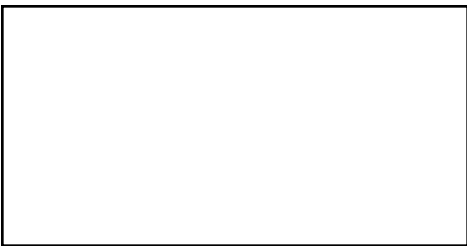
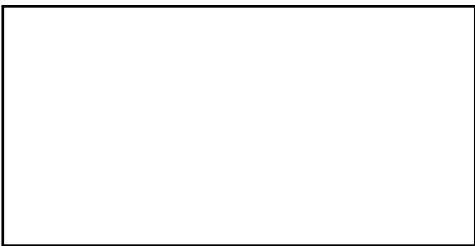




USC High School's Fall Play is a success!  
**FEIFFER'S PEOPLE / ENTERTAINMENT / PAGE 8**



Meet them Before They Are Seniors.  
**BEFORE THEY ARE SENIORS / ENTERTAINMENT / PAGE 8**



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



# The St. Clairion

Volume 9, Issue 3 - January 2008 - Upper St. Clair High School - Pittsburgh, PA

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

## USCHS celebrates culture with International Week

By: Brigid McCabe  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Upper St. Clair High School hosted International Education Week to acknowledge the study of foreign language and cultural affairs within the high school and community during the week of November 26, 2007.

Frau Baird, the head of the Foreign Language Department, worked extensively to contact those whom she believed would enrich students' knowledge about the world. During the International Education Week, various speakers came to discuss global topics, including the genocide in Darfur, international baseball, and the Peace Corps.

Students enjoyed seeing how American culture impacts other countries. Senior Kolette Kern said, "The students who talked about their trip to the Dominican Republic were really good. It was in-depth, and I got to see what they did that made an impact."

Senior Mike Falvo attended Senior Bridget Scotti's father's presentation that focused on his international baseball insurance company. Falvo commented, "I think different speakers appealed to different people. I am very interested in the business-related stuff, so

that was cool."

Besides learning a few new fun facts, (apparently, the Japanese people share their McDonald's hamburgers because the cost of meat is so high), students who attended International Week presentations encountered information that shattered their stereotypes about international affairs. The speakers also made the strug-



Globey represents the goal of International Awareness within Upper St. Clair High School.  
Photo courtesy of Brigid McCabe.

gles of certain countries more real to the students.

For example, Frau Baird said, "Some think of the genocide in Darfur affect only the poor. However, the speaker talked about real-life people living in Sudan who are being affected."

Another event that International Week hosted was a breakfast designated for students who take multiple for-

eign language classes. The faculty believed it was important to give credit to the students who have a course load including all the core classes and multiple foreign languages.

Senior Alaina Condo takes a whopping four languages: German, Latin, Spanish, and French. She comments, "I thought the breakfast was really nice. I want to be an interpreter when I grow up, and Upper St. Clair has prepared me for my career. I hope students continue to take multiple foreign languages, even if they don't plan to go into language."

The International Studies course also contributed to International Education Week by preparing a display case outside of the counseling office that illustrated the diversity of Upper St. Clair. Columns labeled "We Come From" and "We Speak" showed that the families living in suburban Pennsylvania hail from countries all over the world monitarily.

Senior Emily Kauffelt said, "Looking at the case, I was just surprised at how diverse our 'bubble' is."

Special thanks to the speakers who volunteered their time to spread cultural awareness at the high school.

## War in Iraq poses many pros and cons

By: Amanda Dasdorf  
Entertainment Editor

Since March 19, 2003, U.S. troops have been in Iraq fighting and protecting the freedom of all Americans. Since the U.S. troops' entrance into Iraq, the Iraqis have regained their freedom from the formerly harsh totalitarian government; however, the American troops are still scattered throughout Iraq trying to protect the people from the Sunni extremists.

When the war started, people and governments all over the world have lobbied for and against the war. One reason so many are against the war is the price the United States has paid both monitarily and in casualties. In its September 2002 report, the Democratic Caucus of the House Budget Committee predicted the total cost of the war to be between 100 and 200 billion dollars (www.cnn.com). According to Department of Defense, 3,878 American casualties have been confirmed (www.icasualties.org).

Another debate that rages among the political parties and American citizens is whether President Bush was justified in his reasons in invade Iraq. Hussein was labeled a daily threat to the United States, other countries, and especially his own country, Iraq. On November 23, 2002, during a national radio address, Bush said, "The world is also uniting to answer the unique and urgent threat posed by Iraq, whose dictator has already used weapons of mass destruc-

tion to kill thousands" (www.usiraqprocon.org).

However, the question many Americans still wonder is if the war in Iraq is making America safer? The answer to this question is hotly debated among the population. Most liberals find themselves disagreeing with the war and the president's views, while the conservatives tend to support the war and believe that the war has made the United States a safer place.

A popular belief not only throughout the United States, but

also throughout the world, is that the war in Iraq is negatively impacting global terrorism. Many think that when the U.S. invaded Iraq, extremists became even more hostile toward America and other Democratic nations. An analysis paper released in January 2007 entitled "Things Fall Apart: Containing the Spillover From an Iraqi Civil War," by Daniel L. Byman, Ph.D., and Kenneth M. Pollack, Ph.D. of the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy, stated, "In Iraq, fighters are receiving training, building networks, and becoming further radicalized-and the U.S. occupation there is proving a dream recruiting tool for radicalizing young Muslims around the world." Michael Scheuer, a former senior CIA official and an expert on Al-Qaida, acidly writes that the U.S. invasion of Iraq was a dream 'Christmas present' for Bin Laden" (www.usiraqprocon.org).



Amanda Nelson bids goodbye to her husband, Josh, as he head off to Iraq from Savannah International Airport in Savannah, Georgia, Wednesday, October 31, 2007. (Tom Van Dyke/Chicago Tribune/MCT)

## Colleges install GPS in school-issued cell phones

By: Victoria Wagner  
Guest Writer

Colleges across the country are now installing GPS in school issued cell phones. These phones were issued to students as a result of the Virginia Tech massacre last spring.

According to the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, not many schools are using this new found technology, but many are looking into this new

invention. These phones are also equipped with an alarm system. If any student feels that he or she is in an emergency situation he or she can activate the GPS technology to instantly alert the campus police. The police will then receive the reading on a computer screen, followed by a dot to locate the person, a school photo, and other personal details.

According to the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, Montclair

State University in New Jersey is the first to use GPS tracking devices. At the university, the feature is rarely used and timers get turned on only five to ten times a week.

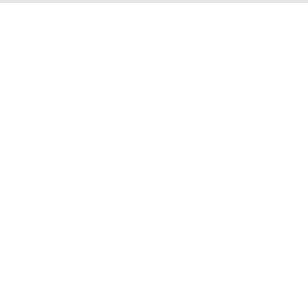
Following safety precautions and being aware of one's surroundings are important to a postivite college experience. With this new device, college students feel more protected and secure on their college campuses.

Panther  
Predilections

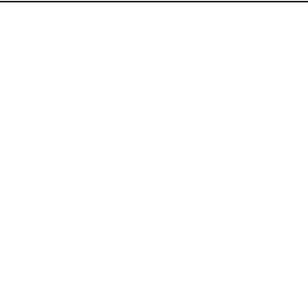
What is your New Years  
resolution?



“Get a mohawk.”  
-Evan Pearson  
Freshman



“Do less homework.”  
-Carolyn Bouchek  
Sophomore



“Get all A’s.”  
-Kyle Strotz  
Junior



“Get a better sense of  
fashion and more popular  
friends.”  
-Liz Bennett  
Senior

By: Kirstin Kennedy  
Opinions Editor

Desk of the Editor

Extra forms and essays frustrate students

By: Kelsey Short  
Editor-in-Chief

The Common Application, a standardized admissions form for college-bound students, is now used by over 300 colleges and universities, and most students at Upper St. Clair High School have either heard of it or used it. However pragmatic the form is in theory, the Common Application just might be making the college admittance process much more arduous than it should be.

The seniors who are applying to college are finding out just how impractical using the Common App truly is. They have discovered that there are supplemental forms and essays that are required by most institutions in addition to the Common Application. In some cases, students are submitting two or three essays along with the Common Application essay to a single school. The number is more than a little excessive and certainly not practical.

Senior Kevin Stanson says,

“The Common App made applying to college look so much easier, but then the process seemed to go on forever. There was so much ‘supplemental material’ that it got to be a little ridiculous.”

By the time some will finish, they will have written about a myriad of topics about everything from giving a simple personal statement to describing what event of the twentieth century has the most impact on the present day. In any case, the extra writing is a hassle for the admissions officers who must read the essays, not to mention a hand cramp for the students who must write them.

The Common Application was first used in 1975 to simplify the admissions process for students, but the experiences of many stu-



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

dents at Upper St. Clair show that applying with the Common App is a process that is light-years away from simplified (www.commonapp.org).

For example, the supplemental material is becoming increasingly demanding, as more highly selective schools are beginning to accept the Common Application. Also, students have found out that the Common Application Inc., the nonprofit organization that provides the form, will soon prevent them from adjusting their essays slightly for different universities. Students next year will be able to modify some parts of the Common App, such as financial-aid intent or major,

which could differ from school to school, but essays and short-answer responses will be unchangeable (The Associated Press).

For these and other inconveniences that the Common Application presents, many colleges and universities are turning to the Universal College Application instead. More than 50 schools are already accepting this standardized application which seems to concentrate more on simplifying rather than complicating students’ lives but requires a fee to use it (www.universalcollegeapp.com).

Just about the only practicality that the Common Application offers, then, is the elimination of answering those repetitive questions about a student’s name, address, and parent information. For most students, those are the confidence-boosters before the essay. Unless students are applying to more than 5 schools, they should stick with the individual institutional applications to avoid the pileup of supplemental detritus.

Oklahoma teen causes Christmas tragedy

By: JP Gooderham  
Sports Editor

On December 5th in Omaha, Nebraska, a 19 year old male went on a shooting rampage without warning. The terrible consequence seemingly occurred without any strong motive, as shoppers looked for gifts in department stores while Christmas music played.

In the wake of the shooting, “Eight people were killed and five wounded before the shooter ended the horror by taking his own life. He left behind a note that read, in part, ‘Now I’ll be famous’” (www.CBSNews.com).

The killer, Robert Hawkins, had lived a life of failures leading up the attack. According to the KDTV of Nebraska, Hawkins had dropped out of high school in March of 2006, but also “recently tried to get into the Army but was not allowed to join. We are told that in October, Hawkins took the “Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test.” He did poorly on the test and was not allowed to join the Army.”

In fact, Hawkins was no longer living with his biological family, having been kicked out after his failings in high school. However, on *The Today Show*,

Maurca Kovac of the family who housed Hawkins said, “He came to us like a little lost puppy. He was always very sensitive and caring, always wanting to know how everybody was doing. He just needed a chance to get on his feet.”

She also told reporters that the family never saw Hawkins as a violent man during his stay. However, Omaha World-Herald reports, “Hawkins and her sons showed her an SKS semiautomatic Russian military rifle - the same type used in the shooting. She said she thought the gun belonged to a member of Hawkins’ family. She said she didn’t think much of it - the gun looked too old to work.”

The suicide note did not reflect much light as to what triggered the tragedy. However, Hawkins had broken up with his girlfriend and was fired from McDonalds during the week

before the attack (www.CBSNews.com).

Following the shooting, the police were able to make it to the scene within six minutes from the 911 call, but were unable to help save the eight men and women who died as a



A service in memory of the victims from the mall shooting took place at St. John’s Church at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, Thursday, December 6, 2007. Candles were lit for victims from Wednesday’s shooting. (Jim Barcus/Kansas City Star/MCT)

result of the attacks. Hopefully, the five individuals still wounded from the attack will recover quickly and the families of those hurt by the attacks will be comforted during the Christmas season.

This murder-suicide scenario represents another gross violation of the rights of others following a long road of incompetence and failure to respond to a potentially dangerous situation. For one, Hawkins lived a life which apparently was filled with problems in school, ultimately leading to his dropping out during senior year. Following the end of his education, he was kicked out by his

parents onto the streets, which surely caused severe psychological stress, and led to Hawkins entering the home of another family. Finally, the failure of the adopted mother to respond to her son acquiring an automatic weapon illegally without questioning is by all means shocking.

The aftermath of the attack was felt nationwide. According to AllHeadlineNews.com, “The Von Maur department store opened its doors to shoppers for the first time [December 21] since the tragic shooting spree that killed nine people, including the gunman, 15 days ago.”

While five men and women originally were wounded soon after the attack, another victim died in hospital care to raise the total to nine deaths (Associated Press).

According to FoxNews.com, “After reviewing surveillance tape, a suicide note and Hawkins’ last conversations with those close to him, police said they don’t know — and may never know — exactly why Hawkins went to the Von Maur store at Westroads Mall and shot more than a dozen people.” Thus, it seems that the reason for the destruction will never be known. Hopefully, the remaining victims will continue to improve as time continues.

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

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**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

Does National Honor Society represent all the honors students at Upper St. Clair?

Upper St. Clair High School really is full of bright students. We are all very fortunate that we have the upper-hand over other students across Pennsylvania; USC is a great public high school to attend. In fact, *U.S News* rates Upper St. Clair among its best high schools in the country. With all the competition in this school, one group recognizes those students who push beyond expectations; this group is the NHS. Prestigious as it may be, the group is not an accurate depiction of the “honor” students in our school. Although members surely meet the requirements, it is not fair to state that students making all A’s in academic courses work harder than students that receive A’s and B’s in honors and AP courses.

The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 with the intent of recognizing an organized group of students who excel in Leadership, Service, Character, and Scholarship. The basis for entry to this elite group is based on a standard GPA set by the school and the particular

school’s state National Honor Society committee. In Upper St. Clair, the minimum grade point average required, or the Scholarship portion, for admittance to the National Honor Society is an unweighted 3.5.

The Student Handbook states that the Character aspect of the NHS is based on the ability to “willingly... accept recommendations graciously,” meaning that students are willing to accept criticism, the maintenance of “principles of morality and ethics,” and the ability to “show courtesy, concern, and respect for others.” As far as the Service component is concerned, a student must actively participate in a minimum of two “school related” activities and obtain three service points per year.

In fulfilling the requirements to be admitted into the NHS, the student eligible for admittance must display Leadership by having one teacher recommendation that proves the student has displayed leadership in the classroom.

Being a member of National

Honor Society is a prestigious tribute to a student’s academic and community work. Although it is looked at as a respected group, the main drive for admittance is the benefit of putting the designation on college applications. This is an understandable action in that hard work should give students an edge in the college admittance process. The issue is that many students, whose hard work in rigorous honors classes proves their dedication to academics, are not eligible for NHS, and many students, whose work in classes less challenging, are.

There is no doubt that many of the students who are accepted in to the NHS are worthy of their spot. Even if students meet minimal requirements, however, they are not necessarily the best candidates. Students who miss the unweighted average GPA as a result of receiving B’s in intense honors courses are robbed of their position in the NHS.

Additionally some students are committed to activities outside of this school. With the require-

ment of two school-related activities, it makes students dedicated to church groups and independent sports are knocked out of the running for a position in the National Honor Society. For example, students may choose to play for cup soccer, AU basketball, travel baseball, or even an independent gymnastics team. The effort, time, and dedication that these students put into these activities are equal, if not surpassing, that of school sponsored sports and activities.

The National Honor Society in Upper St. Clair High School, prestigious as it may be, is not an accurate depiction of the students in this school who are dedicated to Leadership, Service, Character, and Scholarship. It is a shame that hard working students in honors courses, applying at least an equal amount of effort to those who are in academic classes, just miss the requirement of an unweighted grade point average and are rejected from NHS, as are those who dedicate their time and energy to worthy activities outside of school.

Money ruins everything...

By: Greg Schlosser  
Staff Writer

Money is such a simple thing. Civics teacher, Mr. Sivillo, once showed us his disdain by ripping a ten dollar bill in half. His attempt was to prove that money is just a simple bargaining tool that is used to trade goods. While he is right in theory, money has a much bigger impact in real life.

In sports, it seems that players are constantly asking for more money. The NFL draft is a prime example of this nonsense. Matt Leinart, a Heisman winner out of USC, was projected to be taken third in that draft. Instead, that team (the Titans) took Vince

Young instead.

Since Leinart was supposed to be selected third. He believed that he should get as much as Young did. The deal was finally worked out; he ended up getting a six-year, \$51 million contract. This was only \$7 million less than Young received. Leinart’s argument is just one example of what happens in pro sports.

Gone are the days when the athlete plays for the joy of the game. Nowadays, it’s all about who can rake in more money than the other player. Pro athletes take every chance they can get, whether it is endorsing a product or even starring in a television show. It’s almost as if they spend more time

on their pursuit of money than they do on the field! Of course, not all athletes follow this money-hungry way. We will always have the John Lynchs and Hines Wards of this world who focus more on their next opponent than their next photo shoot. Unfortunately, their kind is fewer and farther between these days.

One place where you don’t expect to see money affect sports is in the NCAA. It seems like a place where players try their hardest because they have nothing to lose. This is mainly true, because the ones messing up the NCAA are the head honchos. You know how that BCS ( Bowl Championship Series) system gets

worse every year, and every year we call for a playoff?

Well, that will not happen in the near future. Even though you don’t expect it to, money plays a tremendous role in the NCAA. If the NCAA switched to an eight-team playoff, they would lose sponsors, such as Tostitos, Nokia, FedEx, and Citi corporation. So while us diehard football fans call for a playoff, we can infer that won’t happen because money is ruining the BCS system.

While money is such a simple thing, it has a major impact on the sports industry and really all of the world. As money seems to drive our lives, it seems to have a very negative impact on our society.

Panther  
Predilections

What are your winter  
break plans?

“Be nicer to my excellent  
brother, JP.”  
-Brooke Gooderham  
Freshman


“Do my Mr. Tressler  
homework everynight.”  
-Rocky Pattera  
Sophomore

“Be less judgmental.”  
-Anne Winters  
Junior

“Join the football team!”  
-Neilson Charlie Muarry  
Senior

By: Kirstin Kennedy  
Opinions Editor


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## Oprah faces criticism for school scandal

By: JP Gooderham  
Sports Editor

In early 2007, Oprah Winfrey, ultra-successful talk show host and businesswoman, embarked on the quest to give young African girls a chance at a great education. In a continent plagued by political unrest and some of the world's most serious economic problems, Oprah hopes to lend a hand in helping in the development of the continent's next leaders.

The Oprah Winfrey Academy for Girls was born based around this concept. According to *The Telegraph*, "The facilities at the 28-building, high-security campus in Henley-on-Klip, south of Johannesburg, including computer and science laboratories, a library and a theatre, are second to none, and the teaching was meant to prepare the girls, who will eventually number 450, to become leaders of their society."

However, despite the early success of the school, a story of abuse by one of the school's matrons quickly circulated through international media. According to CBS, "[A] 27-year-old dormitory matron at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy south of Johannesburg,

South Africa, was suspended in connection with allegations involving indecent assault and soliciting under-age girls to commit indecent acts."



Oprah Winfrey speaks to a crowd of 29,000 people during a campaign stop for Sen. Barack Obama at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, South Carolina, Sunday, December 9, 2007. (C. Aluka Berry/The State/MCT)

Quickly, Oprah held a press conference to explain both her emotional and practical response to the allegations and suspension, saying, "When I first heard about it I spent about half an hour crying, moving from room to room in my house, I took it very personally. Those girls are like my children. That's not rhet-

oric to me, I take their futures very seriously" (Associated Press).

Also, Oprah quickly responded to the incident by sending a team to the school in South Africa in hope of ending any other abusive situations.

According to CBS News, "A team of three investigators, led by Robert Farley, commander of the Child Exploitation Unit of the Cook County Sheriff's Office, flew from the United States and spent a week interviewing students and staff. Winfrey preceded the investigators, accompanied by Dr. Perry, and she spoke to all of the girls personally, encouraging any who had been harmed to come forward."

Of course, the public was very surprised by the story. For one, the school was financed by Oprah on a \$40 million dollar initial donation. Accordingly, it seems that Oprah took numerous precautions to ensure the safety of the students, including building an extremely well protected campus in South Africa. Despite the fact that Oprah exercises little direct control over the school, many individuals associate the abuse problem with her leadership. Thankfully, it seems that Oprah's school will remain open to educate part of Africa's future.

## Competitive eating leagues make an altruistic pledge to hunger

By: Rachel von Waldow  
News Editor

On November 23, 2007, the International Federation of Competitive Eating (IFCE) and Major League Eating (MLE) teamed up to reach a goal of raising \$500,000 before the new year to donate to hunger charities. The two eating leagues pledge to match donations up to \$10,000(www.eatfests.com).

Under the leadership of Michael DeVito (Director of IFOCE Philanthropy) the eating leagues hope to expand the reach of hunger-related efforts, by increasing volunteering at food banks and food kitchens and collecting donations of food and financial resources to support c h a r i t i e s (www.ifocegives.com).

The public has responded tremendously to this initia-

tive. Donations from other eating leagues, clients and fans have been pouring in. Already, over \$50,000 has been given to Second Harvest and the American Red Cross. In addition to relying on donations, the IFCE and the MLE will be holding a number of fundraisers and promotions within the upcoming months, all to raise money in the hope of reaching their goal (www.ifoce.com).

MLE president, Richard Shea explains, "We hope to encourage hundreds of individuals and organizations to give to hunger charities during this campaign. A very small donation can feed thousands of people, and we will use our platform to help combat hunger" (www.majorleaugeeating.com).

The philanthropic spirit of the leagues has trickled down to the competitive eating ath-

letes. Infamous hot dog swallowing champ, Joey Chestnut, and legendary sweet corn champ, Adam "Crazy Legs" Conti are among many competitive eaters who have made donations to the hunger fund of unknown amounts.

Rising competitive eating champion Patrick Bertoletti has jumped on the charitable bandwagon. Bertoletti, who is most famous for his impressive performance at "Feel the Heat" Jalapeño Eating Challenge in Chicago, Illinois, donated \$1,000 of his \$5,000 prize to the cause (www.ifoce.com).

In order to draw attention to those in New York City who go hungry, Tim "Eater X" Janus ate an entire Thanksgiving dinner, enough food to comfortably feed a family of ten, in a mere fifteen minutes. Though Janus is best know for speed-eating,

## The U.S. Deals With Russia

By: Alivia Kandabarow  
Photography Editor

For 200 years, the United States and Russia have been grinning and bearing it through a complex relationship. In the U.S. and Russia's situation, both sides have been through it all together. From when Russia first sold Alaska to The U.S. in the 19th century, to the Cold War, to the "kiss-and-make-up" period post-Soviet-Union, Russia and America have had their share of agreements and d i s a g r e e m e n t s (www.state.gov).

Today two strong presidents lead each country, George W. Bush in the U.S. and Vladimir Putin in Russia. Recently we have seen both men lash out towards one another even though they continue to play the role of two pals (NPR.com)

Before both men came to their presidency, Russia and the U.S. were on a post-breakup cool down from the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. At that time, President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin were friends and on a mutual playing ground. Even then President Bush glared suspicious eyes at Russia. The suspicion was taken even further, after Bush was elected president, when he expelled 50 Russian diplomats from Washington D.C. on accusations of spying (www.NPR.com).

President Bush was finally able to come to a true realization of his outlook on Russia when he was acquainted with Putin in 2001 in Slovenia's capital of Ljubljana. This meet and greet between Bush and Putin occurred only two years after the U.S. got angry at Russia for NATO's bombing of the former Soviet country, Georgia (www.NPR.com).

Bush described, after meet-

ing Putin in 2001 in Slovenia, that he "had looked the man in the eye" and "found him to be very trustworthy and straightforward." The world was assured that both men were seemingly fond of each other when they heard the news that President Putin was the first person to personally express his commiseration for the U.S. immediately after September 11th (www.NPR.com)

Since 2001, Russia has built up its economy and is finessing back into a world power. The U.S., particularly Bush, has been having a hard time holding onto those personal ties with Putin and Russia. Shortly after meeting, Russia helped spearhead an international protest against the U.S. involvement in Iraq. In return, the U.S. accused Russia of using its oil supply to blackmail to its eastern European neighbor countries when Russia cut off its energy supply to former Soviet Union country, Georgia (www.NPR.com).

Russia's freshest bone to pick with the U.S. is the U.S.'s plans to implicate a missile defense system over Washington DC. The U.S., claiming the defense system to be just a shield, aims their fear towards North Korea and Iran. However, Russia interprets the plans as offensive to Russia's national security. With a stronger economy and its rise to becoming a aworld power, some speculate that Russia is now taking on similar characteristics from the Soviet Union. Putin will soon retire from his presidency but hints at still trying to hold some power to his name: being elected Prime Minister. The U.S. and Russia relations only look to take a turn for the worse in the future (www.NPR.com).

Italian desserts, such as tiramisu and canola, his Thanksgiving performance impressed masses. Majorleaugeeating.com reports, "This Thanksgiving stunt served as a platform for

\$10,000 in donations to The Food Bank For New York City, which will use the money to provide 30,000 meals to those affected by hunger" (www.majorleaugeeating.com).

## Apparent child abduction attempt in Upper St. Clair neighborhood frightens residents

By: Kelsey Short  
Editor-in-Chief

At approximately 3:00 p.m. on November 16, 2007, an apparent child abduction attempt was made on two Baker Elementary School students when they were walking home after getting off the school bus. The children reportedly ran home to their mother and informed her that a male driver tried to persuade them to get into his vehicle by offering the children candy. The encounter happened near the corner of Lattidome and Shenandoah

Drives. The children's mother immediately contacted the Upper St. Clair Police Department and filed a full report of what had occurred. The police also conducted a neighborhood canvass as an additional part of the investigation.

Senior Jillian Rodgers reacts to the news of the abduction attempt: "It's hard for a lot of people to believe that this sort of thing can happen in such a safe place like Upper St. Clair. I'm glad that those kids are safe and that they knew what to do."

The children's aunt, Jodi

Serrapere, who is also a resident of Upper St. Clair, says that the children described the driver more specifically as "a man with dark hair and a tan complexion."

Serrapere continues, "There was a second person in the car. My nephew couldn't tell if it was a man with long hair or a woman." The police later confirmed that there was a second person in the vehicle, but the children could not identify whether the passenger was a male or female.

Though the police initially had no leads in the case, two teenagers turned themselves into

the police a week after the encounter, saying that the incident was only a joke (www.uscsd.k12.pa.us).

Superintendent Dr. O'Toole has asked that teachers, especially those who teach younger children, review safe walking procedures to and from their school bus stops if any real threat were made by a driver to a student (www.uscsd.k12.pa.us).

In the event that a student is approached by a stranger in a car when walking to or from the bus stop, the police department in collaboration with the superintendent has compiled a list of

safe walking procedures that students of any age should follow:

1. Do not approach the car.
2. Immediately run to a safe place.
3. Inform a parent or adult of the incident.
4. Contact the police immediately.
5. Try to give a good description of the individual and the vehicle.

Dr. O'Toole asks that community residents contact him or the police department if they need additional information or have any questions concerning this unpleasant incident.



Change the World 2007 does just what its name says

By: Kelsey Short  
Editor-in-Chief

American cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead teaches, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” It is up to us, today’s up-and-coming generation, to begin to change the world we live in. The Honors English 11 classes have taken an impressive initiative to reach out to the community and the world at large.

Some students have sought local volunteer opportunities, such as at St. Clair hospital, the Township Library, nursing homes, and organizations that support the American troops abroad. Others worked at soup kitchens in Pittsburgh and at the Greater Pittsburgh Area Food Bank. No matter where the students volunteered or what their area of impact on the world, the students were extremely willing to get out there and get involved.

Juniors B.J. Griffith, Kate Lester, Chrissy Rocjewiz, and Matt Reynolds went to a daycare center to make cards with the young kids to send to the troops

in the Middle East.

Junior Kate Lester says, “It was nice to spend time with the little kids, but it was also good because we were doing something for the troops who can’t be with their families over the holidays.”

Juniors Sami Pollak, Lane, Lohman, and Sally Gerwel collected donated inactive or broken cell phones to raise money to send to Darfur. The girls organized a drop-off place in the high school library for students to donate their used cell phones.

Posters displaying the details of the many Change the World 2007 projects are being displayed in the main lobby of the high school.

Former Honors English 11 students remember the great impact that this project had on their lives and the world. Seniors Molly McCann, Sam Jones, Jen Findle, and Jen Rudolph who partook in the Change the World 2006 project last year, went above and beyond what most students did for their projects.

Last October, the girls were driving in South Park on Corrigan Drive when they entered the dark traffic circle toward the middle of the park’s

main road. Molly McCann, who was driving the car at the time, hit the curb in the poorly-lit traffic turnaround. The car flipped, landing on its roof. The girls escaped the crash site, which was a grim sight to those who arrived first at the scene, without any injuries.

Senior Jen Findle says, “In the emergency room, we found out from the doctors that there had been a lot of car accidents at the same traffic circle because of how bad the lighting there was”

Nothing had ever been done to resolve the issue, that is before Molly, Sam, and Jen had their accident. The three girls felt a sense of responsibility for making sure that no one ever got into an accident there again.

For their Change the World project, they fundraised and collected over \$2,500 to make lighting improvements to the traffic circle so that the area is less accident-prone. In August, the girls were presented with a Certificate of Recognition for their efforts.

Students this year had big shoes to fill since last year’s project’s outstanding outcome, but they took the call to action to heart.

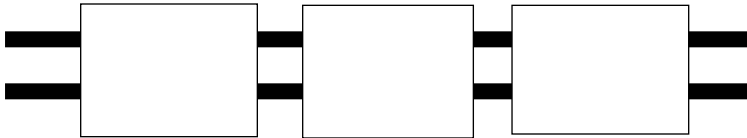
those who are facing a tough times in their lives.

From the beginning of the school year, Kushner has tried to emphasize the thought that community service can be fun. One thing that makes community service so special is the fact that students can enjoy doing it for themselves, as well as others.

According to Kushner, every high school student should join, because “it’s a good way to get community service hours and to have fun at the same time as helping out the community.”

Indeed, USC Serves is a club that everyone should have a chance to experience. Whether it is visiting nursing homes or tie-dying shirts, USC Serves will be sure to please every student.

Teacher’s Lounge



Go technological with Mr. Kallis

By: Brigid McCabe  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

1. *Why did you decide to teach graphic design and CAD?*

I took a course in my senior year of high school in Black & White and Color Photography. We took photos from a conventional camera and developed, cropped, and composed them. Then I went to college for technology, which included graphic design, engineering, power technology, and so forth. It’s all real world stuff. I like to tinker around.

2. *Word association:*

Ink – Black  
Computer – Apple  
Love – Wife  
Dance party – American Band Stand

3. *What would you change about USCHS if you had the chance?*

We live in a technological world, and the majority of students here really don’t really get involved in technology. They are great game players, but they lack knowledge with actual software. The school needs to have a technology requirement.

4. *What are your winter break plans?*

Jogging every day for about four miles to burn off the cookie calories. I will probably play my base guitar with my twin brother. We used to be in a band, but now it’s kind of hard with schedules and kids.

5. *What would you do with a million dollars?*

I wouldn’t be greedy. At this time in my life, I don’t need a lot of things – I’m not materialistic. I would help organizations with cancer research and aid needy families, whose luck hasn’t gone their way. And I would not buy a sports car!

6. *What do you do for fun in your spare time?*

Spare time is such an on-off thing because of work. I enjoy model railroading; I develop the blue print and build it. I would also like to learn how to fly remote control airplanes. And again, I still play the guitar.

7. *Favorite book?*

*I, Q* by John De Lancie. The fictional character has great power, but then he, as a person or entity, is tested as a greater power. Q, the character is from Star Trek. It’s really good; I read it every winter break.

USC Serves is serving up fun this year

By: Greg Schlosser  
Staff Writer

If students want to get involved in the community, USC Serves may be the best option. Sponsored by Dr. Ghilani, USC Serves is a club that meets every other Wednesday and does a wide variety of activities.

“[USC Serves is] a community service organization that looks to better the community at the same time as creating exciting activities for the members and recipients in the community,” says club president Sidney Kushner.

So far, the club has two big activities planned for the year. One activity is the first USC Olympics. Participants will go to Boyce Middle School in the

spring and set up a fundraiser which will allow the kids can participate in the Olympics as well. While all the club members and the Boyce students are having fun during the fundraiser, all the money received will go to a good cause.

Besides the USC Olympics, USC Serves will also be going to Eisenhower next spring to tie-dye t-shirts for the kids. The club members will teach the students how to tie-dye, then all the participants will make two shirts. One of the shirts will be for the student, and one will be donated to a boy or girl at Children’s Hospital.

The club still plans to focus on visiting nursing homes and children’s hospital to spend time with

The Upper St. Clair theater program establishes a stronghold as a classic

By: Kirstin Kennedy  
Opinions Editor

There are three archways that make up the physical structure of Upper St. Clair High School.. Theses arches are symbolic of the three components that exist in this school: Academics, Athletics, and Arts. In each area the staff members and student body strive for perfection. The Academic and Athletic arches are old classics at our school. Upper St. Clair is known for its strong value of education and the tight grasp that in Western Pennsylvania athletics. The Arts archway, however, is a growing entrance. Both the music and art departments of the Arts component of our school do well in all activities and fall on the standard of a USC classic. The theater department is where all the new action is going on.

Previously, students interested in theater participated in the Spring Musical and occasionally in the Fall Play as well. But as of last year, a theater class was

incorporated into the curriculum. Last year the course was a semester long, but this year it runs from September to June. This allows the students to further enhance their discovery of theater. The class is not solely an acting class, but rather incorporates the song, dance, and art of theater. Although the class is not a professional, New York City company class, it is still extremely beneficial to the students. Teacher Ms. Millivac translates her experiences and knowledge to the students which will only strengthen the theater program at Upper St. Clair. It is important that the curriculum now offers a class that involves theater, for in previous years it was a relatively unaddressed art.

Along with the class, students were offered a two-week intensive summer acting workshop early this past summer. The class, taught by Fall Play and Spring Musical director, Ponny Conomos, was taught with the book *Respect for Acting* by Uta

Hagen. Participants learned how to work from within themselves to translate a piece onto the stage. Using sensory research and trust activities, the high school actors learned how to up the ante and work in the way that a professional actor would. At the end, each participant put on either a monologue or a short two-person dialogue that took each actor out of their typical comfort zone.

In the past year and a half the Upper St. Clair stage has performed a killer Fall Play, Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*, an intense show of Sondheim’s *Into the Woods*, and the unique play *Feiffer’s People* written by cartoonist Jules Feiffer. These three shows, including various monologues and a brief skits performed by the acting class and summer workshop, have lifted the art of theater higher in the tradition of USC. From now on may the middle archway, the Art’s arch can be known for its strong theater program at Upper St. Clair.

iPhone glitches worked out

By: Alivia Kandabarow  
Photography Editor

Last June, the techi world snatched up 520,000 debutant iPhones in just twenty four hours and never looked back. When Apple and AT&T teamed up to generate this dream-like telephoning, mp3 playing, web-surfing, and anything-your-mind can imagine device, they were just a few errors off from making the wireless world hassle-free at your fingertips (www.Globalftchforum.com ).

The most prevalent of glitches in the first generation iPhone is the case-sealed battery. Once an iPhone holder uses up its bank of 400 recharge cycles according to Apple, the battery may need to be replaced. This glitch positions iPhoners in a tight situation on having to be without the phone for a few days while sending it in to replace the battery or getting back an entire new device (www.Forbes.com).

Furthermore, when 1,800 Apple and AT&T stores ran dry of phones by the following Sunday after its release, Apple price tagged the phone at \$599. Trend hungry customers who wanted to king themselves on of the firsts to possess the coveted phone

should have thought twice before having pre-night-release campouts in front of Apple and AT&T stores. A month after its release the phone was remarketed at \$400. Apple offered many of its customers who bought the phone for \$500 a \$100 rebate (www.CHRON.com).

The phone was poorly corroborated as the most “user-friendly smart phone” device when NBC’s *Today Show* co-host, Meredith Vieira tried to receive a call from her co-host Matt Lauer in London and failed to answer the incoming call (www.mobile-gadgetnews.com).

However, if you look closely at prerelease marketing for the iPhone, all these small slip ups seemed to have been anticipated by Apple and AT&T. The phone was barely advertised on the internet; this move saved both Apple’s money and reputation that was on the line. Apple barely spoke about the iPhone, leaving customers salivating for any type of gossip about the phone’s features to rant about. The iPhone’s marketing launch is one of the most anticipated product launches of our decade. CHRON.com ranks the launch among Microsoft Window’s 95 and Sony’s Playstation 3.

How to avoid the ever-persistent flu

By: Marni Schreiber  
Features Editor

The winter brings with it white snow, school delays, and many presents, but at the same time, a winter inherently brings illness. One disease that may affect students is the flu.

According to the Mayo Clinic staff, “Influenza is the viral infection that sickens millions of people each year and has the potential to cause serious complications.” It sounds bad, but don’t worry., There are many easy ways to help avoid getting this sickness (www.mayoclinic.com/health).

The flu seems to have been spreading like wildfire these past few years. According to Vincent Iannelli, M.D from pediatrics.about.com, “The flu season a few years ago was one of the worst in recent years. In addition to an early start, widespread cases across the United States, a strain of flu going around that was not included in that year’s vaccine, and multiple cases of children dying from flu, there were also shortages of flu shots.”

One easy way to avoid obtaining this sickness is by getting the flu shot. According to the Mayo Clinic Staff, “A flu shot is between 70 percent and 90 percent effective in warding off illness.”

10 winter fashions girls should consider

By: Alivia Kandabarow  
Photography Editor

- 10. Pencil Skirts – Whether you wear it in solid dark colors or bold patterns, pencil skirts are being worn not only in the office.
- 9. White Blouse – This item is clean, sharp, simple, and compliments almost any outfit.
- 8. Leggings – Try opaque dark colors or sheer black. Stay away from bright, loud colors this winter.
- 7. Big, Chunky Sweaters- The key thing to remember is: The Bigger The Better. You can try any variation of fabric, color, or pattern, just let it be big.
- 6. Trench Coat – Forget your corduroy jacket from Abercrombie & Fitch 2002. From short, to mid-length, to extra long, your trench coat can be worn in any color to accentuate your waist line and stay warm.
- 5. Scarves- take it as you want.
- 4. Wide Legged Trousers – It’s okay to be a boy once in awhile. These pants will make your legs put Victoria’s Secret Fashion Models to shame. If you really want to rough it up, try grey.
- 3. Purple- Purple is the color of the season. From shoes, to skirts, to bracelets, to bags, purple will give you a royal appeal.

If the flu shot is not right for you, there are other easy ways to avoiding catching the flu. One of the simplest ways to keep away from this illness is by washing your hands. Mary L. Gavin, M.D from kidshealth.org says “Washing your hands is the best way to stop germs from spreading.”

Washing your hands may seem trivial, but doing so may keep you from getting sick. By taking a minute or so to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before lunch can help prevent germs and illness from spreading.

Another easy way to avoid the flu is to get sufficient sleep. Getting seven to nine hours of sleep a night can help keep your immune system up. Not keeping a healthy sleep pattern can lower your immune system and reduce your immune response (www.health.discovery.com).

Avoiding friends who have the virus is another simple way to reduce your chances of catching the flu. If you know that your friend is getting sick, make sure not to share food or drink with them, and always wash your hands after spending time with them.

It may be flu season, but that does not mean you have to catch the disease. If the flu shot is not available, try any of these tips to help you stay healthy during the winter months.

Classes for students who want to prepare for college

By: Dallion L. Townsend  
Staff Writer

For many students here at Upper St. Clair High School, the eleventh and twelfth grade years are filled with the mass confusion of the SATs, ACTs, PSSAs, and the college search.

It is true that colleges are looking for high test scores on the big tests and an impressive GPA, but colleges look for something more than just that. They also look at the types of courses students take in high school. Classes you would have to take in college, such as Sociology, are good substitutes for the “EZ-A” class. As the character Seth from Superbad said, “Everybody knows this class (Home Economics) is an easy A class!” Not true Seth.

Home economics is a good class for certain people, but it’s not the best class for someone looking to pursue a career in the theater arts.

According to Mrs. Buel, Speech Class is probably one of the better choices for students since it can be applied to so many fields in your post high-school years. Then again, maybe she suggested that we take Speech because she teaches the subject, but it is still a good idea to take the class anyway because it teaches good communication skills.

If you’re going to college for Business Management, try taking a Keyboarding Class or Entrepreneurship class instead of Woodshop. If you want to be a carpenter, take Architecture or Woodshop over Foods. If you’re

interested in being the next Emeril Lagasse, Foods would a better fit for you than Accounting.

Other classes are highly recommended courses in college such as Sociology and Psychology. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes, with good grades in those classes, attract more attention from colleges.

If you were in a situation where you have the same GPA and SAT score as someone else, but you picked more career oriented classes, colleges would be more willing to accept you over the other student. The counseling office can provide valuable information about which colleges specialize in certain fields.

Thrift stores add culture to Pittsburgh

By: Brigid McCabe  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

“It’s good for the economy, it keeps forlorn objects out of the landfill, and it makes you feel good,” writes author Al Hoff of *Thrift Score* on thrift shopping.

Besides the economic, environmental, and biological implications, thrift shopping offers a wide variety of cute clothing, jewelry, furniture, and other rare items that will wipe away any doubt of shopping for “used stuff.”

Many Pittsburgh store owners, however, prefer the term “previously owned” because most of what thrift stores have for sale are only gently worn.

Avalon, a large resale shop in Squirrel Hill, for example, carries

trendy clothing that looks new but lacks the hefty prices of stores such as Urban Outfitters and Hollister.

“Avalon is my favorite because it has a pretty large selection. You could buy a coat, a camisole, or a pair of closed-toed shoes, or all of that, in fact, because it’s pretty inexpensive,” says senior Emily Kauffelt who plans to major in fashion design in college.

Consignment shops such as Good Will and Salvation Army help the needy but also present a vast collection of used items, including furniture. Senior Olivia Herisko found brand new lawn chairs at Good Will the first time she ever stepped foot in the store.

“I went against my will, having a preconceived notion about consignment stores, and I ended up buying a bunch of stuff. It’s not as bad as you may think,” Herisko comments.

Other Pittsburgh thrift options include Trader Jack’s Flea Market, where anyone can open their car trunks and sell items they do not want anymore. As the saying goes, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” This is a good option for people who want to both buy and sell used goods.

Pittsburgh offers a wide variety of ways to shop and get more for your money. Skip the mall and go thrift. For a list of stores, visit pittsburgh.city-search.com.

An Upper St. Clair alumnus looks back and discusses easing into college

By: Brigid McCabe  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Former Upper St. Clair High School student and current University of Maryland sophomore Jeff Nash eases anxious upperclassman’s fears by reflecting on the similarities and differences of college and high school.

Nash drives home the idea that Upper St. Clair High School’s high academic standards are helpful because students need to be prepared for college-level expectations. “Both are similar in that, at least at my college, most people are pretty driven to be successful, and a lot of people in Upper St. Clair were like that too,” Nash states.

At the same time, the atmospheres could not be more different. Where high schoolers hold the same cliques dear that they’ve kept through middle school and high school, college freshman are forced to interact with different types of people. Nash believes that the freshman soon find that befriending everyone makes the college experience so much more satisfying.

Nash comments, “College is different than USC because people haven’t known each other for years and years before high school, and most people are more open-minded with making

new friends.”

One aspect of college life that Nash forewarns is the amount of studying. With challenging midterms and finals in nearly every course, not to mention various tests in between, many college freshmen find themselves unprepared.

“As a freshman and sophomore at USCHS, finals for underclassmen were not mandatory. My junior year finals were in 50 minute classes so they were just regular tests, and my senior year I had already gotten into colleges and wasn’t going to stress myself out over finals. I had no idea how much studying was going to be necessary to do well on a college final,” Nash says.

Thankfully, Upper St. Clair, with the help of a Finals Committee, has implemented a more regimented finals system since Nash’s departure. Still, college calls for numerous days of studying before a course examination, whereas the average high school student studies for only one or two days, on average.

However, Nash says, writing will be a breeze for students: “The main area high school prepared me for was writing. The teachers emphasis on the tell me, show me, and most importantly

so what was helpful because college teachers stress exigency in writing.”

As a journalism major, Nash views the high school English classes as impressive and essential. Keeping papers from high school classes that feature organization, grammar, thesis, and style basics will especially aid in paper writing, of which Nash says will be a daily routine at college.

Most high school students wonder about partying, a word that often goes hand in hand with college. “The truth is, yeah, most people do like to party on the weekends (Thursday often counts as weekends for a lot of college kids), and the type and degree of partying is really different for each school. College students are a special breed, though; they can party all night and then make it to their 8 AM class,” jokes Nash.

In terms of living, Jeff Nash comments that college dorms could never compare to our bedrooms in Upper St. Clair: “Dorms are small, but girl dorms end up being nice, clean, and decorated because that’s the way girls are. Guys, not so much....”

As a member of the fraternity Tau Kappa Epsilon, Nash advises that people should get situated their freshman years and wait

until their sophomore years to pledge. Going Greek is a great way to personalize the college experience, but is not the right fit for some people. However, if one is social, the mixers, grab-a-dates, Homecoming, and Greek Week are the perfect opportunities to meet new people.

Before students can decorate their dorm rooms, pledge, or study for a tough final, they need to choose the colleges that are right for them. Because most seniors have sent in their applications, the final step is the decision process. Though some may have felt that they were trying to court colleges into accepting them, now is their time to make the colleges work for their final enrollments.

Nash says, “They [students] should definitely visit; you need to get a feel for the campus and the people there. If you have any friends at a school you’re interested in, staying the night and meeting their friends is a smart thing to do.”

Though Nash adores his college experience, he advises one to enjoy his or her senior year at Upper St. Clair High School. “I miss the small things such as being able to guess how much my frozen yogurt will cost and watching the videos on the morning announcement.”

Game of Shadows takes more hits from Congress

By: JP Gooderham  
Sports Editor

Professional sports has a long history of being involved in cheating, ranging from the New England Patriots being accused of taping opponents' games in the NFL to the NBA's conflict with referees being involved in gambling. However, by far, the world of sports has taken the biggest blow from the use of steroids in Major League Baseball. The steroid issue in baseball has been a favorite in the media and in Congressional meetings for years, as baseball's greatest sluggers faced accusations from former friends and peers. For one, baseball's image in the public eye was soiled in November when Barry Bonds, who won the league's all-time homerun title during the sum-

mer, was indicted for perjury as a result of steroids. According to ESPN.com, "The indictment, culminating a four-year investigation into steroid use by elite athletes, charged Bonds with four counts of perjury and one of obstruction of justice. If convicted, he could be sentenced to a maximum of 30 years in prison." However, while the destruction of Barry Bonds' career was a tough problem for the MLB to overcome, the publishing of the "Mitchell Report" will hurt the league much worse. "[Senate majority leader George] Mitchell was hired by [baseball commissioner Bud] Selig in March 2006



Former San Francisco Giants superstar Barry Bonds pleaded not guilty on federal perjury charges at the Phillip Burton Federal Courthouse in San Francisco, California, on Friday, December 7, 2007. (Mathew Sumner/San Mateo County Times/MCT)

after the publication of "Game of Shadows," a book by two San Francisco Chronicle reporters about Bonds' alleged steroid use. The rise in power in the 1990s, which drew national attention when Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa chased Roger Maris' single-season record in the Great Home Run Race of 1998, was accompanied by a rise in suspicion" (Associated Press). The "Mitchell Report," which has become a household name in the lives of hardcore baseball fans, would not only name dozens of players as being involved in illegal use of performance enhancing

drugs, but intervene in the league's anti-doping policy. According to T.J. Quinn and Mark Fainaru-Wada of ESPN.com, the "Mitchell Report" will "Allow greater transparency in the program, such as naming the drugs that players test positive for. Some players try to dodge responsibility for positive tests by saying they unwittingly took a tainted diet supplement. Certain drugs could not possibly have come from supplements, but because baseball doesn't name the substances it discovers, the press and public can't determine whether the player is telling the truth." Of course, the news of the players involved was shocking to many, which included future Hall of Fame pitcher Roger Clemens.

College football heats up during the late season

By: JP Gooderham  
Sports Editor

On December 1st, 2007, it was quite clear that the 2007 season of college football would finish as a season of upsets: once mighty Michigan fell to a former Division I-AA cupcake, Stanford beat the most dominant team of this century, Southern California, and even powerhouse Notre Dame blew through their worst season ever. However, December 1st, the final night of college football's regular season, was supposed to provide some relief to sports fans. For one, West Virginia University's Mountaineers were officially a shoe-in to play in the national championship in January. However, the "relief" for sports fans was quickly spoiled as Pitt marched into West Virginia with a vengeance, ultimately beating West Virginia in quite possibly the most shocking upset of the 2007 season. Of course, by

West Virginia immediately falling fast in the rankings and BCS system, the loss opened the door to many other national championship hopefuls. In this loss, not only were players and fans of WVU drowned by an unbelievable disappointment, but the coach even faced major psychological stress. John Raby, sports writer for the Associated Press, wrote, "[Coach Rich Rodriguez] admitted having two sleepless nights following Saturday's loss to Pittsburgh that resulted in West Virginia (10-2) playing No. 3 Oklahoma (11-2) on Jan. 2 instead of facing top-ranked Ohio State (11-1) in the national championship game in New Orleans on Jan. 7" (www.Yahoo.com). In addition to West Virginia's surprising upset, the Missouri Tigers, who entered the Big Ten Conference Championship ranked first in the nation, were destroyed by the Oklahoma Sooners. The losses of the first and second ranked team, by all means,

enabled an entirely new championship scenario to take place (www.ESPN.com). According to ESPN, Ohio State will face off against Louisiana State in the national championship game on January 7th in New Orleans. Of course, the fact that the game will be played in LSU's home state could put surprising pressure on Ohio State, who comes into the game ranked first in the BCS system. In the Orange Bowl, Kansas defeated Virginia Tech after losing their shot at the National Championship in the final game of the season. West Virginia took out its anger on the Oklahoma Sooners in the Fiesta Bowl, despite having its coach leave the team to join the Michigan Wolverines. The Sooners were overwhelmed by a strong performance from the title contenders. In the Rose Bowl, Southern California destroyed the at-large bid entry, Illinois Fighting Illini.

America emerges victorious in Davis Cup

By: Maggie Overstreet  
Guest Writer

The Davis Cup, a major international tennis tournament, ended on December 2, 2007, with the United States' team finishing on top. Team USA consisted of pros Andy Roddick, James Blake, Bob Bryan, Mike Bryan, and coach Patrick McEnroe. In the final match, the U.S. faced off against Russia. The Davis Cup is an important tennis tournament where each country puts together a team of their best players to play other national teams. Each round of play between two teams consists of five intense matches. Roddick has been a member of the USA Davis Cup team since 2001. Astonishingly, he is still undefeated in Davis Cup matches. Blake has battled through tennis slumps and near-paralysis to secure his spot on the Davis Cup team. The Bryan brothers are the No. 1 doubles team in the world, one win away from tying the doubles record with John McEnroe and Peter Fleming. In the opening rounds of the Davis Cup, doubles Mike and Bob Bryan beat Davydenko and Andreev with solid game play. Following up, singles Roddick

and Blake swiftly beat their opponents. In the quarterfinals, USA got a chance to rematch Spain, a loss the USA team took in 2004. This time was different: USA played on their court of choice and beat Spain. Subsequently, they moved on to the semis. The semifinals were intense with Blake losing to Johansson in a tight set tiebreaker. The Bryan brothers sealed a win; the rest was up to Roddick. Roddick pulled himself together and slammed a win against Bjorkman in straight sets, guaranteeing the USA's appearance in the final. Bob Bryan substituted Roddick in one singles match, losing to Tursanov in close sets. The crowd was hushed. Blake and Roddick won their singles matches. The Bryan brothers clinched a victory as doubles partners, the crowd holding its breath knowing what was coming. USA had won 4-1! The USA members refused to touch the trophy until they had rightfully won it. Finally, in the midst of red, white, and blue confetti, the Davis Cup champions held the trophy high for all to see. Their names are etched into the trophy and USA has its 32nd Davis Cup title.

2007 rookie class has been a rollercoaster ride

By: Greg Schlosser  
Staff Writer

Usually for NFL teams, it takes at least three to four years for a rookie to develop. But, this year's rookie class has been more than stellar. With stars such as Patrick Willis and Adrian Peterson, this season could make for one of the greatest rookie classes of all time. Adrian Peterson has made a fantastic case for Offensive Rookie of the Year. With amazing games against Chicago (224 yards, three touchdowns) and San Diego (296 yards, three touchdowns), Peterson leads the league in rushing with 1081 yards; despite missing two weeks with a knee injury. Peterson, a rookie out of Oklahoma, was drafted seventh in the draft by the Minnesota Vikings. On the opposite side of the ball, Patrick Willis has been just as dominant. Drafted eleventh by the San Francisco 49ers, Willis leads the league with 110 tackles. He had 13 tackles against the New York Giants and 12 tackles against the Seattle Seahawks. Even with great rookies such as Peterson and Willis, there have been some disappointments by supposedly hot players. Ted Ginn Jr. is one of them. Selected ninth in the 2007 NFL Draft, the

Miami Dolphins passed up on highly touted quarterback Brady Quinn to select Ginn. With that pick, the Dolphins (as of week eleven) are 0-11, with Ginn having only 15 receptions for 240 yards and one touchdown. Meanwhile the Browns (who drafted Quinn) are 7-4. However, the most disappointing pick in the draft so far has to be the first overall pick JaMarcus Russell. Built like a linebacker, Russell is a strong, mobile quarterback who is 6'6 and 255 pounds; but he has yet to play so far this season. At the end of training, both sides failed to negotiate a contract. It took until the very beginning of September for both sides to reach a four year contract worth \$68 million and \$32 million guaranteed. Why does Russell make the disappointment list? Well, it's for what he hasn't done. The Oakland Raiders expected Russell to come in and make an impact, and all he has done is caused the Raiders' front office headaches about contract issues (www.wikipedia.com). This rookie class has probably been the most interesting yet. It has had its highs (Peterson, Willis, Beason), and it has had its lows (Russell, Ginn Jr.) Only time will tell if these promising young stars will turn into NFL superstars.

Fourth seed Steelers bow out of playoffs early

By: Dallion L. Townsend  
Staff Writer

The Pittsburgh Steelers are in one of the toughest divisions in the NFL, the AFC North. Winning games within their division is a feat within itself, let alone leading the division down the playoff stretch. By winning the division, they earned themselves the fourth seed in the AFC playoffs. However, the AFC East was lead by the undefeated New England Patriots, who went into the playoffs with the first seed, capping off a record-breaking season. Quarterback Tom Brady and playoff-hardened coach Bill Belichick look to lead their squad to their fourth Super Bowl in six years. The AFC South has three representatives this year, including the 13-3 Indianapolis Colts who claimed the second seed under reigning Super Bowl XLI MVP Peyton Manning. The potent offense of the Colts will look to torch the San Diego Chargers who they will face in the Divisional Round of the playoffs after a first round bye week. LaDarian Tomlinson and new coach Norv Turner try to make up for last year's disappointing playoff

appearance, taking the third seed in the AFC by winning the weak AFC West. They faced off with sixth seed Tennessee who hadn't seen playoff action since 2003, when they defeated the Steelers in a gut-wrenching overtime divisional game. LT and young quarterback Philip Rivers plan to upset Manning and Super Bowl winning coach Tony Dungy. The Pittsburgh Steelers won the AFC North and played a rematch of the Week 15 game against the hard hitting Jacksonville Jaguars. The Pittsburgh Steelers looked to redeem themselves after a disappointing 29-22 loss to the same team just a few weeks ago. No matter, the result was the same. The Steelers played horrifically in the first half and made a comeback run in the final quarter, but it was too little too late. David Garrard and the Jags offense gave the Steelers a run for their money, mostly due to Pittsburgh turnovers. This game wasn't only on the shoulders of the defense. Big Ben needed to play the role of "Bigger Ben" and he came up short in the first half throwing three costly interceptions. Two of the picks were snagged by veteran defensive back Rashean

Mathis on back to back passing plays. The first interception was run back for six and the second INT was brought back 21 yards until a coach's challenge showed that Mathis was hit incidentally by Roethlisberger's intended receiver Najeh Davenport. The third interception was intercepted by rookie nose tackle Derek Landri. But Ben has set franchise records all year long and he has lead his team back from deficits against the Browns and Jaguars and the Jaguars again in the playoffs. Without the services of Pro Bowl running back Willie Parker, linemen Max Starks and Marvel Smith, Ben got pressure all game long. Najeh Davenport had a hard time against one of the best run stopping teams in football. Despite the loss, you can't help but wonder what could have been if there weren't so many injuries on the Steelers side. The Jaguars and Chargers won during Wild Card Weekend, San Diego will travel to Indy to test their luck against the Colts. And the Jaguars will go to New England with their heads held high after a 31-29 win over the AFC North Champs. Rookie coach Mike Tomlin and the Steelers will look to improve next year after an early exit in the playoffs.

Before They Are Seniors

By: Brigid McCabe, Asst. Editor-in-Chief



Name: James Gerald McHugh  
Nickname: Jack  
Date of birth: 10/30/07  
Sex: Male

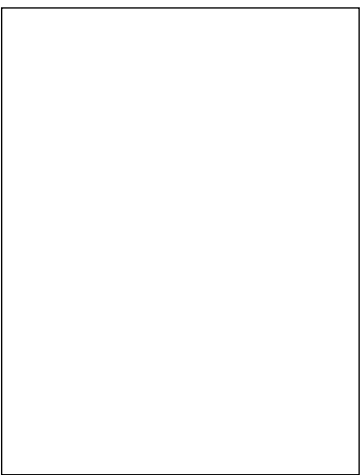
Why did you choose this name: We decided to name our son James Gerald, after our fathers, now both deceased, as a way of honoring them. Our son is also named for our brothers, Jerry and Jim. So, while we honor the past in choosing this name, we also honor the present and the future generations of our joined families. We chose the nickname Jack because it is a strong name, it has a nice ring with McHugh, and because we’ve never met a Jack we didn’t like.

Funny/cute habits child has: He’s very inquisitive (always calmly looking around) and extremely friendly; he will go to anyone willingly and with a smile. He loves music and seems enraptured when I play classical, holiday music, even hip hop. My favorite quality, though, is that he is a fighter. The hospital, doctors, books, everyone recommends swaddling a newborn (wrapping him up like a papoose); Jack always fights at least one arm out of his swaddle. When I come in to get him after a nap or in the morning, he just looks up at me as if to say, “Yep, got out of that one, too.” Now, at 6 weeks old, he’s adding a smile to that look – he seems to love the challenge. We call him our little “Houdini.”

What you hope your child to become when he/she grows up: Happy.

Describe your child in one word: Spirited.

Funny stories about pregnancy?: Pregnancy for me was easy and fun; I really enjoyed it and count it as one of the happiest times in my life. No exceptional cravings for me; I found myself loving fruit even more than usual, though. My husband, on the other hand, had several cravings: pizza, Mexican, Oreos... mostly junk. I think he was enjoying the pregnancy as much as I was!



Name: Luke Benjamin Dwulit  
Date of birth: 12/30/05  
Sex: Male

Why did you choose this name: We always loved the name Luke; it means “Bringer of Light.” His middle name is after his daddy (my husband, Ben).

Funny/cute habits child has:

Chasing our dogs, saying “Uh-Oh,” picking his nose (we are trying to stop this one). When he gets in trouble, he now says “I know, time-out...” And he flirts with girls already!

What you hope your child to become when he/she grows up: What we hope for him is that he is always happy, healthy, and knows we love him no matter what; he can be anything he wants...well, almost anything.

Describe your child in one word: Inspiring

Funny stories about pregnancy?: My pregnancy craving was citrus fruit; I used to eat lemons like most people eat oranges. I also loved peanut butter.

“You Can’t Stop the Beat” of Hairspray

By: Alaina Zemanic  
Guest Writer

On July 20th, 2007, the musical *Hairspray* hit theatres and reignited a sensation throughout the entire country. A remake of the 1988 movie, *Hairspray* takes place in Baltimore in the early sixties, when civil rights movement was on the rise.

Tracy Turnblad, portrayed by Nikki Blonsky, is an overweight teenage girl with wild dreams of being on Baltimore’s number one variety show, *The Corny Collins Show*. When an opportunity to be casted is at stake, her dance moves attract the eyes of host, Corny Collins (James Marsden), and the show’s heart throb, Link Larkin (Zac Efron).

Even though she has accomplished her fantasy of dancing on her favorite television show,

manager Velma von Tussle (Michelle Pfeiffer) and daughter and cast member, Amber (Brittany Snow) try to cut her from the cast due to her positive thoughts of an end of racist segregation and her “unusual” image.

*Hairspray* is fantastic for those who love musicals and just want to have a good time. The soundtrack to the movie is upbeat and filled with tunes by brilliant cast members, such as Queen Latifah, John Travolta, and Christopher Walken. Even Nikki Blonsky, a newcomer to the movie business, shines in this film with her superb theatrical performance. Together, the skills of each actor in this movie make it an immediate classic and, *Hairspray* is one of those movies you will remember years after watching it.

Critics and most viewers have raved about *Hairspray*, and Upper St. Clair students agree that the movie-musical is quirky and fresh.

“It’s interesting,” says freshman Kristen Collins. “It’s a little creepy that John Travolta is a woman.”

“Yeah, it’s true,” agrees PJ Spence, sophomore, “but he’s the perfect person for the job! It’s probably the best movie ever.”

Overall, *Hairspray* is a fun movie that nearly everyone enjoys. It brings a smile to anyone’s face and makes him or her realize that it is alright to be different. Now, pick up your dancing shoes and join in on the beat. It is definitely worth it.

Be sure to buy the *Hairspray* DVD, now in stores everywhere.

Broadway stops the show in midst of strike

By: JP Gooderham  
Sports Editor

In a bizarre situation, playwrights and stagehands on Broadway faced a showdown between each other while their unions attempted to negotiate a deal for a new contract. As a result, playgoers in New York were deprived of the chance to see their favorite shows while a major part of the theater industry was stagnant.

The conflict took place during November and early December between the League of American Theatres and Producers and the stagehands’ union, Local One. *USA Today* explains the reason for the sudden uprising, “Prior to the strike, there had been months of negotiations between the League and Local One, whose members have been working without a contract since July 31. A main point of dissent has been work rules, especially the issue of how many stagehands—a group that includes carpenters, electricians, set

handlers and sound and lighting technicians — are needed, and what tasks they can perform while on duty.”

Interestingly, even productions without key members belonging to the unions were halted by the strike. *USA Today* reports, “Disney is not in the League, though both the long-running hit *The Lion King* and its new musical-theater offering, *The Little Mermaid*, scheduled to open in December, were among the productions halted by the strike.”

The Broadway strike has even had a decent impact on tourism in New York City. According to WSYR.com, “People with Broadway tickets are watching to see what will happen to their planned trips to New York City.”

For New York city tourists planning trips to see shows on Broadway, the decision to cancel the trip was ultimately extremely tough and confusing.

Fortunately for some theater

fans, several productions chose to continue during the major halt. For one, the holiday classic based on Dr. Seuss’s novel, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, restarted after being legally required to do so: “The reopening of the \$6 million production was ordered [...] by state Supreme Court Justice Helen Freedman. [...] Producers, citing a special contract between the show and Jujamcyn, wanted the show to go on. Freedman based her decision on a provision of the theater lease, and said she believed the production company would be irreparably harmed if the show wasn’t permitted to resume its run” (Associated Press).

While both sides continue to negotiate, the deal should come to a close during December following “marathon” talks by the groups. Unfortunately, those who missed seeing their shows during trips will not have the opportunity to receive refunds for air and bus fare, hotels, and other travel costs.

Iyouheshewethey: Upper. St. Clair considers 2007 fall play Feiffer’s People is a success!

By: Kirstin Kennedy  
Opinions Editor

“Mister, to my generation, not wanting to grow up is a sign of maturity.”, “If I had any respect for girls, I’d never make out!”, “The world should make a place for a shoe salesman.” Sound familiar? If you neglected to attend the fall play in late November and early December then you surly missed a spectacular performance of *Feiffer’s People*.

The play, written by the brilliant cartoonist and playwright, Jules Feiffer, was a review-style show. Somewhat cartoonesque, the play was composed of fifty-

two shocking, impressive, and hilarious scenes. Senior Liz Bennett, who played various roles including a self-absorbed folk singer, states, “It was a good fall play. It was absolutely hilarious. We were able to have a lot of fun with it while maintaining the meaning of it.”

A wide range of ideas and characters were brought to the stage. Scenes included issues, such as serious job failures and youth rebellion as well as a weak Superman (cape and all) and a real-life geek squad.

Frequent dance intervals between scenes personified

the humor of the play, especially a spin on a cooperate coffee break. Even a tribal

dance, featuring the entire cast chanting “Iyouheshewethey,” was performed, adding an ele-

ment of livelihood to the show.

Overall, the play was an amazing experience for everyone involved. Senior Andrew Graham, who played a reoccurring man as well as a member of the coffee break team, not to mention his many other roles, comments, “When I first became aware that this years fall play would be a review-style show, I was disappointed. However, as I enveloped myself in Jules Feiffer’s work, I began to see the brilliance of it and the parallels to [current life].”

The show was completely

unique in its lacking of a defined plot. Though it did not have a specific story, the performance has a sense of unity. Like a bizarre dream, it did not make perfect sense or follow a specific plot; it was cohesive, just like that of a dream in the mind of a sleeper.

The show clearly impacted its viewers. As Graham continues, “*Feiffer’s People* hits you with every scene totally differently with a different scenario and characters. The fall play showed the progression of life.”

Bravo! to the cast and crew of the 2007 fall play; the experience was truly remarkable.



Feiffer himself as a character in a political cartoon. Photo courtesy of: www.loc.gov