

Harrison Ford to return to big screen.
INDIANA JONES / ENTERTAINMENT / PAGE 8

French students visit USC.
FRENCH / NEWS / PAGE 4

Is golf a sport?.
GOLF / OPINIONS / PAGE 3



The St. Clairion

Volume 9, Issue 7 - May 2008 - Upper St. Clair High School Pittsburgh, PA 15241

All the news that fits...And then some!

Who is Mr. USC?

By: Dallion L. Townsend
Staff Writer

May 15, 2008, an elite group of six male students ranging from sophomores to seniors battled their way through a night of cheers, embarrassing stunts, and music. In the first annual Kids Helping Kids Mr. USC competition, English teacher Mr. Yochum announced that all proceeds would support a relief trip to the Dominican Republic next year in order to pay for supplies and food in areas of poverty. Mr Yochum proclaimed, "This competition is benefiting those in the Dominican Republic and this is a good way of bringing students and faculty together, aside from Friday nights at the football stadium in autumn."

Each contestant walked down the theater aisles showing off his looks in formal wear. After a brief biography of all of the contestants read by emcees Rocky Cersosimo and Kate Swenson, the potential Mr. USC's prepared for the school spirit competition. Seniors Dan Miller and Gary Burner, decked out in USC garb, broke out the pompoms and cheered their hearts out to fire up the fans in the auditorium. Sophomores Ben Richardson and Tuck Stapor then dunked basketballs from a trampoline and broke a plastic cup with a high note. Michael Shogry, known for his athletic abilities, showed that he is light on his feet after masterfully dancing with

ribbon in hand. Dan Frac followed by reading a poem called "Bango Bongo" while Jordan Francis played the bongo drum. However, these acts were no match for the performances of Miller and Burner. Miller admitted that he really had no talent, but proceeded to walk on his hands and worm his way off the stage. And Gary Burner lived a childhood dream of playing guitar in front of people.

The question and answer session opened the door for all of the contestants to reveal their individual quirks and oddities.

Dan Miller was asked what would be his superpower if he had his choice. "I know I'm quoting Dane Cook here, but I've always wanted to just

shoot spaghetti out of my finger tips."

When asked about why he should be Mr. USC, he enlightened the audience with an anecdote, "When I was young, I walked down to the pond and I saw my reflection. I knew right then that I had to be a male model."

Burner got the audience on his side temporarily with his answers. He made one final appeal for the title. Celebrating his eighteenth birthday, Gary said that being crowned Mr. USC would be the "best gift ever." However, the appeal went unheralded by the judges who ended up giving fellow senior Dan Miller the title of Mr. USC.

USC football star to miss season

By: Greg Schlosser
Staff Writer

Sean Lee, a campus legend at Upper St. Clair High School and now formerly starting linebacker at Penn State, tore his ACL during a non-contact practice, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Former Penn State corner back Justin King said about Lee's horrible injury. "It's a devastating blow" (www.post-gazette.com). Lee's knee buckled unexpectedly when he was chasing quarterback Daryll Clark on a non-contact play, which will cause him to miss up to nine months. Said a disappointed Lee, "I have a responsibility to the team to help do everything I can this year in what might be a non-conventional way. I have to turn this into a positive. It's a bump in the road. I'm excited about the team we have and the kind of season we can have. It's a great opportunity for a young guy" (www.post-gazette.com). Lee, who was considered an NFL prospect, has had his stock fall after

this devastating injury. Anytime a player has an injury like this and misses a full year of football NFL teams might shy away from a player because of his bad knee and lack of experience. Said Senior NFL Draft analyst Rob Rang, "The extent of Lee's injury will obviously have a huge impact on his pro prospects. He is viewed by scouts as a prospect similar to [Paul] Posluszny and [Dan] Connor, due to his combination of versatility, instincts and fine technique." Of course, with Lee walking the halls of USC recently, many students are upset that he won't be playing for the Nittany Lions this year. Said freshman Emily Roarty, "I was upset when I heard he wouldn't play this year because he was going to win a lot of awards this year, but now he won't." Ninth Grader Phil Williams agreed. "It stinks because he was one of my favorite players here and at Penn State. I hope he makes a full recovery!"

China devastated after 7.9 quake

By: Dallion L. Townsend
Staff Writer

With a quake measured at 7.9 on the Richter scale, citizens of the Sichuan providence fell victim to one of the biggest earthquakes in years. According to *USA Today*, approximately 18,645 were still buried in debris and pounds of remains from what used to be buildings and highways.

The *Sichuan Daily* newspaper reported on its Web site that more than 26,000 people were injured in Mianyang. Experts assumed that the number of casualties would increase due to the remoteness of the affected area and the inaccessibility of supplies. Only fifty eight people were extracted from the rubble and not many people are believed to have survived that have not been found thus far.

However, the citizens of China were not the only affected by the natural disaster. Tourists from both Great Britain and the United States, who were thought to have been panda watching were also

killed. Approximately two dozen tourists are believed to be dead after the quake.

"Survivors can hold on for some time. Now it's not time to give up," Wang Zhenyao, disaster relief division director at the Ministry of Civil Affairs, told reporters in Beijing.

Aside from just the death toll, approximately 391 small dams were damaged and the earthquake left dangerous cracks in the Zipingpu Dam. Thousands of troops rushed to repair the damage.

"He Biao, the director of the Aba Disaster Relief headquarters in northern Sichuan province, said there were also concerns over dams closer to the epicenter" (news.yahoo.com).

"Currently, the most dangerous problems are several reservoirs near Wenchuan," he said, according to a transcript on the CCTV Web site. "There are already serious problems with the Tulong Reservoir on the Min River. It may collapse. If that happens, it would affect several power plants below and be extremely dangerous," he

said. Rescuers who hiked the mountains of the wasteland looking for any survivors estimate that the final death toll may very well be over 15,000.

Because of the monstrous events as of late, TVprogramming in China has been cancelled in order to run twenty-four hour coverage of any new developments concerning the earthquake.

But the enormous scale of the devastation meant that resources were stretched thin, and makeshift aid stations and refugee centers were springing up over the disaster area, which is about the size of Belgium. Since a number of hospitals were leveled, doctors and nurses were forced to treat patients in the streets with a very small amount of supplies.

Xinhua quoted government officials as saying rescuers who hiked Wednesday into the city of Yingxiu in Wenchuan county — the epicenter of the quake — found only 2,300 survivors in the town of about 10,000, with another 1,000 badly hurt.

USC Boys Tennis team finally wins PA State title

By: Kirstin Kennedy
Opinions Editor

On May 17 the Upper St. Clair Boys Tennis team earned the first PIAA State title in Upper St. Clair history when they defeated Lower Merion in a match with a score of 3-2. The Panthers have faced Lower Merion in the State Finals for two consecutive years, losing in both 2006 and 2007.

The team ended a four-year runner-up title and overcame their so-called curse by sweeping all three singles in the final match.

The team won the WPIAL's for a fifth consecutive year by defeating Shady Side Academy on May 9 with a score of 3-2. Senior Captain Scott Yanak comments, "We had some doubt about winning the WPIAL title this year, and after going in with an under-dog mentality, we pulled through even to the state level. It was amazing because we had five new starters and of the past five years, this year was the year we were least expected to win the state title."

The team's overall record for the 2008 spring season was 18-2.

Junior Jay Jones played number one singles while sophomore Ethan Kallick played number two singles. Together the two created a solid one-two punch for the team. Both players were absolutely essential in the final matches of both WPIAL's and States.

Kallick was a steady player as he

had only one loss throughout the entire season. He contributed to the depth of the team by pushing every player below him down a spot to make the line-up stronger. Jones pulled the team though to a win at states in a three-set clincher. The match between Lower Merion

doubles. Sinha and Navarre were a powerhouse in number one doubles as they formed a dominating force on the court. The team was essential to moving up from the semi-finals to the WPIAL and State finals. Tucker and Pearson stepped up as sophomores by a huge victor in the WPIAL finals and only accepted defeat on two occasions. Sophomores KG Nayak and Ben Friedlander were also key contributors to the team's success.

Coach Ron Mercer, who has coached the Boys team as well as Chartiers Valley Girls Tennis for the past eleven years, has an excellent record of winning seven WPIAL titles, four runner-up state titles, and now, one State Championship title. Mercer has coached the team members to live up to the Upper St. Clair reputation of excellence in Boys Tennis and achieved something far greater than what he, or anyone on the team, expected.

The Boys Tennis team celebrated the victory in the Hershey Racket Club by rushing the court as Jay Jones won the final match on the Saturday evening of the State Finals. Yanak expressed, "I think our team is unusual as we had a tight and fresh line-up this year and proved everyone wrong that a young team couldn't pull through. We did it! The feeling of state victory was absolutely glorious, something I cannot express in words. All I really know is that I'm glad that we finally got some gold before I peaced out."

Panther
Predilections

Who is your favorite
teacher and why?

“Miss Milovak because she
is really nice and cares
about how her students are
doing.”
– Christina Hlutkowsky
Freshman

“Senor Moore because
words cannot describe how
he affects the atmosphere of
the classroom.”
– James Ferguson
Sophomore

“Mrs. Hendrickson
because she makes
Honors English 11 fun
and interesting, which I
wasn’t expecting at the
beginning of the year.”
– Molly Joiner
Junior

“Mr. Shefler because he
is crazy awesome.”
– Colin Feduska
Senior

By: Kelsey Short
Editor-in-Chief

Desk of the Editor
Students should have summer jobs

By: Kelsey Short
Editor-in-Chief

Students of all grades should definitely look into getting a job for the summer in the coming weeks, especially if their summer schedule includes poolside tanning and afternoon naps. Summer jobs are good for three main reasons: to earn money, to build character, and to prepare for a career (www.familyeducation.com).

Senior Patty Meegan says, “I am going to get a summer job because I want to be able to buy things that I want without my parents’ help. I also want to have spending money to take with me to college.”

One of the trickiest parts of finding a summer job is determining which jobs are the most lucrative. Most jobs that pay a

flat rate or an hourly rate are a good bet for students. The flat rate babysitting or grass cutting jobs are usually much more profitable and flexible because students can set their own rates and hours, not to mention tax-free!

Other criteria for finding a summer job are character-building and career preparation opportunities. Interacting with customers and employees also helps to build communication skills that students will need in college interviews and in their future careers. Good summer jobs necessitate students to take on some responsibility, accountabil-

ity, and discipline while doing something they enjoy. Senior Kevin Mullholland says, “I’m going to be a lifeguard this summer. I get to make some good money and work on my tan at the same time.”

The hardest part of the job search, many students say, is searching for the right positions to apply for. A great place for students to start is actually in the counseling office. The counselors have lots of information about local jobs that are available specifically for high-school-aged students and about how to construct a resume.

Another useful resource to uti-

lize in the job-search process is the internet. A piece of advice when searching locally for a summer job is to think ahead: apply before summer actually begins. There may be openings for jobs in a month or two that are not currently available.

If students want to be their own bosses and start a lawn-mowing, dog-sitting, or some other type of independent job, post flyers out in the community and put them in mailboxes.

Students should use the summer months to their advantage to make money and build up their skills for their future college and career endeavors. It is never too early to get out into the workplace and start working toward financial independence. The experience is almost always rewarding and worth all of the effort.

Influence of Hollywood on teenage girls

By: Hannah Mann
Staff Writer

Physical fitness or even gauntness is almost a prerequisite in Hollywood in this day and age, but now the tremendous pressure to be thin in Hollywood has branched out to generations of young fans. Magazine Teen People conducted a survey that reveals teens, especially girls, throughout the nation compare themselves to the young women in movies, TV, and magazines.

The self-image survey goes into depth about how adolescent girls see themselves and identifies various influences on the way they look at themselves. Out of 1,553 teens ages 13-18 questioned, 58 percent affirmed

that people on TV and in movies, and the women in fashion magazines, are the root of any insecurity regarding their bodies. Over half the adolescent girls think that they weigh too much, and an even greater majority say if they could, they would change something about their bodies, usually, their stomachs.

Two years ago, photos of a suddenly skinny Lindsay Lohan and “Simple Life” star Nicole Richie sparked concerns over not only the health of these young stars, but the messages they send to their fans.

More recently, a glossy called Tyra Banks fat. Albeit Banks has gained a few pounds since she graced the covers of Sports

Illustrated and Victoria’s Secret catalogs, “fat” is quite hyperbolic. The talk show and America’s Next Top Model host defended her curves, saying, “I get so much mail from young girls who say, ‘I look up to you, you’re not as skinny as everyone else, I think you’re beautiful.’ So when they say that my body is ‘ugly’ and ‘disgusting,’ what does that make those girls feel like?” (People).

A Yale psychologist, Dr. Carol Wiseman suggests that parents tell their children they look great as they are, and enthuse them to play sports and participate in activities in which physical appearance is not the focal point (U.S. News). Body image is just one reflection of how people

perceive themselves. The way it more prevalently defines the way people look at themselves is disheartening.

Expectations and pressures on young girls can be overwhelming, but Girl Power, “a public education campaign sponsored by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services” says, “studies have found that a strong father figure can help boost a girl’s confidence” (CNN). Additionally, girls should pay more attention to what their brains, minds, spirits do – rather than figure fluctuations; what bodies do - not on how they look, because that’s not what our bodies are for. It’s not about body appearance – it’s about body action.

The graduating class of 2008 possesses the utmost sophistication

By: Kirstin Kennedy
Opinions Editor

The senior class of 2008 is obviously one of the most unconventional classes to ever walk the halls of Upper St. Clair High School. Although we are not altogether unified, the combination of 2008 seniors has created some of the most entertaining moments we will ever see. There is no doubt that 2k8 is great.

Previous classes had the unbelievably typical senior

songs such as “Don’t Stop Believing,” “Glory Days,” and the nauseatingly clichéd “Good Riddance (Time of Your Life).” Not 2k8. We wanted a happy song to be played last at dances. We wanted to be remembered as a fun-loving, yet refined class. We chose “Gettn’ Jiggy Wit It” by rap artist and actor Will Smith. The Fresh Prince of Bell Air feel that the song conveys is an accurate description of our senior class’s laid back attitude.

Our senior motto gives fol-

lows the comfort suit. No one really knows the precise translation of “Everybody wang-chung tonight,” but meanings are irrelevant. It’s funny, and that’s all that matters, right?

Our lavish colors of lime green and black are a true testament to the lively and entertaining nature of the senior class of 2008, not to mention we are the first class to provide three (not two, three) killer dances. We have dedicated ourselves to athletics, academics, the arts, and the overall well being of our

community. We, although are a fun-loving class of enjoyment, have accomplished vasy goals. PSSA State Champions, Award-winning musical productions, state champion sports teams; we have pretty much covered the field.

Best wishes to the class of 2008. May we all spread our joy and gifts across the world in everything that we do, may we impact all of those around us in a positive way, and may we never forget to get “jiggy wit it.”

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

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

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.

St. Clairion Editorial

Is security worth the sacrifice of freedom?

Every time USCHS experiences a scandal, the administration inevitably scampers to repair the school’s image and wellbeing. In lieu of recent rape allegations against a student, the administration has released a morning announcement, or “friendly reminder,” to inhibit USCHS students from staying in the academic wing unattended after school. In order to guard the safety of the student body, extra security is necessary, but how much is too much?

“I’m graduating this year, but I feel bad for my younger sister because the school’s strictness is only going to get worse,” senior Melissa Matthews groans.

Mathews voices a popular opinion. The school has begun cracking down in the past two years, taken away the students’ freedom, and lost some of its award-winning appeal in the process.

“One of the reasons why Upper St. Clair was so highly-regarded was because it didn’t force its students to do anything. This was positive because then the students could learn independence and how to work hard with-

out excessive encouragement. We need this attitude back,” comments senior Emily Kauffelt.

The library, a place once designated to be a stress-free place where students could chat quietly or study, has now become an area of bitter animosity. While noise control is necessary, even whispering students hear the infamous “SHHHHH!”, and every day, groups of students walk out grumbling, with a librarian bouncing after them to ensure their removal. The situation only fosters hostility, and students then rebel by running through the library, making dolphin sounds, or talking loudly on purpose. Seniors remember a time when the library was not out of control, and they respected the rules of the library because they had the freedom to chat amongst themselves.

“Those few free periods I had freshmen year were the best because I had a credit-packed schedule, and now and then I would get a chance to unravel. Now I’m like ‘Ugh, will I be kicked out today?’” says senior Alaina Condo.

The administration unclenched

its iron fist a little when it decided to open the theater doors during morning drop off. However, during the frigid winter, when ice and snow paved the side walk regularly, the doors were closed, forcing students to slide on down, literally, to the academic entrance. Furthermore, the voice box on the academic entrance, the purpose of which is to prevent potential predators and terrorists, is so effortless to get past that it’s almost laughable.

“Yes?” – the main office secretary’s voice drifts through the thick black box.

“I’m a parent coming to pick up my child,” coos the predator.

“Ok, I’m opening up the door for you!”

Uh-oh.

Besides the various security changes of the past, the new rule that forbids students from being in the academic wing after school without adult supervision tops them all. The fact that teachers and activity supervisors are responsible for the welfare of young adults is absurd. Activity and club attendance might suffer, and those students, whose parents happen to work and cannot

pick them up until a certain time, cannot even stay after.

Furthermore, the academic wing’s doors close after 4:30 P.M. every weekday and are closed all day on weekends. Therefore, this means that the hundreds of students who happen to leave something in their lockers have no choice but to wait until the next school day. Even asking a security guard to go to your locker with you and then walk you back out is against the new steely set of rules.

“I forgot my AP Physics book at school one weekend, so I couldn’t study for my test because I couldn’t come back over the weekend to get it. Before, I would have been able to get the book I needed,” says Rachel Henderson.

“College will be the most ridiculous transition if you aren’t treated like an adult in high school. I mean, the university isn’t going to send someone to walk you back to your dorm at night; that’s a safety arrangement you need to make for yourself,” comments University of Pittsburgh freshman Jordan Opperman.

Golf is a sport

By: Greg Schlosser
Staff Writer

Hockey, football, basketball, and baseball are all (obviously) sports. But can golf be included into this category? The answer is a 100% yes. The people who call golf a “game” instead of a sport obviously have never played the game enough to realize how physically and mentally demanding one round of golf can be. Here are some general myths about golf.

Myth: Golf isn’t a sport. Anyone can play it!

True, anyone can go out on a

weekend and play golf. But the same holds true for almost every other sport. For example, a group of middle-aged men can go out to the local park and play a pick-up game of basketball or baseball, but that doesn’t make them professionals. It’s the same way with golf. Just because anyone can play it doesn’t mean that it isn’t a sport.

Myth: Golf isn’t physically demanding.

If anyone who has gone out on a hot summer day to walk a round of golf, would say that golf was physically demanding. To be able to walk an aver-

age of a mile going up and down hills and then have the mental power to focus on the golf swing is extremely physically demanding (www.kierlandgolf.com). Someone might say, “Well, it is only physically demanding if you walk and it is really hot outside.” While that may be true, look at baseball’s DH. All he does is bat several times a day, but does that exclude him from being an athlete?

Myth: Golf isn’t a team game, therefore it isn’t a sport.

Yes, during the PGA season, it is just the man against the course. But there are also

“team” competitions throughout the year. For example, the Ryder Cup is a team competition between the United States and Europe. Therefore that can make golf a “team” sport. But really, it shouldn’t matter if it is a team sport or not. Tennis, for example, isn’t played on teams yet is still considered a sport worldwide.

To all those who don’t consider golf a sport, consider again. Golf is a physically and mentally demanding sport that requires a lot of strength and endurance. Despite not being a team game and a popular hobby, golf is a sport.

Golf is not a sport

By: Dallion L. Townsend
Staff Writer

Some would define a sport as just an athletic competition. However Merriam Webster defines it another way, as “an activity in which players of the same team compete against other teams in an athletic event for a common goal” (Webster Dictionary). Depending on which definition you prefer, the argument of whether or not golf is a sport remains to be completely clear. However, Webster’s definition brings up a main flaw in anyone’s argument that would classify golf as a true sport: team.

The point has been brought up that the Professional Golf Association’s biggest name Tiger Woods is an unbelievable athlete because he has to

out perform more than hundreds of other people to win a major. But that’s not the point. It is obvious that Tiger is an unbelievable athlete. He’s highly regarded as a top athlete. But his athletic abilities are suited for a game, which is golf.

It is difficult to top hundreds of tremendous athletes day in and day out like Tiger does. However, look at other major sports such as football, hockey, and even baseball. The three examples have a few similarities. One main similarity is the fact that sports are based around teams. In golf, you make a mistake; you’re the only one that suffers. In hockey, football, etc., you affect everyone with mishaps or your good play.

Also, each sport takes a high

level of endurance. It is true that some golf courses cover a lot of area, and professional golfers have to walk the entire eighteen holes without the services of a golf cart. However, golfers have almost no time restraint when hitting a golf ball. So taking five minutes to walk 300 yards and lining up a shot should make up for the racked up mileage. And lastly, each sport has an array of athletic skills that must be fused together in milliseconds. The biggest athletic portion of golf is driving a ball hundreds of yards. If you hit the ball right, it should go the distance. Not to worry, you’d have loads of time to line up the shot. In hockey, it’s similar. The main goal is to hit the puck with strong enough force to blow by a goalie that is just as athletic

as the shooter. However, if the puck leaves off of the heel of the stick, the puck won’t go where it is intended and the velocity will greatly decrease. Unlike golf, you usually don’t get more than a split second to fire off a shot, as you’re moving, with players well over 200 pounds trying to knock you off the puck, as you’re trying to get the shot off perfectly.

It can be argued that getting a tiny ball into a 3 inch hole really is a difficult task. It takes intelligence and knowledge of physical science to know where and how hard to hit a ball into a hole. Golf analysts have stated the cliché for years: Golf is 90% mental. So is chess, and isn’t chess a game? And here I thought sports were known for taking a physical strain on the players.

Panther Predilections

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

“Mr. Yochum because I like his personality, and he’s a very approachable guy.”
– Antonio Valenzuela
Freshman

Sophomores:
“Mrs. Leonard because she is my neighbor, and she helps me out a lot.”
– Taylor Szalajda
Sophomore

“Ms. Olkowski because she says I never talk in class...”
– Josh Boger
Junior

“Mr. Flynn because of all the good he’s doing in the world through Kids Helping Kids.”
– Jen Findle
Senior

By: Kelsey Short
Editor-in-Chief

French exchange students experience Pittsburgh

By: Brigid McCabe
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

In early April, a handful of excited Upper St. Clair students waited at the Pittsburgh International Airport with decorated signs that bore the names of their assigned French exchange students. Two weeks later, the exchange ended with hugs at the airport, and in the short time between, an exchange of ideas took place, between the American hosts and French visitors, which made the trip worthwhile for both parties.

The exchange was organized so that various activities and field trips would immerse the French in the American culture. These excursions included a trip to the Heinz History Center, a visit to SportsWorks, and a day in Washington D.C. “The impromptu events like going to dinner and ice cream also worked really well too!” commented junior host Kathleen Buehler.

Furthermore, many of the individual families chose to take their French student somewhere new. Senior Hannah Mann took her

exchange student to the Station Square incline, and Kathleen Buehler took Camille LePrince, whom she was hosting, and another French student Laurenn to the Pittsburgh Zoo. Buehler says, “We got a personal tour and also got to pet a shark, feed a black bear, and play with the sea otters!” LePrince’s favorite experience was the view from Mount Washington which she deemed “mag-nifique.”

Though the culture shock for the French students was only minor, learning about America proved interesting for the foreign students. Audrey Roque says, “I’ve

learned about the culture. Staying with a family is very interesting because we can

observed the school system, the grading method, and the concepts of mods.

Although the French students adored America, a frequently voiced criticism was, unsurprisingly, American food because French students are accustomed to a more healthy and diverse “recettes de cuisine.” The junk food in the cafeteria shocked the

French, and Anne-Sophie Le Gall even commented, “I wish I could bring good French recipes, such as le gratin dauphines, la guenelle, le boudin blanc.”

The Americans also learned a lot from the French.

During the entire trip, especially at dinner, French conversations flowed easily, helping the Americans solidify their language skills. One American student learned that the French only eat eggs for lunch and dinner when her mother made eggs for breakfast and her exchange student acted stunned. The most profound bit of knowledge that senior Maddie Massaro learned was that, “despite cultural differences, teens from France are pretty much the same as American teens.”

Besides the food and the airport trouble that the French encountered, both parties enjoyed the exchange and formed lasting friendships. Senior Maddie Massaro says, “I think the whole program has been great. I’ve had a lot of fun with the exchange students, and I’m so glad I took part in the exchange.”

French student Silvère Escande simply stated that “My favorite experience in America was talking to the others, students, and teachers and making new friends,” echoing the thoughts of the Upper St. Clair students and their “nouveau copains.”

Olympic torch relay marred by protesting

By: Madeline Kushner
Guest Writer

The Olympic Torch was officially lit in Olympia, Greece on March 24, 2008. The torch then proceeded to travel to China where it then embarked to Almaty, Kazakhstan on April 2, its first leg of the Olympic Torch relay.

However, since the first leg, the relay has gone down hill; meaning, there have been protests against having the Olympics in Beijing causing the relay to be disrupted. The protests are in response to the actions taken by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP’s human rights records have “reported an increase in abuses since 2001” (en.epochtimes.com).

The CCP murder an extremely large number of people every year. This number is said to be larger than any other execution rate in the world. The CCP freely torment people who express their freedom. This group of tormented peoples includes: Tibetan Buddhists, Talun Gong practitioners, House Church members, and Uighur Muslims in addition to the members of the paparazzi.

In addition to these minorities being prosecuted, many families

located in Beijing have been removed from their homes as part of a preparation process for the Olympic Games. Declining an order to vacate their homes, results in death.

In September of 2006, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was charged by groups of human rights organizations for not regarding the Olympic standards.

In addition to China’s poor human rights policies, another controversy has caused the protest during the Olympic relay.

For centuries, China’s province of Tibet has been fighting the reign of China to become independent. After World War I, Tibet was granted a short period of independence. But, the Republic of China and the People’s Republic of China (PRC) never granted Tibet its true independence. Tibetan citizens and monks protested, resulting in their torture and executions. The protestors were then executed and tortured for their up rising.

Recently on March 10, the protests had commenced again but in a peaceful nature. The protesters were monks arguing for their religious freedoms. The news of the protest spread throughout Tibet and caused

uproar about human rights policies just as the Olympic torch came to Beijing, before the beginning of the relay. The “peaceful” protests then took a turn for the worse and became horribly violent. China accused the Dali Lama and said that the protests were part of a plan to ruin the Olympics.

As a result, some countries have threatened to not participate in the 2008 Olympics located in Beijing.

The uproar from the pro-Tibet and pro-Chinese supporters first started in London and then led to the incident in Paris where protesters climbed up the side of the Eiffel Tower and tried to steal the Olympic torch. The torch was then extinguished various times and carried to different parts of the city.

The most recent conflict arose in San Francisco where protesters were seen climbing up the Golden Gate Bridge with flags that said “Free Tibet.” The torch was then taken out of sight into a warehouse where the runners of the relay and the torch were taken to another location to enable the start of the relay.

The Olympic Torch relay will reach Beijing August 6 in time for the beginning of the Olympics on August 8, 2008.

Death Toll Rises in Myanmar

Alivia Kandabarow

The results of tropical cyclone Nargis that tore through Myanmar May 3rd are turning out to be worse than originally estimated. The death toll has risen to 22,000 people and the United Nations estimates that one million people could be left homeless. Myanmar state radio revised their count of missing persons on May 5 from 20,000 to 41,000 (www.MSNBC.com).

The U.N was able to use a satellite map to evaluate the storm’s damage. The damage spanned about an 11,600 square mile area along the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Martaban coastlines, which only covers about 5% of Myanmar’s total area. Nonetheless, the affected region inhabits one-fourth of Myanmar’s population of 57 million people. After the unforgiving cyclone shredded the land, it set of a massive storm surge that chased tens of thousands further inland and left 10,000 dead immediately. The tidal wave from the storm towered a staggering twelve feet and washed out thousands of acres of low lying villages. Bogalay, a city of 190,000 inhabitants, is only left 5% untouched by the storm (www.washingtonafp.com).

Tens of thousands struggle to find shelter, food and water, for a handful of villages have been

completely destroyed. The World Food Program is concerned about the significant area of rice-growing land that has been wiped out by the flood. In some areas where nearly 400 homes were established, only 4 remain (www.CNN.com).

The US has donated an initial amount of \$250,000 to aid in disaster relief; the smallest amount donated by any country. The U.S. has scorned Myanmar’s government leadership for failing to warn citizens of the approaching cyclone (www.bloomberg.com).

“Our message is to military rulers: ‘Let the United States come to help you, help the people,’” said Bush in response to Myanmar’s unspecified conditions for foreign aid to enter the country in shambles. “We’re prepared” continues the president “to move US Navy assets to help find those who’ve lost their lives, to help find the missing, to help stabilize the situation. But in order to do so, the military junta must allow our disaster assessment teams into the country” (www.washingtonafp.com).

The U.N. awaits visas to enter the country. The U.N. is uncertain how much damage has been done; they have not been able to get disaster relief teams in the country yet. Meanwhile, organizations like the Red Cross have been gathering supplies to ship to the country (www.CNN.com).

Pittsburgh rated one of America’s sootiest cities

By: JP Gooderham
Sports Editor

For years, Pittsburgh has tried to change the American public’s image of the town. Of course, any Pittsburgh native would argue that the city is no longer the “Steel Town” that many Americans make it out to be. However, it seems that the image of Pittsburgh as a dirty city has been renewed by the American Lung Association’s annual “State of the Air” Report.

The report indicated that “Pittsburgh overtook Los Angeles

in the category that measures short-term particle pollution or soot” (www.FoxNews.com). Despite Los Angeles’s significantly larger population, “Los Angeles, the country’s longtime soot and smog leader, has enacted aggressive measures to tackle sources of pollution, resulting in a substantial drop in particle pollution levels” (www.FoxNews.com).

While Los Angeles has apparently improved air quality through protective measures, it seems that Pittsburgh has not matched LA’s development. “In Pittsburgh, the

biggest source of particle pollution is a steel plant in nearby Claretton” (Reuters). However, even though Pittsburgh was the clear leader in soot, the methodology for the report may have not accurately assessed the current state of Pittsburgh’s air. “There are plans to reduce that kind of pollution in Pittsburgh, but because the report uses data from 2004 to 2006, those changes are not evident in the current report” (Reuters).

In addition to the rating of America’s cleanest and dirtiest cities in terms of air quality, the

publication also explained the general state of air in the United States. Dwayne Jackson explains, “According to the report, smog (ozone) levels across much of the country are now lower than they were between 2003 and 2005. This appears to be especially true in the eastern United States. Smog levels have dropped due to a late 1990s requirement to clean up emissions of the raw ingredients of smog” (www.Muscle-Fitness.com).

Additionally, “The eight metropolitan areas considered to be

the nation’s most polluted by every measure were Los Angeles, Bakersfield, Fresno, Visalia-Porterfield and Hanford-Corcoran, all in California; Washington-Baltimore; St. Louis; and Birmingham, Ala.” (Associated Press). California continues to face the largest concerns over air quality, but will certainly attempt to decrease the health concerns in future years.

On the other hand, the cleanest cities in America were Fargo, South Dakota and Salinas, California (Associated Press).

Juniors gear up to begin the college search

By: Kelsey Short
Editor-in-Chief

As the SAT and ACT tests come to a conclusion for the juniors, many 11th graders are tempted to coast their way through the rest of the year and into summer vacation. However, the second semester of junior year is the perfect time to get a jump start on the college search. The end of junior year is the prime time to begin thinking about what colleges students would like to apply to during their senior year. A good starting point is to formulate a description of what you believe your “ideal school” would be, and use that information to draft a list of potential colleges. In doing so, consider a variety of schools, ranging in size, social atmosphere, and location, to explore throughout the coming months. Juniors should not forget to take your school and extracurricular interests into account as they search for colleges that have

majors associated with the school subjects and activities they enjoy. Remember to always keep an open mind during the college search; students can never tell initially what they will end up wanting in a college. Senior Patty Meegan says, “I thought I wanted to go to a big school early on, but I ended up choosing a small school in the end. Keep your options open because you might change your mind about the type of school you are interested in.” The best way to determine if a college is a good fit for you is to schedule college visitations. Going on a college visit also serves another important purpose: to show interest in the colleges that a student will likely apply to. With the number of students applying to college each year on the rise, juniors should show their interest in a college because it is important to set oneself apart from other applicants who have not taken the time to explore the college first-hand.

Senior Mike Flickinger says, “A lot of schools offer high school students the ability to meet with a member of the faculty about their majors, to sit in on a class in their major, and to stay overnight to experience life in the residency halls.” Schedule an interview with admissions officers as the college search narrows down. Plan for the interview beforehand: anticipate the admissions counselors’ questions as well as make a list of questions to ask them. Students often do not stay connected with the college once they have visited. One should continue to show an interest in a school by maintaining a connection with an admissions counselor and schedule follow-up visits. Once students know where they will apply, they can get a jump start on filling out admission applications and essays during the summer months. Doing so will cut down on the amount of work in the fall when students return to school.

Summer fashion blooms with floral prints and brilliant hues

By Alaina Zemanick
Guest Writer

When the top designers displayed their newest collections at the many infamous Fashion Weeks around the world last fall, each launched extreme trends that were both modern and incredibly chic: floral patterns and dramatic colors. Though both date back to the “fashion disasters” of the eighties, the designers created ensembles that no woman would refuse to buy. Nicolas Ghesquière of the powerful fashion house Balenciaga explained his flowery collection he premiered at Paris Fashion Week. “I’m exploring new territory, within the references of the house,” he said, “I’ve done prints before, but I never went to the flowers” (www.style.com). Taking such a risk led to success for Ghesquière; he earned rave reviews for his structured flowered dresses, spreading the floral crazy. Stars, such as Jennifer Connelly, have been spotted

wearing the cute numbers to premieres and parties, ensuring the pieces’ status as the “it” dresses of the season. The stunning colors seen in the collections were not so uncommon for some fashion designers. Anna Sui, known for her rock star frocks and music-inspired looks, sent the models out on the runway in wigs that seemed to be colored with children’s paints and dresses that complimented them perfectly. The same could be said about the avant-garde Alexander McQueen, who made his latest collection a tribute to the late Isabella Blow, a renowned British fashion editor who launched McQueen’s career. Allowing his comrade’s legacy to shine, he placed ridiculous hats, similar to ones she was noted for, on his models and contrasted them against bright silk dresses. The juxtaposition of the two reflected Blow’s inner fashion sense to the finest detail. Though Hollywood and fashionistas world-wide have caught onto the style of bright florals

and stunning colors, do fashion followers of USC actually like these trends? “Yes,” says USC junior Sara Maurer, “it depends on the shape of the dress though.” “I would wear big bold floral prints since small ones look very old fashioned,” states freshman Julia Pasquale in similar agreement to Sara. Even if USC students agree with this style, the recent exchange students from Thailand think otherwise, showing the diversity of global fashion. “I would never,” sounds off freshman Thai student Eyes, “I don’t like it!” When shopping for new trendy clothing, students should remember to keep their eyes open for the vibrant shades of color and impressive floral motifs. It might be to the dismay of eighties dissenters, but just remember: buying one of those floral dresses or bright outfits just may make a person one of the best dressed individuals at the high school.

Haute Spots around Pittsburgh

By: Hannah Mann
Staff Writer

The Neville Spa: Tucked away in Heidelberg is a spa experience waiting to happen. The Neville Spa is a newer salon and center for indulgence. Decorated in Victorian-chic pink stripes, the Neville Spa carries Bumble & Bumble hair products as well as Jessica nail supplies and the locally-centered Amber products for skin and beauty. Their spa “menu” has everything from Couture Nail Art to the Golf Champion massage. Their masseuse is a talented veteran of experience in various salons. Anything you

need to relax after AP exams and prepare for the summer months awaits you at the Neville Spa. The Sharp Edge: The Sharp Edge is a grill and brewery in Sewickley. Although it got its start as a famous Belgian beer emporium, with tons of craveable fried food as well as both fresh and decadent salads, diners can’t go wrong at this Sidney Crosby favorite. The fried pickles are not to be believed, and the chocolate layer cake can top off the perfect meal. Crepes Parisienne:

Escape to Paris – in Shadyside! While some former students of Monsieur Moore are familiar with this underground creperie, many Pittsburghers are yet to open their eyes (and taste buds) to its authentic French sweet and savory delights. Can’t make a decision? The Black Forest crepe is composed of melted dark chocolate and fresh raspberry compote drizzled with white chocolate. Ham & Cheese may sound simple, but the beautiful béchamel and high quality fresh ingredients will leave you wanting more. If complex flavors are too much, simple sugar butter or Nutella crepes may be more your style.

Teacher’s Lounge



Step into the UBU Lounge with Mrs. Simmons

By: Brigid McCabe
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

What do you love most about your job? The interaction with the kids and being able to see my son every day. I am very lucky to have a job I look forward to, and I do not dread Mondays. In some small way, I feel as if I am making a contribution to your day as a student. Besides feeding you, my goal is to make you smile, if for just a moment, and make you forget you have tests, homework, and teachers.

What would you change about the Commons? Sell gum and be able to stay open on days when there are after school sports and activities. Also, I would like the school to replace the glass around the pool tables with a real wall.

What type of student were you in high school? I was an average student; I made Honor Roll in my junior year. History was my favorite subject! I wasn’t sporty; I was a rocker chick. I was in a band, and I was nicknamed Joan Jett in my freshman year by some seniors. *What do you do in your spare time?*

I try new recipes at home; I love to cook! From April to September, we go stock racing locally and in other states. I try to attend as many USC sporting events as I can. I watch movies more than television, and I love my Steelers and Penguins. I always look for live music on the weekends, and I volunteer at the schools. Also, I like to read.

What would you do with a million dollars? First, I would buy certain family members a house or new car, as needed. Then I would take my kids out of school, hire a tutor, and travel around the world, exploring everywhere and learning everything. I would also try to buy my way into Viggo Mortensen’s life or Jon Bon Jovi’s.

What parting words can you say to the class of ’08? After high school, it’s a whole new world. Start fresh, learn as much as you can – never stop. Explore as much of the world as you can; always be open-minded. Listen as much as, or more than, you talk. Work hard, but play hard too. “Success is not the absence of failure, but how you rise up after it.”

The Music Genome Project: Way cooler than the Human Genome Project

By: Alivia Kandabarow
Photography Editor

Telling you about Pandora.com may open a box of Pandoras that you hadn’t expected it to open. In fact, you will probably end up losing hours of your time with the introduction of the website into your life. On January 6th 2000 a group of musicians/ music lovers finalized their idea to put together their passion with their science. The team of music analysts would design the most comprehensive analysis of music ever created: The Music Genome Project. The on-going project, founded and headed by Tim Westergreen, has been analyzing, nurturing, processing and classifying tens of thousands of songs for the past eight years. The project represents eight years of analysis spanning several centuries of music (www.pandora.com). Essentially, the music-scientists treat music as if it were a human being. Each analyst breaks each musical composition down to their most basic components and treats each characteristic as a “musical gene” in the enormous Music Genome. Any given song is represented on average by approximately 150 genes, Rock and Pop songs have about 150 genes. Rap songs have about 350 genes, and Jazz songs have about 400 genes. Analysts come up with something like “Altered Piano Timbres, Classic Soul Qualities, Dirty Organ Riffs, Extensive Studio Production”...and the list lingers with one hundred quali-

ties” (www.wikipedia.org). Thousands of songs were used to create the Music Genome. Melody, harmony, rhythm, instrumentation orchestration arrangement, lyrics, winging and vocal harmony are all parts of a single song. Every single song is broken down to figure out the unique balance of the components, almost like a recipe. The Human Genome project strips music of its culture. The genome takes away the band, the singer’s name, the genre it is supposedly linked to, the name, the record label and the buyer to leave us with the bare truth: the song. Music, to Pandora.com, is all about what music sounds like and how you react to it (www.wisegeek.com). The Music Genome Project strongly “believes that each individual has a unique relationship with music- no one has tastes just like yours” (www.pandora.com). These analysts slave away at classifying music to bring joy and intrigue into the listener’s life. Every analyst has completed four years of music theory and composition, has passed through a selective screening process and has completed intensive training in the Music Genome’s “rigorous and precise methodology”(www.pandora.com). So I can listen to the music I love for free and without repercussions on Pandora.com? The answer is yes! (I bet you didn’t see that one coming) You can create your own “stations” perfectly and genetically suited the music you love.

Easy ways for girls to protect themselves from the summer elements

By: Hannah Mann
Staff Writer

Summer is finally rearing her beautiful head out, but before she’s in full swing, there are some things that every girl should have.

1. Sunscreen!

The Chicago Tribune’s Mary Schmich’s legendary article “Everybody’s Free (to wear sunscreen)” gives an excellent rationale for the miracle cream: “If I could offer you only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be IT. The long term benefits of sunscreen have been proven by scientists whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience” (azanewsarchives.com). While sunscreen has been an important accessory for years, the fun varieties and cute packages now make it more fun than ever.

2. Burt’s Bees Lifeguard’s Choice lip protectant:

Similar to sunscreen, this natural balm will protect students’ lips from UV rays, wind, and salt alike. The best part? It gives lips a touch of pink that contrast a tan beautifully.

3. Smocked baby-doll cover-up:

: Okay these have been around for a few years now, but it’s no wonder! Easy, comfy, flattering. In fabrics from terrycloth to linen, girls can choose the degree of dressiness.

4. Spray bottle/conditioner:

: Chlorine can be detrimental to hair. Picture your dry hair. Now picture a dry sponge, just waiting to sop up everything it can. When students jump into the pool with dry hair, their shafts absorb exponential moles of Cl2! By wetting the hair with regular water prior to getting in the pool, hair is like an absorbed sponge, so when one hops into the chlorine, there’s no room for

it to be absorbed. Don’t forget to condition after swimming as well.

5. Shades:

Stores from Target to Tom Ford make sunglasses that can be suited to anyone’s face, style, and personality. Classic aviators never get old, and Ray Ban’s classic wayfarer comeback last year looks like it is here to stay. Looking for something more feminine? Jackie O circles are the perfect solution.

6. Straw fedora a la Humphrey Bogart in Casablanca:

No longer just for men, lightweight straw hats can make a statement while preventing crow’s feet! Vanilla colors with wide black bands are popular, but this summer bold colors and even prints will be popping up in stores across the nation. Hats are chic enough on their own; additional accessories can look fussy.

New Gatorade rolls into stores

By: Greg Schlosser
Staff Writer

Just recently, the makers of Gatorade put out two unique sports drinks: G2 and Gatorade Tiger. Both drinks offer different features and flavors that make these sports drinks stand out from the regular Gatorades and other competition, such as Vitamin Water and Powerade.

The G2, a more watered down version of a regular Gatorade, is probably a rival to Glacéau’s Vitamin water, which is extremely popular and includes endorsers such as Kelly Clarkson, David Ortiz, and Brian Urlacher. G2’s endorsers include Derek Jeter, Peyton Manning, and Dwayne Wade.

G2 supposedly offers a good source of hydration when the athlete is not training. The drink is low in sodium and only 25 Calories (www.drinks-business-review.com). G2’s flavors include Fruit Punch, Orange, and Grape, and come in clear plastic bottles; the product tastes somewhat similar to Gatorade’s previous experiment Gatorade Rain. (www.money.cnn.com).

The other new Gatorade,

Gatorade Tiger, was specifically designed by Tiger Woods for golfers, amateurs and pros alike. The drink has 25% more electrolytes than the regular Gatorades to help golfers get through their four to five hour rounds without getting tired or dehydrated (www.greenposse.com). Flavors include Quiet Storm (purple), Red Drive (red), and Cool Fusion (green). What makes this Gatorade different is that this is the first time that Gatorade licensed an athlete for one of its drinks; meaning Tiger gets a part of the sales (www.cnn.com).

With many of Upper St Clair’s student body being athletes, the new drinks have become popular at the high school. Said freshman Batu Otkeren, “I haven’t tried the G2, but I have tried the Gatorade Tiger. I thought that it tasted the exact same as regular Gatorade.”

The new Gatorades add a different aspect to the Pepsi Co. Different from the regular soft drinks, these sports drinks define what Gatorade is about, being tasteful and (athletically) helpful at the same time.

“Tea for two? No, tea for everyone”

By: Marni Schreiber
Features Editor

Tea is not only a tasty drink to enjoy after or during a meal, it is an easy way for students to help their bodies. There are many benefits for the body that, if one simply drinks a glass or two of tea a day, can be

easily achievable.

Students have always been told to drink eight glasses of water a day, but studies are showing that one should also start drinking three or more cups a day of tea. The simple act of drinking tea could be “as good for you as drinking plenty of water and may even have

extra health benefits, say researchers” (news.bbc.co).

There are many different kinds of tea, but one of the most beneficial is green tea. In fact, “The benefits of green tea in our body are so remarkable that it is believed that the key to a longer life may be brewing in your cup!” (www.green-tea-

expert.com).

Green tea contains the ingredient polyphenol, which encompasses some of the most effective antioxidants. It is believed that drinking tea with a high concentration of polyphenol, most notably green tea, can lower cholesterol, help fight against cancer, ward off

diabetes, keep skin clear, and control weight (www.green-tea-expert.com).

Epigallocatechin gallate, referred to as EGCG, is a type of polyphenol in green tea that is very beneficial; EGCG is said to be 100 more times effective than vitamin C

and 25 times more effective than vitamin E at protecting the body against diseases (www.japanesegreenteaonline.com).

In addition to drinking green tea, white tea also provides the body with health benefits. White tea, like green tea, has many antioxidants to help fight disease. A recent study done at Pace University have even found that “White tea was more effective than green tea at inactivating bacterial viruses. Results obtained with the bacterial virus, a model system; suggest that WTE may have an anti-viral effect on human pathogenic viruses” (www.thunderbolttea.com).

All teas, whether white, green, or black are all beneficial to the body. Students should consider drinking tea, hot or iced, instead of drinks such as vitamin water, fruit juice, or carbonated beverages.

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.



Youthful Penguins continue surge through Stanley Cup

By: Dallion L. Townsend
Staff Writer

With an average age of 27.5, the Penguins aren’t exactly a group of grizzled veterans trying to hoist the Cup just one more before calling it quits. The oldest player, Gary Roberts, turns 42 on May 23 and is expected to finish out his nineteen-year NHL career in a Penguins uniform, especially if the Pens win the Stanley Cup for the first time since 1992. The Pens, then led by injury ridden Mario Lemieux, made a push through the postseason, much like the previously injured Sidney Crosby is leading his team to Stanley Cup glory.

After a dominating four game sweep of the seventh seeded Ottawa Senators in a first round best of seven series, the Penguins continued to roll along through the fifth seeded, divisional rival New York Rangers. Experts from Yahoo! Sports and ESPN expected the series to last all seven games with the Rangers coming out on top or upsetting an “offense only”

Penguins team in five. However, the Pens showed that they were capable of proving the “experts” wrong as they have all injury-plagued-season long. After an offensive showing from both teams at Mellon Arena for Game 1, the Penguins followed up their 5-4 victory with a 2-0 victory on home ice proving that they can play in both an offensive, fast paced game and a defensive struggle type game.

They traveled to Madison Square Garden where they found little success all season long going a horrific 0-3-1 at MSG. However, the (at the time) unbeaten Penguins silenced a sold out arena scoring only 62 seconds into Game 3 and going on to win 5-3. MSG proved not to be friendly for too long as goalie Henrik Lundqvist shutout the Pens in a 3-0 loss as former Penguin and victim of insufferable booing at Mellon Arena, Jaromir Jagr, torched his old team twice. The Pens made a statement back home winning in an overtime thriller 3-2 as Marian Hossa scored twice, including the series winner.

Cross-state rival Philadelphia beat third seeded Washington in seven games and upset top seeded Montreal in only five games. ESPN’s Barry Melrose took Pittsburgh to win the series in 6 and ESPN Radio’s Mark Madden predicted a possible sweep by the Penguins. The Pens are leading the series (2-0) after starting the playoffs with a ridiculous 10-1 record.

The Pens are en route to a Stanley Cup Finals appearance for the first time in 16 years. Coming into the Flyers series, the Pens lost all three previous series and are thus far preventing history from repeating itself. But what’s wrong with history? After all, the 1992 Pens share similar traits with this year’s squad, such as abundant scoring depth, two outstanding goalies, two superstars, and a hard-hitting gritty defense. The Pittsburgh Penguins are making a run and reaching the finish line at a dead sprint. Pittsburgh is going to be celebrating its third Stanley Cup to go with the storied sports tradition of Pittsburgh.

Lady Volunteers win eighth national championship

By: Dallion L. Townsend
Staff Writer

Coach Pat Summit celebrated winning her second consecutive national championship in Division I Women’s Basketball, and eighth overall, as the head coach for the Tennessee Lady Volunteer’s basketball program. On April 8th, 2008, the Lady “Vols” (36-2) led by senior Candace Parker upended number two Stanford (35-4) by a score of 64-48.

The Lady “Vols” became the first repeat champions since the University of Connecticut won three straight titles from 2002-2004. The two time tournament MVP, Candace Parker ended her collegiate career with an impressive seventeen points and nine rebounds performance.

However, the victory did not come without a price. Freshman forward Vicki Baugh tore the anterior circulate ligament in her left knee with less than seven minutes left to play in the final game of the NCAA Tournament. She injured her knee after driving the lane on a lay-up that gave Tennessee a 55-44 lead leaving the game with eight points and four

rebounds (www.espn.com).

Candace Parker has been the face of the Tennessee women’s basketball program for the past four years and looks to the WNBA after being drafted the day after winning the title. She and four other Tennessee players were drafted by WNBA teams on April 9th, 2008, including Nicky Anosike, Alberta Auguste, Shannon Bobbitt, and Alexis Hornbuckle. Parker was drafted first overall by the Los Angeles Sparks, Anosike went to the Minnesota Lynx, Auguste went to the New York Liberty, Bobbitt joined Parker in LA, and Hornbuckle was drafted by the Detroit Shock (Associated Press).

With a career record of 983-182, Coach Pat Summit plans on going back to Tennessee for her 35th season at the helm (sports.yahoo.com). Even without her squad that has led the team to national championship glory for the last two years, Tennessee has a lot of charisma that can carry over into next season and beyond as the Lady Volunteers will have a new face with Parker moving on to the WNBA.

Will the Pens re-sign Hossa?

By: Greg Schlosser
Staff Writer

The 2008 NHL trade deadline saw the Penguins make the biggest splash by trading for Atlanta Thrasher Marian Hossa. But, as talented as he is, will the Pens be able to re-sign him with all of the Penguins’ other superstars?

If GM Ray Shero knows anything about hockey, he would probably be certain that Hossa wouldn’t be just a one year rental. One thing that might keep Hossa here in Pittsburgh is the likeability of the city as a whole. Said Hossa, “I was talking with my agent and my friends and there were lots of rumors that had me going to Montreal or Ottawa. Then in the last few minutes before the trade deadline I started hearing Pittsburgh out of nowhere. It’s just great that it happened because I’m happy here. It’s a great team” (www.hockey.com).

Plus, Hossa will benefit statistically by playing with Sid the Kid and Evgeni Malkin. But will that be enough to keep him in Pittsburgh? With Malkin likely receiving lucrative contract and Crosby making around \$9 million, it will be tough to choose between Hossa and Staal. The Pens will likely go with Staal because of his youth and potential. Also, the Penguins may look to re-sign Pittsburgh-native Ryan Malone given the big year that he has had.

But the Penguins could look to release some unnecessary players on the team. George Laraque is a good example. While he is a good enforcer, he is slow and pretty much useless everywhere else. We already have Jarkko Ruutu, who is an enforcer, yet can get goals when he needs to.

There is no telling what the Pens will decide to do with Marian Hossa this offseason. What it may come down to is if the Pens win the cup. If they win it, he can go; but if they don’t, he should stay until they win.

Trevor Immelman captures 2008 Masters

By: JP Gooderham
Sports Editor

Every year, the golf world awakens to watch the first “major championship” of the year, the 2008 Masters. With significant discussion of the possibility of Tiger Woods capturing all four major titles this year, an unprecedented feat, many fans watched in awe as less well known players scaled the leaderboard.

The week began as ESPN became the first network to broadcast the Wednesday par 3 competition at Augusta National. The annual event, which most of the Masters field and some stars of the past (i.e. Masters champions Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, and Gary Player) play in, was widely watched despite the absence of Tiger Woods.

In fact, as the Masters continues to improve the quality of arguably golf’s favorite major championship, Augusta National chose to increase its use of 21st century technology. Harrison Hoffman writes, “To mark its 72nd year, Augusta is turning up the heat on its online presence. With partner IBM, Augusta National is offering a rich online experience for golf lovers. While the online coverage still does not rival what is offered currently on broadcast TV, it’s great for the times in which national TV is not covering the event, or for sneaking a peek at work” (www.News.com).

Of course, in the end, the young

South African, Trevor Immelman, was able to win his first major championship with a “coast-to-coast” victory, which included leading in every day of play. However, as the tournament wound down through the last holes on Sunday, Immelman’s playing partner, American Brandt Snedeker, began to falter disappointingly. As the world’s top player, Tiger Woods, entered the back nine, the golf world watched for the possibility of another brilliant comeback by Woods.

Rob Hodgetts explains, “The anticipated charge from the likes of Tiger Woods did not materialise as Immelman shot a 75 to end eight under. Woods climbed from fifth to second with a level-par 72 but will rue his missed chances as Immelman stumbled late on” (www.BBC.com).

After seizing the traditional green jacket of Augusta National Golf Club, Immelman, by all means, made history. In fact, “He tied (1962) for the highest final round by a Masters champion, but all that did was make it look closer than it was. The three guys behind Immelman going into the last round were a combined 18-over par. Only four players broke par” (www.ESPN.com).

Immelman became the first South African to win the Masters since Gary Player, and the first from his country to win a major championship since Retief Goosen’s campaign to win the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills.

The next generation of Steelers is now

By: Dallion L. Townsend
Staff Writer

The age of both the defensive and offensive lines showed last year. The formidable line backing corps is aging at a rapid rate as well. Wide receiver Hines Ward, who turned 32 in March, will need an understudy in case he has trouble staying healthy for an entire season, which he has not done since 2004 when he was 28. And with some needs left to be filled, and the Rooney’s age old philosophy of acquiring players through draft, not via trade or free agency, the Steelers looked to improve their team through the NFL Draft.

With key needs on both lines, the Steelers picked twenty-third in the draft and were expected to select a top rated defensive lineman or snag a offensive tackle to protect their \$102 million quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. Including ESPN draft expert Mel Kiper Jr., most Cherilus from Boston College would be the choice for the Black and Gold. Cherilus went 17th overall to the Detroit Lions and the San Francisco 49ers took Balmer, whom the Steelers passed to pick up a highly touted running back out of Illinois.

Rashard Mendenhall sat and waited 22 picks as he watched other top rated backs, such as Darren McFadden (Arkansas), Jonathan Stewart (Oregon), and Felix Jones (Arkansas) being acquired by Oakland, Carolina, and Dallas respectively. He is expected to compliment and share the load with Pro Bowl back Willie Parker as a more powerful runner as Parker car-

ried the ball over 300 times for the third straight season. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette writer Bob Smizik says that “Mendenhall makes perfect sense at No 1 pick.”

Earlier this year, after a disappointing first round playoff loss, Roethlisberger asked for a taller receiver. The Rooney Family as usual failed to sign or trade for available, wide-outs, relying on the draft. After several months of waiting, Ben got his wish in the form of Texas stand-out receiver Limas Sweed who stands at a towering 6’5 with an astonishing 39” vertical leap (Pittsburgh Post- Gazette). He fell to the Steelers 2nd round pick at 53 overall after the Steelers expected him to go in the top-25. He was passed over because of a broken wrist injury that shortened his senior year in college. Team doctors found no lingering effects and are confident that he will be 100% healthy for the season.

With a semi-late draft pick, the Steelers were unable to pick up a top rated offensive lineman to replace All-Pro guard Alan Faneca. They picked up injury-prone left tackle Tony Hills out of Texas in round four. Since six offensive tackles and guard Branden Albert were taken before the Steelers used their first selection they managed to grab a serviceable tackle later after addressing other needs with their first three picks. Their primary team needs were not addressed until the second day rounds with them trusting either ineffective current roster players or backups to protect their \$102 million investment.

Before They Were Seniors

By:Amanda Dasdorf
Entertainment Editor

Initials: DLS
Birthday: 2/23/1990
Best friend(s): Mr. Tressler
First word(s): Papa
Favorite color: Blue
Favorite high school memory: Beating Peters Township in over-time
Sport(s): Field hockey and lacrosse
Favorite teacher: Mr. Miller and Mrs. Chothani
Years in USC: 4
Future plans: Become a Columbia Lion

Initials: PJK
Birthday: 10/2/1989
Best friend(s): Cam Chaffee
Favrite color: Purple
Favorite high school memory: That time Holly got sunburned junior year
Sport(s): Drums
Favorite teacher: Durkin
Years in USC: All of them
Future plans: Greatness

Speed Racer wows audiences

By: Amanda Dasdorf
Entertainment Editor

Much anticipation is growing in all age groups for the new movie *Speed Racer* which hits theaters May 9, 2008. Based on the popular 1960s animation, the movie is written and directed by the creators of the *Matrix* trilogy. Speed Racer, played by Emile Hirsch, is the best racer around. The only driver that could be considered better was his brother, Rex Racer, who left a legacy for Speed to live up to after his death in an accident. Speed races for the family business led by this father, played by John Goodman. Though Speed is offered a wonderful job by a more successful and competitive racing company, Royalton Industries, he turns it down. Speed races for glory, not money. In a sudden plot twist, Speed learns that he must beat Royalton Industries in order to save the family business. He then learns that in order to win the race he must defeat Racer X, Matthew Fox, in a cross country rally, The Crucible, the very track that had taken his brother’s life. With the help of his crew and support of his girlfriend Trixie, Christina Ricci, Speed Racer prepares for the race of his life. *Speed Racer*, rated PG for action sequences, some violence and language, is expected to be a hit among all movie goers. It has been compared to such popular movies as *The Incredibles*. *Speed Racer* will also, for a short time, play at IMAX theaters across the US. Senior Colleen Friend, who saw the movie the day after it premiered, exclaims, “It was fantastic! It reminded me a lot of the cartoon which I used to watch as a child. It was also very trippy.”

Indiana Jones set to return to theaters

By: JP Gooderham
Sports Editor

Years after the release of the third, and allegedly final, *Indiana Jones* adventure film, the popular character will return to the big screen this summer. With numerous hoaxes and rumors dominating the news of the potential fourth film, fans of the popular series are finally getting their chance to see *Indiana Jones* fight for justice again. In fact, the fears of another let-down seemed to disappear for *Indiana Jones* fans as early as 2007. In fact, as Josh Horowitz explains, “Shia LaBeouf, one of the franchise’s new castmembers, announced the title of the much-hyped, long-awaited flick in dramatic fashion at MTV’s Video Music Awards” (www.MTV.com). While the title announcement at MTV’s VMA seemed to be an accidental leak, speculation for the film’s plot exploded. Surprisingly, despite the best efforts of reader-hungry bloggers and film fans, the plot has remained mostly secret. “A trailer to the new movie was released in February, and received a largely positive response. Criticisms that Ford might have grown too old for the role have been largely dismissed by fans” (www.BBC.com). Because of Harrison Ford’s significantly older age, the new antagonist will be the Soviet Union (reflecting years after the fall of the Germans), who will confront Indy in a race to acquire another supernatural object that places the safety of the world in jeopardy. The film will hit most American theaters on May 22, 2008. However, amid many box office giants being released the summer season, many fans still foresee unprecedented financial success for the newest installment of master director Steven Spielberg’s series. Jeffrey Bento-

Enchanted enchants all ages

By: Brigid McCabe
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

The PG-rated film *Enchanted*, available now on DVD, targeted at children and preteens, actually satisfies older ages’ Disney sweet tooth. *Enchanted* boasts a witty plotline that shoots a thumbs-up to cheesy archetypes of “prince charming” and true love. Furthermore, the film, that raked in \$50 million and took the number one spot in its first weekend, blends the old-school cartoon characters that the high school generation grew up with and the human characters that they watch today. One cannot help but laugh at the escapades of the beautiful Amy Adams, who plays the typical princess living in a perfect world, where singing to animals and sewing beautiful gowns out of the drapery is the norm. When she falls in love with James Marsen, casted as the typical heroic and cocky prince, his stepmother, played by Susan Sarandon, banishes her to an alternate world, current day Manhattan. She is eventually saved and caught, quite literally, by Patrick Dempsey, a divorce lawyer, who does not believe in love. He is thinking about proposing to his girlfriend simply because it seems like the logical move. The princess’ involvement in his life and his daughter Rachel Covey’s life eventually changes his perspective. The prince comes to Manhattan to find and save her, but his self-absorbed nature lengthens the process. “I seriously cracked up so hard that I think people in the theater thought I was in an altered state of mind. *Enchanted* was amazing—go see it now,” laughs senior Ankita Dewan. The film’s ending is picture perfect, as any reliable Disney movie should be. However, the prince’s evil stepmother steps in and wreaks some havoc before the characters end up with their fateful lovers. Ultimately, true love wins out, and the film leaves audiences feeling weak from laughter and satisfied by the sugarcoated ending.

Jeffrey Archer books are a must-read

By: Marni Schreiber
Features Editor

Jeffrey Archer is a renowned author from England who, “For over 25 years [...] has captivated audiences with his intriguing characters, ingenious plots and trademark surprise endings” (www.authorsontheweb.com). Archer has written over 24 novels, short stories, and plays, all of which involve intriguing plot lines and characters. Of all his different works, the Kane and Abel trilogy proves to be one of the best. The characters of William Kane and Abel Rosnovski are first introduced in the first book of the trilogy, Kane and Abel. Kane and Abel are two very different men; William is born into a wealthy family, while Abel is born penniless. Over the generations, these two men’s lives intertwine and a rivalry forms between them and their families. Kane and Abel’s hatred will not cease even when they find out their children have fallen in love. The two men go through many twists and turns sabotaging, complicating, and sometimes even helping the other’s life. After the success of Kane and Abel, Archer went on to write *The Prodigal Daughter*, which focuses on Florentyna Rosnovski, Abel’s daughter, and Richard Kane, Kane’s son. The *Prodigal Daughter* shows how the feud between Kane and Abel affected their children’s lives. The novel shows the long conflict of men through the eyes of the children and then goes on to show their lives without their fathers in them. One subplot in *The Prodigal Daughter* concerns the struggle Florentyna experiences on her way up the political scale to become the first woman president. Archer allows the reader to connect with the characters and, according to the *Library Journal*, was able to make a novel that was “Fast-moving and compelling” (www.jeffreyarcher.co). The final installment of the Kane and Abel trilogy is *Shall We*

21 lives up to rave reviews

By: Kelsey Short
Editor-in-Chief

Based loosely on the novel *Bringing Down the House* about M.I.T. student Jeff Ma and his card-counting team, *21* follows the experience of a group of M.I.T. students who count cards and win big in Vegas. M.I.T. genius Ben Campbell, played by Jim Sturgess, sets out at the beginning of the film with the prospect of winning a full ride to Harvard Medical School. However, when he is not chosen for a full scholarship and realizes that his part-time job just won’t pay for medical school, he turns to counting cards with some fellow M.I.T. students and his calculus professor, Micky Rosa. Ben and the other member’s of Micky Rosa’s team spend weekend after weekend at the blackjack tables in Vegas, staying in the high-roller suites and living the good life. Ben’s crush, Jill Taylor, played by Kate Bosworth, is fortuitously another member of the card-counting team, and he spends many of his first trips to Vegas completely enraptured by her beauty. The only catch to the whole scheme is to not get caught by the casinos’ security, particularly Vegas’s most well-known security consultant, Cole Williams. Williams is especially desperate to prove his worth on the strip because recently developed facial recognition software is threatening his job and pension. Campbell quickly becomes the best card-counter on the team, but when he loses his focus at the tables, the M.I.T. brainiac’s future at Harvard hangs in the balance. The remainder of the movie jars the audience’s expectations with a turbulent and unexpected ending. Just when the audience thinks they have the ending figured out, the movie takes another turn and heads in a different direction. Senior Amanda Gaber says, “*21* had a surprising ending, and up until the credits, I couldn’t tell how it would end. I thought I had the end pinned, but then a few twists proved me wrong.” The movie’s portrayal of the blackjack strategy of card-counting may seem realistic at first but is highly sensationalized in reality. Based largely on chance and probability, card-counting is rarely as lucrative as the movie suggests, but lends to the dramatic effect of the film anyway. Senior Kevin Stanson says, “I thought the movie’s plotline was pretty redundant and superficial. There was a definite lack of meaningful substance.” Overall, the movie *21* is one of the few movies actually worth seeing in the theater and has a fresh storyline compared to the other worn-out plotlines. While The Boston Globe said, “Archer plots with skill, and keeps you turning the pages” and Larry King remarked, “There isn’t a better storyteller alive” (www.jeffreyarcherbooks.com).