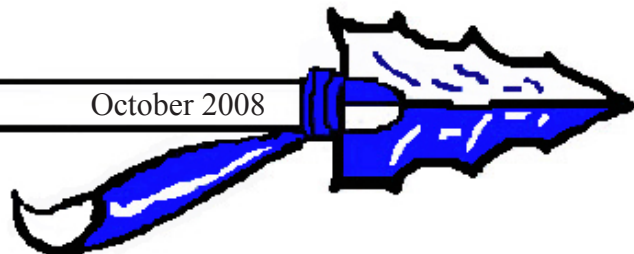


THE TRIBAL TIMES

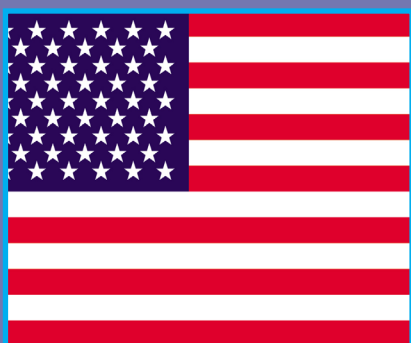
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McEachern High School

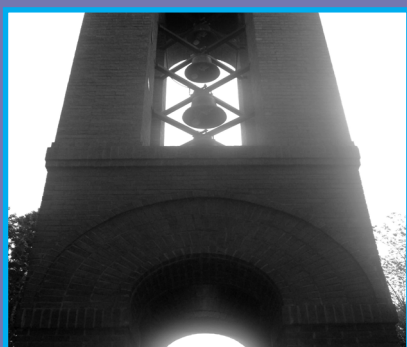
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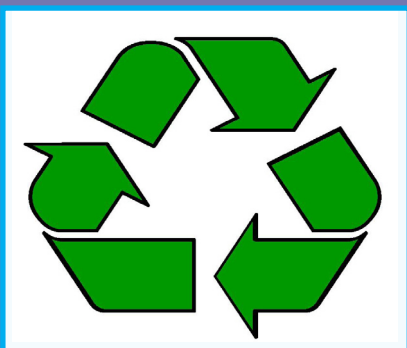
Inside the Issue



Patriot Day, pg. 4



Around Campus, pg. 7



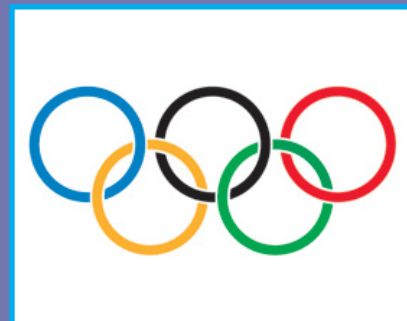
Recycle, pg. 8



Shoes, pg. 10



Step Team, pg. 11



Olympic Scandals, pg. 12

Teen unemployment skyrockets

by Michele Guyton



Whether it's at a local grocery store or a trendy clothing store in the mall, a teenager's first job prepares them for a responsible adulthood.

Jobs make teens feel independent; they no longer need their parent's financial approval or help. But as national unemployment rates have skyrocketed, teens have been affected.

According to research done by the Labor Market Studies (LMS) at Northeast University in Boston, the percentage of working teens has decreased from 45.2 percent to 33.5 percent.

As an example of

this, Georgia has exceeded the national unemployment rate. Many teens feel they need to work to show maturity and responsibility, yet they can't find work, thus they can't show those important qualities. "I

able grades, which isn't worth the working experience or the responsibility that is gained. "I had my first job at age 15. It was at McDonald's and I loved it. However, I think if a teenager wants a job, they must

school and a job."

Sam Hall, director of communications for the Cobb County Labor Department, on the other hand, says teens should be optimistic. "The advice I would give to a teenager looking for

a job is to keep looking, but only if they truly want to work," Hall said. "They must be willing to accept that you won't always get the job,

"You won't always get the job, and sometimes you will hate it even if you do get it."

-Sam Hall

don't care about where I work, I just want a job because it would be nice to have my own money for clothes and going out and for more long term goals like college," junior Jamie McCrary said.

Many parents feel concerned that a job may distract their children from their studies and they will get less than accept-

be prepared to balance work and school," english teacher Kathryn Elalouf said. "Sometimes they don't realize how hard that can be."

Freshman Whitney Martinez, however, says she is ready for that challenge. "When I'm old enough to work; I will definitely get a job because I know I can handle

and sometimes you will hate it even if you do get it." He also said that teens shouldn't feel pressured to work unless they have an financial situation. "That's the only time I would say that it's necessary for a teenager to work," Hall said. The LMS says things will be looking up for all unemployed people in the near future.

Democrats versus Republicans

byCarolynn Gowder



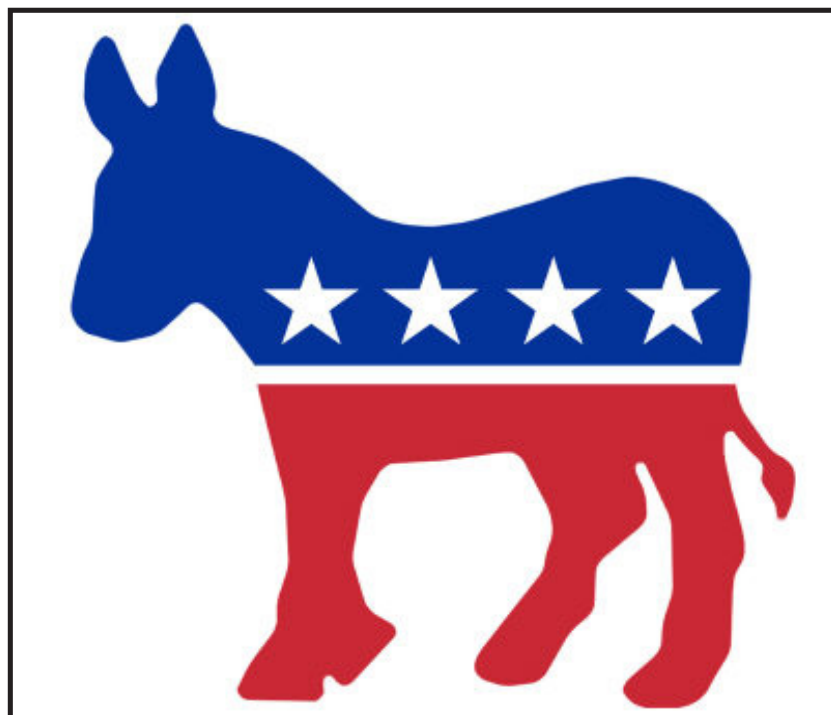
The fierce and domineering democratic and republican parties go head to head at their respective conventions.

"The democratic and republican national convention helped me realize on who the better candidate was and who I'm going to persuade everyone to vote for," junior Elizabeth Pringle said.

The democratic convention kicked off in Denver on Aug. 25. Prominent speaker Michelle Obama delivered a powerful speech that not only touched Denver's audience but the millions of viewers watching from home. She shared her life experiences, which offered some people a sense of security.

Tuesday former first lady Hilary Clinton was in attendance to support the Democratic Party. Unexpectedly, Hilary provided support for Obama even though her name was not on the ballot. Her words were, "Whether you voted for me or Barack, it is time to unite."

Thursday the most important democrat, Barack Obama, delivered his heavy-heart-



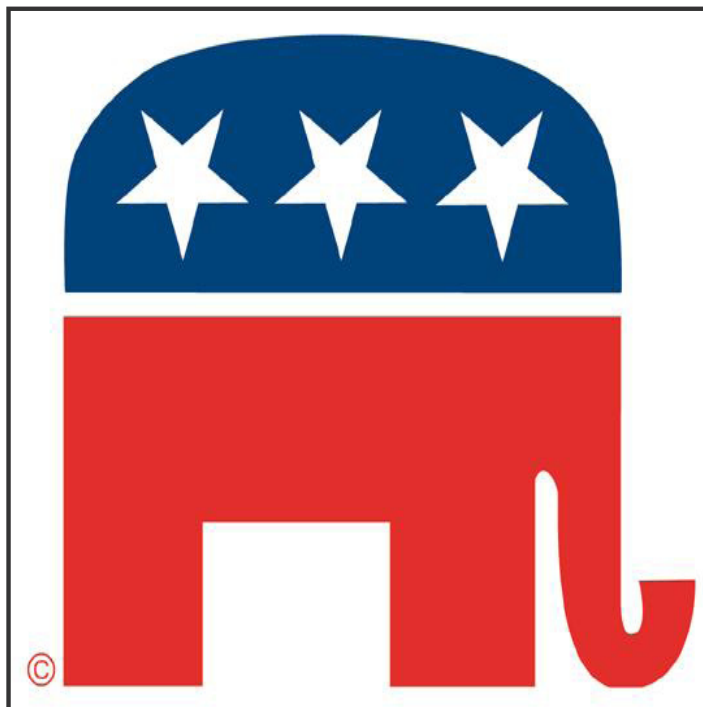
ed speech, "You work hard for what you want in life; the only limit to the height of your achievements is the reach of your dreams and willingness to work hard for them." Sharing his life story and having the support of his family and fellow democrats explained to the American people why Obama is running for office.

The republican convention began Sept. 1 with presidential candidate John McCain delivering his influential "I love America" speech. "I'm not running for president because I think I'm blessed with such personal greatness that history has anointed me to save our country in its hour of need," he said. "My country saved me. My country saved me, and I cannot forget it. And I will fight for her

for as long as I draw breath, so help me God."

McCain was eager to announce his female running mate, governor of Alaska Sarah Palin. During her speech, Palin related to the women of America by showing that she was not only a woman, but also a mother who represents other working moms. Palin let it be known that her family is just like any other American family. "Our family has the same ups and downs as any other ... the same challenges and the same joys."

The democratic and republican national convention shined light on the issues and what each candidates represents. So, after numerous speeches, campaigns and media exposure, election day will be full of registered voters making a difference.



“Change we can believe in”

ELECTION '08

by Chelsea Baasch & Taylon Sharer



Scattered on the lawn in front of the school were Republican candidate signs that said “Vote John McCain”. But it was not senator McCain who was to appear that morning.

At seven a.m. on July 8, every space in the parking lot was occupied. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama arrived in Powder Springs to persuade Georgia voters at a Town Hall Meeting.

“He reaches out to everyone and brings them together because its going to take all of us to solve these national problems,” Douglasville resident Albert Wells said after the meeting.

The Lovinggood gymnasium holds 3,500 people and was at full capacity. On the wall inside the crowded gym, hung a large banner with Obama’s campaign slogan, “Change We Can Believe In” and a handful of security guards surveying the surroundings.

“This is not just an event, it’s history in the making, and we are just here to see it happen, teacher Sonny Petway said, encouraging people to believe is so important and lacking in politics, he has inspired people to get more involved.”

At approximately nine a.m. Democratic volunteer Jacob Klein came out to urge the audience to become volunteers for the Campaign for Change and register to vote. Forty-five minutes later, 47-year-old Senator Obama was welcomed by the clapping and yelling crowd. He opened the meeting saying, “It’s great to be in Georgia” while accepting the applause and continuing with his speech.

“Prices from a gallon of milk to a gallon of gas have sky rocketed.” Obama said. With bankruptcy increasing 30 percent this year and rising taxes, the country as a whole can not afford any more negative change in prices.

To help improve the economy, Obama has proposed a new health care plan which he says will be more affordable. “Personal illness will no longer cause Americans to go bankrupt. Premiums will be lowered by \$25,000,” Obama said.

Senior citizens 62 years and older who are facing bankruptcy will be ensured a secure retirement. “We have to make sacrifices for our future generations so that we can retire with some respect, with some dignity.”

After his introduction, he began taking questions from the audience. He chose people girl-boy-girl-boy, to keep things equal. The first question asked was about Obama’s plans for early childhood education. He made three specific points, one of them being that we need to encourage after-school and summer-school programs so kids stay off the streets and have a quiet place to study and be safe. “Some of you brothers think you can rap, but the reality is you are not the next Lil Wayne, you need to stay in school and get an education.”

When posed with a quetion about the war in Iraq, Obama responded, “I opposed the war from the start,” and plans on a phase withdrawal to get troops out. “I will bring the Iraq war to a close when I am president.”

At the conclusion he thanked the audience and said, “I hope to make Georgia blue for this election.”



Barack Obama listens in on the audience's questions during a town hall meeting at McEachern in July.

photo by Taylon Sharer

First-year students at UGA
2007- 2008

- 1% American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 8% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 7% Black/Non-Hispanic
- 2% Hispanic
- 82% White/Non-Hispanic
- 1% Non-Resident Alien
- 1% Race/ethnicity unreported



Univ. of Ga. diversifies student body; expands recruitment

by Carolynn Gowder-Harris



This fall the University of Georgia enrolled one of its largest, most qualified and most diverse classes.

This fall enrollment of minorities increased by 4.7 percent. Thirty-two percent of the 18-24 year-old population in Georgia that is African American, particularly in view of the fact that UGA was not integrated until 1961, and then only after a protracted legal battle.

“The increase in the number of factors, including changing demographics in the state of Georgia, larger numbers of students applying for admission and recruitment efforts targeted at the states best students. UGA does not use race, ethnicity, and gender or legacy status as a factor for consideration in the admissions process. UGA is very strategic in identifying competitive high school students,” said Patrick Winter, the Associate Director of



Admissions. The University of Georgia’s freshman class’s increase in both diversity and quality is due to their ability to attract the best students.

“Race does not matter, just as long as there are good professors,” senior Sergina Theodore said.

The low numbers of minorities in colleges and universities may be due to the low representation of members of racial minority groups among American students.According to the Institute of International Education the subject of proportional representation has barely changed in the past ten years.

As recently as 1987, University System of Georgia institutions were put under a federal court order to diversify its student bodies.

The University of Georgia receives more than 10,000 applications every year, and every year 7,000 to 8,000 are accepted but only 4,000 enroll. With Georgia having increased ethnic population, the numbers of students graduating each year will increase. Applications for colleges will increase. Other factors will be that tuition continues to rise and more students are forced to attend in state colleges.

“The increase in underrepresented students enrolling at UGA is due to enhanced recruitment efforts. Nothing more than that. Working hard to recruit more underrepresented students creates more applications from underrepresented students. Nothing has changed with our admission practices; we have just been very successful in increasing the number of competitive applications from minority students. The best students are applying to UGA.

“More applications from competitive students equals more offers of admission, said Winter.”



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9/11: Seven years later flag still flies

by Ashlee Tziganuk

On the early morning of September 11, 2001, the world stopped. It has been seven years since nearly 3,000 people died that day in New York. But for some, that's seven years without a father, mother, sister or brother.



Students gather as patriotic music plays and ROTC presents the flags.

On December 18, 2001, 'Patriot Day' became an official day of remembrance for the attacks. Every year since then, Americans have used Patriot Day to remember those lost on 9/11. But also to reflect on what it means to be an American. Senior Ericka Morgan said, "It's a wake up call for us, because sometimes we take our country for

granted." Most Americans can remember exactly where they were and what they were doing that devastating day. For Corey Goldstein, a New York native, it was a day he will always remember. "I was teaching when my brother called me. I turned on the TV and just couldn't believe it. I called my mom and tried to reach my dad who worked in the twin towers. But he didn't answer." A late train delayed his father from entering the building. Patriot Day is not only a time to be proud, but also to remember those lost. Joe Thomas, Cobb County fireman at Dept. No. 23, said, "9/11 motivated me to become a firefighter. Now it's about remembrance and our dedication to the brave men who lost their lives trying to save others." The McEachern Student Council hosted organizations like the Cobb County Fire and Police Departments, as well as representatives from the Navy, Army and Marines on Patriot day. In addition, the McEachern band and chorus also performed to honor those lost on September 11. For Patriot Day the guys at the Fire Dept. will "probably have a celebration feast to honor the fallen", Thomas said. Some wear the red, white and blue, carry a flag, and maybe even say the pledge for once. As Goldstein said, "9/11 brought us together, and Patriot Day is a time for us to be proud."

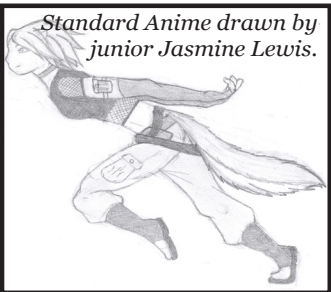


Seniors Christo Taoushiani, Patrick Teate, and Sarah Busby watch the ROTC color guard perform at 8:15 on the morning of September 11.

Anime club draws interest

by Chelsea Baasch

September 19 marked the first official meeting of the Anime Club. This year brings quite a few changes for them. Club membership cards are needed to gain access into club meetings. The new meetings will consist of a movie and popcorn day, gaming day, activity day, and Japanese culture day. Since the majority of the club members came from Japanese Culture Club (JCC), they plan on adding an educative atmosphere and honor what JCC was all about. "These kids know so much about Japanese culture which they share through dancing, presentations, and trying different foods," sponsor Laurette Brown said. Club president Astra Morrow founded the club in 2006 with Emmiline Phillips. "I noticed that Lassiter has an Anime Club and MHS needed one," Morrow said. They wanted a place for individuals with a common interest to get together. After deciding the need for an Anime club, they had to



find a sponsor. "We chose Ms. Brown because everyone enjoys her presence and she is so much fun," Morrow said. Despite any prior knowledge of Japanese culture or Anime, Brown decided to sponsor the Anime club. "I love being around the kids, I've learned so much from them because each of them have different gifts that they share," Brown said. Senior club member Rusty Moore attended the Anime Weekend Atlanta (AWA) convention on September 20. About 20,000 other Anime fans gather to buy merchandise, see pre-releases of series, and games. In the gaming areas fans challenge each other to card and video games. After three years, the club is thriving with 60 or more members and still growing.

Stuffed toys encourage education

by Sydney Kelly

Children involved in customizing their own toys are often much more creative and culturally open-minded. Customized toys, such as Build-A-Bears and American Girl Dolls, give children a chance to exercise their creativity within reasonable limits. Their choice of hair, eyes, skin color, or clothes helps them explore their ability to choose. "Creating their own toys helps in many ways," Early Childhood Education teacher Anne Ledford said. "It adds a personal touch. It's something to connect to. It helps children to not assume things start out put together." Choices are vast when children are given the option of customizing their own toys. Build-A-Bear offers more than 30 different bears and animals to choose from and hundreds of clothes and accessories. Bear-makers can even stuff their own toys and create a birth certificate on the day they are assembled. "I always loved playing with it afterwards because I

look at it and say 'I made this myself,'" senior Courtney Mitchell said. "And no two are alike." American Girl Dolls are also a popular toy that can be customized. Look-Like-You Dolls give buyers the ability to choose hair, eye, and skin color. The exposure to different ethnicities and cultures assists in children's racial tolerance. "The Look-Like-You dolls help with disharmony," Ledford said. "Girls see those dolls in a positive light. They give a positive image to counterbalance negatives they see." In addition to the Look-Like-You Dolls, the American Girl Doll main line includes dolls of virtually every race and cultural background. Books and movies based on American Girl Doll characters enhance a child's cultural and historical education. The idea of creating a personal design of a toy has spread from stores and magazines, to video games and the internet. The Build-A-Bear Workshop game created for Nintendo DS™ was released in December of 2007 and gives gamers a chance to not only create their bears, but also put them through challenges in order to win virtually money. The money is used to purchase more clothes and accessories for the bear. American Girl Doll also released an activity created for designing dolls online. It makes ordering the dolls much quicker and more accurate. Everything down to their shoes is specifically chosen so they are truly one of a kind. Numerous teenagers who made Build-A-Bears in their childhood continue to assemble the stuffed animals for gifts and for their own enjoyment. Build-A-Bears could be spotted during McEachern's Senior Week, specifically Pajama Day and Kindergarten Day. "It's all about just being a kid," senior Bekah Medford said. Build-A-Bear Workshop's popularity has steadily risen since its opening. The ability to design your own toy will draw children and adults alike to the establishments across the nation in malls and theme parks and even baseball fields. Design by a consumer's own hand is a crowd-pleaser that develops creative minds and spirits.



Chibii artwork drawn by sophomore Jasmine Smith.

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Ahoy mates, it's *Mister Roberts*

by Sydney Kelly

The drama department's fall play, *Mister Roberts*, is expected to be a solid and unique kick-off to the 2008-2009 season. *Mister Roberts*, scheduled to open September 18, centers around a crew on a World War II supply ship stationed in an isolated region of the Pacific Ocean. The cast composed of sixteen males is an ambitious feat that the actors expect will be alluring to audiences. "All-guy scenes are always well-received," senior Ryan Baird said. "So an entire show with just guys should be fun." Baird, a four-year veteran actor and crew technician, plays the overzealous Sam Insigna whose drunken antics give the ship a reputation of being less than disciplined. He fits just one of the stereotypes addressed in *Mister Roberts*. "I think *Mister Roberts* will be great," senior Kathryn Cham-

bers said. "Its themes are universal and people today can still relate to it." *Mister Roberts*, originally a book written in 1946 by Thomas Heggan, was a Tony Award-winning play in 1948 and later adapted into a film with Henry Fonda in 1955. While the story is fairly old in comparison to many shows the drama department has done in the past, the cast and crew seem to be undaunted by its age. "The stories theatre tells are ageless and universal," Steven Jones said. "That's why we study Shakespeare. It supersedes culture, time, place, everything." Jones did not expect problems in finding the number of male actors the *Mister Roberts* script calls for. While the *Roberts* script is written for 19 men, Jones thought he could cut the requirements down to 16. A total of 12 showed up to auditions Aug. 14. "I had to extend



Christo Taoushiani, Stephen Lee, Ryan Baird, Matt Jones in *Mr. Roberts*

the audition process long enough to get the actors I needed," he said. Jones's lack of auditioners forced him to consider alternatives. While he originally said he'd be posting

a cast list Aug. 15, Jones waited through the weekend and even considered performing an alternate show with similar casting requirements. In addition to a call for an unusual amount

Mister Roberts will be his first performance in a straight, or non-musical, play. "I had what's called open auditions. All auditions were viewed by the other auditioners," Matt Jones said.

"The camaraderie was just as important to me as the individual characters. I wanted to see how the actors related to one another." The actors, who for the most part had only auditioned in the Performing Arts Center on a substantially larger stage, were slightly intimidated by the intimacy of new Fine Arts Center (FAC). Working on the new stage, built smaller and closer to the audience, is a new experience for everyone. "It was abnormal because everyone was so close to your work," Baird said. As rehearsals have continued in the new FAC, the actors have become more comfortable. Their focus has shifted to discovering the depths of their characters and identifying themes, both of which are expected to inspire the audience to ponder on the morals of the crewman. "This show is about integrity," Matt Jones said.

Fine arts department gets smart



Music students' skills will improve with the addition of the new music software program.

by Khalea Underwood

SmartMusic, a groundbreaking system developed by MakeMusic, Incorporated, has impacted music students

worldwide since 1992. After being introduced to this innovative program during the summer, McEachern's music department and the Trust Board brought Smart-

Music to our school for band, orchestra, and chorus students to use. Before SmartMusic, testing students on their ability to play an instrument was

a challenge. With almost 600 students in the music department, directors found it hard to provide ample feedback on playing tests and sheet music. "We couldn't listen to students as frequently as we can now," fine arts department chair Cecilia Cicco said. "With the program, I can listen to what the students send me at home instead of in class." Shier students benefit from SmartMusic as well. "I like SmartMusic because I don't have to play in front of people. I can be tested in the privacy of my own home," Kayla Anderson, a junior, said. The directors are able to

comment more candidly on performance ability, too. SmartMusic's components include a cd-rom and a microphone that is attached to the student's instrument. With over 30,000 songs in the online library, students can play anything from Mozart to Michael Jackson. There is also an accompaniment with every song. The interactive system provides a grade on how well a song is played, and students have the ability to improve their scores before they submit their assignment. "SmartMusic is very user-friendly," head band director Sonny Petway said.

"When a student is finished playing their assignment, an email is sent directly to me. I can hear what they play and comment on what needs to be improved." With this new technology, the amount of homework for music students has increased slightly. Mr. Petway says that the assignments given are "not overburdening," and the students agree. SmartMusic is more than strenuous nightly practice—students find it fun. "SmartMusic helps us become more articulate with music and it makes everything easier to play," senior Sarah Vaughn said.

National step champions

by Joelle Fears

The McEachern Step Team continues to step it up. They made their debut four years ago and have taken home triple that amount in trophies. "The team has placed in every competition we have been

in," science teacher and coach Dana Giles said. This year, McEachern is stepped it out of state. Disney sponsored 25 schools to go to Orlando, Florida for a national step competition. McEachern was picked along with only two other Georgia high schools. "We are the best team in Cobb County so we have to go get more competition due to a lack of it in Georgia," senior Alyse Bryant said.

The preliminary competition had all 25 teams competing for the top six. "I am praying at least one of our teams-boys or girls-gets through the preliminary round," Giles said. Prayers were answered as the boys' Step Team placed first.



The award-winning teams perform at the fall sports pep rally.

photo by Times staff

The winners received \$1,500 and bragging rights of National Step Winner. "McEachern is about to go national with its talent. It's time we get a chance to show off what we have worked hard to accomplish," senior Nathanael Roche said. Although the team was eight hours away, fans were able to support them. Clips of the show aired on ESPN 2 Aug. 31.

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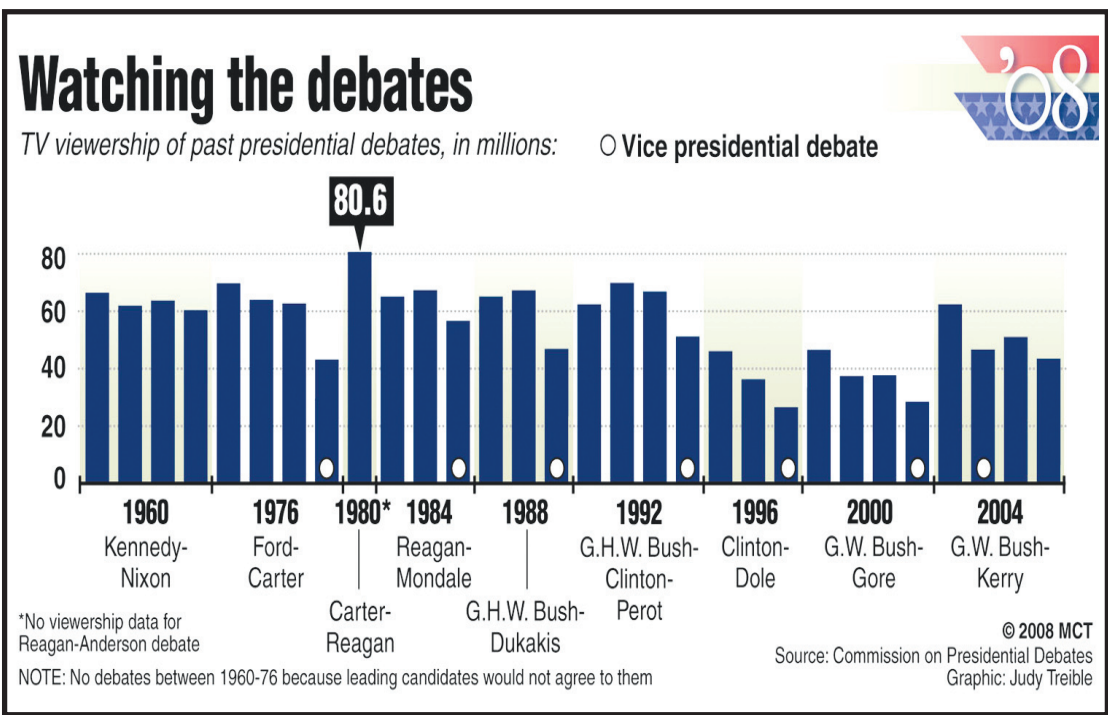
by Olaedo Ajoku



Sophomore Winsome Burden practices her speech during a Debate Team meeting

The club may be new, but it is already a talking sensation. The Debate Club is a club that gives students a chance to speak their minds and let their feelings about world issues out. People tend to get frustrated about the events that are happening in the world and what people are doing about them. During club meetings, students

can say their opinions about the world troubles and speak out for what they believe in. “The purpose of the club is to have passion to influence people to speak their minds,” team supervisor Connie Holloway said. Not only can students express their feelings about what is happening around the world, students who are feeling awkward can build their confidence and overcome their fear of public speaking. Those who are outspoken and love to argue can unleash their anger and pour it into their arguments in the club meetings. The Debate Team gives people the chance to influence others, change their attitudes about what is happening, and grow into different personalities. “I think that it’s a good idea for students to speak their mind and take part in the club,” junior Kelsi Num-



merdor said. This is the first year that the Debate Team has been introduced at McEachern, but there are already 45 students ready to speak their minds and express their opinions. The team meets on Thursdays to discuss future events, talk about the pros and cons of today’s issues, and prepare for future competitions. The team will also compete against other schools in the state for awards in their accomplishments. “I think that this will be a good influence on the students and it’s an interesting idea,” senior Justin Pitt said.

Infamous “freshman fifteen” not just a myth

by Ashley Kindergan
The Record (MCT)

It’s difficult to think of a way to add pounds faster than living the stereotypical college lifestyle. Juggling coursework, jobs and a social life leaves little time for exercising or even regular meals. Late-night study sessions are often fueled by the nearest 24-hour greasy spoon. Getting too little sleep can also trick the body into craving more food. On top of all that, many freshmen are taking in many more calories from alcohol than they have in the past. That’s the bad news. The good news is that not every entering freshman puts on weight, and there are some easy things students can do to avoid packing on pounds. The first thing to do is to forget the phrase “Freshman 15.” A 2006 study by Rutgers University nutritionists tracked the weight of 67 students in their first year. Most students did gain weight, but more than one-fourth of students actually lost weight. Those who did gain weight put on an average of seven pounds, not 15. But gaining seven pounds doesn’t require all that much extra food. The Rutgers study said that taking in just 112 extra calories each day - roughly equivalent to a cup of Cheerios - would do it. Jackie Ehlert-Mercer, a registered dietitian who runs nutrition programs for students at the University of British Columbia and teaches a course in nutrition at Ramapo College, said that freshmen who gain weight their first semester and don’t lose it in the second semester are more likely to keep gaining weight throughout college. If the pattern continues, adulthood obesity and related health problems such as heart disease and diabetes may follow. “An overweight adolescent ... is probably going to become an obese adult if they don’t mediate their weight during college,” Ehlert-Mercer said. “The stresses they face such as getting married or getting a full-time job tend to increase. They don’t tend to diminish.” Scott Fisher, director of the Fairleigh Dickinson University Health and Fitness Center, recommends that students plan their days to ensure that they eat regularly and healthfully. Skipping meals to lose weight usually backfires, he said. “You should really go no longer than four or five hours without eating something,” Fisher said. “If you go for too long a period of time without eating, your blood sugar level drops. When your blood sugar level drops, your body essentially sends you signals that it wants a very quick source of energy, which are the typical sugary foods, and some concentrated calories, which are fatty foods.” Eating frequently has worked for Mike Sciscione, 22, a senior at William Paterson University. The Rockaway native eats six small meals a day. Something as simple as a fruit smoothie counts, he said. Sciscione buys bulk packages of 100-calorie snack packs and keeps a bottle of water with him to stave off hunger pangs. “It keeps your metabolism going and keeps you from gaining weight,” he said. Some students who gained weight said they were able to lose it again by reassessing their food and exercise choices. Ramya Pallavajhala, 22, a senior at Fairleigh Dickinson University, lost most of the weight she gained the first semester of freshman year by cutting out cheese and cooking healthy, vegetable-rich Indian dishes. She also walks between her Hackensack home and the Teaneck campus and squeezes in the occasional gym workout when her schedule permits. “Once you gain the weight, it’s very tough to regain your shape,” Pallavajhala said. “But it’s easy to prevent it.” Fisher recommended at least half an hour of cardiovascular exercise most days a week, and augmenting that with strength training a few times a week. Relaxing a little isn’t a bad idea, either. Researchers at the University of Chicago found that college students who slept for four hours a night produced more of a hormone called ghrelin, which causes feelings of hunger, and less of leptin, which makes people feel full, than peers who had been allowed to sleep for as much as 10 hours. Though most freshmen will err on the side of eating too much and exercising too little, some students respond to stress by becoming too restrictive with their diets. Students who have experienced disordered eating patterns before college face the highest risk of developing serious eating disorders in college, Ehlert-Mercer said. Most college health centers either employ or can refer students to a nutritionist or psychologist to treat eating disorders.



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The Tribal Times

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The Tribal Times is the official newspaper of John McEachern High School in Powder Springs, Ga. and serves as an open forum for students’ opinions and ideas. The opinions expressed in the editorials are those of the accredited author. These opinions do not represent those of The Tribal Times staff or the school administration.

Hidden in plain sight

McEachern is unique in its number of buildings, diverse ethnicity and size. Our campus consists of nine buildings plus portables where lessons are taught and achievement is paramount. But having a high school campus that was once a small college does have its disadvantages: walking distance, rainy days and unnoticed interesting landmarks.



“Since when has there been a light post in Senior Circle?” junior Jennifer Johnson asked.



Macland, a church pew sits in the hallway for students to wait to speak to Gaile Buice, associate principal.



Between the girls and boys bathrooms in Senior Building, a painting of the school's mascot decorates the wall.

Struggling species still need federal protection

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

On its way out the door, the Bush administration is trying to endanger the Endangered Species Act, legislation that has the support of more than 80 percent of Americans. This is a parting gift to the administration's friends in the timber and other extraction industries. It has to be stopped.

The law has worked, reviving species that were in danger. Take the bald eagle: In 1963, before the act, there were about 400 nesting pairs left. Now there are nearly 10,000. Still, industry officials argue that complying with the act costs them money. And they have a friend in the Oval Office who'd like to help them out.

Now, federal agencies before they act themselves or approve industry initiatives that may affect endangered species must consult with biologists at the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service. Under the proposed new Department of the Interior rule, the agencies wouldn't have to consult but could decide on their own.

Allowing agencies to police themselves, especially if they lack relevant scientific expertise, is just another form of Bush's fox-guarding-the-chicken-coop environmental policy. In recent days the department has extended the comment period on the proposed rule by 30 days. But even after an extra month it will still be a bad idea. It's not likely to survive a lawsuit. So why do it?



photo by MCT Campus

The American Bald Eagle is an Endangered Species Act success story.

Longer media center hours may increase graduation success rate

by Olaedo Ajoku

When library hours increase, it becomes apparent in the progress of students nationwide.

In schools nationwide, extended time in the library is offered to people who really need it the most, especially to the people whose grades and chances of graduation are on the line. This often occurs around exam time. But what would it be like if it happened full time?

Grades, literacy rates, and interest in school have taken a nosedive and dropout rates have skyrocketed. The reason is because children do not have enough time to study or have the proper requirements or materials that are needed to study with. This problem can be solved if schools extended the open hours in libraries.

“If we get extended time in the library, there is more room for studying. It would be pretty good,” says junior Francesca Riggins.

In the library, books and computers are included if needed for research. There are also dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, and maps, among many different kinds of books. Internet access on the computers is also available.

There will also be peace and quiet if people want a clear mind and want to stay focused and relaxed. It also provides enough time for others to finish their assignments and projects. All these things can not only

There is also the EOCT and of course, the final exam. These tests are very crucial, especially for the seniors, who need the high marks on the tests in order to graduate from high school. So, in order to pass, study

time is really important. The library provides practice test materials and quiet time for people who are taking the test. More time for studying results in better scores on tests and exams. All this happens nationwide

MEDIA CENTER HOURS

MON.-THURS. 7:30-4:00

FRIDAY 7:30-3:30

help students stay focused without being distracted, but can also increase literacy rates and grade improvements.

Media Center specialist Mary Inman said, “I think it improves grades because it gives the students more time to complete assignments, most helpful for those who don't have a computer at home.”

It is around exam time that the library is needed most of all. Near the end of the year, there are different kinds of tests, including the SAT, ACT, and the Georgia Graduation test.

and the test scores really count in order to go on to the next round.

School secretary Iris Goode said, “This will be an excellent way of improving the grades and the test scores.”

If extended time in the library is approved, there will be a major improvement in grades and literacy rates, and people are less likely to drop out of school before graduation. The library can also provide not only the right materials, but also the peace and quiet people will need to succeed.

Theater etiquette: lack of respect for moviegoers

by Sydney Kelly

It's pretty much a guarantee these days that whenever I go out I am met by a throng of ignorance and disrespect.

About a month ago, I found myself seated comfortably in a theater chair anxiously awaiting my fourth viewing of *The Dark Knight*. Even as the film begins, an eerie tone is set. The opening credits are silent and the audience is instantaneously immersed in a truly unique production. I find myself marveling at the power of a well-made film and how captivating a story can be.

As I reel all this through my head, I notice three tall figures lop in front of the screen. They do not bother speeding up so

that people watching the movie do not have to stare at their untimely silhouettes and, as my luck would have it, they seat themselves directly beside me.

Just when my focus returns to the movie, my friend to the left begins blowing obnoxiously on his popcorn before placing it in his mouth. One slow breath at a time he cools his popcorn so as to not burn his apparently over-sensitive tongue.

It's annoying, but tolerable. As the film, progresses, however things just get exceedingly worse. He shifts constantly in his chair, he discusses the action sequences loudly with his friends and he regularly pulls out his phone to check the time.

If he's so concerned with the time, it seems

to me he should not be watching the film but at his home where I will guess there are multitudes of clocks. Just when I am about to mention this seemingly obvious fact, I hear the very thing that makes everyone in music, film and theatre shudder; the simple harmonious sound of a default ring tone.

I try desperately to ignore the fact that he had not only neglected to turn his cell phone off, but that he decided to answer it. While I cling desperately to the dialogue of a scene that I could recite backwards, I hear the ins and outs of a man's life that I had no intention of ever caring a lick about. I suppress the urge to yank the phone out of his hand and throw it across the theater.

He eventually hangs up, but continues to do everything in his power to make me miserable. I finally asks him politely to keep quite and still or leave about halfway through the film after he successfully ruined two of the most plot-pivotal scenes by loudly screaming out his reactions. He moves a few seats down and I am now able to enjoy my fourth viewing a little more.

The way I, as an audience member, was treated, however, still irked me after that night. I began to wonder how someone could possibly go into a movie acting that way and think it's acceptable.

The truth is there's a terrible lack of respect in society as a whole. Theatre etiquette, just like so many other

things, is simply inconvenient. There are so few situations today where people have to conduct themselves formally in public, and so it becomes obsolete.

Theatre was, for so long, an extremely formal event. Going to see a play or musical production was high-brow and no one was emitted without proper attire. If someone was disrespectful to the performers or audience, they would be escorted out. Film, concerts, and even dinners were more than what they are now. They were not cheap, they were not casual, and they were not done on a consistent basis.

Opportunities to choose the easy way out are severely hindering this generation's ability to develop poise and character. All this technology

is making it simple for this generation to be lazy and disrespectful. I so often go to see plays and witness audience members walk in late and even now at McEachern, student's parents whistle and cat-call when their child comes on stage during chorus concerts, and they leave as soon as that portion of the performance is over.

Its almost painful to watch what was once held in such high esteem become so unimportant. The informality of such events can account for the defiance and ignorance of young people. It is but one example of traditions we need to cling to, not just because they're traditions, but also because they shape character.

OPINIONS

Drastic environmental improvements, Make recycling a top priority around campus

by Jack Culler

 If you don't think McEachern has taken steps to being more ecologically sound, tell that to the three and a half tons of recycled paper produced by the school since August. McEachern has made huge improvements in the area of recycling. Recycling paper at a rate of 1 ton per month, it's hard not to recognize the significant development. In just the first three months of the newly implemented recycling plan, MHS has saved the equivalent of 52 trees, and 12,000 kilowatts of energy. "More importantly than anything, we are helping to keep paper out of the landfills, which is serving the environment," AP Environmental Science teacher Gretchen Davis said. Davis, who is in charge of the paper

recycling at McEachern, is very satisfied with the improvement. "We have really moved forward in our efforts to recycle more efficiently." Each and every classroom at McEachern has been supplied with a recycling bin, all at the expense of Ms. Davis. "We really do need to make recycling and the environment more of a priority on this campus. The environment is not going to take care of itself," senior Wale Odukomaia said.

The school's paper is not, however, taking a normal route in its journey to be recycled.

provides outstanding thermal performance and sound control, and is especially fire resis-




photo by Chelsea Bausch

suggest that the school also consumes nearly 5.4 million calories per year, another staggering number). Fifteen drink machines are currently in use on campus, and demand for Coca-Cola appears to be at an all time high. With overwhelming numbers such as these, a need for a plastic recycling arrangement cannot be denied. "We are trying to get a plastic recycling bin, but it is not a simple process. We would need a way to train students about plastic recycling, not to mention full cooperation. We would also need some way to haul all of the plastic bottles off, another difficult process," Davis said. You may have noticed the dark blue Dasani recycling bins scattered around school, initially intended for plastic recycling. These were

given to the school by Coca-Cola as a way to collect plastic bottles dispersed by the vending machines. Coca-Cola did not, however, supply the school with a means of transportation for the plastic bottles, thus the bins don't serve much use in terms of recycling. Despite the need for a plastic recycling method, McEachern has taken positive steps in "going green". If the school stays on its current pace, it will have produced almost 14 tons, or 28,000 pounds, of recycled paper by the end of the school year. It's obvious that the need for ecological preservation has grown drastically in our generation. Because natural resources are not infinite, recycling proposes a possible solution to our ever growing environmental concerns.

Four-day work week may benefit environment

by Suzanne Stroup

 Imagine a world where the work week would allow for every other Friday off. Many companies are switching to a four-day work week. Though this would mean increasing the work day by two hours, it would decrease hours for a full week, from 40 hours to 35. It would also help decrease America's dependence on crude oil imports and help decrease greenhouse gases, according to theoil drum.com. The morale of workers and students would also improve if

schools began operating four days a week. "Four days of school a week would be heavenly!" senior Delaney Tuggle said. "I would love it so that I could get a job on the weekend instead of just sleeping like I normally do." This reduction would cause less traffic congestion, a reduction in absenteeism, and increased productivity. "I think that it would make students hate school less since they don't constantly have to be there," senior Jenny Roemer said. "It would be beneficial for our environment too, since I'm sure not everyone would be

driving on their day off." Some skeptics are critical of the change. Forbes magazine stated in August 2008 that one non-commuting work day would only save about \$14 on gas, which amounts to only about \$650 a year, and that's only if you don't use your car on your day off. Theoil drum.com retorts, though, with a math equation stating that America alone would save about 162,133,333 barrels of crude oil a day if the change was made. In 1998, Chevron offered a 9/80 work week, which meant that workers would


stay an extra hour a day, and then they would get every other Monday or Friday off work. Employees thought that this was less disruptive than a four-day work week and on their days off, another staff member would fill in for them every week, keeping a sense of continuity for their customers. It's a positive change for America, while it couldn't realistically be achieved nationwide, though in small communities, it could make an impact. "For the company, it would be an energy saver, since they wouldn't be paying for air conditioning

or light three days a week," AP Environmental Science teacher Gretchen Davis said, "But what are the employees doing on their days off? When you think of the collective energy of the employees at home, environmentally, isn't that just an energy trade off?" Theoretically, this change would be valuable to the environment; but there are people who won't stop their lives on their one day off. They won't stop using their cars, their air conditioning systems, and their utilization of plastic-based products (another by-product of petroleum).

The four-day work week would decrease worker's exposure to pollutants though, making overall health better, and it would reduce road construction and maintenance, saving both money and the toxins in the air that we shouldn't be breathing. In a small area, the four-day work week could be extremely helpful for both the environment and for workers. People wouldn't necessarily be so tired all of the time and would get more time to do the things that they love. Students could feel less stressed and more obligated to get a job and help the economy.

Captain Planet strikes again: Attempting to save environment, one hybrid car at a time

by Megan Easley

 Hybrid cars offer an affordable and stylish way to be environmentally friendly. The new hybrid cars run off a rechargeable battery and a gasoline engine, rather than just a gasoline engine alone. The first commercial hybrid car was the Toyota Prius, which was manufactured in Japan in 1997. Hybrid cars are the good for the environment, at times such as these, when the world is facing issues like global warming. It reduces almost 90% of the smog which is released to the environment. Even the gasoline used is less when compared to conventional cars. Not only do these cars do less harm to our planet, they

are trendy, stylish, and have all the cool features a new driver could want in their first car. While many teens are struggling to find jobs in this down economy, they are becoming painfully aware of just how expensive it is to drive. "I love my hybrid and the money it saves me on gas and it doesn't hurt that I'm helping out my planet," junior, Vandy Calhoun said. She woke up on her sixteenth birthday to find a brand new Hybrid Ford Escape in the driveway. Another plus for the hybrid, is that it recharges its battery while the engine is running. This removes the need for regularly plugging the car in an electricity outlet, which means that's one less thing for teens to remember. "I have seriously consid-

ered a hybrid when I purchase my next vehicle, because gas is so expensive these days," graphic arts teacher, Alicia Baynes

said. Overall, the benefits of this environmentally safer type of vehicle are outweighing the hefty price tag.

However you look at the hybrid car, they look good. They are fuel efficient, with low emissions, have possible tax rebate, give

you excellent mileage, and they come in trendy and fashionable models that can deliver the speed you want. Go Green!



photo by MCT Campus

The Saturn VUE Green Line Plug-in Hybrid was unveiled in Detroit at the 2008 North American International Auto Show.

OPINIONS

Lunch goers not saved by the bell

by Olaedo Ajoku



The addition of the new dining hall has solved and created many problems.

In 2007, the former dining hall is smaller than the new one, and the bell system is different. Now it is a new year, and a brand new cafeteria. The new bell system and the loss of the fourth lunch period create problems. With these lunches combined into three groups, the lines are even longer, and some students do not get to eat lunch

at all.

“I think we need more time to eat,” senior De’Nesha Yell said. “It’s more crowded than ever because we only have three lunches.”

When there were fewer lines, students stayed in the same line until they got their lunch. With more choices than in previous years, it’s more hectic. A student gets tired of waiting in one line and he or she tends to go to the next line. The line swapping creates problems for people who have been

waiting to get lunch. Therefore, when the bell rings, some people will go hungry until the end of the school day.

“The new bell system is needed because of the size of the cafeteria and the preparation time inside,” principal Peggie Constantino said.

The new bell system gives students ten minutes to clear the cafeteria and go back to their classes, and for six minutes, there is a “sweep system.” The faculty sweeps the campus to make sure that students

are not trying to skip class. Sometimes people are late getting from building to building. But it gives the lunch staff a chance to get things ready for the next group.

“I feel that this new bell system is necessary because we need more time to clean up and get things ready for the next group of students,” administrator James Lockhart said.

The new bell system will take some time adjusting to, but will solve many of the previous problems.



Georgia-Russia conflict means fear for America

by Ashlee Tziganuk



No, we were not at war with Russia, but the Eastern European country of Georgia was

On August 7, Russia invaded the country of Georgia after the former Soviet nation attempted to regain full control of the Georgian province South Ossetia. Russia claimed that Georgian forces had killed Russian peacekeepers in Ossetia, sparking the fire.

“The situation is a cause for concern, because Russia hasn’t

been involved with Eastern European military since the early 90s”, says World History teacher, Britt Cottingham.

Most post-Soviet countries, including Georgia, are allies with the West. That alignment is something Russia is upset about.

Georgia also wants to join NATO, and the Bush administration supports the action. NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe asked that the hostilities stop. President Bush also discussed the

situation with Russian Prime minister Vladimir Putin at the Beijing Olympics.

Georgia pulled 2,000 of their troops out of Iraq in August, which is a major blow for the US in the Middle East. Cottingham said, “I don’t think we would ever get involved militarily. We just need to put pressure on Russia diplomatically.”

Pressuring Russia would basically include isolating their economy. Pressure from organizations like the European Union and the forum for several

governments around the world called G8, would have major impact on Russia’s economy.

Instead of focusing on Russia’s economy, the U.S. instead equipped Georgian forces with military training. But on August 11, ten days after the conflict began, Russian president Dimitry Menvedev outlined a peace settlement during talks with French President Nicolas Sarkozy. The settlement was later signed by both countries on August 15.

Since then the Russians have been steadily pulling out of South Ossetia, but many still remain. Now it’s up to the people of South Ossetia to decide who will go.

If Russia had not pulled out of Georgia, their ties with the West could have been severely damaged. Just this small conflict alone caused friction between the U.S. and Russia.

The worry in the back of everyone’s mind is over nuclear weapons. In August, the U.S. put interceptor missiles

on Polish soil, causing some concern for the nearby Russians.

They were put in place to protect our allies possibly from attacks by countries like Iran. But how would we respond to Russia putting nuclear weapons in Latin America? The thought sends a chill down the spine of America as she recalls a cold war. It’s not just about a small European conflict anymore. It’s a reminder that Russia is a country that runs on the fear of others, but possesses none.

Hurricane destroys lives, futures; families rebuild

by Michele Guyton



Imagine living your entire life in the same house, at the same school, and with the same friends. Now imagine all of that being taken from right under your feet in one day. On August 29, 2005, I experienced this first-hand.

On that day, thousands of people living on the Gulf Coast lost everything they had as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Some of these people vowed to never return, but came back because of of the love they possess for their cities and towns.

“We left on August 27. I had never been so scared in my life. It took us 16 hours just to get to Mississippi because the traffic was so heavy,” said junior Diamond Brown, “My dad stayed because he thought nothing would happen.” Brown lost her uncle in the storm. She also said that several of her family members rebuilt their homes, but

they were planning to move because of Gustav. “We all love New Orleans. I miss it everyday. But I want my family to be safe more than anything.”

As the most costly and deadliest natural disaster in American history, Katrina taught everybody a lesson. One of the most important lessons it taught was to never take anything for granted.

“I have aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends in New Orleans,” math teacher Calvin Page said, “and after Katrina they went back and rebuilt. But they said that something had changed. They didn’t know if it was them or the city, but something was definitely different.”

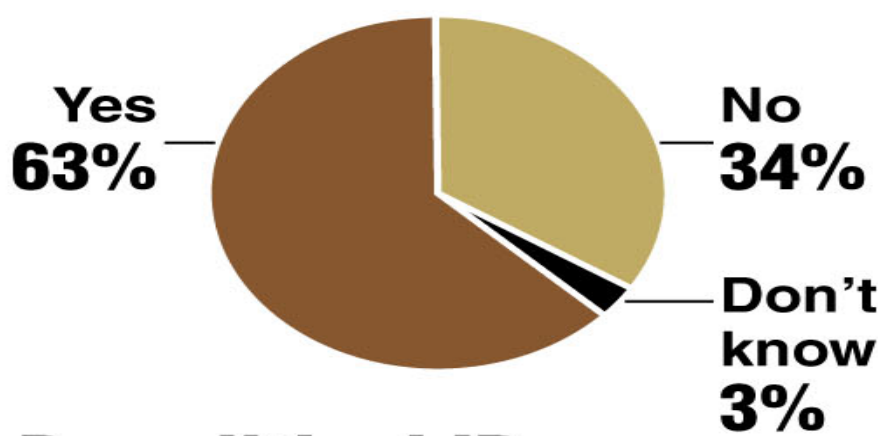
Living without electricity and running water can certainly change a person. Sometimes these things may be taken for granted. Just ask Malik Rahim, a New Orleans native, who after staying for Katrina and witnessing the horrible after-

math, founded the Common Ground Collective, a nonprofit organization that has supporters like Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, and Sean Penn. “We didn’t stay because we wanted to be heroes, we stayed because it’s just what we do. I didn’t leave for Betsey or Camille. Staying for Katrina is something I would never regret because it’s given me opportunities to shed light on things that people outside of the city would never know about otherwise,” Rahim said. “Katrina was horrible. But if you compare the evacuation numbers from Katrina to that of Gustav, it almost triples. People certainly learned from Katrina.”

“No town or city is perfect,” Brown says. “Life changes all the time, and sometimes people can’t even control it. My life is very different since Katrina. But no matter where I live, or where I am, New Orleans will always be my home. We went through Katrina together.”

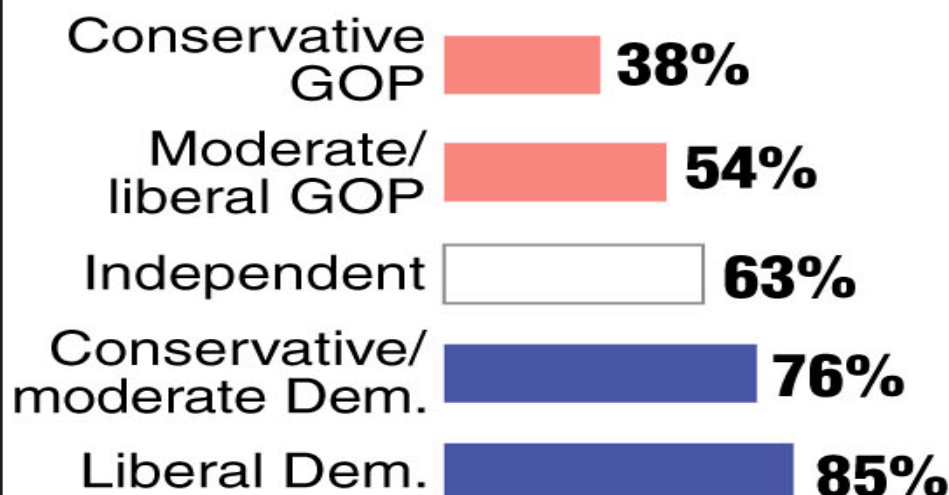
Poll: Universal health care?

Do you favor the U.S. government guaranteeing health insurance for all, even if it means raising taxes?



By political ID

Percent who say yes



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Source: Pew Research Center for People & the Press poll of 2,905 adults, July 31-Aug. 10, 2008; margin of error: +/-2 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible

If the shoe fits... Wear it!

by Suzanne Stroup

Individuality is expressed through fashion on McEachern's campus. Students sometimes wear extravagant clothes to convey their point of view to the general public, or they may wear eye-popping colors to get attention. Some of the most expensive and cool ways to do this is by wearing unique shoes. Fashionable shoes can be extremely pricey and a very

strong statement. The Billionaire Boys Club makes the popular shoes Ice Creams. Though they are "wicked cool," senior Ryan Baird said, they generally run about \$200, a price tag that is a little too hefty for most MHS students. "Even though I think they look great, I wouldn't spend \$200 on shoes. That's more than a little bit ridiculous," Baird said. Other popular trends seen on both supermodels on the runway at New York Fashion Week and celebrities on the red carpet at the Oscars are the red-soled creations of

Christian Louboutin. His shoes range from \$575 to \$2,595, making them another unattainable commodity for most students. Because of the popularity of Sex & the City, Malono Blahnik shoes, ranging from \$525 to \$2,685, often catch the eye of shoe connoisseurs. Other trends are tall heels. Senior Alex Carter is synonymous with wearing ankle breakers. "If a heel is over three inches or you don't feel comfortable, don't wear them," Carter said. "Even though my tallest heels are five and a half inches, I wouldn't wear them to school. I'd fall flat on my face!" In Carter's case, the love of shoes is a family affair. "My mom has over 100 pairs of shoes. She's trying to give them away because she doesn't even wear all of them," Carter said. Teachers keep up

on current trends too, especially by wearing high heels. "When I come to school during the warmer weather, I normally wear open-toed heels," science teacher Jennifer McLendon said. "When it gets cooler, I wear heeled boots." Most people on campus try to wear comfortable shoes, even if that means forfeiting style. Both Converse and Rocket Dog are primarily constructed of canvas, and are seen as an both stylish and comfortable. Though many people wear them, Rocket Dogs are typically "girly" shoes, with images of rainbows and hearts. "I love my Rocket Dogs," senior Rose Alexander said. "I feel like no one else has the same shoes that I have, plus I'm almost always comfortable." Converse, on the other hand, are both for boys and girls. Sometimes teachers are even seen sporting the popular trend. Some on campus don't go for comfort. "I'd choose style over comfort any day," McLendon said.

Flip-flops are

typically worn on warmer days, but some students are bold enough to wear them with toe socks during the winter. Flip-flops can range from being simple, black rubber to being "blinged" with rhinestones and glitter. Male students, who typically wouldn't wear glitter, opt for a manlier version of the trend, such as those made by Sperry Top-Sider shoes, the same designer that makes the popular boat shoes. Crocs are a trend seen that some students wish would die. Though some claim that they are incredibly comfortable, and a great alternative to tennis shoes, others complain that they are unattractive and make the wearer look ignorant of the recent trends. Though not seen on campus often because of the cobblestone walkways, Heelys are a contraption that incorporate a wheel into the heel of the shoe, making it function much like a roller blade. However, some people find them annoying, and just like Crocs, wish the trend would die out.

Teachers have many of the same opinions about shoes that students have, but some key points

differ. "I don't understand those neon Nikes I see kids wear," McLendon said. Nike Dunks are still popular among students, though some agree with McLendon. "I think they're highly unnecessary, and the neon colors are just too much," junior Sebastian Harton said. Other types of shoes seen around campus during either the rain or the cold are boots. Boots with fur are often viewed, partly due to the popularity of the song "Low" by Flo-rida. Since McEachern is unique in its open campus, students are often heard complaining about the rain, rain boots are an ever popular trend. "I love rain boots. They make me feel so cute," senior Katie Pflugradt said. "Plus, I think they're a better alternative than just tennis shoes." Students place particular importance on keeping their "kicks" clean. Students like to keep their white tennis shoes pristine so that they look fresh and new. As we walk though life, our souls are really what we are whether we wear stilettos or sneakers, flats or boots, flip-flops or loafers, we should take pride in what we wear and always feel comfortable in our own skin. That's all the fun of being a teenager.



Walk this way... Shoes through the ages



1710
Leather sole, satin upper, wooden heel



1795
Pink kid slipper



1830
Black satin shoes



1792
French mule shoes with tri-color cockade



1798
Turkish slippers



1890
Two-tone kid leather boots

photo by www.cwt.lucias.edu

Youth football scores a touchdown

by Khalea Underwood



When the parents of senior Jiovanni Doris registered him for youth football, they thought that it would only be a fun after school activity. They didn't know that he'd take a life's worth of lessons with him.

Some may view football solely as a recreational sport, but the boys who play for the McEachern Youth Indians and the McEachern Junior Indians know differently.

As the years progress, team members learn that football isn't just about scoring touchdowns; it's about the importance of teamwork, dedication, and becoming familiar with McEachern's high standards in sports.

"McEachern is a big word...people always associate it with good football. Many people from outside of this district come here to play," McEachern

Youth Football and Cheerleading Association (MYFCA) president Ike Montgomery said.

Football has always been a popular sport in this community, and the number of supporters reflects that trend.

Because the former Powder Springs Indians are under the direction of McEachern High School, MYFCA registered 360 football players and 60 cheerleaders this year. Lower registration fees are also a reflection of well-received program.

"I lowered the registration fee for cheerleading and football because the economy is so bad right now. I think that this is what drew so many kids and parents in this year," Montgomery said.

Children develop a sense of consistency when they start football earlier;

many former youth players are involved in middle school, junior varsity, and varsity football.

In fact, all of the sixth, seventh and eight grade players involved in McEachern Youth Football are former Powder Springs Indians.

There are also training camps and programs held at McEachern for boys of all ages to better their technique during the summer.

"On the field, you can tell the difference between new players and the ones who have been playing for a while," Desmond Reece, a senior, said.

Parents also register their children to cheer and play football to direct their focus from time-wasting activities. They are active during the week and at games, which is a fresh alternative to watching hours of television.



photo by Chelsea Basch

MHS football field end zone, the stomping grounds of former Powder Springs Indians.

"My parents wanted me to play football because it kept me out of trouble," Doris, a senior, said. "It kept me busy and occupied while they worked and ran errands."

Jimmy Dorsey, athletic director of McEachern High School, hopes that players and parents view football as more than just a hobby. To him, foot-

ball is a way to get to know people on and off of the field. Teammates become life-time companions, and coaches become advisors.

"I think that football is unique because everyone doesn't touch the ball. This is an ultimate example of the 'team' concept. Everyone doesn't participate, but they all work together

for a common goal. This type of teamwork can be used in real-life situations," Dorsey said.

"Because I was involved in football, I had to work harder on my homework and other activities that I was in. Playing football gave me the extra push that I needed off the field, and I'm a better person today because of that," Doris said.

Georgia-bred diving champ gains experience in Beijing

by Jack Culler



With the majority of the attention on Michael Phelps during the 27th Olympic Games this year, The University of Georgia's own Chris Colwill's inspiring story has been out of sight and out of mind for many.

Colwill, who was born with a birth deficiency which makes him 60 percent deaf, is currently the fourth best ranked synchronized diver in the world. The six time national champion and 2006 NCAA diver of the year has made a name for himself in the world of diving.

Although he is only 23 years old, he has spent the last five consecutive years on the US National Diving Team, and has impressed coaches and critics each year.

Although expectations were high for Colwill and the US diving squad, the same can certainly be said for the Chinese team. Led by He Chong, the number one ranked synchronized diver in the world, the Chinese seemed poised for a gold medal at their home aquatic center.

The aforementioned Chong and the rest of the Chinese diving team exceeded their already lofty expectations. Chong, known to the Chinese as "The Super-

natural Boy", ended all other country's hopes for a gold medal when he executed one of the most difficult dives in the history of the sport, known as 5156B and 5355B, respectively. The silver medal was awarded to a surprising Russian team, which in turn created a battle for the bronze medal between Ukraine and The United States.

Unfortunately this story, does not have a fairy tale ending. The Ukraine team edged out Colwill and the U.S. team by less than five points.

Although Colwill did not receive a medal in his first Olympic appearance, he has gained a good amount of experience in the sport.

When the London Olympic Games arrive in August

of 2012, Colwill will be 27 years old. He just completed his final year of college eligibility at the University of Georgia by being named NCAA Diving of the Year once again, and he plans to continue competing internationally.



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Phelps phenomenon: Why Micheal is on everyone’s mind

by Taylon Sharer

Among the 647 American Olympians who competed in Beijing, 23 year old Michael Phelps was the one to beat. But after winning 14 gold medals over the course of only two Olympics, where does Phelps go from here?

He started competing at age 15, which made him the youngest athlete to compete in 68 years. Phelps placed fifth in the 200 meter butterfly, launching his career at such a young age.

Former Olympic swimmer Mark Spitz, who was one of three Olympians to ever win seven gold medals, set records which were never to be touched. Not only did Michael Phelps tie Spitz’s records, but beat them significantly, making Phelps the best athlete of all time. “Even though there has

been new technology developed to be more accurate with times, it still comes down to the skill,” junior Ryan Pulley said.

The only race this year Phelps did not dominate was his seventh, the 100 meter butterfly, in which he defeated Milorad Cavic by 1/100 of a second.

After being such a huge success these past few years, what is the next step for Phelps? His popularity isn’t yet falling amongst supporters, having nearly 1.5 million “Phans” on his Facebook page.

Phelps’ spirit is alive in the school as well. Senior Patrick Teate is a “dedicated Phelps fan” and says he would not have missed a race for anything. Teate is also a member of the competitive marching band. said “Before long repetition when we are all tired, many of us yell ‘Phelps it!’ as our way of

motivating the band to have a fantastic run of our show,” Teate said.

Phelps will be busy for the next few months, having endorsed himself to seven companies and having about three to five more within the next month. Saturday Night Live expected millions of fans to tune in on September 13th, when Michael Phelps hosts the show.

Although he is keeping himself busy and replacing Tony the Tiger by being placed on 10 million boxes of Corn Flakes and Frosted Flakes, Phelps’ fame may soon die down now that the Olympics are over.

But Michael Phelps isn’t done. The decision has officially been made by Phelps that he will compete in the 2012 Olympics in London, but does not feel he will compete in 2016. He wished to not compete past the age of 30.



photo by MCT Campus

United States Olympic swimming champion Michael Phelps humbly answers the burning questions from the press after his eight wins at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing

Gold medal scandals

by Sydney Kelly

The tension between athletes has created a considerable amount of distrust and strife during the Olympic Games.

Controversy during the Olympics has stretched back as far as the early 1900s when long-distance runner Frank Lorz rode in his manager’s car for 11 miles of his race. These actions are often the result of an athlete’s overdeveloped sense of competitiveness.

“There’s much more pressure in being an Olympian than being a professional athlete,” McEachern and baseball coach Stewart Thomas said. “You only compete once every four years.”

A particularly memorable Olympic scandal occurred in the Switzerland 1948 Olympics when two

U.S. Hockey teams showed up both claiming they were the team chosen by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The Swiss Olympic Committee overruled the IOC’s decision to disqualify both teams

as far as bribing judges for the gold. After a blatant loss to the Canadians, the Russian speed skating team received gold medals for their performance in the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. French

the Olympics has also seen a high rate of violence in its years of competition. Murders include the 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team in Munich to volleyball coach Hugh McCutcheon’s father-in-law in

Tonya Harding and her ex-husband were involved in the attack as means to compete again. As the games came upon them, Kerrigan recovered and won the silver. Harding came far down in the rankings and her

you’re using drugs, you’re not allowed to compete.”

A recent case of steroid use in the Olympics involves track legend Marion Jones and her public confession earlier this spring. She won five gold medals in Sydney in 2000 and has spent the last four years denying accusations of drug use by a supposed supplier, BALCO.

An Olympic athlete’s sometimes dangerous behavior does not sit well with viewers, particularly parents. They carry a weight on their shoulders that is often too much for them to bear.

“Olympic athletes don’t just represent themselves,” Thomas said. “They represent the country. Abusing drugs like that goes beyond yourself to affect younger people.”

and the Amateur Hockey Association’s team was allowed to compete.

“An Olympian’s sport has been their passion since they were young,” senior football player and track runner Nico Delaney said. “Most people will do anything to fulfill their dreams.”

Occasionally competitors, or even supporters, will go

judge Marie-Reine Le Gougne quickly admitted to the bribe and the Canadians were given duplicate metals. The scandal was discovered as a plan hatched far up in the Olympic Committee’s chain of command and a new judging system became a product of the conspiracy.

Besides the disagreements regarding playing qualifications and cheating,

Beijing.

There was also the 1994 Tonya-Nancy incident in which Nancy Kerrigan was ambushed by an unknown attacker. The assaulter caused severe damage to Kerrigan’s knee with an Olympic metal and Kerrigan was unable to compete in the figure skating competition in Lillehammer. It was later revealed that 1991 metalist

ex-husband was sent to jail.

Although violence and ill-favored behavior are still common at the Olympic Games, the most popular and harmful scandal in the Olympics today is steroid use.

“Steroids were used pretty frequently in years back,” pediatrician Dr. Cantrell said. “Now athletes are monitored closely. If coaches find out

Girls volleyball prepares for rigorous upcoming season

by Chelsea Baasch

Despite minor setbacks, the region champion volleyball team is ready to serve up the competition.

The abundance of new players, including four starters, and the loss of seven seniors are challenges the team is determined to overcome. Last season the team went 30-16 and was undefeated in the district. This season, the team’s standards have been raised.

“Our main goal is to stay focused and be prepared to that we can go and win state,” volleyball coach Patty Craven said.

Upperclassmen are especially determined to improve the team’s standings this season.

“My personal goal is to be the best player I can and to keep the team motivated to do their best also,”

senior Lakiva Smith said. Smith has been playing volleyball at McEachern for three years, and she hopes to get a scholarship.

State Play-offs, which will take place on Oct. 25, took a back seat to a tournament at McEachern in mid-September. The Play for the Cure Volleyball tournament for the Komen Cancer Foundation took place on Sept. 18 and proved to be the team’s first hurdle before state play-offs. The team came out successful with one win over Alexander.

“Volleyball is playing matches in the state and all funds go to Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. It is a National activity in many sports,” Craven said. “We were lucky enough to take part in last years’ first Georgia occasion. Now, we are hosting one of many matches to

earn money for Breast Cancer.”

The tournament raised more than \$1,900 in t-shirt sales and donations. Every team sported identical pink shirts with white breast cancer ribbons displayed prominently across their chests with matching pink socks.

The team’s next hurdle will come Sept. 25 when they play the Marietta-Cobb County Tournament. Expectations for the next few games and the rest of the season are extremely high.

“It takes hard work and dedication, but we are excited for the upcoming year and look forward to this season,” Smith said.

The team continues the conditioning they began in early Aug. They will hopefully result in a successful, winning season for the team.

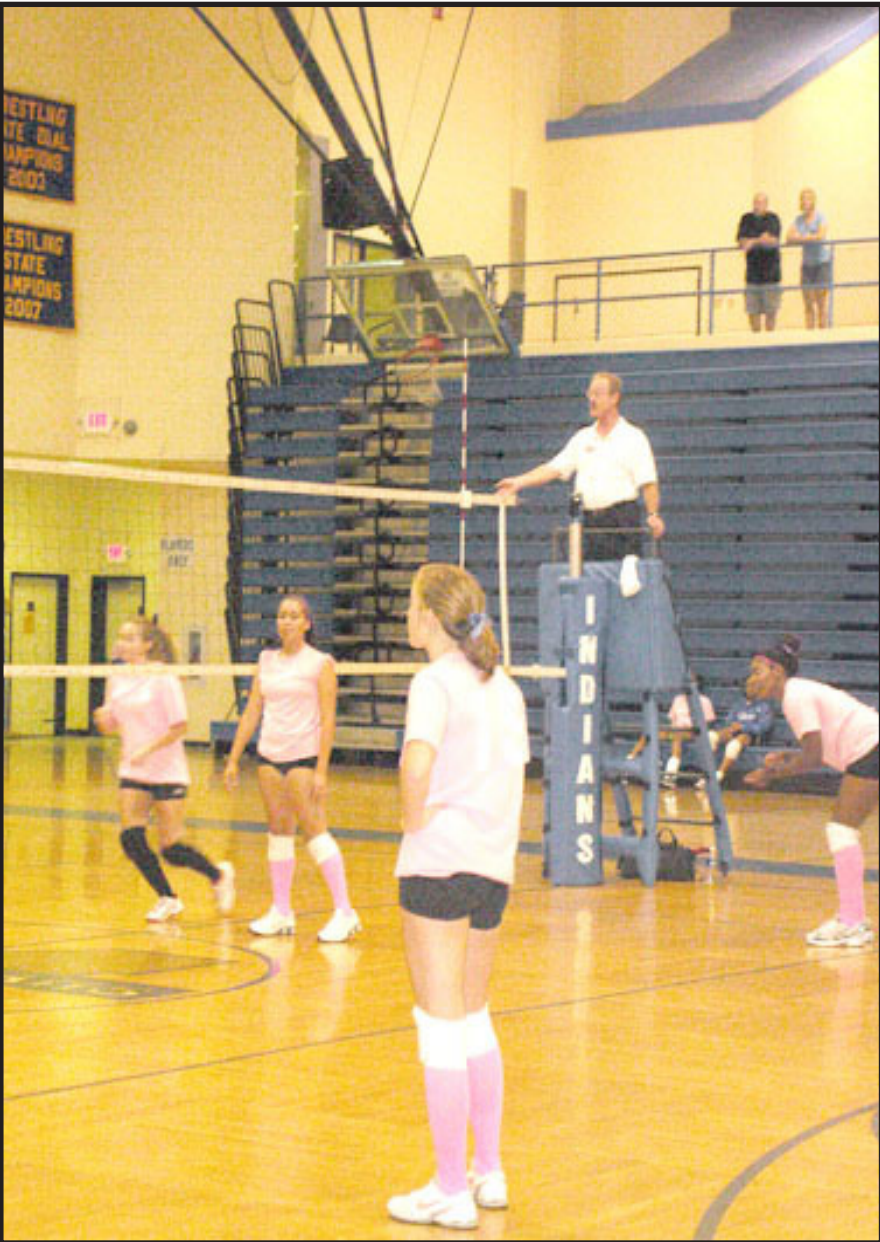


photo by Taylon Sharer

Ashely Cooper (senior) and Laura Jenkins (junior) rest and prepare before the next serve from Alexander