the mosque near Ground Zero would not be built—at least not at this time. I do not believe America is ready for that, at least not yet. The history and sensitivity surrounding Ground Zero represents to me and many others that it is a place that changed our history forever.

**Maddy Bullard**  
Senior Managing Editor

Tolerance. As Americans, we have long prided ourselves on our tolerance of others—their cultures, sensibilities, opinions,

## For the right to build the mosque

and perhaps most importantly, their religious views. However, the debate over the construction of a mosque near the site of the World Trade Center is threatening the distinctly American value of tolerance. The mosque is to be built within a community center two blocks from the site of the terrorist attacks in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

The Cordoba Initiative has proposed this project, not to disrespect the hallowed ground of the World Trade Centers, but to attempt to rise from those ashes. According to their website, the Cordoba Initiative (CI) is a group committed to building relations between

the Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

"On a day when American Muslim leaders stand strongly in favor of protecting civil rights, and denouncing bigotry in all forms, it is important to remember that world-wide efforts to foster peace must begin in our home communities," CI Chairman Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf said.

Tolerance in the small communities of our country must come before we can achieve tolerance on a worldwide scale.

The debate over the Park51 community center has indeed been heated. Sides have been chosen:

those who oppose the construction have been labeled reactionaries and bigots. Those who support it have been condemned for their lack of sensitivity to the 3000 lives lost on Sept. 11. These polarized, exaggerated responses do not reflect the tolerance needed in today's volatile political climate, especially with regard to relations between religious groups.

The members of the Cordoba Initiative are completely within their rights to build a mosque wherever they please. The Constitution applies to all American citizens, regardless of religious leaning.

"This is America, and our commitment to religious freedom must be unshakable," President Obama said, in a statement about the mosque a few weeks ago. The President, although he has not stated support for or opposition to the Cordoba Initiative's project, left no doubt as to his opinion on the legality of their actions. The law is not what has caused the debate; rather, the question of morality and motive is at the base of the conflict.

Some would say building a mosque near Ground Zero would be disrespectful to the memories of those who perished during the terrorist attacks. As Americans, we will all remember Sept. 11 as a tragic day in our history. But it was a tragic day for all Americans, and of course, that includes Americans who are Muslims. Members of New York's Muslim community also died in those attacks. Muslims were among those who mourned after the towers fell. And Muslims are among those who have tried to rebuild a shaken city in the aftermath of that devastating event. It would be disrespectful to these people, these committed and patriotic Americans, not to allow them to worship as they please, whether it is 20 feet or 20 miles from Ground Zero.

The American right to religious freedom is not at stake here. In fact, this entire situation has been blown out of proportion. However, that does not mean that it should be ignored. Any lapse in the protection of the First Amendment should be seriously scrutinized, and duly justified. This is not a case to justify ignoring those inalienable rights.

Some will accuse the Cordoba Initiative of using the mosque to make a point or advance some political agenda. I would hope that their wish to build a mosque is borne of an innocent desire to worship God according to their religion. I am not certain that that is the case. However, I refuse to assume that their motives are ulterior. I refuse to judge them unfairly or to believe that they are not well intentioned. Some may call me naïve, but I contend that trust is essential to a respectful coexistence.

Some argue that the construction of a mosque is not an action intended to pacify relations between Muslims and non-Muslims but to further exacerbate the issue. But in order to recover from the tragedy of 9/11, a happy medium among all groups must be reached. Peaceful relations must be negotiated. Tolerance must be retained. How are we to fully recover, to forgive one another, to stop casting blame and stereotyping, if we cannot overcome a simple disagreement over a community center? We cannot, in good conscience, refuse to extend the hand of friendship to a group who are as much Americans as you or I.

In a recent statement, Imam Rauf said that he and his colleagues wanted to be "part of the solution," not part of the problem. But he and the rest of the moderate Muslim community cannot fix the problem themselves; this must be a two-way street. The rest of the nation must rise to the occasion and cooperate so that we can all make our own peace. Who are we to deny ourselves that chance?

The building of the Park51 community center is just the right opportunity for us to begin moving forward. When we transcend the petty arguments and differences that have held us back, we will show the world a nation united against terrorism. We must move past the stigma surrounding Islam and resolve our differences; to do otherwise would be a discredit to those who lost their lives because of the extremist actions of religious fanatics. Regardless of what other nations do, whether they agree to follow in our footsteps, is not of any concern. One American characteristic I am proud of is that we serve as a model for other nations; we know that the right decision is not always the easy decision. There will never be an easy time to take these first steps towards unity. Whether or not our nation is ready, or ever will be ready, now is always the time to do what is right.

When this mosque is built—and I hope it will be built—it will be a sign to others that we intend to close the gaps that divide us, to focus on the respect we have for our nation and all its citizens, and to continue to grow as a strong, durable nation.



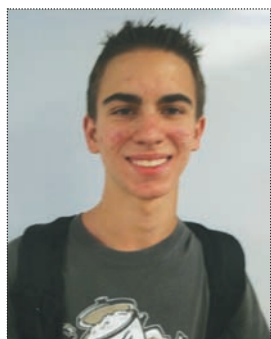
Helen Wiley

## And now it's your turn . . .

"Just because those who participated in the attacks on 9/11 belonged to a certain religion does not mean that others who belong to that religion should not be able to practice that religion wherever they choose. If the U.S. does not allow the mosque to be built, the fundamentals the U. S. has been based on for so many years will be violated."



**Jocelyn Cooper**  
Junior



**Scott Floerke**  
Junior

"If the people building the mosque are within their rights to build a mosque there, then there's no U.S. law that can really prevent them from doing so. Whether or not it's in the best taste is a different issue."

**What's around ground zero**  
A plan to build an Islamic center near the former World Trade Center has created an uproar about its propriety. A look at what is in the neighborhood:

1. Masjid Manhattan mosque	5. St. Peter's Catholic Church
2. New York Dolls strip club	6. Dunkin' Donuts
3. Off-Track Betting parlor	7. Burger King
4. Lilly O'Brien's Pub	8. St. Paul's Chapel

Source: Park51; McClatchy Washington Bureau © 2010 MCT

# Voters continue to obstruct marriage equality rights

Guest Column

Cooper Minnis

On Nov. 4, 2008, as the country was celebrating the election of Barack Obama, many residents of California were mourning the change in their state and federal constitution as the ballot initiative "Proposition 8" passed by only a few percentage points.

The proposition, highly funded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormon Church), was presented to overturn the state Supreme Court's upholding of same-sex marriage. Having led a campaign based heavily in fear mongering, the foes of gay rights seemed to think that the LGBT community and their advocates would simply give up and retreat to their respective "closets" where they could practice their "lifestyles" in private. The public reaction that followed the proposition's success, however, couldn't have been more contrary to their naivety.

Months of legal battle eventually brought the issue of marriage equality to a federal courtroom, presided over by Judge Vaughn Walker. The attorneys representing the fight against Proposition 8 were Ted Olson and David Boies.

Olson, a conservative republican, and Boies, a liberal democrat, were an unexpected legal team, as they are both known for opposing each other in 2000 during the Bush v. Gore Supreme Court battle.

On the issue of same-sex marriage, however, they united in favor of equality. After only a few weeks of testimony, fierce cross-examination and months of anticipation, Judge Walker declared Proposition 8 unconstitutional, saying, "Proposition 8 fails to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and lesbians for denial of a marriage license."

This ruling was followed by widespread celebration from the gay community and LGBT advocates. Right-wing political activists and intrusive religious organizations, however, were quick to criticize Walker's decision, chalking it up to bias and judicial activism. One has to wonder; if the federal judge was a conservative, Christian, heterosexual man and ruled in favor of Proposition 8, would the right wing be so quick to criticize his motivations?

In anticipation of the likely Supreme Court battle to come, it is important that we all understand what is really at stake in this case, and who the real victims are.

Those against marriage equality generally hide behind their constitutional right to vote. They seem to believe that the will of the majority is an unobstructed power able to make whatever decision they want regardless of its constitutionality.

Certainly in general elections, where officials are



Doug Williams holds a flag in support of gay marriage in front of city hall in San Francisco, CA, Thursday, March 5, 2009. Thousands of supporters for and against Proposition 8 turned out as the California Supreme Court heard oral arguments on whether Proposition 8 should be overturned. (John Green/Contra Costa Times/MCT).

elect to govern the entire population, it would be appropriate that the entire population have an equal say in the result.

You wouldn't, however, allow the state of Rhode Island to help decide who will be the governor of the state of Wyoming. Similarly, it wouldn't be appropriate for the entire population of a state to decide what rights and privileges a smaller, isolated group of individuals should be able to enjoy.

Our Declaration of Independence clearly states, "all men... are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." What will become of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness if one's neighbors have more of a say in his future than he does?

Admittedly, the issue of marriage equality is not illegitimate in its controversy. There are some arguments, however, that are nothing more than white noise in the legal context of this case.

For instance, The National Organization for Marriage (NOM), a large supporter of the discriminatory California law, is just as much a fundamentalist religious organization as it is a political organization. They often argue that, because homosexuality is sinful according to their religious beliefs, they should be able to vote on how it is handled.

They use their children as props, claiming it is their right as parents to keep homosexuality out of the lives of their children. This arbitrary religious commentary is of course useless and lacking in credibility.

Isn't their religious interpretation only an interpretation? What if a person's religious interpretation is tolerant of homosexuality? Should they not be able to practice freely?

This is simply a clash of faith in which neither side can be proven right or wrong. The opponents of marriage equality would argue that we should vote to solve this issue.

In other words, if the majority of California voters wish to outlaw constitutional law, then so be it. Since conservatives are traditionally in the majority, it's probably very easy to insist on the most expedient means of promoting your opinions and beliefs over others'.

Though harsh words and malicious accusations are hurled back and forth in this debate, the ultimate goal is to find a social equilibrium with our neighbors, to be able to coexist, to accept our differences, or at least our differences in opinion, and to live.

In order to live, however, there has to be a certain willingness on the part of others to let you live,

without trying to claim dominance or superiority. This is the society that the Constitution establishes for us.

It states specifically that no religious interpretation will rule another (Amendment I), and that all Americans are entitled to the equal protection of the law (Amendment XIV).

Interestingly, it also gives us the absolute right to express what we want in the form of a vote. As long as the right to vote and the guarantee to equal protection of the law exist together in the same Constitution, one will never be able to completely trump the other. Our constitutional rights are meant to coexist, just as humans are.

If the population, however, does not demonstrate a certain willingness to uphold the right to equal protection with their right to vote, and chooses to intentionally harm their neighbors, courts not only have the job, but also the obligation to correct that injustice.

This is where Judge Walker's critics fail to produce an impressive argument in favor of Proposition 8, in favor of singling out one solitary community (LGBT) to be stripped of a right that they had previously been granted.

There is no question among either side that marriage is a fundamental right. The Supreme Court has ruled on that fact several times since the 19th century, perhaps most famously in *Loving v. Virginia*, when interracial marriage was made legal.

This provides even more of a burden for the Proposition 8 supporters; they must explain not only what legitimate interest the state of California has in denying marriage licenses to gay couples, but also why the will of the majority should be able to strip the gay community of a fundamental right.

The spirit of this proposition is wrong, the quest of its supporters is concealed, the societal impact is polarizing, and yet the result will inevitably be monumental. If American history has taught us anything, it is that injustice in law does not last.

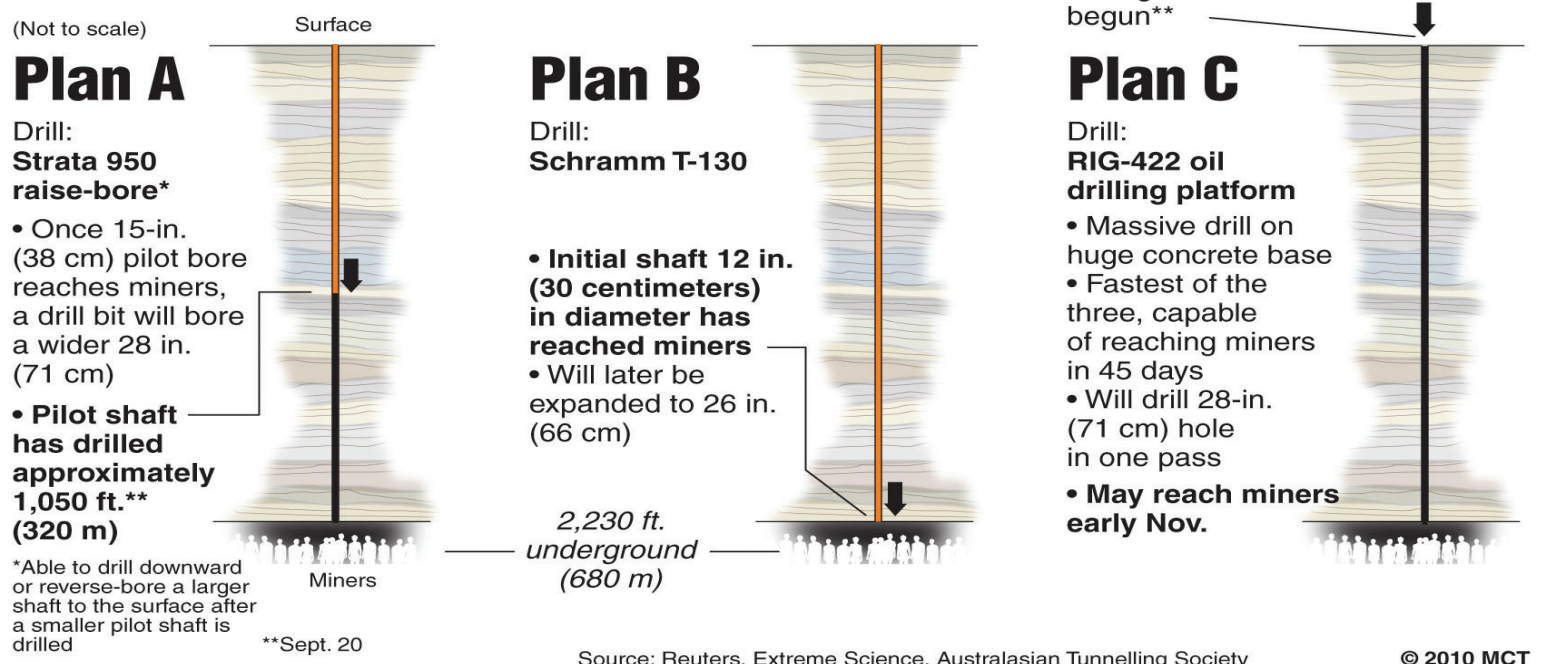
Though it may last for a while, it is the natural tendency of our society to evolve and to phase out divisive and discriminatory laws in the pursuit of coexistence.

Proposition 8 and all similar initiatives will die inevitably, but they will die alone. Their death will not be followed by the minds and values of the American people. Instead, this country will continue to do what it always does eventually embrace differences in opinion and agree to coexist.

The social conservatives and religious activists will learn to live with equality, but that won't begin to happen until our justice system paves the road for them, until they are stripped of the unobstructed power to control the lives of others from the voting booth. ☺

## Three options for the 33

One or more of the three shafts being drilled to free the 33 Chilean miners trapped in a refuge area more than 2,000 ft. (610 m) underground may be completed as early as the first week of November.



## Late night craving leads to inspiration

Midnight Slurpee runs prove to be the most memorable form of procrastination.

I stare at the whitewashed computer screen as the cursor helplessly flashes at me on the blank page. The digital clock next to me screams 11:11. Hoping superstition would save me in this time of need, I close my eyes and make a wish that the essay I have yet to begin would magically appear on the screen.

I clearly was desperate. It wasn't actually 11:11 since my clock runs 12 minutes fast and I'm not superstitious, so I look for a more practical means of finishing.

Diagnosing my procrastination as a common case of writer's block, I looked around my room and reached for the phone – I needed a drink.

My ride pulled up to my house in a matter of minutes. As my parents tucked themselves into bed I slipped out of the house and into her car.

A sense of freedom glazed over both of us as we began to cruise the sleepy streets.

When we encroached on our secret hide away, we parked the car and walked in under the flickering sign.

The cashier recognized us as usuals and pointed us to the back. We had reached the cure to my writer's block: the slurpee machine.

I snatched a cup from the dispenser and filled it to the brim, a small sample from each flavor. As the drink spewed over the cap I would slurp it down to keep it contained, just to fill it once again.

Overly optimistic, I attempted to fit one last spurt of slurpee into the container, but the pressure of the machine splatter painted the drink over the floor.

I dove for napkins as to not awake the exhausted cashier

from his open-eyed sleep. I meticulously cleaned up the slurpee, saddened as if I had wasted the most precious liquid on earth, almost inclined to lick it off the floor.

With slurpees in hand we paid for our drinks and headed back to the car.

Even though it was a frigid winter night, we rolled the windows down and the sunroof back and hit the road.

The frosty drink quickly became a warm soothing syrup that swept my worries away, and for just a moment the only concern I had was avoiding a painful brain freeze.

As we approached my house we took one last spin around the neighborhood to extend the surreal ride.

As I head to my room reality rushed to my head. I thought twice about if the rendezvous was a dream or reality and once again I found myself facing the mind-draining screen.

However, with ice, sugar, and a newfound work ethic pumping through my veins, I charged into the essay.

To a weary observer my frequent late night excursions to fulfill my slurpee craving might be seen as a pathetic excuse to delay my homework, but to me it is a righteous ritual.

It is my continual reminder that regardless how stressful life gets, there is always something to be enjoyed. And no matter how complex life gets, even a 99-cent drink can be cherished.

While it may be true that over the years I have lost a few hours of sleep due to my obsession with slurpees, what's life without a few drinks? ☺

## Courageous believers inspire faith

As an adolescent male, it's not often that I examine the contents of my prayers. Each evening before I go to bed, I attempt to give some sort of thanks to God for affording me the life that I am so privileged to live.

However, usually my mind drifts off to my friend's witty facebook status or the math test I have the next afternoon before I finally wrap up my thoughts, cross myself, and close my eyes for bed.

But recently, I've had trouble sleeping. Sept. 5 marked one month since a landslide resulted in the collapse of a tunnel in the San Esteban gold and copper mine in Copiapo, Chile, trapping 33 miners 2,300 feet below the ground.

Although recently installed tubes 3.2 inches in diameter allow the men to receive food, water, and other necessities and communicate with the world above via notes and video messages, the hope of a speedy deliverance is lacking, as many estimate it could be four months before the miners are freed.

The rescue effort hinges upon engineers' ability to construct a 24-inch wide rescue shaft which each miner must crawl through to reach freedom nearly half a mile above.

The task of keeping the miners physically fit enough to journey up the shaft and mentally strong enough to endure four months of confinement in a dark, muggy space no larger than a small apartment has been assigned to a special task force of psychologists and nutritionists.

The team has been hard at work assembling meal plans and writing up questionnaires administered to the miners to gauge their mental health. Activities are generated for the miners to do to keep their minds sharp, and the miners and the task force communicate on a daily basis.

Just trying to imagine what these 33 miners must be going through is difficult and has kept me up at night. Yet, when I finally mustered up the courage to picture such a horrific scenario, the first thing I thought to do was pray.

It then occurred to me that there's not much more for these men

to hang on to than faith, not just faith in the task force and engineers designed to help them survive, but faith in the God who created them, who for reasons unknown has subjected them to this experience and who is watching over them now.

This idea was further accentuated when I learned that many of the miners are now requesting religious figurines, while the man who has emerged as the spiritual leader in the group is busy at work making a shrine.

What struck me next was that the act of prayer, for me a habitual pre-bed, disorganized routine, is the engine driving the survival instincts within these 33 miners. If these men can maintain such a strong faith in God, then why shouldn't I? If these men are so certain of the force of prayer, what's stopping me from believing in it too?

These questions have brought me to the realization that I alone can affirm that my prayers have power, meaning, and significance. And given the choice by my forefathers to pray to whom I please and for whom I wish, I have pledged to pray for these miners, who, if for no other reason, deserve our prayers for being brave enough to believe.

We as a society can learn something from these men. In a period of war and recession, we are wrong to disregard faith, which I derive from my belief in God but which others may find in different places. We instead turn solely to stimulus plans and bailouts for the solutions to our woes.

We need to restore our resolve to trust in each other, to trust in our capacity to survive and excel, to trust in our faith.

As for the miners, they surely will be shaken if and when they emerge from their pit of despair as fall turns into winter. After the joyous greetings from loved ones, psychological questions of reintegrating into society and financial questions of rediscovering a source of income will await them and must be answered.

Physical wounds and mental abrasions will underscore their struggles. I can only hope all of our prayers will somehow soothe their many pains. ☺



Ben Colagiovanni

# Learning not to give into pressure and just play



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I was not nervous. The walk down the impossibly long corridor wasn't a detriment to my resolve. I was not perturbed by the curious—yet wary—faces of rivals and their parents. My gut wasn't doing somersaults as the order in which I was to play certain pieces was explained. My carefully constructed armor didn't shatter to pieces as soon as I stepped into the room before the two stony-faced judges. Fine. I lied. I was nervous; impossibly, helplessly, ridiculously so. And as I drew my bow across the strings, each passing-phrase heightened the panic. I was concentrating on all the wrong things—the expressions of my audience, how bad I probably sounded, how I dearly, dearly hoped that no one outside the room could hear me, least of all anyone that I might have known. Some still-rational part of my mind was already picking apart my performance: the notes, hopefully in tune, but garbled by my adrenaline-spiked speed. The tone, at times frazzled as my shaking arm lurched the bow across the strings. Criticism, crit-

icism—it was all wrong, and the judges, I worried, who calmly noting things, were probably attuned to that. I was quite sure of it. I had already lost. In that space in time, all distinctions—chairs, rankings, prestige and shame—should have ceased to be. I should have been focused on more important things, like maybe the audition itself. Not the past, or the future, or the people outside the room, or the people inside the room—all of it should have disappeared but the music. Unfortunately, the nerves I felt kept me present. Asking myself why I cared about what others thought so much, I had no answer. A few weeks later, I found myself in the Powell Hall auditorium, watching as scores of musicians warmed up on the stage, chatting, playing, talking to friends in the audience who had come up to greet them.

There was no visible tension. Though I knew that these people must have been feeling some sort of natural pre-performance apprehension, they weren't so far gone as to become sweaty-palmed wrecks. At least they had their good humor. And then the first piece began, a selection of Kalinnkov, and I saw a few of them relax into the music. The conductor, a pretty animated fellow who could have put on a show by himself, added to the atmosphere. For the first time, I was able to appreciate a second layer that I hadn't even realized I had lost: my connection to the music itself, and not where I hoped my music might take me. The third piece was what I had bought the tickets for, though; Tchaikovsky's Concerto in D major, which was going to be played by Joshua Bell. Bell started out his career as a child prodigy—"prodigy" being literal, as he debuted in Carnegie Hall at age 14. Nevertheless, between astounded listening and

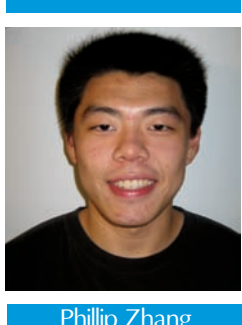
watching the violinist's fingers ascend what was probably six or seven positions in one sweeping motion, I became aware of the fact that Bell himself had closed his eyes, lost in his own world. His violin, a mere extension of himself, was simply a tool for his self-expression. His entire performance was, to my knowledge, flawless, and he was standing there in an auditorium full of expectant people—people who had paid to see, not just hear, him play, and who would probably riot if he missed a single note. The pressure that he undoubtedly faced was unbelievable. And yet, if he was nervous, which he had every right to be, he didn't show it. As I left the auditorium—later than I'd expected, thanks to the considerable amount of time that audience had spent clapping, hoping in vain that Bell might give another encore—I realized that, though I was no Joshua Bell, I could still become lost in the music. I still had the ability, should I try hard enough, to make the audience—and with it, the expectations and the nerves—blur into the background. I just had to stand there and play. ☘



## STARS lectures enrich science experiences

Coming into the STARS program, I wasn't exactly thrilled about the lectures presented to us at UMSL. After all, they were the evil forces that stood unrelentingly between us and lunchtime. Now, as I look back holistically at my experience this summer, I realized that the lectures play a crucial role in making the STARS program truly rewarding. As we conduct our projects as research scientists, we are often required to become experts on our specific topics. To study a particular topic extensively is enjoyable to many of us and is one of the biggest reasons why we were there. However, as we dove into the deep end of the pool and began studying our research topic with intense focus, it was easy to lose sight of the broader perspective, which is characterized by the valuable connection between different fields of science. Luckily, many of the lectures focused on such connection between different fields. Speaking passionately about their studies, the lecturers revealed to us a promising future in which more fields of science will work in synergy to improve our lives. One example of such lecture was "From Parachute to Whales: Applying Parachute Inflation Theory to Fin Whale Lunge Feeding" by Professor Jean Potvin of Saint Louis University. Professor Potvin has extensively studied the aerodynamics of parachutes. He is troubled by the fact that much of the research on parachute design was done through trial-and-error testing. Such understanding is not enough when it comes to space exploration or other areas in which actual testing is

impossible. Thus, he strongly wishes to "understand theoretically and quantitatively" the aerodynamics of parachutes so that predictions of parachute performance can be made without testing. As unexpected as it may seem, the body mechanics of whale's lunge feeding behavior is very similar to the aerodynamics of parachutes. The type of whale that Professor Potvin is particularly interested in is the fin whale. Fin whales are some of the largest predators on earth. These giants capture their prey through lunge feeding, an event in which they open their jaws to filter and engulf large amounts of water. With his knowledge about how parachutes inflate, Professor Potvin was able to lend insight to whale biologists who are trying to understand whale's feeding habits. Lunge feeding requires a massive amount of energy and thus scientists are interested in how whales are able to feed in such manner with maximum efficiency. In this context, different fields of science magically came together. For example, the air turbulence that affects parachute opening can be examined in a similar way as the water current that impacts the opening of a whale's buccal cavity. Professor Potvin's presentation was remarkable in that it illustrated how basic theories of one topic can apply to a completely different topic. In some ways, the series of lectures was the perfect complement to our everyday research. The lectures reminded us of the constant interaction across different fields of science while the research opportunity granted us the freedom to explore a specific topic that impassions us. ☘



Phillip Zhang



Monica Gierada

## Consumers should evaluate vendors' politics, actions before making purchases

**Cash or credit?** When buying consumer goods now days, it almost seems like "method of payment" is the only real decision left up to the consumer. With low prices and convenience at the top of consumer's priorities - sales, coupons, and "everyday low prices" are increasingly dictating consumer's purchases. While the use of sweatshops, poor labor practices, malicious business tactics, political standing and harsh environmental ramifications can influence a choice in product or vendor, if this consciousness lay barrier between consumers and the hottest new product, or the lowest price, these factors easily go ignored. However, it is time consumers take a stand. Due to the recent Supreme Court decision in Citizens United vs. FEC that has made it easier for corporations to wield their political influence, consumers' choice in where they shop and what they buy, more than ever, influence the world around us. At the end of this past summer, Target, the national "big box" retailer, donated \$150,000 to the Republican candidate for governor in Minnesota, who is not only pro-business but also anti-gay. Liberal communities outraged by the political donation rallied boycotts across the country. Even more moderate institutions protested, including our neighbor Washington University, which canceled a back to school event that was planned at Target, in reference to the political donation. It is clear that Target is not anti-gay. It is one of few national retailers that provide domestic partnership benefits to same-sex couples and it includes sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy. Furthermore, both Target and Best Buy, the national electronic store that also donated \$100,000 to the same candidate, have apolo-

gized about the donations and have stated they do not support all of the viewpoints of the candidate. Nonetheless, this issue is not about gay rights, these corporations could have donated to any political candidate and there would have been the same effect. The message that needs to be sent to these corporations, is that they have no business pandering in our democracy. Thanks to these boycotts both Target and Best Buy suffered loss of revenue, investor backlash, and defamation of public image. That is only because consumers spoke out with their wallets. Now that Target's and Best Buy's attempt at getting a business edge back fired as a grave business misstep, any consumer goods manufacture or store will think twice before soliciting its political opinions. Moral of the story: when shopping, the only direct question a store will ask consumers is "cash or credit," but in reality by swiping that credit or handing over the cash, consumers are endorsing businesses and products: their business practices, their community involvement and now, their political views. In the world we live in, where big business is top dog, we are obligated as consumers to educate ourselves and use our buying power. A few dollars at the grocery store can ensure healthier food and ecological farming tactics buying locally grown food, a few cents on electronics can guarantee electronic are conflict mineral free ensuring minerals are not from war stricken Congo, thus saving lives. However, if consumers ignore these opportunities to buy consciously, companies have no motivation to do the moral and right thing. So, the next time you are asked "cash or credit," think twice about whom you are supporting. ☘

Agree 94%  
Disagree 6%

Staff Editorial



courtesy of the Eby family

Junior Noah Eby, age 3, gets a hug from his big sister Leah with whom he shares many memories.

## Reminiscing on lost childhood

In a vain effort to avoid doing homework, I recently found myself flipping through the dusty comic books stacked in the corner of my room, remnants of a bygone era. As I turned the tattered pages of volumes of "Foxrot" and "Calvin and Hobbes," I came to the realization that I never had a real childhood. Jason and Calvin represent what I see as the ideal life of a child. They have nice houses and good families, but that doesn't really matter. What is important is that they have a seemingly infinite backyard and a constant supply of gadgets and toys. And now, as I go through adolescence spending all night in my own, I cannot help but desire what Jason and Calvin have. I want adventure, I want spontaneity, I want escapade. I want to use a transmogrifier to turn myself into an elephant. I want to have so much fun that I bring it home with me in the form of a hefty amount of mud. I want to form an exclusive club in a treehouse and wear hats made of newspaper. I want to use walkie-talkies to conduct covert operations in my living room, and I want to intimidate and coerce my cohorts with a camouflage helmet that fires a volley of suction darts. I want to embark on an expedition to the Yukon, departing from my backyard with just a toboggan and a couple of peanut butter and marshmallow sandwiches.

In the summer, I want to ride a red wagon along a trail through the wilderness, up and down the undulating hills. I want to fish in a pond, I want to play croquet, and I want to meander through the woods aimlessly and without inhibition. I want to shoot model rockets into the stratosphere, fly kites that I made myself, and send Hot Wheels cars careening along their track, right out of my window. I want to measure how far they flew and how long they stayed in the air so that I can determine how fast they were going. In the winter, I want to sled down impossibly steep hills only to tumble and roll most of the way. I want to drink hot chocolate and eat cookies in front of the fireplace as soon as I get home. I want to use a jai alai xistera to send snowballs soaring, and I want to build an army of snowmen during the night just to scare the neighbors. I want to put a snowball in the freezer so that, come next summer, I can throw it at my arch nemesis and leave him both unpleasantly icy and utterly baffled. I want all of this, and yet when I was young I did the things kids are supposed to do. I played Clayton Rec. baseball, I rode my bike around the block endlessly, I had water gun fights in my backyard, and I owned a substantial arsenal of Nerf weaponry. So perhaps it isn't that I didn't have a childhood, after all. Maybe I just want another chance. ☘



Highs and Lows

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Winner of MIPA All-Missouri, NSPA All-American with four marks of distinction, Quill and Scroll Gallup Award, CSPA Silver Crown (2004, 2005, 2009), Pacemaker winner (2003), NSPA Hall of Fame Member (2006)

## GO FIGURE



MCT

55 days

A group of 33 Chilean miners have been trapped underground in northern Chile since August 5th. The miners were buried alive when the 2,000 feet below the ground caved in while they were working. On September 18th, Chile's 200th anniversary of independence from Spain, the Chilean government sent patriotic flags down to decorate the inside of the mine for a patriotic party.

147 days

There are 147 days until summer arrives. It's been a little over a month since school started and to keep everybody out of that depressing school funk, here's a brilliant reminder: that's only 21 weeks. Hang in there!



MCT

87 thousand - 1 million

Depending on the source of the statistics, eighty seven thousand to one million people were at the Glenn Beck rally on Aug. 28. Glenn Beck is quite possibly the epitome of a controversial figure, with his followers hanging on his every word and his critics just wishing he didn't exist.



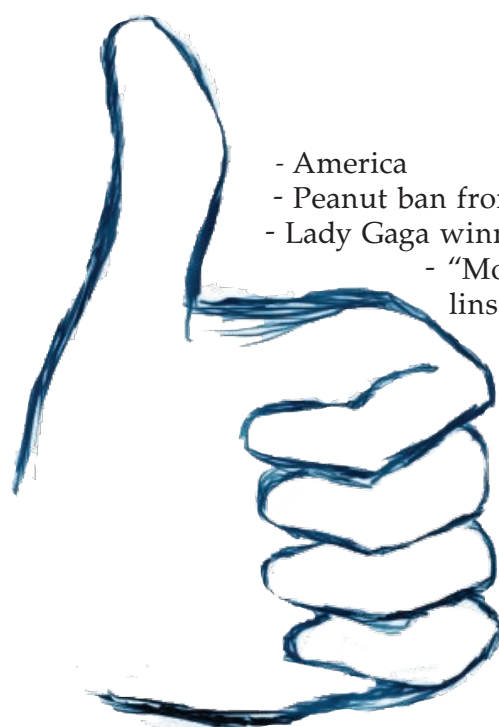
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1.4 billion

After producing 1.4 billion crayons, Emerson Moser, the senior crayon moulder for Crayola announced upon retirement that he was colorblind, to the shock and dismay of Crayola. Moser is in good company, as Paul Newman, Mr Rogers and Vincent van Gogh were also colorblind.



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THUMBS UP

- America
- Peanut ban from classrooms
- Lady Gaga winning 8 VMAs
- "Mockingjay" by Suzanne Collins

- Hope for Rams
- St. Louis Art Fair
- New Globe website
- Clayton Smoking Ban
- Glee premier!
- Oprah giving a trip to Australia to her audience

THUMBS DOWN



- Flu shots
- Sleep Deprivation
- Justin Beiber
- St. Louis Radio
- Tiger Woods
- cafeteria prices
- Saint Louis Cardinals



DID YOU KNOW

Why is Facebook blue? According to CNN, Mark Zuckerberg, the mastermind behind the social network, is red-green colorblind. Zuckeberg cannot differentiate between red and green, so he made Facebook mostly blue. Hmm...maybe that's the reason Facebook has yet to allow color profile pages.

"Blue is the richest color for me, I can see all of blue," Zuckerberg told The New Yorker.

To find out if you are red-green colorblind, go to chsglobe.com and search "colorblind test" to see for yourself.

A 17-year-old Australian teenager started a worm invasion on Twitter last week. The teenager, Pearce Delphin, found a flaw in the Twitter javascript code that allowed users to post interactive java codes.

Supposedly, without anticipating the chaos that followed, Delphin decided to test his discovery and tweet a code to his friends that created a pop-up whenever a cursor rolled over said tweet. Others then ingeniously created a code that caused others to retweet the java code without their knowledge.

Eventually the code transformed into a worm that exposed anyone who rolled over the tweet to spam and other viruses. The worm even took out the White House press secretary's Robert Gibbs' and wife Sarah Brown's twitter pages. Thankfully, Twitter swallowed the wormfest before the code was modified to steal user's passwords. According to Delphin, hackers didn't manage to modify the code due to Twitter's 140 character limit.

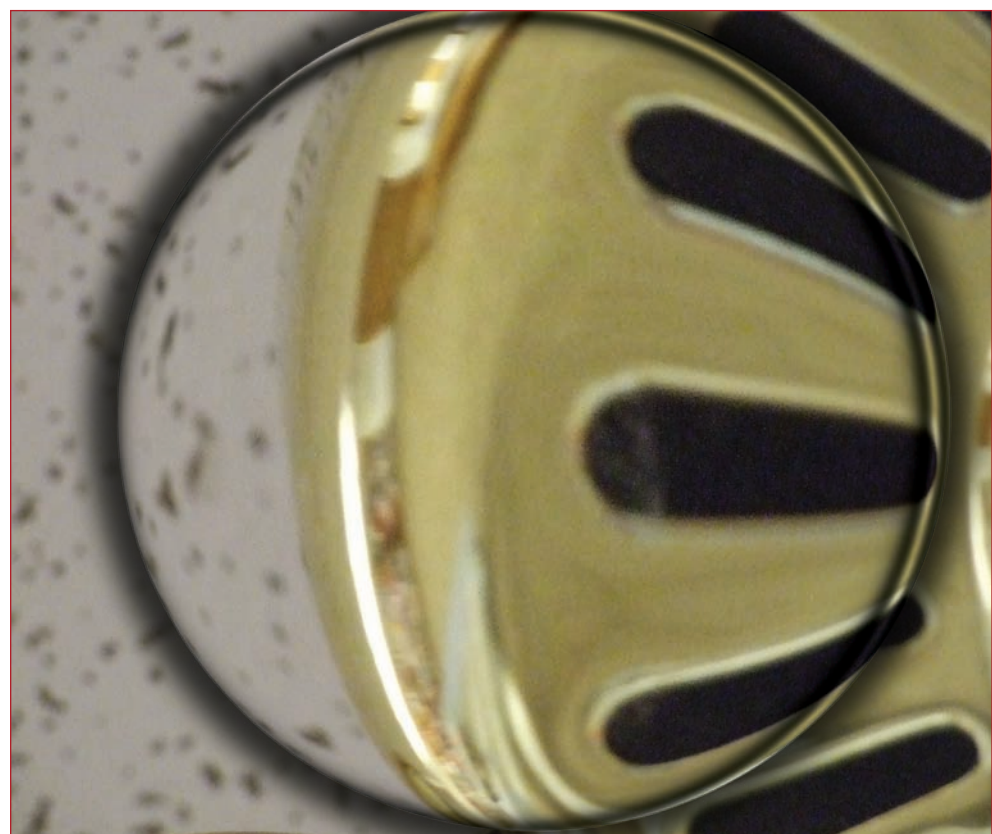
## WAKE UP CALL



Everyone knows that it's annoying when people talk on their cell phones on public, but now it's been scientifically proven in a new study from Cornell University. In the study, a conversation between two people was recorded twice. The first recording was the full phone conversation and the second was just one person's half of the conversation. The result was that people presented with one person's half of a conversation were more distracted than those who heard both sides of the conversation. The proposed reason is that people are unable to ignore conversations they're uncertain about. If one hears random snippets of conversation such as, "She said what?" or "NO WAY!" they can't help but wonder what's on the other end of the line. So, please stop driving everyone around you crazy and keep your phone conversations either quiet, or private.

MCT

## Zoom In



Alexis Atkinson

This picture is a close-up of some object in the school. What is it? A drain? A doorknob? Go to [chsglobe.com/zoomout](http://chsglobe.com/zoomout) for the answer!