

Primary Election in Pennsylvania could decide Democratic nominee.  
**PENNSYLVANIA PRIMARY / NEWS / PAGE 4**

Meet Upper St. Clair High School's Super Seniors.  
**SUPER SENIORS / FEATURES / PAGE 5**

Meet Ms. Ouyang in the Teacher's Lounge.  
**TEACHER'S LOUNGE / FEATURES / PAGE 5**



# The St. Clairion

Volume 9, Issue 6 - April 2008 - Upper St. Clair High School- Pittsburgh, PA 15241

All the news that fits and then some!

## USCHS Natural Helpers learn how to lend a helping hand at annual retreat

By: Maggie Overstreet  
Guest Writer

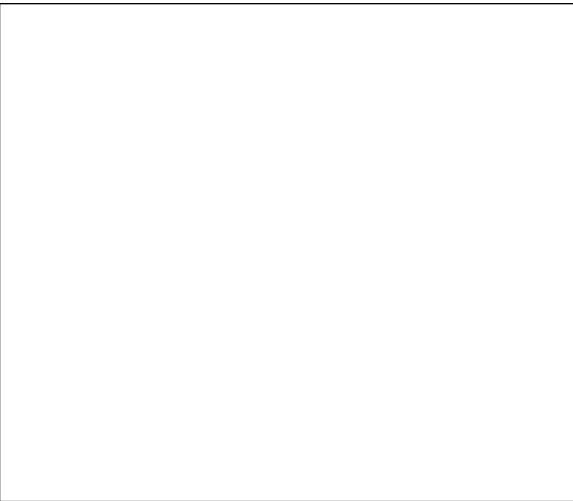
On Wednesday, March 26, students may have noticed a group of kids getting on a bus and looking as though they were going camping. The trip was not a camping but a bonding experience. These kids are a part of Natural Helpers, a group of students chosen by their peers for their ability to help others.

The students were off to Heritage, a Boy Scout camp, to learn how to improve the helping environment at Upper St. Clair High School. Stephanie Fisher, Mike Ghilani, Tom Yochum, Jamie Vargo, Tonia Garofalo, and Tom Marquis were of the USC faculty that accompanied the student Natural Helpers on the trip. Traveling an hour and half from USC, the students abandoned all their stereotypes and worries to engage in a true bonding and learning experience.

Most of the Natural Helpers had never seen each other before. Many students clung to their school cliques at first; however, the staff quickly broke the groups apart and set forth to help

the Natural Helpers form new ties between new people.

Students learned about the Helping Skill, helping situations, expressing limits, and working as a team. There were trust circles and walks, team building activities, and even a trip



The Natural Helpers pose together at the retreat, where they discussed issues of importance for high schoolers. Photo courtesy of Kristin Momeyer.

through the woods to an abandoned ship! During the discussions, kids spilled their hearts out, telling personal stories to people they had just met only the day before.

On Thursday, the students were involved in what was called “sharing.” Everyone brought in a personal object and shared their story behind it to

everyone. There were tears and hugs. No one was put down; no labels were put on people. Everyone was allowed a chance to speak during the discussions. The retreat gave students an opportunity to get away from the school atmosphere; no one had to raise their hand, and all the teachers were called by their first names.

Dr. Ghilani (or Mighty Mike) was an amazing asset to the retreat. He cleared up school rumors, explained school situations, and really listened to ideas the students had to make the high school a better place.

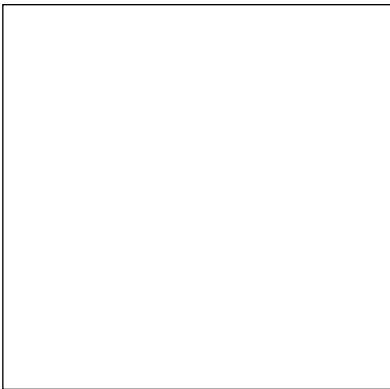
At the end of the retreat, no one wanted to leave. On the bus ride to Heritage, everyone was split into little groups, representing the cliques from school. On the ride home, everyone was a family. Everyone sat together, laughing and talking. The retreat felt like a fantasy, no one remembering things back in the USC “bubble.” Going back was like being hit with reality, but this time, everyone was ready to fight back.

## Ceramics students contribute to the Empty Bowls Dinner

By: Amanda Dasdorf  
Entertainment Editor

Every year, students in ceramics classes around the greater Pittsburgh area make soup bowls for the Empty Bowls Dinner.

The dinner raises money for the hungry to benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and Just Harvest, a public policy advocacy on hunger and poverty related issues. While high school students provided over 1200 handmade bowls, local



Students donated their ceramic creations to the Empty Bowls Benefit. Photo courtesy of Amanda Dasdorf.

restaurant owners and chefs provide the soup. A ticket for the dinner costs \$20, and the event allows guests to select a bowl to take home once the dinner is over and to participate in a silent auction as well as enjoy live entertainment.

As a final project for all ceramics classes at Upper St. Clair High School, students are given the task of using 3 pounds of clay to create their

own unique bowl to donate to the dinner. Senior Colleen Friend, a four year ceramics student, comments, “I think the Empty Bowls Dinner is a great idea, and I love challenging myself at the end of every year to make unique, different bowls that will indirectly help less fortunate families.”

The Empty Bowls Dinner has been helping feed families in Pittsburgh for thirteen years. Most recently, the dinner was held March 9, 2008, at Rodef Shalom Congregation on 5th Avenue.

Ceramics teacher Mrs. Watts, who has provided bowls for the dinner for at least seven years, comments on the event, “I think it’s a wonderful opportunity for artists to give back to their community, and everyone wins. Students get to create, patrons get to appreciate art and food, and the money helps families trying to get by.”

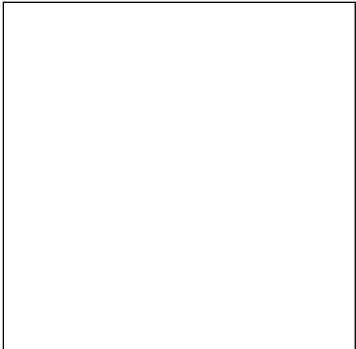
## Inside the USC Football Locker Room: Who’s Who

By: Ryan Stockton  
Staff Writer

Upper St. Clair football: Friday nights, bright lights, and great students. But who are these students cheering on? Of course they are cheering on the Panther football team who currently holds 5 WPIAL championships and 2 PIAA championships, but who helps to get these titles? The coaches naturally get this credit, but the coaches cannot win without skilled players. Three players who have exceptional skill are Jon Biery, Mike Rhoa, and Spencer Scott.

Linebacker, guard, and tight end Jon Biery is continuing to expand on his 9 year long football career. Playing for Coach Render, Biery wears number 66 and has lettered

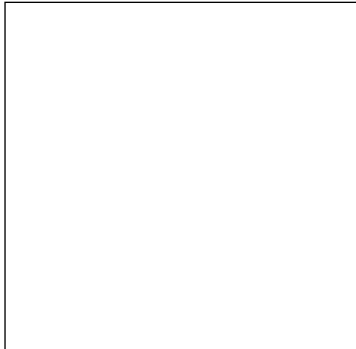
one year. Standing at 6’2” and weighing 205 lbs, Biery could recall his fondest memory. He said, “I remember playing in this one



Linebacker, guard, tight end, and junior Jon Biery. Photo courtesy of Ryan Stockton.

game. It was a good game for me and what I remember most is knocking a kid’s tooth out.”

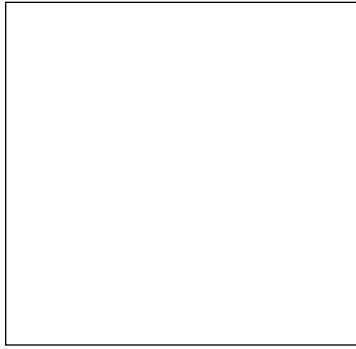
Michael Rhoa, tight end, has always been known as a funny guy. Also a 9 year player, Rhoa has been playing football. He wears number



Tight end and junior Michael Rhoa. Photo courtesy of Ryan Stockton.

86 and stands at 5’11”, weighing 185 lbs. Rhoa has claimed the title of “All-time WPIAL AAAA Great

Southern Junior Varsity 2-Point Conversion Record”. Mike recalled his fondest memory, saying, “At Boyce Camp my sopho-



Wide receiver, corner back, and junior Spencer Scott. Photo courtesy of Ryan Stockton.

more year, I fit 50 grapes into my mouth during lunch. Yeah it was pretty intense.”

For years, Spencer Scott has been known as one of USC’s best athletes. Performing well at both lacrosse and football, Scott has a way of getting things done. For football, Spencer wears number 21 and has played ten years. He currently plays wide receiver and corner back. He stands at 6’0” and weighs 170 lbs. For his fondest memory, Spencer recalled, “I remember watching Steve Lias watch Mike Rhoa fit those 50 grapes into his mouth. Lias’ reaction was priceless.”

With the ever-changing chance of winning a title, who can say what will become of USC in this upcoming season. However, with Jon Biery, Michael Rhoa, and Spencer Scott, we can all bet on USC doing well.

Panther  
Predilections

What is your favorite  
class and why?

“Probably biology because  
the labs are really fun, and  
Mr. Zebo’s room is really  
entertaining.”  
– Victoria Lazur  
Freshman

“I’d have to say a tie  
between Honors American  
History, AP American  
History, and AP European  
History. Mr. Durkin is an  
excellent educator.”  
– Daniel Durkin  
Sophomore

“Forensic Chemistry  
because I like learning  
about criminals and crim-  
inal acts.”  
– Jenn Lawlor  
Junior

“Mr. Labanc’s  
Psychology class because  
I enjoy his stories, also  
known as Labanc 101.”  
– Gary Burner  
Senior

By: Brigid McCabe  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Desk of the Editor  
Should parents join Facebook?

By: Kelsey Short  
Editor-in-Chief

It’s what all the cool kids, nearly 24 million of us, are doing – joining Facebook. What if the next time you log onto your home page, you open up a friend request and find that your mom wants to be your Facebook friend?

Your fear is now your parents’ ultimate desire. Parents have been joining the Facebook social network since the site expanded beyond college students, allowing anyone of any age demographic to become a member—including your mom and dad (www.telegraph.co.uk).

If the “Facebook Fogies” are joining the network to feul their own fogie-social-circles, why not? Let them go on with their bad selves, but if parents are joining to stalk their kids and dig up some dirt on their friends, then we as their children have a right

to click the “reject request” button on their access to our cyber personal lives, so to speak.

Parents may want to be “cool,” “hip,” or whatever word their generation uses to describe an adult who wants to be “friends” with their kids and not their parent.

Professor Michael Wesch of the Kansas State University, who researches social networking as it relates to cultural anthropology, suggests that parents’ infringement upon their children’s social lives is not the way to become closer with their teens. Professor Wesch says that young Facebookers are trying to discover themselves, which is a difficult thing to do for teenagers to do, even without their parents snooping around reading their personal

information (www.nytimes.com).

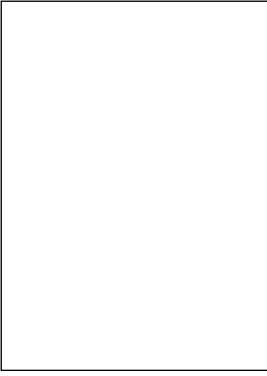
If your parents really feel that they are missing out by not having a Facebook, then follow this piece of Wesch’s advise: go find them an adult social network to join. These sites offer your parents an opportunity to fraternize with other, more seasoned adults instead of a bunch of teens and twenty-somethings. Take Linkedin.com for example, a site geared toward developing a strong professional network. The possibilities offered by this adult social network cater to our parents’ age and interest group. They can search for clients and jobs as well as consult experts – quite a more mature approach than Facebook has with its more juvenile appli-

cations to cast spells on friends and send bumper stickers to people (www.linkedin.com).

“It caters to the older generation with an automatic feed of news that relates to older generations and a number of features tailored to the way people in that generation would interact,” Wesch says (www.nytimes.com).

Tell your parents to find their own place to socialize with their own kind. Facebook is our territory. No parents allowed. Because, frankly, it would be way too creepy and awkward if I ever arrived at my home page and saw a poke from my mom.

Parents, let us explore who we are without having to worry about you snooping around on our personal pages. We need the freedom to express ourselves, and face it, you don’t always allow that at home. Facebook is our outlet, our asylum, our escape from, well, sometimes you.



Senior Kelsey Short,  
Editor-in-Chief of *The St. Clairion*

USCHS students unsure of which presidential candidate to choose

By: Brigid McCabe  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Though the presidential election remains a hot debate in almost every facet of the media, a majority of Upper St. Clair juniors and seniors, many of whom are eligible to vote in the general election on November 4th, claim that none of the candidates appeal to their tastes.

In a random polling and interviewing of twenty juniors and seniors, 5 percent could not give an answer because they do not follow politics. 50 percent chose a candidate simply because they disliked his or her running mates, and not because they believed in the mission of that particular person. Only 45 percent gave passionate answers about their favorite candidates, and of that only 15 percent could explain what specific qualifications or viewpoints that he or she particularly identified with.

According to www.civicyouth.org, the teen demographic is better educated and more ethnically diverse than the older, parent generations; therefore, the average person would

expect young voters to offer a wide range of opinions, or at least some kind of opinion. While it is not difficult to walk ten feet in a high school without overhearing somebody’s opinion on the Pirates’ season or Britney Spears’s hospitalization, the same does not always apply to the topic of the presidential candidates.

Despite this, the candidates have placed an abundance of faith in the youth’s vote. Chron.com reports, “To win their votes, all the candidates are collecting cell-phone numbers. They’re sending text messages and e-mails. They’re making optimum use of social-networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace, and they’re tailoring speeches and campaign stops to the 18-to-29-year-old crowd. It’s all in hope of harnessing an expected youthquake of interest.” The “youthquake” has reached some students of Upper St. Clair High School, who stand firmly for their beliefs. Senior Ian Winner says, “I would vote for Barack Obama because he is a well-rounded candidate who wants to get out of Iraq.” Junior Julia

Aloe agrees that Brack Obama is the best choice, stating, “He’s a JFK because he’s new and younger, which means he’s more likely to change things.” Senior Nick McKenzie, who supports John McCain, disagrees: “Obama voted to spend the most amount of money and is an extremist.” Senior Jordan Shonberg cited Clinton as his candidate of choice because she has experience as a senator and helped husband Bill Clinton greatly during his presidency.

Political pollster John Zogby estimates that twenty percent of this year’s voters will be thirty years of age and under, clearly voicing the belief that our votes could count (www.chron.com). In contrast, Larry Sabato, leader for the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia states, “The importance of the youth vote is often exaggerated. They’re consistently outvoted by those over 60. During the Virginia primary, 14 to 15 percent of the voters were in the 17-to-29-year-old category. The over-60 crowd made up 25 percent of the total vote” (www.chron.com).

The back and forth arguments

of politicians, teens, and polls proves that voting in the presidential race is anybody’s game and that the youth could either step up or ignore it entirely.

One thought that should not cross young peoples’ minds is that others who are more knowledgeable about the candidates should vote.

Make yourself knowledgeable! As much as the media spits propaganda, it can at least provide statistical analysis about the candidates. Also, debates are essential to watch because they provide the candidates’ viewpoints on important issues straight from the donkeys’ and elephants’ own mouths.

The eighteen year olds who shrugged off the presidential races in 2000 and 2004 often happened to be the same individuals who ranted about the incompetence of George Bush and cried when their best friend was sent to fight in Iraq.

A change is possible, though, and it does not matter whether you support Hillary Clinton, Brack Obama, or John McCain, as long as you know exactly what you want: head to the voting polls on November 4th.

for student expression. Opinions expressed in by-lined articles are those of the authors, not necessarily the entire *St. Clairion* staff.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. All letters should be signed and submitted to *The St. Clairion* mailbox in the main office. Obscene, libelous, or otherwise inappropriate letters will not be printed.

*The St. Clairion* staff is made up of students who are committed to producing a newspaper for their fellow students that provides entertainment, self-expression, and relevant information in a fair, honest, thorough, and respectful manner.

The newspaper is financed by the sale of advertisement space to local businesses. Advertising rates will be sent to any business upon request.

*The St. Clairion* is a forum

*The St. Clairion*  
Upper St. Clair, PA

**Editor-In-Chief**  
Kelsey E. Short  
**Assistant Editor-In-Chief**  
Brigid McCabe  
**Opinions Editors**  
Kirstin Kennedy  
**News Editor**  
Rachel von Waldow  
**Features Editor**  
Marni Schreiber  
**Sports Editor**  
JP Gooderham

**Entertainment Editor**  
Amanda Dasdorf  
**Photography Editor**  
Alivia Kandabarow  
**Staff Writers**  
Dalion Townsend  
Greg Schlosser  
Hannah Mann  
Ryan Stockton  
**Photographers**  
Brigid McCabe  
Hannah Mann  
**Sponsor**  
Ms. Caty DeWalt

St. Clairion Editorial

New statistic ruins the creditability of teenage females

By: Kirstin Kennedy  
Opinions Editor

In the famous words of *Mean Girls* character Coach Carr, “Don’t have sex, because you will get pregnant and die! Don’t have sex in the missionary position, don’t have sex standing up, just don’t do it, OK, promise?” (www.imbd.com).

Funny, right? Perhaps teens across America should pay more attention to this advice. The latest statistic flooding the news media and the minds of concerned parents everywhere is researchers’ exclamation: one in every four teenage females between the ages of fourteen and nineteen have contracted a sexually transmitted infection. That’s right, according to *The Seattle Times*, 3.2 million female teens are infected and exposed to potentially fatal viruses contracted through unprotected sexual conduct. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention found that twenty percent of white and Mexican-American teenage girls are infected with at least one STI while fifty percent of Black-

American females have contracted one of the many sexually transmitted infections (www.cnn.com). The two most common infections include HPV, which can now be prevented through a vaccination offered to non-sexually active females, and Chlamydia. Among all the girls tested, fifteen percent had more than one sexually transmitted infection (*The Seattle Times*).

These statistics are not only distasteful and pathetic, but defiant to the established sisterhood of females. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, women have grown, worked, and impressed the male dominate society with their abilities. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and their fellow activists sacrificed their own credibility, standing up against ‘the man’ so that we could have the right to vote. The nineteenth amendment is irrelevant in comparison to the work that the women who came before us did for our acceptance. Together we are to unite to work with men and to create equality for all.

This statistic brings disgrace to

the unity of female sisterhood across the globe. How can we as females expect to be respected by males when clearly we lack respect for ourselves? Health class and sexual education classes are mandated across the country. We all know how Crabs is spread a what the leaky you-know-what is caused by.

The awareness of sexually transmitted infections has even gone mainstream with MTV Public Service Announcements (“If you lover isn’t rubber wear one”) and the allusions to the dangerousness of them in movies, such as *Mean Girls* and *Thirteen*. We all know the causes and effects these infections have on our bodies. We know that unprotected and unsafe sex can lead to discomfort, infection, infertility, even death. We didn’t take Sex Ed for nothing, so girls, why aren’t we taking the precautions to take care of ourselves?

The whole “getting tested talk” is awkward. But, hello! We are teenage girls! Nearly everything is awkward at this point in our lives. In reality, if talking about sexual health prior to engaging in

sexual activity with a partner is too awkward, then you really shouldn’t be having sexual relations anyway. It’s time we stop loosening up around the boys that we like and take a dose of confidence in ourselves before we end up taking doses of antibiotics. Keep in mind that vaginal, oral, and anal sex all can attribute to the spread of these STI’s, even unsafe piercing and tattoos.

If this statistic should tell us anything, it is that sexually transmitted infections aren’t some foregin flues that only people in Africa get. STI’s are mainstream and that means that us girls, in the suburbs, the cities and the country are suseptable. So to all teenage girls, stop breaking the sisterhood and making your fellow females look like floozies, drop the ‘friends with benefits’ and find someone you love and trust, and for the love of God, have you and your partner tested prior to engaging in sexually activity. Let’s unite, like we have in the past and beat the statistic that one in four teenage girls have a sexually transmitted infection. Make your sisters proud!

Will Ferrell movies are becoming all the same

By: Ryan Stockton  
Staff Writer

If you have been to the movies recently, you have undoubtedly noticed that Will Ferrell has been the writer and star of many new comedies. Some of Ferrell’s most recent movies have included *Semi-Pro*, *Blades of Glory*, and *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*. Although these movies are generally funny, has anyone stopped to notice that the humor in these movies is almost the same? In both his way of delivering the jokes and the overall humor in his movies, Will Ferrell is a one-dimensional comedian.

If you have seen at least one Will Ferrell movie, however, most of us fail to notice Will

Ferrell’s mono-tone way of delivering a joke. Ferrell generally builds up and delivers these jokes in the same manner each time. First, Ferrell’s character will be put into an easily set-up situation through the actions of other characters or even in simple conversation.

Next, Ferrell will get a fairly serious look on his face; this, of course, depends on the situation of the movie.

Finally, with a plain face and mono-tone voice, Will Ferrell will deliver his joke. Naturally we all laugh at these jokes,

because Will Ferrell is a pretty good comedian; however, Ferrell never changes his way of telling these jokes.

Will Ferrell not only takes the lead rolls in his movies, but also writes the scripts for most of them. If you ever take a look at the credits of a movie, you will find that Ferrell generally writes alone. It is in these movies that Ferrell becomes the most

repetitive in his jokes. On the other hand, if you see a movie in which Will Ferrell was not the soul provider of the writing, you

will find that the movie is packed with new humor and different jokes. Take for instance the Ferrell movies, *Semi-Pro* and *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*. These two movies follow the same basic style of humor and characterization. Both of these movies’ lead characters are men trying to make it in some sort of professional sport s i t u a t i o n .

One can also take into account Ferrell’s hit, *Blades of Glory*. This movie also depicts Will Ferrell as trying to make it as a professional athlete. If you take a look at one Ferrell movie, *Stranger Than Fiction*, which Ferrell did not contribute many ideas to the script, you will see a distinct difference in almost every aspect of the film.

Panther Predilections

What is your favorite class and why?

“Favorite class? School stinks.”  
-- Michael Zaits  
Freshman

“Honors Chemistry because I like chemistry and also because Doc Fro is awesome.”  
-- Allie Tobias  
Sophomore

“I would have to say science because we get to burn things.”  
-- Alex Freeman  
Junior

“Calculus because Mr. Miller is mathematically gifted and extremely, extremely good looking.”  
-- Ankita Dewan  
Senior

By: Brigid McCabe  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Pregnant teens dress in ‘pure’ white gowns

By: Alivia Kandabarow  
Photography Editor

In a recent survey done by yahoo.com, men were asked why they believe women wear white on their wedding day. Some of the most ingenious answers follow: (1) Chicks wear white at their wedding because they look fat in white! You want to know what you’re getting into! (2) Its an old tradition (3) White symbolizes the coming of something new. Too much dismay, the reason why women wear a pure white gown on their wedding day is losing its sanction.

If you read the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* on March 24th, you

would have seen a massive picture of a more-blushing-than-usual bride posing for her nuptials. With a once-over glance, one would quickly notice that the bride is certainly wearing pure, clean, white. However, if one were to check the label on her gown it would read: Motherhood Maternity. A paradox proven? The bride is certainly pregnant and certainly defying the laws of tradition.

White wedding garments have symbolized purity, virginity for centuries. The Romans set the trend way before TomKat did( in their \$2 million dollar wedding) to signify joyous celebration and happiness. Although brides clad

in cream, peach, pink or pastels are a modern alternative, white is still the popular and traditional color for a bride to wear on her wedding day.

The introduction of white maternity gowns into wedding designs and fashion demonstrates the growing acceptance of conceiving before marriage. Why is tradition so forgiving of modern day? Clearly, these standards are becoming accepted among women. There is only a darker future for younger generations of girls to come if such ideas and standards continue to blossom.

In our parent’s day, kids played in the front yard, giggled over boys in high school, went to col-

lege and “got pinned,” got married, and raised kids years later. Today, children own cell phones, go to high school, potentially get pregnant, and tie the knot because there’s no unraveling it after their child is born. That’s not to say that happens for all teenage girls but the trend continues to become more and more popular. With idols like Jaime Lynn Spears, who is pregnant and engaged all while on the edge of seventeen, young girls are being handed a view of prenatal wedlock like a piece of chocolate cake sitting out on the counter when you come home from school: you feel like you should indulge.

# Pennsylvania primary could decide Democratic presidential nominee

By: Kelsey Short  
Editor-in-Chief

The Pennsylvania presidential primary election is less than one month away. Democratic Pennsylvanians will cast their votes for either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, for the spot on the Democratic ticket in the general election.

The Democratic candidates have already hit the ground running in Pennsylvania, making campaign stops throughout the Pittsburgh area and receiving endorsements from local politicians.

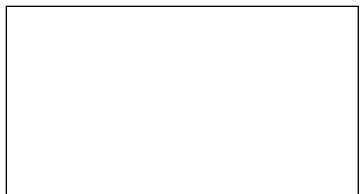
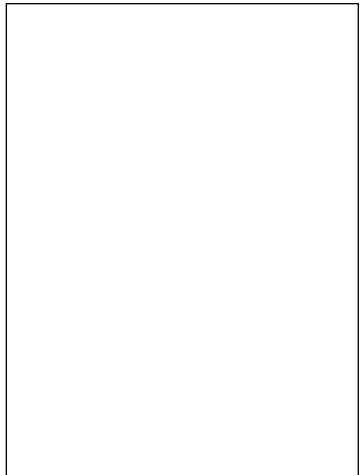
Hillary Clinton says of the Pennsylvania primary, “I don’t think a Democrat can win the White House without winning Pennsylvania, so, for me, this is the Keystone state, and I’m going to work very, very hard to do as well as I can in the primary” (www.kdka.com).

Hillary Clinton received most of the state’s institutional support, including that of Gov. Ed Rendell, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, the state’s Democratic Party chairman T.J. Rooney, and Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl during her first visit to Pennsylvania in mid-March (Associated Press).

State representatives Allyson Schwartz, Joe Sestak, and John Murtha have also endorsed Clinton while Chaka Fattah and Rep. Patrick Murphy support Barack Obama (www.msn.com). Sen. Bob Casey unexpectedly endorsed Barack

Obama over Hillary Clinton. Bob Brady, the head of the Philadelphia Democratic committee, has remained neutral on the issue (www.rollcall.com).

Since their first appearances in the state, Clinton and Obama are trying to rack up the youth vote in elderly



Pennsylvania. College campuses across the state are major stops on the campaign trails of both Democratic candidates, but the youth voters have been stirred particularly by Barack Obama as the senator from Illinois endeavors to repeat his success with drawing the younger voters like he did in Iowa (www.miamiherald.com).

Preliminary polls show that Clinton edges Obama in the

Pennsylvania vote; however, the primaries held in other states have revealed that this does not leave Obama out of the running (www.msn.com). Clinton only has a 5.4 percent lead over Obama in Pennsylvania, according to Real Clear Politics.

Obama’s campaign strategy indicates that he does not expect to win the most Pennsylvania delegates in the primary election because of the state’s overwhelmingly white, working-class electorate that has given Hillary Clinton the lead in most polls; however, Obama’s team of strategists has effected a registration program to accomplish a win in the long run. Obama seeks to reduce Clinton’s win so that he can maintain his national lead in the number of total votes.

“In this state right now, his game is about bringing the popular-vote differential down,” said Ken Smukler, a Pennsylvania Democratic strategist unaligned with either candidate. “Since Super Tuesday, this game has never been just about pledged delegates” (www.boston.com).

Cutting into Clinton’s win and taking the overall vote, Obama hopes to render Hillary Clinton’s plan to win super delegates ineffectual.

Pennsylvania’s 158 delegates are the biggest prize remaining among the states yet to host their primary elections. Many speculate that the winner of the Pennsylvania primary could seal the Democratic nomination (www.usatoday.com).

# America fights oncoming recession

By: JP Gooderham  
Sports Editor

Among the numerous issues Americans are confronting in the upcoming 2008 Presidential election, the possibility of a recession has steadily remained at the forefront. While Wall Street experts have not yet decided whether the American economy is truly experiencing a recession, it is a verifiable fact, at this point, that the market is continuing a two year downturn.

As some commentators have argued, “Analysts from firms including Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan have concluded that the US economy has likely slipped into recession. For many, the nail in the coffin was an unexpected steep drop in employment in February” (www.DailyTimes.com).

In fact, analysts have gauged the oncoming recession based on the existence of a number of factors, which primarily have focused on issues like improperly set interest rates leading to home equity issues.

As Americans continue to lose jobs and homes, many politicians are attempting to win votes by offering a solution. Paul Krugman observes, “Suddenly, the economic consensus seems to be that the implosion of the housing market will indeed push the U.S. economy into a recession, and that it’s quite possible that we’re already in one. As a result, over the next few

weeks we’ll be hearing a lot about plans for economic stimulus” (www.NYTimes.com).

With experts predicting the mild recession lasting two to three quarters by experts, such as Jan Hatzius of Goldman Sachs, public interest in the economic issue has increased significantly. In fact, according to IHT.com, “Sentiment has grown markedly in the last month that the U.S. economy is in more serious trouble than previously thought. These fears have taken on new significance politically as presidential candidates on the campaign trail hear voters express mounting concern about the health of the economy” (www.IHT.com).

Aside from the clear factors of recession shown by the market, the average American has been left to suffer the effects as foreclosure rates have continued to skyrocket.

Additionally, while all experts acknowledge the growing problem, few have crafted concrete or full-proof solutions. High profile businessmen, such as Jim Owens, have already stated alternatives and solutions, but widespread agreement has not yet occurred. Reuters explains, “Caterpillar Chairman and CEO Jim Owens said fiscal stimulus would help support an economy dogged by mortgage foreclosures, a steep drop-off in residential construction and financial market turmoil triggered by the subprime loan crisis” (www.Reuters.com).

# Starbucks: Good-Natured or Greedy?

By: Hannah Mann  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, February 26, on-again Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz closed stores from 5:30 to 8:30 PM to “energize” 135,000 baristas. Schultz claimed he wanted to rekindle employees’ zeal for the art of espresso-making in order to enhance customer experience. Translation: sell more Venti, complex drinks with fancy mix-ins like twenty-five-cent flavor shots and fifty-cent espresso shots.

These inflated prices for usually an ounce or less could jack up revenue by more than 100 percent. Requesting soy milk in place of regular, for instance, which some people must do because of lactose intolerance, religious beliefs, or veganism, will cost forty cents more than conventional milk.

Starbucks attributes this to the higher price of purchasing, stocking, and beverage-preparing with soy milk. Hmm... soy milk lasts more than three times as long as regular milk, and the preparation of soy lattes is exactly the same as that of regular lattes. As for the price? As a grocery consumer, I know that a gallon of soy milk costs about \$5, whereas comparable milk is around \$3.50. But how much does it cost for a mega-corporation like Starbucks? If stocking costs are 50 cents less per gallon

for soy, there would be a net \$1 additional cost per gallon, spreading over around 40 servings per gallon, or \$0.025 extra.

Starbucks charges us \$0.40, an almost 94% margin. So the coffee house’s rationale was hogwash. Starbucks charges forty additional cents for soymilk simply because they can; wealthy and healthwise people are willing to pay, just as other types of people will be willing to pay that much more for extra caffeine, sugar, whipped cream, or other drink variations. Intelligent senior Sandeep Jain states with conviction, “As the size of the Starbucks beverage gets bigger, there is a significant decrease in flavor concentration.”

Most people know that Starbucks also raises their prices by five to eleven cents more often than every two years. Starbucks sets the price for many other coffee store prices as well, so even if it’s boycotted, finding a significantly better price for espresso drinks is unlikely.

Starbucks is aware of their corporate and greedy image and is not passive to counter it. Their insulating sleeves made of 10% post-consumer recycled paper state this visibly, giving an air of enviro-friendliness. They also mention that it uses less material than an extra paper cup. Where have you recently bought coffee that didn’t have a paper insula-

tor?

Last year chain e-mails circulated wildly, abuzz with news that the coffee house would not send beans to overseas troops because they do not support war.

Starbucks has also adopted the practice of printing quotes titled, “The Way I See It” on the side of their cups. Most of these messages are either so simplistic that they are bland and uninspiring or so cryptic that the general public would not be able to understand them. Some, however, promote messages of global warming awareness, again appealing to the trendy environmentally-aware. I asked some peers if they had ever been inspired by the quotations. A senior girl replied, “Yes!”

“Which one?” I asked. “Umm one about recycling and how we can easily become more green and stop global warming, but we choose not to.”

While “global warming” is a bold term and a controversial topic, recycling is a good thing, and I cannot conceive why anyone would not participate. So if Starbucks inspired one ignorant Jane Doe to recycle, good for them, and for the world.

Whether that atones for their various 80%+ profit margins, I don’t know.

I don’t think Starbucks is going to lose momentum anytime soon, but if your favorite Starbucks is near a more locally-centered café, choose wisely.

# Times Square bomber shocks New Yorkers

By: JP Gooderham  
Sports Editor

On March 6, 2008, a man on a bicycle left a small device outside of a United States Army recruiting office at nearly 3 AM. Soon after, the device detonated, which inflicted damage on the recruiting office’s window. Since the attack, New York police and investigators started a search for the mysterious bomber, but have faced numerous obstacles in conducting the search.

According to *ABC News*, “The bomber is seen on a grainy surveillance tape riding into Times Square early Thursday morning, getting off the bike and walking over to the recruiting center. Moments later, there is an explosion.” With little evidence discovered from the surveillance tape, the bicycle the perpetrator used in the attack has been crucial in the search.

Despite the bicycle’s appearance as new, the vehicle was left in a pile of garbage near the scene of the crime. “Cops have lifted fingerprints from the bicycle they believe was used by the Times Square bomber and hope to use them to nab the man who blew up the military recruiting center, a police source said” (www.NYPPost.com).

While the police force has not identified the bomber from the fingerprints, the perpetrator’s mistake may lead to his downfall.

Even more cryptic and troubling were the letters sent to members of

Congress prior to the attack. *CBS News* reports, “Members of Congress had been receiving letters in recent days that included a photograph of a man standing in Times Square with the words, ‘We Did It,’ printed below the photo. It raised immediate suspicions after the early morning explosion, and the return address on the envelopes was the Hollywood home of lawyer David Karnes.”

However, while the return address seemed to be an improbable mistake by the criminal, investigators have found that lawyer David Karnes was not responsible for the attack.

Additionally, some believe that the letters ultimately, were in no way tied to the attack. Voice of America reports, “Law enforcement officials say the timing of the letters appears to be just be a coincidence” (www.VOAnews.com).

It has become evident that investigators will continue to pursue new leads on capturing the suspect. *Canwest News* reports, The news agency reports New York’s police chief, Ray Kelly, told CNN television that federal officials are investigating an incident at the Canada-U.S. border about a month ago that may have yielded evidence relevant to the bombing.

Quoting an unidentified source, “CNN said at least three people were stopped at a border crossing ‘about a month ago’ for questioning, after which one left behind a backpack with a picture of Times Square inside” (www.CNN.com).

Meet the Super Seniors of Upper St. Clair High School

By: Kelsey Short  
Editor-in-Chief

The seniors at the high school are the role models for the rest of the student body here at Upper St. Clair. The St. Clairion would like to recognize some of the “Super Seniors” from the class of 2008 for their accomplishments in the areas of athletics, community service, and the arts.

Senior Dan Miller is involved in many school and recreational sports. He has played football and baseball for all four years of his high school career. Dan has also played on the rec basketball, baseball, and floor hockey teams. He enjoys playing so many sports

because of the competitive atmosphere and also likes that they keep him active. Of all his athletic achievements in high school, being a starter as a junior on the 2007 state champion football team is his greatest accomplishment. Dan hopes to attend Carnegie Mellon, the University of Virginia, or Penn State next year. His intended major is engineering. He plans to pursue his football career if he attends Carnegie Mellon, but if not, he intends to play intramural football or flag football.

Senior Kristin Momyer has also contributed to the athletic program at Upper St. Clair High School. As a young child, Kristin was always moving and dancing. Taking her first structured dance lesson

when she was in the first grade, Kristin began her dancing career and has not stopped grooving since. She danced with the high school’s dance team for four years and the Janet Hays dance studio for eleven years. Her proudest moment as a dancer was making the dance team as a freshman and going to nationals all four years. Kristin plans

to attend Penn State University next year for occupational therapy. She also wants to pursue dance beyond high school by either trying out for the dance team at Penn State or finding somewhere in Happy Valley to take classes.

Senior Molly McCann is an example of the high school’s devotion to volunteerism. Molly is the president of the InterACT club and a member of CHANGES, the Teen Leadership Council, and Student Coucil. For InterACT, Molly is currently planning the ‘Concert for Ken’ in conjunction with the Classic Rock Club to raise money for Ken Medvid. Molly was also

honored for her extensive volunteer work at the Medallion Ball in November for completing over 100 hours of community service. Molly has volunteered at the Upper St. Clair Hospital and has gone on mission trips every summer for the past four years. Next year, Molly plans to attend

Duquesne University with a major in either Psychology or Advertising. She plans to join

Duquesne’s campus ministry and continue to hold leadership positions in college.

Senior Andrew Graham has contributed much to the high school’s theater program over the past four years. He has participated in both the fall play and the spring musical productions at Upper St. Clair High School. Andrew recently finished out his four year career on the high school’s stage with the spring musical *Singin’ in the Rain*. He was also seen in may past performances at the high school including *Feiffer’s People*, *Into the Woods*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Loyalties*, *Oklahoma*, and *Tartuff*. Andrew is also a member

of the Pantheon Choir, Chant Éclairs, and Thespians. He enjoys writing his own plays in his spare time and enjoys acting because of its influence on the audience: “As actors we transport these [ticked] off people to a place where they don’t need to think about their problems, they can think and live in a different world with different characters, and possibly find at the end of the show something that can help them pull through the struggles they are going through on the outside.”

Andrew has reveled in the spotlight of the stage at Upper St. Clair, and plans to pursue theater in college. Andrew will attend Syracuse or Emerson with a major in Broadcast Journalism.

Teacher’s Lounge



Speak Chinese with Ms. Ouyang

By: Amanda Dasdorf  
Entertainment Editor

*your spare time?*

*Did you always want to be a teacher?*

Yes, I always wanted to be a teacher. In China, I worked for a university.

*How many years have you been teaching?*

I have been teaching for 6 years; I am a Ph. D. candidate.

*What is your favorite lesson to teach?*

Chinese, because I get to show others the culture, and the language is very interesting. I hope the students like it.

*What do you like to do in*

I love shopping, reading, music, the internet, and cooking. I have never cooked so much before coming here.

*How do you like USC?*

I like it very much. The teachers are very nice. I have adjusted quickly because of teachers’ help, and the students are very good. I have excellent students that get good grades.

*Are you excited to be teaching Chinese to American students?*

Yes, I am very excited. It is a different experience because I only taught Chinese to adults from different cultures at the university. I get to teach more interesting lessons and have fun.

Plan for pre-prom the easy way

By: Brigid McCabe  
Asst. Editor-in-Cheif

An old school house turned fancy eatery, The Classroom, located in Thompsonville on Washington Road, requires reservations a good deal in advance; however, it is well worth it. Senior Kacey McDougal ate there sophomore year for Homecoming and said, “It was really intimate, so a small group might be better.” The recommended entrees include fresh seafood, although the price reflects the quality. The Classroom is ideal for students who want the full-blown classy prom experience. (724) 942-4878.

Piccolina’s:

Perhaps the only restaurant in Upper St. Clair (Outback is technically considered part of Bethel Park) and located in Pinebridge Commons, Piccolina’s is ideal for prom groups who wish to stay local before heading to The Hilton. Piccolina’s has been known to treat its hometown Upper St. Clair seniors attentively. Furthermore, if the female members of one’s group are known to take extra time getting ready, or if picture times spill over, this quaint, but formal restaurant is only minutes away. With delicious entrees including veal and private tables available on the bridge overlooking the creek, Piccolina’s accommodates best for groups of two to eight. (412) 257-1880.

The Classroom:

The Le Mont:

Unparalleled, the Le Mont takes the cake for an unforgettable evening. After everyone is dropped off from their stretch limos in their gowns and tuxes, the group can be photographed with an astounding background view of Pittsburgh. According to tripadvisor.com, a delectable Le Mont meal ranges anywhere from \$41-80, but considering the wide variety of American, Seafood, Steakhouse, and Continental cuisine, the price is about right. One reviewer wrote, “The piano music by the bar area was very enjoyable. See the pictures taken right from my seat at the table, and you can imagine the romantic atmosphere” (www.tripadvisor.com). Big groups are welcome here, but book your table soon! (412) 431-3100.

Tanorexia: Another disorder for teenage girls

By:Alivia Kandabarow  
Photography Editor

Anorexia, Bulimia, Opposition Defiant Disorder, ADD; these disorders are among the most common found in teenage girls. However, the most common of disorders is not even official in the medical community but is sure enough one of the most detrimental to the health of youthful, wrinkle-free teenage girls. The term “tanorexic” is being used to describe people who tan with the same addictive traits that people with anorexia and drug addiction display.

In recent studies, the American Academy of Dermatology presents the idea that the “buzz” one may get from tanning is addictive. This “buzz” is the release of endorphins from skin cells that occurs when the epidermis is exposed to UVA or UVB rays. As a result, tanners experience a

happy feeling equivalent to that of processing a very mild dosage of opioid compounds such as cocaine or opium (www.medicinenet.com).

Though frequent tanners seem to be addicted to the sun-kissed look that artificial tanning beds offer, studies are showing that there is a physical addiction to the release of these endorphins. The University of Wakeforest Baptist Medical Center tested the moods of eight frequent tanners (those who artificially tanned over eight times a month) and eight infrequent tanners (those who tanned artificially less than twelve times a year) after artificial tanning (www.livescience.com).

Researchers gave half of the frequent tanners and half of the infrequent tanners an anti-endorphin releasing drug to block the “tanning buzz” from occurring during each tanning session. The frequent tanners who took the

drug were less inclined to tan when they did not experience a “tanner’s high.” In fact, the same tanners reported that they felt nauseated and shaky after tanning while on the drug. These side effects are extremely similar to substance abusers going through withdrawal (www.livescience.com).

Tanner’s high is explaining why so many teenage girls seek a year-long tan even with so many negative outcomes of artificial tanning. Even though tanners are aware of the extremely harmful side affects of overexposure to UV rays, frequent tanners continue to tan several times a month because of their unknown addiction. Frequent tanners will spend up to \$70 a month on maintaining their tan. In addition, teen-tanners put themselves in a very dangerous situation; 80% of skin damage is accumulated before the age of twenty (thesoko.com).



## Upper St. Clair Soccer: a tradition of excellence

By: Ryan Stockton  
Staff Writer

USC soccer has always been a top competitor in Pennsylvania. In recent times, the team has won back to back state championships, the later of which was a completely undefeated season. However, in subsequent seasons, the team has not found its way to the WPIALs let alone the PIAA games. Naturally, soccer fanatics are left to ponder “What’s next to come?”

Junior George Zanic has his predictions for what’s to come. “Next season will definitely be a winning season for us. With so many players having done so well last season, this next season will be their break out season for greatness. Plus, it helps that we

have players like Jimmy Belack who will simply be the core to our strong team,” Zanic stated.

The team as a whole has always strived for perfection. Coach Uwe Schneider is always trying new things until he finds jus the right players for the right spots. With several strong goalies, iron-clad defense, and a strong attack, the team cannot go wrong with how it will function.

Junior goalie James Bailey had says: “I wouldn’t be surprised in the least if we found our way to at least a WPIAL championship. Moreover, I wouldn’t be too shocked if we managed to make it the PIAA finals. We really have a strong team. Next season, with strong returning upper classmen, and

some great new talent coming from the under classmen, we can’t go wrong.”

In general, USC soccer has and always will be strong competition in the WPIAL. Between great coaching, great players, and some of the best strategies, Upper St.Clair will always come to perform on the field. Junior defender Jay DeGregorio said, “Honestly, I can’t wait till next season. After all the hard work our team has put in during the off-season, we will definitely come out strong for the season. I don’t want to come right out and say it, but given how these players have performed in the past, I fully expect a winning season and most likely an appearance in both the WPIAL and PIAA championships.”

## Upper St. Clair track and field team zooms off the blocks

By: Kelsey Short  
Editor-in-Chief

The high school’s winter and spring track teams have had an extremely successful year so far, and they are not done yet.

The indoor track season concluded on a high note at the State Indoor Track and Field Championship hosted by Penn State University. Senior Eric Kasunich and junior E.B. Kline qualified for the state championship for their second consecutive year and gave an impressive show in their events.

Kasunich ran in the men’s 200 meter, 400 meter, and 60 meter hurdles, placing 29<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> in the state, respectively. Kasunich says, “During the indoor season, our goal was to make it to Penn State. When E.B. and I finally got their, the competition was tough, but we both ended up with personal bests.”

E.B. Kline participated in two events, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> in the state for the 60 meter hurdles and 15<sup>th</sup> for the triple jump. E.B. also qualified to

compete in the 60 meter hurdles at the Nike National Indoor Championship at the Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Maryland, on March 15-16, 2008.

Now the team looks to the spring season to continue the success it had during the indoor season. The returning coaching staff includes Terry Tressler, Shawn Morton, Bill Rullo, Bryan Bennett, Matt Martocci, Tom Smedley, Mike Voelker, and Tim Robbins.

Coach Terry Tressler says, “We are very excited for the spring season because our team has a lot of new and returning talent to work with.”

The spring track team’s first meet, the South Hills Classic hosted by Baldwin High School on Saturday March 29, 2008, was a great success. Eric Kasunich placed first in the 300 meter run, and E.B. Kline placed second in the 100 meter hurdles. In the field events, senior Kevin Mulholland placed third for the discus throw.

The 4x400 boys relay team came in second in their event. Seniors Matt

Schmoyer, Eric Kasunich, Brian Lynch, and Freshman Mitch Fawcett. The boys were satisfied with their performance but seek to do better at future meets. Senior Matt Schmoyer says, “We did really well, but the next time we want to do even better. Coming in first is our goal.”

The team also competed on Saturday, April 5, at a Tri-State Invitational hosted by West Mifflin. Phil Yeung placed fifth in the 1600 meter, Eric Kasunich placed second in the 300 meter hurdles, and E.B. Kline placed second in the 100 meter.

At their home meet versus Bethel Park on Tuesday April 8th, the boys team won 77-73. Upper St. Clair swept first, second, and third place in the boys mile and the girls 3200 meter. E.B. Kline and and Eric Kasunich both placed first in the 100 meter hurdles.

In the throwing events, senior Kevin Mulholland placed first in the javelin and diskus. For the girls, senior Sara Scola won first in the shot put while Emily Mueller placed first in the discus toss.

## Tiger hunts for all four majors

By: Greg Schlosser  
Staff Writer

In 2008, Tiger Woods hopes to do the (almost) impossible; win all four majors. Woods, who has already won all four majors at different times in his career, has yet to win all four in one year.

Says Jack Nicklaus, record holder for most major wins, about Tiger’s monstrous goal, “That’s a pretty lofty goal, but for a guy like Tiger, I wouldn’t put it past him”(www.espn.com).

This year, Tiger has taken his game to a whole new level with coach Hank Haney. Haney remarked “Tiger is human. He’s so good, there’s an illusion that he can be fixed like a machine. Just adjust his golf swing, and everything will be all right. Competitive golf is more than the golf swing. It’s a million things”(www.espn.com). What Haney has realized is that Tiger is still human and not a golf robot. It

has been easier for Tiger to focus more because his coach realizes that his student is still a regular human being.

Plus, the competition this year is fairly thin. Despite obstacles like Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh, the rest of the competitors have not yet stepped it up. Retief Goosen, a two time U.S. Open winner, has missed two cuts this year and has finished T33 and T60 in the events in where he has made the cut (www.pgatour.com). The competition is not as fierce as the likes of Seve Ballesteros, Jack Nicklaus, and Arnold Palmer when they all played in their eras.

Tiger has what it takes to win all four majors this year. Said golfer Fred Funk, “He doesn’t beat himself, [so] who’s going to beat him? (www.espn.com). Tiger is to the point where he is so good that only a miracle could stop him from winning when he has the lead in the final round.

## USC’s Varsity baseball season is in full swing

By: Dallion Townsend  
Staff Writer

USC Baseball looks to continue its already successful season. It’s hard to imagine a team having this much notable success this early into a season, especially with the parity of the WPIAL. Every team has to go through off-season after off-season dealing with issues such as injuries, tryouts, graduation...which means, consistently being a contender at this level is difficult, especially in long stretches. However, despite these facts the USC Varsity team has found national success.

In their annual trip to South Carolina, the team won the Wheels Invitational Tournament, by going 5-0 for the week. Junior Brian Gaudio was excited for the tournament win, but looks for success in the WPIAL season. Gaudio stated, “We went down there [South Carolina] and we did what

we wanted to do. We won the tournament, which is great and everything, but now we need to move on and focus on the rest of our regular season and going through the WPIAL’s. Our main goal is to bring another WPIAL Championship to the baseball program.”

Junior pitcher Scott McMurtry says that the team had a great off-season, filled with, “basic conditioning and things of that nature. I didn’t personally do much more than everyone else, but I still feel good for the rest of the season because of the team conditioning before the season.”

The annual trip to South Carolina in the Wheel’s Invitational usually proves to be a good indication for the team’s performance in the regular season. Winning the preseason tournament is a great accomplishment, but it’s still a long season and the real prize is the WPIAL crown.

## Despite gaining national respect, Pitt Panthers falter in postseason

By: JP Gooderham  
Sports Editor

After the University of Pittsburgh’s basketball program, which struggled to overcome months of adversity due to injury, entered the Big East Championship and the NCAA tournament, it appeared as though the team could achieve something special. Pitt, which has consistently struggled in the NCAA Tournament over the past decade under former head coach Ben Howland and current head coach Jamie Dixon, was not able to make a deep run in the tournament yet again.

The Panthers, who had reached the Big East Championship finals round five times in seven years, entered the tournament with a number of memorable wins, but bogged down by several embarrassing loses. Despite top ranked teams such as the Georgetown Hoyas and the Louisville Cardinals favored heavily, Pitt was still able to emerge as the victor in a grueling Big East final against Georgetown.

The win quickly erased many of the memorable losses (i.e. the rout caused by the Dayton Flyers in December and a loss to Big East bottom feeder Rutgers at home) and escalated the program to national prominence once again. Dano O’ Neil explains, “Pittsburgh is just the second team in the tournament history to win four games on four nights to capture the Big East crown. Somehow that makes perfect sense. The easy road wouldn’t have suited these Panthers” (www.ESPN.com).

Following the Big East Championship, Pitt was chosen as a 4 seed for the NCAA Tournament after being predicted significantly higher before entering the Big East tournament. The Panthers easily advanced past the tournament’s first round over Oral Roberts, which featured a match highlighted by a spirited performance by junior point guard LeVance Fields.

Surprisingly, after a long stretch of tough wins, it appeared that the Panthers were physically and psychologically worn down when entering their first and only tough

opponent in the NCAA Tournament: Michigan State. Despite the efforts of head coach Jamie Dixon to instill an “us vs. the world” mentality in his team, bold predictions and national support seemed to have hurt the Panthers. Paul Zeise of *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* comments, “Unfortunately, that approach won’t necessarily work as the Panthers head into the NCAA tournament as a trendy pick among many analysts. One — ESPN analyst Bob Knight — even picked them to win the c h a m p i o n s h i p ” (www.postgazette.com).

In the end, Pittsburgh was unable to beat the Spartans, who critics believed were an extremely similar team to the Panthers. “Ultimately, however, the Panthers were denied a fifth trip in the past seven seasons to the Sweet 16 by a Michigan State squad that put the clamps down on the Panthers’ offense. The 65-54 defeat ended the season in the second round, and torpedoed the NCAA pools of folks like Bobby Knight, who had picked the team to go much farther” (www.USAToday.com).

Find Your  
*Perfect*  
Prom Gown

New Dresses  
Have Arrived!

From:  
Bridal  
Bridesmaid  
Mothers  
Flower Girl

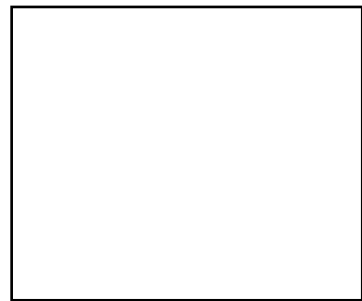
Designer  
Gowns  
For Less!

**\$20 off**  
Any Gown Purchase  
Hickory Hollow • 412-655-1030  
with this coupon and valid identification  
call 412-655-1030 for details. Expires 11/1/08

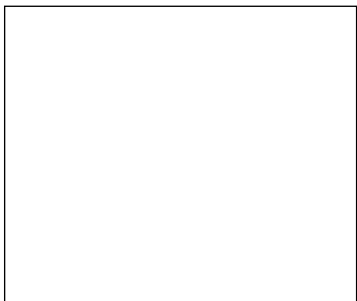
**The Gown Co.**  
8 Clairmont Blvd., Route 511  
Pleasant Hills • 412-655-1030

*Flight Models*

Before They Were Seniors  
By: Amanda Dasdorf  
Entertainment Editor



**Initials:** VMS  
**Birth Date:** 12-15-1989  
**Best Friend(s):** Jillian Rodgers  
**First Word(s):** Da da  
**Favorite Color:** Pink  
**Favorite High School Memory:** Being with friends and Froelich's freshman 1/2 class  
**Sport(s):** Majorette  
**Favorite Teacher:** Mr. Forelich  
**Years in USC:** All my life  
**Future Plans:** CALU to study elementary education



**Initials:** SMW  
**Birth Date:** 3-30-1990  
**Best Friend(s):** Everyone  
**First Word(s):** Ma  
**Favorite Color:** Orange  
**Favorite High School Memory:** Friday nights  
**[Favorite] Sport(s):** Football, basketball  
**Favorite Teacher:** Mrs. Hendrickson  
**Years in USC:** All my life  
**Future Plans:** Attend Duquesne and study health management

Watch out Sasha Baron Cohen, here comes Mike Myers

By: Kirstin Kennedy  
Opinions Editor

The ever-popular personality Borat, played by comedian Sasha Baron Cohen, has a competitor in the field of cultural humiliation. Mike Myers, coming out with a new film *The Love Guru*, is projected to insult the culture and lifestyles of Muslims. The movie, which will be undoubtedly hilarious to the non-offended viewers, may spark even greater controver-

sy than \$128 million film *Borat* (CNN.com). Mike Myers plays an American who is brought up as an Indian by a group of Hindu gurus, a group of religious teachers in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. He travels to America in hopes to succeed in the self-help field of business. The movie chronicles his ability to assist the people of a different culture in the United States. He humorously attempts to solve to issues of

Unhooked exposes an unhealthy hook up-obsessed society

By: Brigid McCabe  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

The shocking news that one in four teenage girls carry a sexually transmitted infection raises a major concern that many adolescents receive poor sex and health education (www.nytimes.com). However, in her book *Unhooked: How Young Women Pursue Sex, Delay Love and Lose at Both*, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist for The Washington Post Laura Sessions Stepp takes the heat off of the sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancies, and other health issues and instead questions society's psychological repercussions of what teens and young adults refer to as "hooking up."

Stepp brings up the point that for as much as the term "hooking up" is loosely, no pun intended, thrown around, nobody can quite pinpoint what exactly it means. "Hooking up" in our generation can mean anything from a kiss to sexual intercourse, a broad range of sexual behaviors that leaves the term up to interpretation. "You've got to give them credit;

they've come up with a vocabulary that gives them maximum freedom. The distance between what one says and what one means has never been greater," Stepp writes.

Stepp continues to explain that the contributing factors to an "unhooked" society is, well, society itself. With the pressures for young women to be independent and wait to find love until after they have made a name for themselves, it's no wonder that women are conveniently allowing hooking up to fill the gaps of intimacy.

Anne Katharine Wales of The Duke Chronicle writes, "Society tells us to follow our dreams, our University tells us that success is working at that job we've always wanted, and our parents tell us to do whatever our heart desires (although they secretly hope their \$40,000 a year in tuition doesn't go to waste). We have career counselors telling us how to get that internship, get accepted to med school and get that high-paying job. But no one is telling us how to work our feelings into this equation for suc-

cess."

However, the difference between intimacy and love is wider than ever. Many of the young women interviewed in the book seek great sex and end up only finding disappointment and loneliness. The relationships that they do pursue bore them, and their friends and parents discourage this kind of seriousness and encourage independence. Stepp says that the cynicism that develops during this period of meaningless hook ups disengage women from finding love, and when they turn thirty and finally crave marriage, they are unsure how to begin and keep a solid relationship. She backs these hypotheses up with research and statistics, including the decreased rate of marriages and the increased rate of divorces.

*Unhooked* goes in-depth into an issue that will affect young women now and later. Stepp concludes that while "hooking up" allows young women to establish their independence, friends, and careers, it ruins young women's self-esteem and chances of finding love.

couples, thus the title *The Love Guru*.

Some Hindus have articulated worry about how Myers depicts their religion. Rajan Zed, a Hindu leader from Nevada, stated, "*The Love Guru* appears to be lampooning Hinduism and Hindus. People are not very well-versed in Hinduism, so this might be their only exposure" (Associated Press). Zed has based his opinions based off of the MySpace.com trailer that is

available to all MySpace members.

The movie, which is distributed by Paramount Pictures, is not only starring Mike Myers but also Justin Timberlake and Jessica Alba. It is projected to debut across the United States on June 20, 2008. Hopefully the film will shed a humorous light on the actual culture of Hinduism, but will shine accurate to the beliefs and traditions of the religion and its people.

Jumper fails to wow audiences  
By: Amanda Dasdorf  
Entertainment Editor

*Jumper*, directed by the man who also directed hits such as *The Bourne Identity*, is a barely coherent genre mishmash about a guy who transports himself across the globe at will (www.nytimes.com). It is nothing more than the same plot with different characters.

The movie opens with young David Rice, played by Max Thieriot, being bullied. A snow globe that he gave his love interest Millie, Rachel Bilson, was thrown onto a frozen lake. To retrieve the globe, Rice walks atop the frozen lake and on his way back falls through. He struggles and attempts to break through the ice above him but cannot. This is his second jump. His first jump occurred at the age of five.

Skip ahead a seven years; Rice, now played by Hayden Christensen, has figured out his ability to jump and has moved on to use his powers daily. He lives a high lifestyle from jumping into bank vaults and stealing cash. He also has a wall of photos of his favorite jump sights to making his jumping easier.

When reunited with Willie, he reveals that he is now wealthy and takes her traveling to Rome.

Throughout his jumping life, Rice is oblivious to the men that hunt Jumpers. Roland, Samuel L. Jackson, is the main hunter of Rice. Jackson and his crew follow Rice and Millie to Rome where they try to attack them both. Rice, unwillingly, has to admit to Millie what he is.

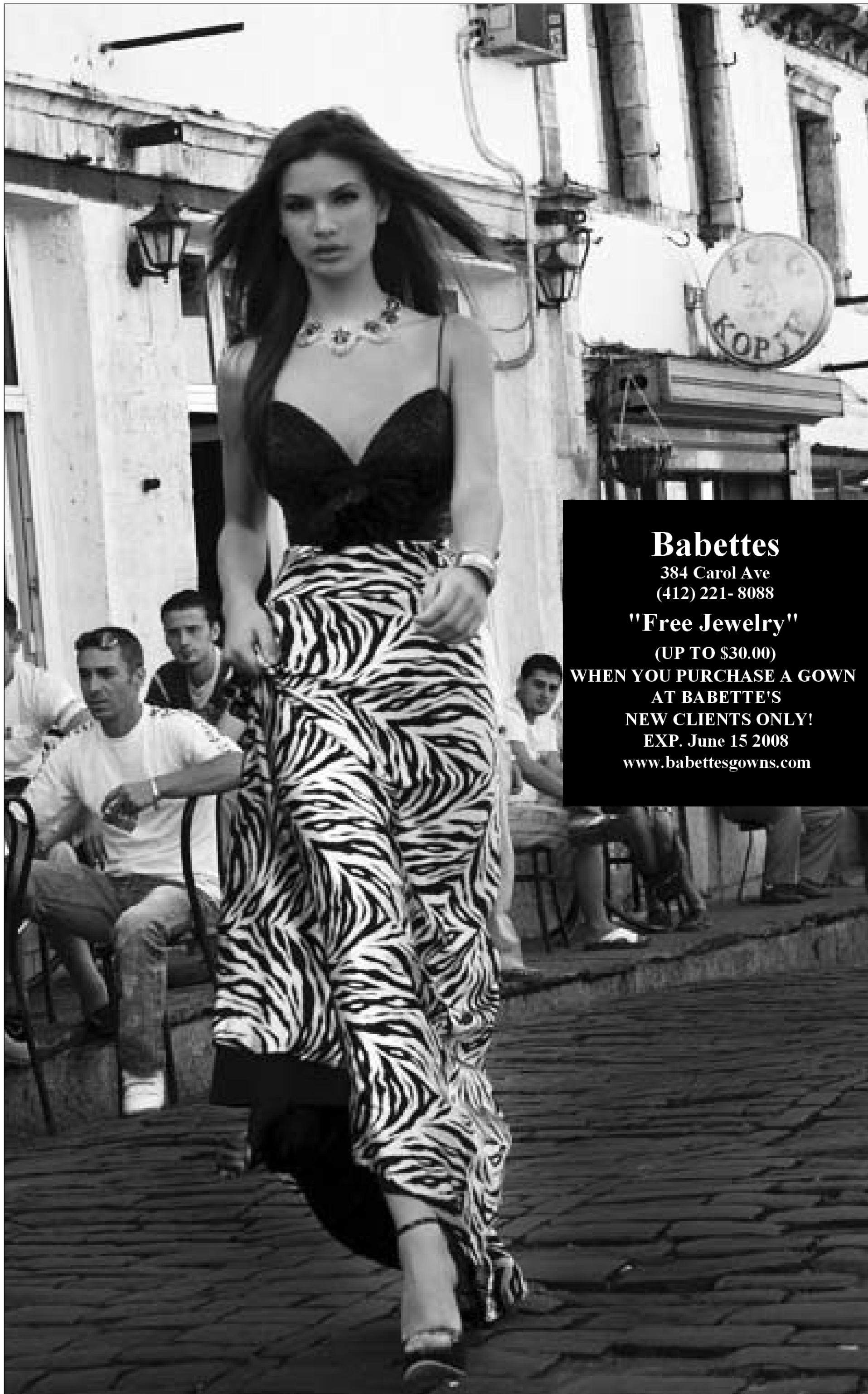
750,000 satisfied students can't be wrong!

DriversEd.com

Drivers Ed - anytime, anywhere you want.

Take 25% Off!

Use the discount code PA2007A when you sign up.



## **Babettes**

384 Carol Ave  
(412) 221- 8088

**"Free Jewelry"**

(UP TO \$30.00)

**WHEN YOU PURCHASE A GOWN  
AT BABETTE'S  
NEW CLIENTS ONLY!**

**EXP. June 15 2008**

**[www.babettesgowns.com](http://www.babettesgowns.com)**