



The St. Clairion

Volume 10, Issue 1 - October 2008 - Upper St. Clair High School Pittsburgh, PA 15241

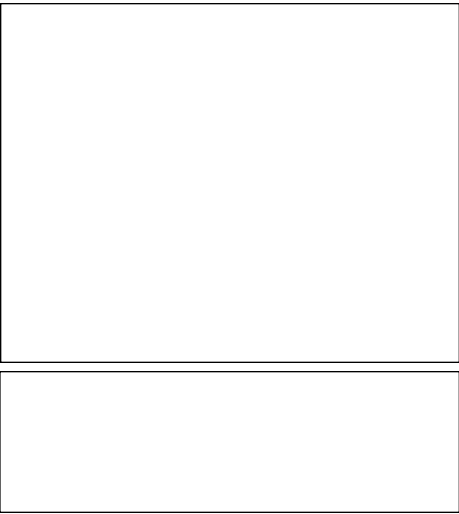
All the news that fits...And then some!

C r i s i s o n W a l l S t r e e t

By: Laura Fairgrieve
Guest Writer

A noteworthy observation of the nation’s current financial predicament became blatantly obvious recently, as the bold type emblazoned across the cover of TIME magazine depicted; “How Wall Street Sold Out America”. Crisis erupted on the famed New York City center of American business when Lehman Brothers went completely bankrupt, Merrill Lynch was sold off to Bank of America, and AIG desperately applied for federal loans. The failure of these financial giants, previously soaring with a steady influx of capital, has stirred the waters of turmoil in the American stock market and financial system. Employees face the looming possibility of mass job losses, and Lehman Brothers is poised on the brink of liquidation.

The horrific meltdown finds its roots in the rapid decline in housing prices over the past year, as well as the heavy losses on housing loans. Credit eventually dried up, fearful and wary banks cautiously refused to lend money to each other, and large companies could not raise cash on overnight commercial-paper markets. The



smoking wreckage of a stock-market, banks, and the federal deposit insurance fund pile up was dealt with through the efforts of Henry Paulson, Ben Bernanke, and Timothy Geithner. The Secretary of the Treasury, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, and President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York proposed to Congress that a massive bailout of roughly 700 bil-

lion doll ars be enacted to buy out the assets. A few months ago, Congress bailed out endangered lenders Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which leaves Congress reluctant to hasten into another bailout, especially one of this mag-

nitude. Truly, the state of the mortgage companies is in the worst disarray in recent memory. As an analyst leaving his office on Wall Street with a box, ominously put it “It’s over.”

With the stock market at its lowest (the Dow plunged over 400 points on September 17), and the economy in the state of what Alan Greenspan refers to as a “once in a lifetime” crisis, the common question regards what will be done next in response. The bailout bill is being pushed for by Paulson, Bernanke, and Geithner, but at the end of all things, Congress has the deciding say. The American public can only react by avoiding borrowing money whenever possible. However, while the federal government stocks up loans from other countries, and tries to nurse the staggering economy back to its former strength, the every-day consumer can be reassured that intervention is up to Congress now; whether to bailout out the irresponsible companies for the betterment of the economy, or to watch their mistakes catch up with them. At this point in American economics, it is easiest to agree with TIME magazine’s comment that “America’s number 1 export is debt.”

Early morning fire heats up a weekday for Upper St. Clair students

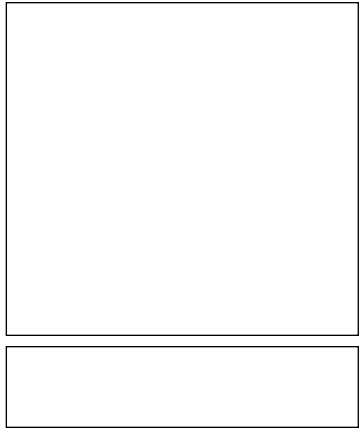
By: JP Gooderham
Editor-in-Chief

While Upper St. Clair High School students prepared for another grueling day of school, many received an automated notification informing them that classes were cancelled due to an emergency. As numerous morning news shows explained, a small kiln fire had broken out only hours before the school day would have begun. Subsequently, students were surprised to receive an unexpected day off.

“Firefighters were called to the school about 5:30 a.m. for a report of smoke coming from the roof, Upper St. Clair police Deputy Chief Douglas Burkholder said” (www.pittsburghlive.com). While firefighters sought to extinguish the small fire in the art room, the school district simultaneously decided to cancel classes for the day.

Upper St. Clair superintendent Patrick O’ Toole explained the reasoning behind the

school’s decision: “At that point, we didn’t know what the extent was going to be, plus we had smoke in the building” (www.post-gazette.com).



He also explained that the “kiln had been shut off around 9 p.m. but apparently smouldered” (www.post-gazette.com). Consequently, “there was damage to the exhaust sleeves and part of the roof that was torn out to put the fire out [...] [and] there also was water damage in the art classroom and some smoke in the building” (www.post-

gazette.com). Though the fire was successfully extinguished, the impact of the incident was felt the following day when students returned to their classes. Senior Amy Twerdok attests to being “shocked and surprised after returning to school.” She also remembers the remaining smell as being “somewhat annoying and bothersome while traveling the hallways.” Naturally, the unexpected absence of classes brightened the day of many members of the student body. Senior Christine Prorok believes that “the fire definitely had an impact. I had a lot of time to focus on my college applications, and a lot of people I know had the opportunity to get together during the day.” While students may have observed a crew working on the affected portion of the school, the damage was fortunately limited to the building only with no injuries reported as a result of the fire (www.thepittsburghchannel.com).

Steelers get grades after off week

By: Dallion L. Townsend
Opinions Editor

Nearing the halfway point in this NFL season, the Steelers have grinded it out at times, and flatout dominated their opponents at others. Their only loss came against cross-state rival Philadelphia putting them at a solid 5-1 record. But this is how the Steelers have fared outside of just the record.

Offense: The offensive line is still practically offering Ben Roethlisberger as a human sacrifice to the opposing defenses as they have allowed well over 120 sacks since the start of the 2006 season. However, the Steelers are still a strong team offensively since Willie Parker is back from injury and the Steelers have brought in Najeh Davenport to fill in for the injured Rashard Mendenhall. As long as the Steelers can give Big Ben at least three seconds to throw, the Steelers are still going to be a team that can cause some damage, which we saw when he lit up Jacksonville’s defense for over 300 yards and three touchdown passes. Grade: B

Defense:Troy Polamalu is back, James Harrison is proving that last year was no fluke, and LaMaar Woodley is leaving people asking themselves “Clark Haggans who?” The Steelers defense finally found a way to contain the running back tandem of Fred Taylor and Maurice-Jones Drew on Sunday Night Football as the Steelers allowed only 39 yards of rushing against a team that pounded the Steelers for over 200 yards last year. The Steelers, as usual, are in the top five in defense this

season (www.nfl.com). The Steelers have yeild to no running thus far and have not allowed a 100-yard game by any of the six premier runners they have faced in the first five games of the season. Grade: A-

Special Teams: After a miserable showing last year, the kick coverage has been solid thus far. At this point last season, the Steelers gave up one kickoff return touchdown and seven run backs of over 50 yards with an average starting spot of the 37.8 yard line. This year, however is a different story. No touchdowns allowed, no kick returns over 45 yards, and an average starting field position of 23.6 yards (www.sports.yahoo.com). However, the return game is not exactly explosive. But the Steelers haven’t had a game-changing return man since Antwaan Randle El. The kicking game is still consistent, thanks in large part to Jeff Reed who has the highest kicking percentage since 2006 with a 93.7% and missing only one kick inside the 40 yard line in that time span (www.stats.com). Punter Daniel Spedulveda is out for the season, and the Steelers called upon veteran Mitch Berger to fill the void whose yardage per punt is a mere shadow of the production of Spedulveda. Grade: B+

The Steelers need to keep their star quarterback in one piece in order to continue their success. Willie Parker, Casey Hampton, and Brett Kiesel are aiming to come back for the Week 7 tilt against the Bengals, and this gives Roethlisberger time to patch himself up after being sacked 19 times in the first five games.

Panther
Predilections

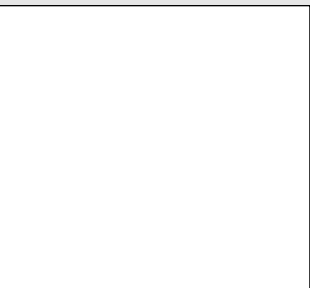
What was your favorite
part of summer break?



“Spending time with Kevin
McGuire”
– Derek Young
Freshman



“Mission trip to New
Orleans.”
– Kristin Collins
Sophomore



“I jumped off a cliff.”
– Bobby Nolte
Junior



“I went to the John
Mayer concert.”
– Sara Mauer
Senior

By: Ali Cupelli
Entertainment Editor

Desk of the Editor
Politicians abandon ethics while trying to appeal to voters

By: JP Gooderham
Editor-in-Chief

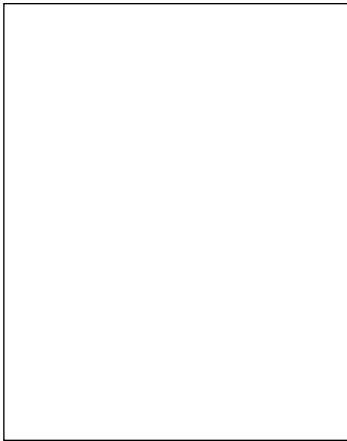
Election season has always marked the return of aggressive commercials and shady campaign strategies, especially in states deemed “battlegrounds” for the candidates. However, the 2008 presidential election has highlighted many of the problems with this trend. With many commentators calling this election the most important one of our time, the stakes are certainly high. After an extremely tight race throughout the summer, Illinois Senator Barack Obama began to pull away from his older foe, Arizona Senator John McCain, by early October.

On October 7th, 2008, Obama began to lead convincingly in polls of voters in this election’s swing states including Ohio, Indiana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Wisconsin (www.cnn.com). Almost immediately, the mudslinging and attacks proliferated from McCain.

Eric Zorn reports, “If the gates [...] weren’t already standing open, Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin flung them wide [...] by declaring at campaign events in Colorado that Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama is ‘palling around with terrorists’ and ‘not a man who sees America like you and I see A m e r i c a ’” (www.chicagotribune.com).

Though Obama successfully dodged the public’s concern over

his connection to the radical religious leader, Reverend Wright, a controversy involving connections to terrorists could possibly be the “game-changer” McCain needed.



McCain’s campaign, of course, was attempting to connect Obama to William Ayers, a former member of a radical leftist group known as the Weather Underground. The Weathermen were responsible for multiple bombings and domestic terrorist attacks while trying to persuade the public to denounce the Vietnam War.

The truth? “William Ayers is a professor of education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, with whom Barack served on the board of an education-reform organization in the mid-1990’s” (www.fightthesmears.com). While it seems that Obama has met Ayers before while serving Chicago’s educational needs a decade ago,

“palling around” with Ayers does not seem like an accurate portrayal of their relationship.

With several weeks left in the race and no clear strategy to catch Obama, the truth has become flexible for McCain’s campaign. “They keep talking about Sarah Palin’s opposition to the Bridge to Nowhere without any embarrassment over the fact that she once supported it. They keep saying that Barack Obama will raise taxes, suggesting he’d raise them on everybody, when Obama’s plan, according to the Tax Policy Institute, would cut taxes for ‘about 80 percent of households’ while ‘only about 10 percent would owe more’” (www.washingtonpost.com).

Though it seemed that American voters were not responding positively to McCain’s tactics, Obama still chose to retaliate shortly after the terrorism accusations. Labeling McCain’s economic policy as “Keating Economics,” Obama sought to connect McCain to Congressional corruption in 1989.

“The scandal involved Arizona Sen. McCain and four other senators. They were collectively known as the ‘Keating 5’ during a bipartisan congressional investigation into their involvement with Savings & Loan financier Charles Keating who was eventually convicted of securities fraud” (www.ibtimes.com).

Though millions of dollars are spent each election to destroy the image of their opponent in the eyes of American citizens, this strategy only continues to make politics neb-

ulous to the common voter.

As Americans face the greatest economic crisis in decades while thousands of jobs are lost and homes are taken away through foreclosure, the fundamental economic advocacy of both administrations has been muddled by lies and muckraking.

While the norm of playing on the irrational fears of Americans may successfully garner a small number of votes from undecided voters, this strategy certainly is undermining the integrity of the political process. Even if politicians may be able to get away with unethical behavior like publicizing blatant lies or treating the truth as flexible, the American voter is the victim in the end.

Not surprisingly, millions of potential voters fail to appear at the polls during November because they feel disillusioned with the political process. Many attest to having feelings of apathy or genuine disinterest in a political game that has become little more than a popularity contest. Harvard University’s “Vanishing Voter” project which studied American voters during the 2000 presidential election claims that “modern campaign techniques are a turn-off for some citizens who otherwise have an interest in public affairs” (www.hks.harvard.edu).

Hopefully, candidates will eventually realize that sincerity and honesty could be effective vehicles for connecting with voters. However, the current trend in politics has no end in sight.

Should school be
only 4 days a week?

By: Nick Buzzelli
Assistant Sports Editor

With gas prices soaring, some schools have gone to a four day schedule to cut costs on fuel and electricity. Rural schools like the Ardmore Academy in Ardmore Oklahoma have begun using this method and found great success in doing so. (www.kxii.com).

Students could go for an extra 60 to 90 minutes per day and the classes could be extended by 10 to 15 minutes. “I like the idea of having a three day weekend,” comments sophomore Nick Delong. “It would allow students to have more time to concentrate on school work and sports.” Steve Kleinhans, another sophomore is opposed to the thought of having school four days per week. “Students are tired and don’t pay as close attention at the end of the day,” commented Kleinhans. “If school was an extra hour longer, students would

not be as productive because of boredom and fatigue.”

The idea to reduce the days of school was reinvented a few years ago when gas prices were once again on the rise. “Not only has the district saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in transportation but has seen gains in test scores, teacher planning time and morale since the change,” said Alan Lossner, spokesman for the Webster County School District in Kentucky, who switched to four-day weeks in 2003. “It’s been a great success,” Lossner said. (www.timesanddemocrat.com). Additionally, the schools are able to keep certain classes that would otherwise be cut out.

Without an extra day in the week, students are more likely to have better attendance. Some schools in the northwest have implemented this change with success. Will Pennsylvania be next?

Beating high fuel
prices

By: Nick Buzzelli
Assistant Sports Editor

With the world’s supply of oil dwindling, there have been attempts to look into renewable resources that can replace some of the cars that are “gas guzzlers.” Americans can try to conserve their share of gasoline or use alternative forms of transportation.

Automobile manufacturers produce flex-fuel vehicles that can run on E85 ethanol, gasoline, or a mixture of the two. E85 contains 15% gasoline and 85% ethanol. Flex-fuel cars are almost identical to gas powered cars but they can operate using a different power source.

While most E85 is made from corn, some renewable energy companies such as Coskata are starting to produce ethanol out of waste products.

“Coscata’s process will produce 100 gallons of ethanol from a ton of feedstock, compared with 67 gallons produced from

the same amount of corn, and that the fuel will cost less than \$1 a gallon to produce,” said Bill Roe, CEO of the waste to ethanol company based in Warrenville, Illinois.

While ethanol stations and plants are increasing in popularity in the U.S, it may still be awhile until our trash can become fuel to power our cars.

Hybrid cars combine an electric motor with a gasoline engine. By combining these two engine types, hybrids get the best of both worlds; an electric motor that gives off few emissions and a gas engine that does not give up performance. The newer hybrids have a feature that will automatically shut of the engine when the vehicle is stopped and then restart the engine when the brake pedal is released. By having this feature in the vehicle, gas will be saved in the tank.

By saving gas consumption, it not only cleans up the environment, but it also decreases our dependency on foreign oil.

The St. Clairion
Upper St. Clair, PA

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The St. Clairion staff is made
up of students who are com-

mitted 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. Clarion 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 Editorials

Why support John McCain? Why support Barack Obama?

With polls opening November 4, 2008, this election has proven to be one of the most highly anticipated elections in years.

Republicans have nominated Senator John McCain as the representative on their ballot and are confident that he will not only win this election, but also lead this country out of economic turmoil. So, why vote for John McCain?

Experience is one of the many things McCain has in his advantage. McCain understands through his Congressional experience that some goals are just not realistic and require more than words and broken promises to get this nation back together. Senator McCain never changes his ideology on an issue to fit the occasion because when he makes a decision, he sticks to it. McCain understands that it is hard on the working and lower class citizens.

He plans on giving tax breaks to companies in order to create jobs and lower the welfare rate. By doing this, the minimum wage will rise, the percentage of Americans on welfare (which was around 7% in 2007) will decrease, and hundreds of thousands of jobs will be created, thus decreasing the unemployment rate which was the highest in 2007 than in any other year since World War II (cnn.com). And McCain plans on funding McCain's economic strategy is also "about cutting taxes, cutting pork-barrel projects and

government waste and retraining laid off-workers — especially from manufacturing areas such as Youngstown — to do new, 21st-century jobs" (www.postgazette.com).

John McCain feels that clean, green energy is the way to go while opening nuclear power plants, which would create more jobs as well while cutting spending on foreign oil. McCain also feels that by reforming entitlement programs such as social security, he would be able to lower the national debt that has accumulated over the past few years. He will also give insurance companies \$5000 per year, per person to help offset the cost of health insurance for families who can't afford insurance. And since most companies offer health benefits, this also saves them money as well so that they will be able to hire more people, thus creating more jobs and stimulating the stagnant economy.

Obama claims that by cutting taxes, our working class will be better off. He wants to give more money towards welfare with his "take from the rich, give to the poor" ideology. However, if he cuts taxes, he'd be potentially increasing the national debt and increasing the welfare rate and cut the incentive to find work.

Small business owners will suffer if their overall business supercedes \$250,000 per year, forcing them to cut costs, or jobs.

Senator John McCain has said that the "issue of economics is not something I've understood as well as I should" (www.thinkprogress.org).

Unfortunately, with almost \$10 trillion in debt, the United States doesn't need another president who does not understand the finances. Instead, the U.S. needs a man who can help jumpstart the country's economy at last (www.brillig.com).

Barack Obama will, in reality, triple the earned income tax credit of low-wage earners. As a matter of fact, only the richest 1 percent of Americans would have to give up 1.5 percent of their after-tax income by the year 2012 (www.washingtonpost.com).

Obama has a major plan that will cut taxes for the middle class. Obama wants an income tax cut of \$500 per person, or \$1000 per couple; for a family making between \$38,000 and \$66,000 a year, a tax cut of \$1,042 would be given. This tax cut is THREE times larger than McCain's \$319 saving (www.boston.com).

Obama's tax policy seeks to place the financial burden on those who can afford to pay (i.e. big businesses like Exxon) rather than the middle class. Subsequently, Obama will be able to fund the creation of new programs.

Health care is also a mainstream concern among the masses. Obama has a plan that will lower the rate of existing health care plans, and allow health care

to be accessible to all citizens of the United States. Unlike McCain, who wants to tax health care benefits for the first time in history, Obama will be able to make health care a right, not a privilege for those who can afford it.

The war in Iraq is arguably the biggest difficulty the American government is facing in balancing the budget. Currently, the United States spends \$341.4 million per day, \$4,681 per household, and \$1,721 per person on the unsuccessful war. (www.nationalpriorities.org).

But, according to McCain, "It's not a matter of how long we're in Iraq, it's if we succeed or not" (www.cnn.com). If McCain is hard set on staying in Iraq until success is achieved, the United States will just be pushed deeper into the economic plunder the war has been causing for the last seven years.

Anyway one looks at it, Obama is the obvious choice for the next President of the United States. Not only will he help bring the country out of the huge debt it has fallen into, but he will also promote education, encourage urban growth, try to relieve the United States' dependency on foreign oil.

He will help alleviate some of the dependency on foreign oil by finding and utilizing alternative sources of energy (not simply drilling in Alaska, which would not only be an insufficient amount of oil for America, but will also destroy the environment), and will end a war that will save the United States billions of dollars and save thousands of lives by bringing the troops back home.

Panther Predilections

What was your favorite part of summer break?

"Vacationed in 'Jersey.'"
– Hannah Wilhelm
Freshman

"Went to Kennywood seven times."
– Dan Goebel
Sophomore

"I went to Japan"
– Shari Kapples
Junior

"I went to Hilton Head."
– Jake Hofstetter
Senior

By: Ali Cupelli
Entertainment Editor

Regrets From the Other Side: Read your high school books

By: Josh Jackson
Staff Writer Alumnus

Thomas Jefferson wrote the most definitive document of American values to date and likely for all of our nation's history—the Declaration of Independence.

It is in this document that one finds the timeless American values "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." In other words, Mr. Jefferson was a pretty big deal.

While we are often quick to invoke Mr. Jefferson's words on these subjects to explain our political views or defend ourselves against excessive authority (as we should), we very rarely consider these words he wrote: "I cannot live without books."

Indeed, the Virginia statesman took academics very seriously, founding the University of Virginia upon his retirement to improve education for the next generation of Americans.

He read thousands of books in many different languages—even on his deathbed he insisted on

reading to learn as much as he could before he passed away.

While I understand we all can't be quite as impressive as a man who doubled the size of the United States, wrote the Declaration of Independence, and got his head carved into Mt. Rushmore, we can learn from his example that maybe the guy was onto something. The following is my testimonial and my appeal to encourage the act of reading.

Politics Professor Larry J. Sabato, "the most quoted professor in the land," according to the Wall Street Journal, and author of dozens of books on politics, told me that reading is the "single best determinant of a student's likely success in college."

He went on to say that "liberal arts education is designed to help a student think better, speak more articulately, and write with more precision—and the reading of great books is fundamental to all three skills."

I myself would call Mr. Sabato's books on politics to be some of those "great books" so I take his words to heart, as he is a very successful political analyst who I'm sure many of you have seen on CNN, ABC, or FoxNews.

I read just one book from front to back in English class throughout my entire high school career—*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok. Since coming to college, I have read three more classic books already, not because they were assigned, but in my free time (and trust me, there is not much "free time"). Upon coming to college, I deeply regret my error of not reading in high school. While my grades in high school did not suffer, my own breadth of knowledge is far behind where it should be at this time.

I understand all of the legitimate reasons some students have to neglect books and use *Spark Notes* to get through the reading check quiz, then pay attention in class and do well on the unit exam. It's what I did all throughout high school, and it can be a very tempting alternative to spending precious time reading all of the material.

If you, like me, suffer from this Chronic Refusal to Read (CRR) syndrome, I advise you to take your education into your own hands and make an effort to read more, even if it won't help your short-term interest of getting a better grade. If you are

someone who knows that you simply cannot read everything you are supposed to, try to make slow progress forward and begin with reading the stuff you're interested in. Like in anything else, you must begin with reasonable short-term goals.

If you are successful in reading only minimal amounts more than before, you are still headed in the right direction, and that should be your focus at first. It takes a process of building confidence and developing the skill of controlling your mind and expanding your attention span. Self-discipline is one of the hardest skills to learn, which is why if you struggle with it as I do, it is important to focus on doing something every day to work towards it.

Observable, reasonable, daily goals are a great way to conquer the tricky skill; it's easy to fall back into the trap of laziness when you have no short-term goals.

So read. If only a little bit every day, make an effort to read something. The benefits of this activity (or lack thereof) will follow you through your college years—take it from me, I learned it the hard way.

Women steal the stage at the Democratic National Convention

By: Marni Schreiber
News Editor

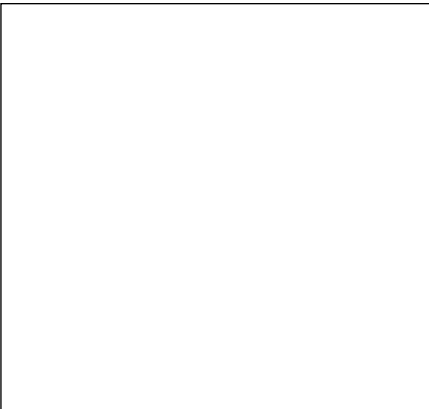
The Democratic National Convention, held from August 25 to August 28 in Denver, Colorado, not only allowed presidential candidate Barack Obama and Senator Joe Biden to “wow” the crowd, but also played host to a variety of respectable women from the Democratic Party.

The first night of the convention, themed, “One Nation,” kicked off with Michelle Obama’s speech, introducing Barack as a “loving husband and father and a dedicated public servant who shares the same values as other working-class Americans” (www.seattletimes.nwsourc.com).

Michelle Obama reached out to all Americans by explaining that Barack Obama “doesn’t care where you’re from, or what your background is, or what party — if any — you belong to. That’s not how he sees the world. He knows that thread that connects us — our belief in America’s promise, our commitment to our children’s future — is strong enough to

hold us together as one nation even when we disagree” (www.huffingtonpost.com).

In addition to Michelle Obama’s influential speech, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi gave a crowd roaring performance. Pelosi was able to clearly and successfully show



Michelle Obama, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, hugs Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden, greet the crowd, before speaking to supporters on the campus of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, Wednesday, September 17, 2008. (Chuck Kennedy/MCT)

why she knows Barack Obama is the obvious choice for president: “Republicans say that John McCain has experience. We say John McCain has the

experience of being wrong [...] America needs a president who knows that health care is a right, not a privilege, and that quality education is a key to the future. America needs a president who knows our democracy depends on a strong middle class and who will create millions of good-paying jobs right here at home” (www.washingtonpost.com).

The second night of the convention was highlighted with another spectacular speech from a strong woman, Senator Hillary Clinton. The main goal of Clinton’s speech was to unite the Democrats under one candidate: “Whether you voted for me, or voted for Barack, the time is now to unite as a single party with a single purpose. We are on the same team and none of us can sit on the sidelines” (www.thedenverchannel.com).

Looking back at the convention, with the numerous influential women speakers, it was “refreshing [...] seeing these powerful women steal the spotlight in a historically male-dominated arena” (www.collegiate-times.com).

Teen tanning triggers melanoma

By: Julianne Tarullo
Front Page Editor

With the media coverage constantly explaining the dangers of tanning and the effects on the body, teenagers are frequently reminded to stay away from the tanning bed. Even with these warnings, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation, almost 2.3 million teenagers visit tanning salons every year. Recent studies give new meaning to these cautions by explaining in depth how tanning causes melanoma.

The Skin Cancer Foundation says, “The dangerous consequence [of tanning] is a significantly increased risk of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer” (www.skincancer.org).

Melanoma is caused by the uncontrolled growth of pigment cells, melanocytes.

Anyone who has ever used a tanning bed increases their chances of developing melanoma by 15%. About 160,000 cases of melanoma are diagnosed worldwide each year, most-

ly in males and Caucasians (www.skincancer.org).

Protecting one’s skin is obviously very important. Teens may think they are protecting themselves at the beach when they simply throw on a t-shirt to prevent themselves from burning; however, not all clothing will block out the harmful UV rays. The strong rays can penetrate through the light t-shirt, and one’s efforts of protecting the skin will have next to no effect (www.skincancer.org).

Recently, teenage girls are going to tanning beds in more numbers than ever before. According to the American Cancer Society, the rates of melanoma have increased more than 60% for women ages 15 to 29 since the 1970’s.

Though it is the most serious, skin cancer is not the only consequence of tanning. Effects of tanning also include wrinkles, sagging cheeks, and skin discoloration. With all of these outcomes, teens should ask themselves if tanning is really worth the risk.

Obama eyes possible Secretary of State selections

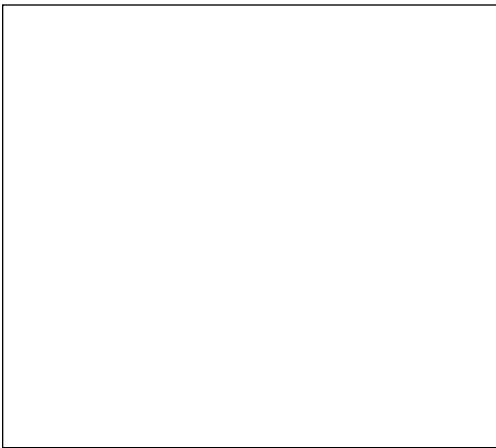
By: JP Gooderham
Editor-in-Chief

In the high intensity world of American politics, every part of the lives of presidential candidates is questioned. This scrutiny includes the candidate’s marriage, children, and other factors seemingly unconnected to a candidate’s political abilities or strength as a leader. However, one political consideration that will affect voters is a candidate’s prospective choices for his cabinet, and most importantly, Secretary of State.

Though the role of the cabinet has declined during the Bush Administration, both the Democrat and Republican candidates appear to be prepared to restore the cabinet’s power once again. Indeed, the current state of American political affairs warrants expert advice as politicians face crises ranging from devastating economic problems to an unclear military situation in the Middle East.

Barack Obama already has several potential selections for high ranking cabinet positions. Several political advisors from past administrations may be likely selections for the Secretary of State position. “Obama has relied on four familiar Washington names: former national-security advisers

Zbigniew Brzezinski (Jimmy Carter) and Anthony Lake (Bill Clinton), former Clinton assistant secretary of State Susan Rice, and former Navy secretary Richard Danzig. Obama has recently distanced himself from Brzezinski, a controversial figure in the Jewish community” (www.washingtonian.com).



Senator Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) campaigns for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama at Ellet High School in Akron, Ohio, on Sunday, September 14, 2008. (Lew Stamp/Akron Beacon Journal/MCT)

Another possible selection for the Secretary of State position is Greg Craig, “the Williams & Connolly partner who defended President Clinton in his impeachment trial, has been a vocal Obama supporter. He has experience at the State Department and has been a defense and foreign-policy adviser to Senator Ted Kennedy” (www.washingtonian.com).

Additionally, several other well-known politicians will con-

tend for the highest cabinet position if Obama wins the presidency. Some have argued that Bill Richardson, who originally battled for the party’s nomination would give Obama experience from a variety of areas. “In the 2008 Democratic Primary, Bill Richardson was inarguably the most broadly experienced candidate in the field. He was a congressman, a governor, the Ambassador to the United Nations, and the Secretary of Energy” (www.eyesonobama.com).

Another potential selection, which looks especially advantageous as Obama strives to claim fans of his former rival, is Senator Hillary Clinton. Amitai Etzioni contends, “Hillary would make a fine secretary of state — a very important and powerful job. Moreover, making a clear commitment to choose her for this position

would add much to Obama’s appeal, given that his experience in foreign policy is particularly short” (www.huffingtonpost.com). This selection seems feasible considering the clear advantage of regaining support from Democrats who supported Clinton as the party’s nominee. A commitment to adding Clinton to his Cabinet may increase Obama’s appeal to members of his own party.

Chevy Volt ready to take on global warming

By: Greg Schlosser
Sports Editor

In 2010, Chevrolet is ready to do something that no car company has accomplished: make a car that is (almost) completely electric. The car, which will be called the Volt, features a lithium-ion battery that is expected to last for 40 miles (www.gm-volt.com). After the 40 miles, the car will switch to a gas generator and use the gas as its energy source.

The Volt will use a regular home outlet and will need to charge for 6.5 hours (www.gm-volt.com). Theoretically, a person who travels less than 40 miles a day will never have to use gas because the car will be able to charge at night and be ready the next day.

The Volt will feature regenerative braking, which means that it will capture the kinetic energy produced when the car comes to a stop. However, if gas is needed, the gas engine will last for another 400 miles (www.gm-volt.com).

The Volt also features a futuristic look to go along with its innovated technology. With a light gray body, the Volt has a low front windshield and bulging wheels that give it the appearance that it might randomly pop out wings and take off. GM Rick

Wagoner said, “The Volt symbolizes General Motors’ commitment to the future, just the kind of technical innovation our industry needs to respond to tomorrow’s energy and environmental challenges” (www.cnet.com).

Although the price has yet to be released it is assumed that the price could be around \$30K. That is 10K more than the hybrid Toyota Prius, and 5K more than the 2009 Hybrid Camry (www.autoblog-green.com). Although the price ranges from 5K to 10K more than the hybrids released by Toyota and Honda, the money one would save on gas would definitely make up for the cost in the long run.

However, there are some drawbacks to the Volt. For one, it isn’t completely electric and isn’t an end all solution to Global Warming. Secondly, the battery might become a pain in the neck to plug in every night, as it is not known how user-friendly the Volt will be.

Despite the shortcomings though, the Volt looks promising in its early stages leading up to a 2010 release. Although it won’t completely rid the United States of its carbon dioxide emission problem, it will surely cut down on the damage that is caused to the planet every day.

Features

Students prepare to elect the next president

By: JP Gooderham
Editor-in-Chief

The 2008 Presidential election has intrigued many young people across America and has motivated many new voters to investigate politics. Of course, many of the major problems facing America are issues with impacts that could be felt for decades. Thus, many students are considering the implications of each candidate’s policies on their future.

“The next president will inherit a host of problems — a meltdown of our credit markets, two major wars, an exhausted military, a massive (and growing) budget deficit, a huge trade imbalance, global warming, the energy crisis, unaffordable health care and a host of other problems” (www.emorywheel.com).

With significant differences between both candidates, Upper St. Clair students are taking sides.

Many students do not have faith in the abilities of a potential McCain-Palin administration. Senior Jake Hassenfelt argues, “I am afraid that John McCain is simply too old to fulfill the duties of an American president.

Plus, his old age and medical record make death during his time in office a possibility, which scares me considering his vice president.”

Senior Ben Benack shared a similar opinion, proclaiming, “I am extremely against John McCain and the entire Republican machine. They constantly try to portray Barack Obama as nothing more than a celebrity or pretty speaker. Meanwhile, the Republicans choose a vice president with absolutely no foreign policy experience. Even worse, she thinks that she knows about foreign affairs because she can see Russia from her house. The McCain campaign is a joke.”

While some students have been pushed to the Obama camp because of their opposition to John McCain and Sarah Palin, many voters find Obama’s charisma and character very appealing. Stephanie Mitchell explains, “Honestly, I started liking Barack Obama after reading the article about him in *Rolling Stone*. His speaking skill and charisma really can appeal to young people. Unlike John McCain, I think Obama really appeals to young voters like ourselves.”

Despite Obama’s popularity with young voters, Upper St. Clair students have also been persuaded by Republican candidate John McCain. For instance, senior Ethan Horvitz prefers the economic policy of McCain to Obama’s. He explained, “Regarding the economy, McCain’s policies are much more intelligent when compared to Obama’s liberal tax and spend policy. Obama says that he will only raise taxes on the wealthiest 5% of Americans, however, his plan would also hurt many small businesses and will harm the job market.”

Additionally, Horvitz feels that McCain’s advocacy is preferable to Obama’s for students. He claims, “To my peers, health insurance is an important issue. Senator McCain proposes a \$5000 tax credit for families to pay for their own health insurance. This empowers the people rather than businesses or the federal government.”

In the coming weeks, advertising campaigns and other means of persuading voters will surely intensify in our battleground state. However, it appears that students have a number of issues to consider before casting their votes.

The Front Page hopes to receive rave reviews

By: Alaina Zemanick
Features Editor

The 2008 fall play, *The Front Page*, is beginning to rehearse with much excitement from the cast and director J.R. Hall, who is returning as director after a three-year hiatus. The story line of the script is similar to the famous classic movie, *His Girl Friday*, focusing on talented newspaper reporter Hildy Johnson and her conflicts with her soon-to-be ex-boss and ex-husband, Walter Burns. Though Hildy will be marrying her fiancé, Bruce Williams, the next day, Walter is trying to con her into staying at the paper instead of leaving to be at home with Bruce. He also secretly is trying to make Hildy his wife once again.

The show stars seniors Grant

Carey and Jordi McDonough as Walter Burns and Hildy Johnson, and junior Adam Matonic will stand alongside them as Bruce Williams.

Being able to direct *The Front Page* has been a dream of Hall’s for a very long time.

“I love the story and the style. I love the wise cracks; I love the whole thing,” he says excitedly.

Senior David DeBor is also enthusiastic about participating as student producer in *The Front*

Page: “I think it is great for the school to put on such an ambitious project.”

The cast seems as enthralled in the play as Hall and DeBor are.

“I love playing a crazy criminal,” says freshman Will Aloe of his character Earl Williams, a convicted murderer who will possibly be hanged for his crime.

“There is a big cast this year,” junior Emily Summers points out, “but I like to hang out with my friends and work on the production.”

The Front Page premieres on the Upper St. Clair stage with performances on November 5th, 6th, 8th, and 9th. With so much anticipation behind this year’s fall play, no Upper St. Clair student should miss out on *The Front Page*.

Teacher’s Lounge



Ms. Millovac, Choir Teacher

Q: What is your favorite piece this year?

A: The Men’s Ensemble-Climbin’ Up The Mountain Children(Spiritual) because they have so much fun singing it.

Q: What is your favorite color and why?

A: Purple because my mom made me a purple dress in the

2nd grade.

Q: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: Music!

Q: What is unique about each choir you teach?

A: Each class has its own personality, they learn in different ways, and each class is at a different level in its vocal ability.

HealthUSC: Smokeless Tobacco

By: Steve Garbin
Guest Writer

If you happen to frequent the men’s bathroom or locker room, as I do (in other words if you possess a Y chromosome) you have probably performed this maneuver. You go to wash your hands, and as you wave your hands in front of the motion sensing faucet to activate a trickle of water to rinse off that nifty pre-lathered soap, you end up having to dodge a soggy, menacing lump of chew growing tepid in the dampness of the sink.

Unfortunately, the use of smokeless tobacco is an all too common problem in Upper St. Clair High School. It is easy enough to ignore the alcohol consumption that occurs regularly outside of school, but anyone who uses the men’s restroom in our school knows that chew and its equally cancerous brother snuff have a significant presence within the walls of the high school.

Why do people chew? Let’s just consider what actually happens physically whenever someone packs one in. As soon as the smokeless tobacco enters the mouth, tiny shards of fiberglass go to work on the inside of the lips and gums making tiny lacerations. These lacerations provide nicotine, which is as addictive as cocaine or heroin, with an entryway into the bloodstream. While one does achieve a supposedly lucrative and exceedingly temporary buzz, that goes away. A possibly crippling addiction to nicotine does not.

Actually, “crippling” is probably the wrong choice of word. Maxillofacially defacing is more accurate. The thing about smokeless tobacco is that it contains more chemicals than nicotine. Formaldehyde, traditionally used to preserve cadavers, arsenic, the main ingredient in rat

poison, and tar, the sticky black stuff on roads, are a few ingredients. You would think that anyone with an adequately functioning gag reflex would be able to tell that maybe they shouldn’t have tobacco in their mouth.

Anyway, back to the whole “maxillofacially defacing” thing. First of all, the fiberglass cutting up your lip can eventually require a gum graft, a painful procedure. Fiberglass is the least of your worries if you choose to chew though. I think that everyone realizes how rat poison would kill them (but then again we have some chewers out there don’t we?), but in case formaldehyde and tar are a little confusing, let me elaborate. Both of these substances are carcinogens. They will give you cancer. If the cancer that you will (yes, will) get in your gums metastasizes to your mandible (jaw) bone, you’re looking at surgery to remove part of your jaw. That would be your best case scenario because the other alternative is death. It’s as simple as that. Cancer is the number two killer in America after cardiovascular disease. People who live healthy lives still get cancer. A person who chews, consciously exposing themselves to multiple carcinogens on a regular basis increases his risk exponentially.

I guess it just seems like such a simple choice not to use smokeless tobacco. Regrettably, chew and snuff remain a problem in USC. Things can be done. If you have a friend that uses, maybe let them know what they’re doing to themselves. See someone chewing in the bathroom? Maybe slide this article into their stall. The best thing would be for individuals in the school to take responsibility for their own health. Whatever the case, whatever the solution, the problem of smokeless tobacco in USC cannot be ignored.

Freshmen adapt to new life in the high school

By: Alaina Zemanick
Features Editor

It’s been over a month since school began, and the freshmen students are starting their high school careers in full swing with many sports and extracurricular activities.

On September 11th, students were introduced to a multitude of clubs during Freshman Rush. Cassie Fowler is becoming very involved with the fun activities of our school.

“Improv Club is THE bomb!” she exclaims with enthusiasm, “I’m also in a lot of stuff that’s good for my college resume, like Law Club.”

Other students mentioned

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Golf team lights up the links

By: JP Gooderham
Editor-in-Chief

The Upper St. Clair boys’ golf team, over the past several years, has been nothing less than a dominant force in western Pennsylvania athletics. Of course, with a number of team and individual titles captured, the team has earned its position as one of the dynasties of our high school’s athletic department.

The 2008 season included many of the usual successes. With a 16-0 record entering the postseason, the team was poised to fight for another WPIAL title.

Senior golfer Zack Dubois commented, “The entire season was amazing. The best part was that we crushed everyone we played.” He also explained that the season had many exciting moments, such as when “[senior golfer] Marshall Brown won a match for our team in an amazing

playoff against Peters Township.”

The team was led by four talented senior golfers: Marshall Brown, E.J. McFarland, Anthony Paladino, and Zack Dubois. Moreover, unlike in some years, the team’s seniors were highly experienced with players like Brown and Dubois having golfed on the varsity team since freshman year. However, as Dubois contends, “Mr. Flynn [our coach] provided the strongest leadership during our season.”

In the postseason, seniors Marshall Brown and E.J. McFarland advanced from the first round of qualifying for the WPIAL individual championship. Dubois was convinced that the team would excel in the team championship in light of those successes. He stated, “I strongly believe that we have a 100% chance of capturing the WPIAL title this year.”

Though the team has been extremely successful over the past few seasons, some members of the squad believe that the team’s future may not be as bright. Dubois explained, “The future of our team is certainly in question. I mean, we are going to lose four seniors, Marshall [Brown], me, [Anthony] Paladino, and E.J. [McFarland] due to graduation.” On the other hand, some golf fans think that fresh new players may lead the way in the near future. Brian Gaudio argued that “though my brother takes far too long when preparing to swing, I think his team could have a bright future.”

Nonetheless, students at the high school are excited to observe the Panthers’ postseason results. Christian Wheeler, a star varsity baseball player stated, “I love the golf team. I think their success really has inspired me in my own sport of baseball.”

Penguins ready to ice the NHL this season

By: Greg Schlosser
Sports Editor

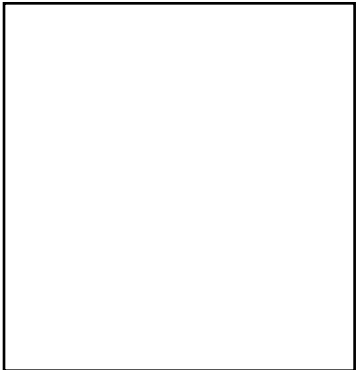
Last year, the Pittsburgh Penguins came just short of their goal, losing to the Detroit Redwings in 6 games of the Stanley Cup Finals. This year, after a slew of new off-season additions, the Penguins are ready for another chance at Lord Stanley’s Cup.

Among the key losses this off-season for the Penguins are Jarkko Ruutu, who left for Ottawa, Ryan Malone, who left for Tampa Bay, Marian Hossa, now in Detroit, Gary Roberts also in Tampa Bay, and Ty Conklin who is playing for Detroit now. Key additions include Ruslan Fedotenko and Miroslav Satan from New York, Eric Godard from Calgary, and Matt Cooke from Washington.

Offensively, the Penguins expect to have the same fire power they had last year. Without injuries, it is extremely possible that Malkin and Crosby will earn around 100 points. And, if one of them was to get injured, the other star could definitely carry the load, which was proven by Malkin’s performance last season. Also, the Penguins have several key role players on offense. They have Sykora, a veteran sniper, and Ruslan Fedotenko, who hopes to fill the power forward role that Malone left after being traded.

Defensively, Pens fans can expect about the same quality of play as last year. They have

Staal, one of the best young defensive centers in the league, and Brooks Orpik, the hit machine who really shone during last year’s playoff run. Hal Gill and Daryl Sydor can both hold their own on defense, as can Pascal Dupuis, Max Talbot, and Tyler Kennedy. Expect the defense to be good this year, even with the loss of Whitney, a solid Defensemen who stepped up his



Jordan Staal takes a faceoff against Atlanta’s Erik Christensen. Photo courtesy of Christine Prorok.

game during the playoffs, who is out for three to five months because of foot realignment (www.pittsburghpenguins.com).

Between the pipes, Marc-Andre Fleury can be expected to play like he did last year when he came back from the high ankle sprain. While Fleury is a great starting goaltender option, there is some question of who will fill the role as the back-up. With Conklin gone, Sabourin needs to be more consistent in his starts where he relieves Fleury. He was 10-9 last year with a .904 save

percentage (www.espn.com). If they get good starts out of Sabourin, the Pens will be much better off.

The team will really shine this year on the special teams. Last year, the power play finished fourth in the NHL with a 20.7% powerplay. Although with the departure of Hossa, the Pens will still have one of the best PP’s in the league with Malkin (17 PP goals 23 assists), Crosby (6 PP goals 21 assists), Satan (5 PP goals 8 assists with Islanders), Alex Goligoski, and Kris Letang.

Although the Pens penalty killing isn’t as strong as their PP, they still have a solid unit. Staal and Dupuis have been great penalty killers and can create short-handed chances. Hal Gill’s long stick helps clear the passing lanes in front of the net. Also, Orpik does his job of keeping opposing players out of the slot area with his strong checking.

However, the Pens have suffered some injuries early in the season that will hurt the team throughout the season. Ryan Whitney is out for a few months with left foot realignment and Sergei Gonchar is out for about the same time because of a separated left shoulder that will need surgery. Despite injuries to these key players, hopefully Alex Goligoski and Kris Letang can fill the massive opening left by the Pens two star defensemen.

“I think the Pens will end up with a number of points in the upper 90’s,” stated sophomore Greg Williams.

Tiger’s injury leaves golf world waiting for next season

By: JP Gooderham
Editor-in-Chief

Golf audiences observed Tiger’s noticeable limp during the week as he attempted to compensate for the pain of his injury at the US Open. However, shortly after the excitement from Tiger’s astounding victory after a playoff against Mediate wore

off, the golf world was shocked again by the announcement that Tiger would require another surgery.

Woods announced that he would miss the rest of the season as a result of the injury, but intended to recover in time, if possible, for the Masters in 2009.

By August, he informed his

fans that he had absolutely no hope for practicing, let alone playing, during 2008. He wrote, “We simply don’t know what type of swelling there would be or if there would be any residual effects the next day once you start wheeling and dealing on the knee. Everyone’s body reacts differently. I could putt right now, but I’m not going to do it”

USC Varsity Hockey Team looks to build off of last season

By: Dallion L. Townsend
Opinions Editor

With a strong roster this year, the Varsity hockey team is trying to improve over last year. Not to say that thehad a bad year last year, but Junior forward James “Peach” Kline and the team want nothing short of a WPIAL title.

A member of last years’ squad, Kline looks to have a bigger role and now knows what is expected from a veteran player. He claims that his summer training program, “seven raw eggs, seven glasses of milk, and a seven mile run every morning” can help him further develop into a dominant force on the rink.

Kline needs to be a huge contributor in order for this team to go far. And he needs to continue to build upon his point totals from last year, “the 100 point range (Kline’s 2008 point total)” is the prediction of Junior Kevin Yealey, who’s on the top of the call-up list as a member of the Junior Varsity squad this season...maybe a slight exaggeration on Yealey’s part, but Kline is still a key player to watch out for this year regardless of he gets ten points or forty.

Coach Larry Marks is in his

first year of coaching for Upper St. Clair and his team has faith in his abilities to lead his team to the promise land. “One of our biggest strengths this year coming in is our new coach (Marks). He’s a good coach, and he knows what’s up,” said Senior Stephen Trombetta. Trombetta led the junior varsity team in point production last season and looks to bring last year’s success up with him as a member of the Varsity team.

He plans on using his overall hockey experience and leadership qualities to help lead the Panthers deep into the playoffs. He quickly stepped out of the spotlight and recognized that the “team” can be successful and is “solid throughout and can cause some damage this season.”

The team can “do some damage” as long as seniors Eric Surma, Theo Schnieders, and Brian Escherick prove that the voids left by Mike McKelvey and Rocky Cersosimo were not as huge as originally anticipated. Juniors, Matt Wreggett and Rob Schneid, and returning seniors Tim Graelty and James DiGangi are other players to watch out for this year as they take to the ice yet again in hopes of their first WPIAL Title since 1992.

Olympics Gymnasts Scam Competition

By: Madeline Kushner
Photography Editor

The moment the female gymnasts took the floor at the Olympics, the ages of the Chinese were immediately put into question. As a result, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was put to work. The IOC requested that the Federation of International Gymnasts (FIG) review the papers recording the female g y m n a s t s ’ a g e s (www.latimes.com).

Mike Walker, a computer security specialist, came across official Chinese Government papers stating that He Kexin, an Olympic gold medalist, is only fourteen years old. In order for a gymnast to participate in the Olympics, the gymnast must be at least sixteen years old. These documents then disappeared from the Chinese Government’s official sports website.

“These documents existed, on a state-wide website, and now they don’t exist, and this change has taken place recently,” says

Walker in the *Times of London*, “The listing in there [...] is He Kexin’s birth date, January 1, 1994,”

Kexin’s age was truly put into question when she beat the United States’ Nastia Luikin for a gold medal on the uneven bars. Kexin herself declares that, “[My] real age is 16. I don’t care what other people say,” even though Martha Karolyi, the United States’ girls coach saw that some Chinese gymnasts were even missing teeth. (www.timesonline.co.uk)

Kexin’s passport just before the Olympics stated that she was sixteen along with her teammates Yang Yilin and Jiang Yuyuan. Yilin’s birthday was originally listed on registration lists, possessed by the General Administration of Sports of China, as August 26, 1993 and Yuyuan’s was originally October 1, 1993. The girls’ birth years were then switched from 1993 to 1992 (www.Time.com).

If suspicions regarding the ages of the Chinese gymnasts are proven true, the gymnasts will be stripped of their medals.

(www.TigerWoods.com).

Additionally, Tiger’s fans began to worry shortly after the announcement about the condition of the star’s game once he returned to competition. In addition to the lack of practice, Tiger also informed media that other consequences of his injury may affect his game. “Woods said he initially lost 10 pounds because

he wasn’t able to work out following surgery to repair a torn ACL in his left knee and two stress fractures in his left leg” (www.golfchannel.com). Of course, if Tiger were to see substantial changes to his body, the injury could be devastating considering one of Woods’ greatest strengths is his powerful golf swing.

Pitt football looking to climb to the top of the Big East ladder

By: Nick Buzzelli
Assistant Sports Editor

Within the last few seasons of Pitt football, one thing has become apparent: losing. Pitt hasn't been to a bowl game since 2004 when they were defeated by Utah in the Fiesta Bowl. After Walt Harris left for Stanford, Pitt hired Miami Dolphins' head coach and Pitt alumni, Dave Wannstedt, to guide the Panthers back to the glory of college football. Wannstedt did not live up to expectations in his first few seasons.

The Panthers started the 2008 season ranked #25 in the preseason AP poll after coming off of an upset win against West Virginia in the final game of the 2007 regular season. Pitt had high hopes in 2008 for LeSean McCoy, who set a Big East rushing record in his freshman season and junior linebacker Scott McKillop, who led the nation in tackles a year ago, anchoring down the defense.

Pitt was a heavy favorite to earn their first win of the season against the Falcons of Bowling Green, especially since the Panthers were 25-2 against teams in the Mid-American Conference all-time (www.postgazette.com). Bowling Green was a 13 point

underdog coming into the season-opener at Heinz Field. The Panther offense coughed up the ball four times, leading to a 27-17 Bowling Green win. "They gave us some unusual formations and we had a tough time adjusting to it" commented Coach Wannstedt, (www.postgazette.com).

Bill Stull, a junior quarterback, who missed the 2007 season due to an injured thumb, threw for 241 yards on 33 pass attempts, setting up three rushing scores by "Shady" McCoy against Buffalo. "Coach Cav [offensive coordinator and former Pitt quarterback Matt Cavanaugh] called a great game," Stull said. "We executed much better, there wasn't a lot of pressure, and we were able to move the ball around quite a bit" (www.scout.com). Pitt completed the 27-16 win over the Bulls with a Connor Lee field goal of 42 yards with 3:31 remaining.

Pitt earned a big win against USF. The Panthers, led by McCoy's two touchdowns, arrived back on the Pitt campus with a victory against the #10 team in the nation. Along with the win against USF, Pitt narrowly beat Iowa 21-20. The Panthers look forward to an upcoming game against rival West Virginia and Notre Dame.

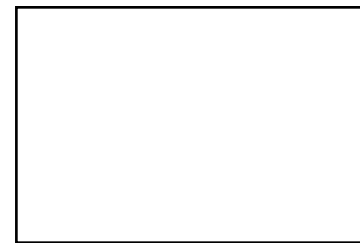
Buccos 2008 Season Wrap-Up: The good, the bad, and the ugly

By: Tyler Feldman
Guest Writer

The 2008 Pittsburgh Pirates baseball season consisted of ups and downs. Unfortunately as a Buccos fan, there were a lot more downs than ups. However, there were a few good things that happened through the course of the season.

To start, after a horrid 2007, new management looked for Nate McLouth to finally break through in 2008. McLouth was a pleasant surprise as a five-tool player this year. Using the short left-field fence at PNC Park to his advantage, Nate hit 26 home runs, hitting 15 of those at the friendly confines (www.mlb.com). Additionally, Nate led the National League in doubles with 46, and finished fifth in the league in runs with 113 (www.mlb.com). Many other top categories for Nate included career high in runs batted in with 94, stolen bases with 23, total at-bats with 597, hits with 165, walks with 65, and an average of .276 to top the list. In the outfield Nate led all major league center fielders with only one error all season, a nearly impossible feat (www.mlb.com). McLouth was the only Pirates player to appear in the all-star

game at Yankee Stadium, which was his first appearance. Pirate's management looks for Nate to keep up the numbers during the 2009 baseball season.



Pittsburgh Pirates' Nate McLouth holds a towel on his head after getting hit by a double from San Francisco's Pablo Sandoval in San Francisco, California, on Sunday, September 7, 2008. (Mathew Sumner/San Mateo County Times/MCT)

Along with McLouth, another top dog on the Pirates this season was Ryan Doumit. After Ronny Paulino's fall from the top catchers position, Doumit came in as the temporary catcher. His all-star like play secured him that spot for the rest of the season. Ryan Doumit finished with career highs in several categories. Doumit hit a career high 15 home runs and 34 doubles that accounted for 68 runs batted in. He hit a whopping .318 during 431 at-bats through the season that helped him reach a total of 71 runs scored (www.mlb.com).

Two honorable mention Pirate

players during the season would have to be pitcher Paul Maholm and first basemen Adam LaRoche. Maholm, the Pirates best pitcher finished with an even 9-9 record with a 3.71 era and 139 strikeouts, who was by far the Buccos most consistent pitcher (www.mlb.com). If he was on a better team he could have easily won 15 games because his average run support was less than 4 runs per game pitched (www.mlb.com). After a rough first half, LaRoche finally came through with his bat during the second half of the season, hitting 25 home runs and finishing the season with a .270 batting average (www.mlb.com).

New management is a good sign for the future, but Pirate fans, shouldn't expect fall baseball in Pittsburgh until Michael Phelps wins another eight gold medals.

Because the Pirates faced another losing season this year, they tied the 1933-1948 Philadelphia Phillies for most consecutive losing seasons at 16. One more losing season and the Pirates could achieve an embarrassing place in sports history. The Bucs finish the season with a sad 67-95 record in a six team division, and unfortunately, there seems to be no end in sight.



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Teens sacrifice normal life for Olympic Games

By: Julianne Tarullo
Front Page Editor

At the conclusion of the past 2008 Olympics in Beijing, the US came home with 110 total medals, ranking at number one in the total medal count. But at what cost did they earn this title? Select teenagers from all over the world spend their whole lives training to become Olympic champions. However, there is much to sacrifice when going to the Olympics is a on your agenda every for years. Gymnastics requires about 40 grueling hours of practice a week for young US athletes that want to make it to the Olympics, according to Shawn Johnson's official website (www.shawnjohnson.net). These elite gymnasts have private tutors instead of going to school and have hardly any social lives. Instead of going out to a movie with their friends on a Friday night, the competitors are staying home to rest up for their 6:00 am practice the next day. However, the sacrifices made by the US Olympians with even the most extensive training schedules do not compare to those made by the Chinese athletes.

Chinese athletes have even less of a normal teenage life than US athletes. Chinese coaches search the country for very young children that have the right physique for a certain sport. Time magazine says, "Once kids enter elite athletic schools like these, they rarely see their par-

ents and the extensive training often takes precedence over academics." Chinese divers, for example, are selected around the young age of six, before they can develop a fear of heights.

One of China's select athletes Cheng Fei left home at the age of seven to enter into China's demanding state-directed sports system for gymnastics. As discussed in the Herald Tribune, her training institute includes many young athletes who follow intense training routines. The coaches often force children into muscle building exercises and painful stretching. At one point Cheng begged her parents to let her come home, but they requested she stay because of the time invested and the future money she would bring to the family. Leaving home at age seven, Cheng didn't have a normal childhood, let alone a normal teenage life.

American gymnast Shawn Johnson proves that it doesn't have to be this way. Shawn only puts in 20-25 hours of training a week and still manages to come home with gold. Shawn attends a public high school and is on the "A" Honor Roll. "Shawn, her parents and coaches think it's very important for her to have a life outside of gymnastics and have time for friends, family, hobbies, and school activities" (www.shawnjohnson.net). Shawn Johnson knows how to balance her life, yet still be a world champion.

Summer movies enjoyed by USC students

By: Ali Cupelli
Entertainment Editor

This was the year of superheroes. The biggest heroes were, of course, found in *Iron Man*, *Indiana Jones*, and *The Dark Knight*.

The summer began with *Iron Man*. Robert Downey Jr. plays Tony Stark, a U.S. weapons contractor. However, when his campaign is targeted, he is taken hostage by terrorists with life threatening injuries and forced by his captor to build the ultimate weapon, a missile. Stark then flips the story and creates a mind-blowing armored suit that saves his life. When he comes back to U.S. soil, he continues to enhance his invention that supplies him with super powers that no one could ever dream of. The plan leads Stark to discover a plot against the world and makes use of his new metal plated alter-ego. "*Iron Man* soars above the rest, a thrilling, innovative and enormously entertaining movie..." The website awarded the movie with four stars (www.Hollywood.com).

19 years later, Steven Spielberg finally made the Indiana Jones sequel to *The Last Crusade*; in

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull. The story begins at the height of the Cold War in 1957. Jones barely survives a confrontation with Soviet Agents, led by Irina Spalko, played by Cate Blanchett, who will stop at nothing until she has the power to control minds. He returns home to Marshall College where he finds himself out of a job. As he is about to leave home, he comes face-to-face with Mutt, played by Shia LaBeouf, a tough rebel who shows Indiana a map that could lead to one of the most astounding archaeological sightings ever: The Crystal Skull of Akator. Indiana and Mutt start their adventure in the jungles of Peru. The two also have a surprising meeting with Mutt's mother, Marion Ravenwood, played by Karen Allen, who just so happens to be Jones' old love.

Hollywood.com thought that "nineteen years is a long time to keep Jones waiting for an Indy sequel, but Steven Spielberg's [...] fourth film in the series doesn't disappoint." The website awarded the movie four stars.

The movie with the most anticipation of the summer has finally

arrived; *The Dark Knight*. The movie came out July 18th and all across America theaters were sold out. The movie continues in Gotham City. The crime in the city is escalating more than ever. The police cannot save the city alone, so they call for the help of Batman. Christian Bale, who plays Batman, teams up with Lieutenant Jim Gordon, played by Gary Oldman, and D.A. Harvey Dent, played by Aaron Eckhart, to fight the evil of the city. As a true rebel, The Joker, played by Heath Ledger, is unleashed by the mob and determined to reek havoc for no reason other than for pure enjoyment. In order to defeat the Joker, Batman and the police must use their skills to save the city once again. Love has a complicated twist in story because there is a love triangle between Batman's alter-ego Bruce Wayne, Harvey Dent, and Rachel Dawson, played by Maggie Gyllenhaal. According to Hollywood.com, "*The Dark Knight* is extraordinary, an amazing piece of filmmaking that rockets the Batman legacy to heights never imagined, ..." The website awarded the movie with five stars.

New York Fashion Week explodes with superb trends

By: Alaina Zemanick
Features Editor

All fashionable nobles across the globe gathered in Bryant Park on September 5th for the opening day of New York Fashion Week. The religiously followed event premiered the spring collections of New York City's elite fashion designers, with each design usually receiving enormous praise.

In contrast to the somber and dark fall collections in February, designers electrified audiences with their colorful apparel. Designer Anna Sui delivered a mind-blowing creation of color; her mix of bohemian style with a south-of-the-border flare proved to be satisfying to fashion followers everywhere. The same is true for design legend Diane von Furstenberg. Though she called the collection Rock Goddess (www.vogue.co.uk), von Furstenberg displayed a more

bohemian style in her collection and took it to an entirely different spectrum. She placed roses and ribbons in the hair of models and styling them in printed chiffon dresses. But, along with the sixties references, von Furstenberg added a shot of modern looks with several new takes on the classic pant suit.

"This show is all about freedom," she told Tim Blanks, fashion correspondent for style.com (www.style.com).

Another specific fad that was noticed derived from the ultimate event of the summer: the Olympics. Sari Guerson claimed Guo Jingjing, gold-medal Chinese diver, as inspiration for her spring clothing. Her dresses were cut as though they were the latest Speedo swimsuits, and the baggy, knee-length shorts screamed athleticism. Though some women might be taken aback by the less-glam effect, Guerson found herself in comfort-

able territory with her collection.

"It's sexier for me," she stated (www.style.com).

The young and precocious Alexander Wang was alongside Guerson this season with his brightly hued basketball shorts and a surprising choice of fabric: mesh.

Though one may be suprised, Wang claims he is experimenting: "I love testing myself on what's tacky and what's tasteful" (www.wwd.com).

With the continuum of several Fashion Weeks across the globe, fashion disciples can only sit and wait patiently for what is yet to come. But, one should get a head start and go to Dicks clearance rack for those mesh tanks she would not dare to even touch last week and maybe pluck a flower from the garden for an excellent hairpiece. All anyone will know is that spring, fashion-wise, will most certainly be an interesting season.

Is Twilight the new Harry Potter?

By: Julianne Tarullo
Front Page Editor

Wizards vs. Vampires. Who takes the crown for the ultimate fantasy novel? Harry Potter fans argue that there is not even a comparison between the Harry Potter novels and the new Twilight series. However, this vampire love story proves that Harry Potter isn't the only book with bite.

The Harry Potter series has been a huge success in recent years and has an overwhelming number of Potter crazed fans. The novels have been translated into 67 different languages, and JK Rowling is the highest earning novelist in history. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* sold a record-breaking 12 million copies for the first print run in the US. The last four books in the series now hold the record of the fastest selling books in history. Potter had sold more than 400 million copies as of June 2008 (www.wikipedia.com).

Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series has not had quite the success that the Harry Potter novels have had; nonetheless, the series has created

quite a splash in the fantasy literature world. 50 million copies of the novels have sold worldwide and have been translated into 20 different languages. Godiva Chocolate even created a Twilight-themed chocolate bar, and the store Hot Topic released a Twilight line of clothing.

The new series involves teens, vampires, rain, and love in a tangled up fantasy/romance, and many say it is the new Harry Potter. But will this new series even be remembered a few years from now? Only time will tell. However, for today, *Twilight* is certainly a chart topper.

One area in which Potter tops *Twilight* is the audience. While many children, teens, and adults read Harry Potter, *Twilight* is mainly targeted toward female teenagers. Though some adults do read *Twilight*, the ever beautiful Edward Cullen, pulls teenage girls into the story and builds a strong connection with the characters. Although some readers cite one major difference between the two series: Harry Potter pulls the reader in at page one, but *Twilight* takes some time to get into. Students at Upper St. Clair high school also have

an opinion on the subject. In a girl's poll comparing the two novels, seven out of ten preferred *Twilight*. However, when ten boys were questioned on the topic, three preferred Harry Potter, one preferred *Twilight*, and six had yet to read either of the novels. When asked about the characters, a female student answered, "I definitely care more about the *Twilight* characters because they are easier to relate to and I developed a crush on Edward Cullen." A male student added that "*Twilight* focuses more on the characters while Harry Potter pulls the reader in by the plot. *Twilight* has a deeper meaning of love, not just action."

In an interview on MTV.com, Stephenie Meyer spoke on the topic of J.K. Rowling, "It's terribly flattering to be compared to her, but there's never going to be another J.K. Rowling; that's a phenomenon that's not gonna happen again." While Harry Potter fans believe this is true, many *Twilight*ers disagree.

So what's the decision; students with wands, or vampires in action? The dispute over the better fantasy novel continues.

Amy Poehler says farewell to SNL

By: Madeline Kushner
Assistant Entertainment Editor

Amy Poehler and husband, Will Arnett ("Arrested Development"), announced in April 2008 that the couple is expecting a baby. As a result, Poehler will stay with *SNL* until the Presidential elections because of the half-hour specials *SNL* will hold every Thursday until the election.

After the election, Poehler does not intend to return to *SNL* when her maternity leave is through (www.comcast.net).

"It's gonna be really hard — Boyz II Men hard — to say goodbye to yesterday," says Poehler in *Men's Vogue*. The star then continued to say to *Men's Vogue* "'SNL' was dangerous, late-night, last-minute and star-studded, [...] you need to know when to put it down" (www.bostonmagazine.com).

Poehler also said to *Us Weekly*: "I'm on the verge of tears every minute."

Poehler, who is due in

October, will in turn star in her own sitcom on NBC that will air on Thursdays. The show will be produced by the same creators of "The Office", Greg Daniels and Mike Schur. The show originally was intended to be a spin-off of "The Office", but instead the show was changed to Poehler's own show. As a result, "The Office" spin-off will still take place but at a later date. (www.nytimes.com).

Poehler, who has been with *SNL* since 2001 and is best known for her segment, 'Weekend Update,' recently received her first Emmy nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her work on *SNL*. The nomination allowed Poehler to be the first *SNL* cast member to be nominated for the Emmy category as well.

Poehler can currently be seen on episodes of *SNL* and the animated Nickelodeon series, *The Mighty B*, as Bessie.

Heath Ledger mesmerizes audiences as the Joker

By: Madeline Kushner
Assisstatnt Entertainment Editor

On July 18, 2008, Batman, played by Christian Bale, flew into theatres making his second appearance on the big screen. Although, Christian Bale was not what drew audiences to theatre. It was the infamous Joker, played by Heath Ledger, that caused viewers to pour into theatres.

In the movie, the Joker disrupts Batman's plans to get rid of the remaining criminals in Gotham City by uniting the mobs of Gotham under the Joker's control. The Joker's reason behind all of the scheming is to rob Gotham of all of its good.

Not only does the story make the Joker seem larger than life, but Ledger certainly packs a punch. Ledger's performance was enhanced not only because of his natural talent, but also due to Ledger's little nuances. These little details add so much more to

Ledger's character, from licking the corners of his bone trembling cackle.



Pete Travers, a film critic for the *Rolling Stone*, was quoted on AFP.com about his opinions of Ledger as the Joker. "I can only speak superlatives of Ledger, who is mad-crazy-blazing brilliant as the Joker."


Pete Travers is not the only one to think like this though. The star of the movie, Christian Bale, told CNN.com, "I would love to see him [Ledger] get an award."

The movie also managed to gross \$486 million in three weeks which puts the movie in second place for grossing the most money in three weeks. (www.PostGazette.com)

Despite the fact that some cast changes were made, such as Maggie Gyllenhaal playing Rachel Dawes instead of Katie Holmes, the movie over all was very successful it received 9.1 out of 10 stars on Imdb.com.

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