

# THE TRIBAL TIMES

Vol. 5 Issue 2

McEachern High School

December 2008

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# Obama wins presidency Making History

by Steven Thomma  
McClatchy Newspapers



Barack Hussein Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States on Nov. 4, swept to victory by an anxious country eager to change course at home and abroad.

Obama, 47, becomes the first African-American in U.S. history to win the presidency and the first from the generation that came of age after the turbulence of the 1960s. He built his campaign on a mastery of the Internet as an organizing tool that will change the way presidential campaigns are run forever.

Obama was at the vanguard of Democratic gains across the country that promised him a solid working majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Eager for a popular mandate to reshape the government, Obama appeared well on his way late Nov. 4 to become the first Democrat to take a majority of the popular vote since Jimmy Carter eeked out 50.1 percent in 1976.

Obama sealed his victory by holding all the states that went Democratic in 2004, then picking off Republican states including Iowa, New Mexico and Ohio.

Ohio was particularly important: No Republican has ever won the presidency without Ohio. No Democrat had won the White House without it since John Kennedy.

More than 40 million Americans already had voted that Tuesday morning, and total turnout topped 130 million. The turnout rate rivaled the modern record of 67 percent set in 1960, the highest since women were granted the right to vote in 1920.



The White House is located 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC

## New roads reduce traffic flow

by Megan Easley



Windy Hill-Maaland connector Cobb County commissioners approved a \$23 million contract for the long-anticipated connector between Windy Hill and Maaland roads on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Once finished, the project officials have nicknamed "Windy

Mac" will link Maaland Road at Powder Springs Road to Windy Hill Road at Austell Road, giving eastbound motorists from west Cobb a direct route to I-75 and easing rush-hour congestion on streets such as Callaway Road.

The Department of Transportation projects 22,700 cars a day will travel on the connector one year after its

expected completion in May 2011. Bob Galante, engineering division manager for Cobb DOT, said the project has been discussed since 1985. "At the time, there was not a tremendous need for such a large project.

It came up from time to time," Galante said. "Now, we've gotten to the point where the

need exists, and we've got to do something about this."

Work on the two-mile, four-lane divided highway project began Oct. 30.

The first phase of this project is from Callaway Road east to the intersection of Windy Hill and Austell roads.

The second phase will connect the Maaland and Powder

Springs intersection to Callaway.

The project is being financed by the one percent sales tax increase voters approved in 2005.

Galante said some traffic disruption is expected along the affected intersections, but is not expected to be more adverse than when repaving took place in the area. Senior Caneasha Coleman said,

"My mom

teaches at Milford Elementary and the traffic is always really bad, so if this construction will shorten her commute I think it's a great idea."

This project is a large endeavor, costing large amounts of time and money, but it will ultimately lead to less congestion in West Cobb and provide a much needed route to I-75.



# Debt Stress\$

by Michele Guyton



As the prospect of a recession looms closer and closer, financial problems have become increasingly commonplace. One of these problems is credit card debt. Last year alone, over 50,000 Americans fell into debt.

This sometimes happens because of the age of the person when they get a credit card for the first time. "My mother was 19 when she got her first credit card, and she was in debt not long after that. She has always taught me to be careful before I get one so I won't have her problems," junior Azia Washington said.

A parent could ultimately be held responsible for a high school or college student's debt. Every year, thousands of students are told that they are qualified for a credit card. They fill out these applications and when they get the actual card, they often max them out very quickly. "I throw away every single piece of mail I get for credit cards. I just don't need the trouble," junior Mario Crawford said. Crawford said he would rather use cash because it's more stress free.

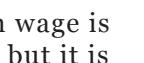
Being in debt can make a person unable to get a new house, car, or even get certain jobs. The stress that debt causes can mount and lead to other emotional problems. It takes many years to get out of a debt, and some people never do.

Young high school and college students learn a great deal about the world as they learn and grow. Learning to manage their money is a responsibility that can stay with them for the rest of their lives.

*"People tend not to think about the consequences of the minimum wage increase."*

## Teen job opportunities fall as minimum wage rises

by Demalis Makori



Minimum wage is increasing, but it is hurting job opportunities for teens across Georgia.

The July 2008 minimum wage increased from \$5.75 to \$6.55. Although it is a well thought concept, it has negative effects on the unemployment rate among teens. "All I was thinking about was more money in my pocket," senior Morgan Conner said.

Georgia's unemployment rate is 6.5 percent, the same as the national average. As the nation suffers, economically more people are competing for



Senior Byron Toso looks with a heavy heart into an empty wallet in front of the vending machines.

photo by Suzanne Strand

fewer jobs. Immigrants and older workers are turning to hourly work leaving teens out of work. "It's hard hiring teens looking for jobs now since there is so much competition," Zaxby's General Manager John Howell said.

People who support the increase in minimum wage argue that it lifts wages of those workers with least bargaining power.

"It's good that somebody shows concern for low wage workers," Conner said.

As wages increase there is a greater demand for work among teenagers. Opponents view minimum wages

as a cost to business owners by pricing low wage workers out of the labor market.

"People tend not to think about the consequences of the increase from an economic stand point. Their only thinking about more money in their pockets and not realizing where it's coming from," economics teacher Tony Dichiara said.

The most common minimum wage jobs are in fast food and grocery stores. When wages increase, it costs business owners more and affecting consumers too.

Some employers cannot afford to pay high wages to unskilled, untrained labor. To make up for their losses; business-

es usually raise prices or lay-off employees. Those employees tend to be part-time workers.

"They are cutting hours from 24 to 16 a week for employees and sending some home early to cut cost," Conner said.

The nation's unemployment rate for teens is 15 percent. Demographic and economic differences contribute to unemployment rates too. In some areas of the nation, teens tend not to work because of families financial status.

Not all unemployment is a result of economics. "It helps me stay healthy and looks better when I apply for college," senior Gennis Williams said.

## Cost of living amendment takes input from teachers

by Brittney Pendleton



With the economy declining, the teacher's cost of living is increasing.

Sonny Perdue wants to change the wording for the Cost of Living Amendment (COLA). By allowing the state

may not receive the a cost of living increase since it is at the government's discretion.

COLA states that retired teachers will receive cost of living raises twice a year. The wording of the amendment will change from "will

continue to live in?"

As the cost of living goes up, teachers are struggling to keep money in their pockets. The economy is experiencing a crisis, and it's affecting food and gas prices. With COLA approaching teachers, it is becoming hard

said. "To take the cost of living increase away from teachers, you are going to take more good teachers out of the profession and putting them into mainstream society."

Some students who are considering teaching as a profession are now questioning their decision.

"I have always

wanted to be a teacher," sophomore Ashley Ferreira said. "If COLA is changing and hindering teachers from supporting their loved ones, then I really don't know if I want to go into the teaching field."

The cost of living is a cycle that happens in the economy. "All I want is the cost of

living to stay low. There isn't any new updates on the Cost of Living Admendment, but it will be a situation people have to deal with," Goverment teacher Todd McMath said.

COLA leaves doubts on the minds of some teachers, but for many, the promise of a secure retirement is hopeful.

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# HOSA: Volunteering for a better future

by: Chelsea Baasch



The Health Occupations Students of America club (HOSA) is helping out the community one patient at a time.

On Oct. 25, the HOSA club volunteered at the Powder Springs Nursing and Rehabilitation Center's to help prepare for the centers fall festival.

The center offers an intern program for students who want to have hands-on experience.

"I decided to get involved in the work base program because I plan on becoming a doctor and wanted a better idea of what working with people would be like," senior Deborah

Amosu said.

In this work-based program, interns assist residents in a variety of ways. They play board games, trivia games, and a variation of bingo called Pachinko.

Occasionally the interns organize and lead the activities. They also keep the residents updated by informing them of current events.

In December, HOSA collects donations for charity organizations by collecting gift baskets and money donations in order to make someone else's holiday more enjoyable.

In addition to volunteering in the community, the students administer hearing and eye exams to students

on campus. HOSA also organizes a flu shot clinic where professional doctors and nurses give the shots to MHS faculty and their families.

During their after school meetings, they plan for HOSA Week, which is important in spreading awareness of the club and encouraging new membership.

When members aren't volunteering, they participate in competitions and attend conventions where they are able to learn more about different health occupation fields and careers.

At these conventions, they take tests on medical terminology, spell-

ing and math.

There are written tests and scenarios in the

these conventions.

"The Spring Leadership Competition has

years," health occupations teacher Sandra Null said.

On March 5-7, all members compete in the spring HOSA competition.

McEachern's HOSA attended the Jekyll Island Leadership Convention Sept. 25-27. They met with HOSA founders, who taught them how to conduct meetings and organize activities. They were taught how to be a leader and deal with responsibilities that are thrust upon them.

"I joined HOSA because it will give me experience in the health field, since I want to become a pediatrician," sophomore Becky Cas- tor said.



HOSA member Haley Shane visits the Powder Springs Nursing and Rehabilitation center on Oct. 25.

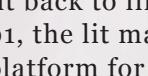
photo by Chelsea Baasch

medical field such as simulation of CPR. All HOSA member schools in Georgia are invited

always been hosted in Gwinnett, but will be in Athens at the UGA campus for the next three

# LIT Magazine

by Olaedo Ajoku



The literary magazine has

been brought back to life. Getting in full swing in 2001, the lit mag offered students a new platform for their voices.

"When work is printed, people can display their individual style and voice through a variety of genres," co-sponsor Ruth Thomas said.

But in the literary magazine, the student body may see writing and literature in a new light and a better prospective by looking deep into a piece of work.

"We have a wide range of diversity, so now they can connect to different cultures," junior and magazine member Lauren Montgomery said.

The magazine may bring a unique and fascinating aspect to the school and increase the interests in reading, writing and the arts.

"I think that a lot of people don't read much when they submit their work, they get thrilled about a tal-

ent that they didn't know they had," "It increases their love of reading," Montgomery said.

The literary magazine persuades people to read more, and it also gives students a chance to shine through published work.

The lit mag generally runs around 100 pages, and it contains poetry, short stories, essays and visual art.

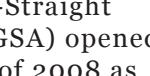
"This year is exciting because in celebration of the 75th anniversary, we will have an alumni section dedicated to works by students and retired teachers," co-sponsor Christina Morgan-Theriot said.

There is the possibility for a memorial section so that students may showcase works inspired by lost loved ones, friends and classmates.

In an effort to offer a variety of voices, the sponsors encourage teachers to submit personal works to showcase the talent that lies within the faculty.

# Gay-Straight Alliance promotes acceptance

by: Taylon Sharer



The Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) opened in the fall of 2008 as a new opportunity to create unity among the McEachern Student body.

GSA was founded by junior Wayne Lee with the goal of reaching peers in the school and community by spreading tolerance of different sexual beliefs. They meet on Wednesdays, and while they welcome new members, they are cautious of less than supportive students.

"Location and time are kept semi-private because we do not want non-supporters to attend who plan on

bashing the organization and giving us a bad name," junior Sebastian Harton said.

The organization was made after the school year began and has only met a handful of times, but so far has been successful. The meetings consist of discussion and members debate ways to support and promote gay pride month, October.

"I attend because I believe in tolerance of all things," sophomore Richard Lorenzini said. "Everyone is really nice and it's a welcoming feeling to know they genuinely want to be your friend no matter who you are."

"The numbers have



GSA members Sebastian Harton, Seles Fortin and Patrice Allen get involved at the GSA meeting on Nov. 12.

photo by Taylon Sharer

discussion with students has been productive and relative to what the club is about," teacher Ruth Thomas said. She is a sponsor of GSA along with Kathryn Elalouf.

Anyone is welcome at meetings, no matter his or her sexual orientation. The association's main focus is to create alliances with all types of people.

"Right now our primary focus is to have students on campus accept, or at least understand, what the organization stands for. We want to get recognized for the unity we try to accomplish," Lee said.

The GLBT (Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transsexual) community and the

confidence that comes with being a part of it was the main focus of the Oct. 22 meeting. It was bring-a-friend week, and attendants increased by ten visitors.

The organization plans to make T-shirts in an attempt to raise awareness and get students involved.

"I am very thankful of the club and hope we can spread awareness and share that we are no one to be afraid of, but I do understand that homophobia is not always a curable disease," Harton said.

The Nov. 12 meeting involved the organization participants by researching countries and finding out laws of sexuality in their country.

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# McEachern celebrates diamond anniversary



Russell Hall was formally a dormitory at McEachern's opening in 1908, when the school was an agricultural college.

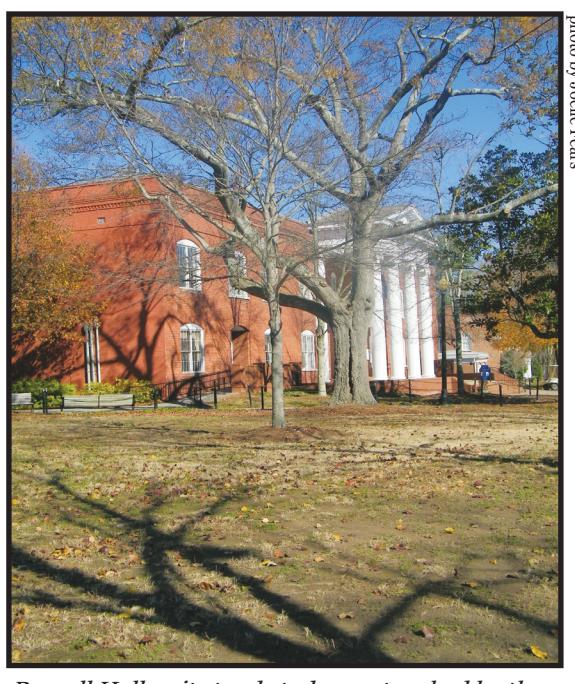


photo by Joelle Pears

Russell Hall as it stands today, untouched by the 75 years it has endured.

by Khalea Underwood



Students and teachers have a reason to walk the halls with pride as McEachern celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

John Newton McEach-

ern, co-founder of the Life of Georgia Insurance Company, donated 240 acres of land to show his support of higher education in his community. Because of this, the Seventh District Agricultural and Mechanical School was opened in 1908.

The name of the school was changed to honor McEachern's memory in 1975. Besides the moniker, McEachern has undergone other important changes throughout the decades.

"I think that the biggest difference between McEachern 75 years ago and today is the new additions," Susan Richardson, attendance office clerk, said. "So many buildings have been added."

MHS has evolved from a single, two-story building to a sprawling campus of over 15 buildings. Additions to the school began in 1909 when Russell Hall was built, and facilities were added to accommodate the changing times and expanding student body.

The Business Technology Building, the Jack D. Hall Freshman Center and McEachern's newest additions, the dining hall and the Fine Arts Center,

are all examples of that. "Most of the other schools in this county have everything in just one building," junior Vindya Reedy said. "We're very fortunate to have a great campus like this."

The size of McEachern's campus has grown along with its legacy and student body. In 1908, 50 students attended the school. Today 2340 students are enrolled with supportive family members behind them.

Many believe that McEachern High School has always been a part of the community. The school was built to serve everyone, and it certainly has.

"Our school has a tradition because we are all so close to each other. Although things are different from when I was a student here, I can still see the pride that everyone takes in McEachern," Richardson said.



## Hate vs. heritage: confederate flag a variety of symbols

by Khalea Underwood



The Confederate flag is a Southern symbol that has caused controversy across the nation. Most view it as a racist emblem from the Civil War era while others simply use the flag as a representation of their heritage.

The first official flag of the Confederate States of America was created in 1861. It held three red and white stripes and seven stars to represent the states that succeeded from the United States during the Civil War.

Several variations of the flag were used during the time of the Confederacy including the

popular Battle Flag, also known as the "Southern Cross."

Soldiers flew the bars and stars while fighting in historic battles. After the war, the flag was a way to remember the glory of the Confederacy.

"I can see why some people fly the flag in their yards; their proud of what the south accomplished during the Civil War," senior Keyairra Littles said.

While the flag is a relic of America's history, it still holds an account of hate for some Americans. The Southern Cross was hung during the bleak era of slavery and to some, it represents years of

oppression. Many racist groups, including white skinheads and Neo-Nazis, use the flag to evoke fear in others. The Ku Klux Klan, an organization founded by ex-Confederate general Nathaniel Bedford Forrest, flew the flag while holding violent demonstrations during the Civil Rights Era.

"The flag didn't become a negative symbol until the 1920s," history teacher Rose Tucker said. "It was a positive symbol for the Sons of the Confederacy, but it's a symbol of hatred because of the Klan."

Images of the banner have been morphed into a pop culture phenomenon. The banner is

painted atop a race car in the 1980s series "The Dukes of Hazard".

It can also be found on numerous t-shirts and bumper stickers in the community. A popular chain called Dixie Outfitters

sells apparel for babies, teens, and adults.

Arguments about using the flag to represent states today have brought the flag's past into the light.

In April 2000, the South Carolina Senate



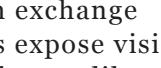
The confederate flag still flies today after all the controversy.

passed a bill to remove the flag from the capitol after 38 years. Former Georgia governor Roy Barnes also removed it from the state flag in 2002, and he lost many supporters for his choice.

Although the banner is a southern staple, many don't understand the history behind it. But whether the Confederate flag represents hate or heritage, it will undoubtedly remain a part of America's history.

## Student exchange programs promote international bonding

by Sydney Kelly



Foreign exchange programs expose visitors and hosts alike to cultures that are equally unique and unfamiliar.

Junior Diplomats International Homestays has been operat-

ing since 1986 sending more than 10,000 students abroad and hosting foreigners in an attempt to enhance linguistic a. The abilities and culturally educate Georgia's youth.

The Junior Diplomats in based in Atlanta and deals specifically with American-French

exchange.

"This program has a sole purpose of promoting better French-American relations one friendship at a time," Junior Diplomats' founder Mark VandePlanque said.

VandePlanque taught English in

France for ten years

before founding the Junior Diplomats and relies on culture to encourage students to expose themselves to the different people in the world.

"In France I promoted English by taking students to see musicals in London and putting the shows back together in the language of Shakespeare," VandePlanque said.

In the program, students are either sent off or host for three weeks during the summer holidays. Matches for students involved in the program are based on age, personality and interests.

"You don't realize how different you are from the rest of the world until you travel," senior Alex Standridge said.

Standridge spent the entirety of this past July in France with her host, Ann Mathon, as a part of the foreign exchange program. "I feel like I'm living in a bubble now," Standridge said.

The primary focus of Junior Diplomats is to put into practice what students have learned in their French classes. Visitors are spoken to in

their own language or simple foreign the first few days, but as time wears on they are spoken to more as if they were natives. Being completely immersed in a new language forces a student to focus on what they learned in class and pick up the language faster.

When students

are sent abroad, the French families are encouraged to go about their normal routines in an attempt to give the students an authentic feel of how their lives are conducted.

Standridge hosted Ann in the summer of 2007, but she prefers going abroad to staying at home.

She believes learning about another culture first-hand much more educational.

"The formula is simple, but the benefits are enormous," VandePlanque said.

"No student can travel abroad and establish friendship ties with a foreign family without being significantly impacted for life, in addition with reaching a much higher level of fluency in their chosen foreign language."

Being involved in a foreign culture assists

students in learning the language more thoroughly. While foreign language classes often have culture education in their curriculum, the first-hand experience of living in that culture is something unique.

"Not talking about politics was weird," Standridge said. "I mean, that's all we're talking about over here."

Now that she has returned home, Standridge plans on going back to France to visit after graduation this coming May.

She and Ann stay connected through the internet and send each other Christmas and birthday gifts every year.

Her experience has assisted her in learning French substantially and she continues to put the experience to practice in her French class and after school with the French club.

"This experience unleashes tremendous life skills on which students can continue building on for the purpose of a high education and therefore enhanced job opportunities later in life," VandePlanque said.

# 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.

# Hair Today... Gone tomorrow...

by Michele Guyton



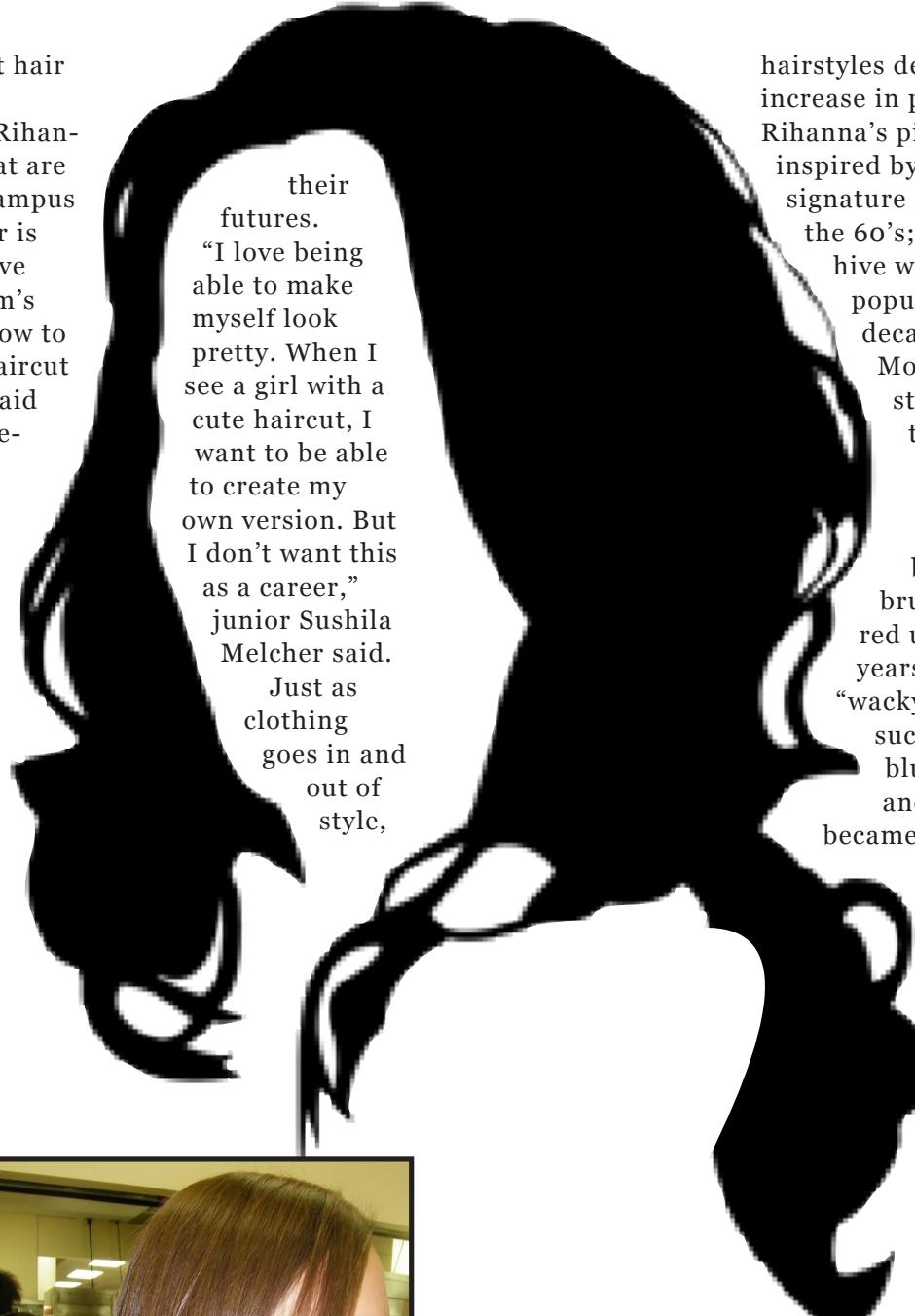
Throughout history, people have used their appearances to express themselves. One of the most common ways of doing this is by having a trendy or unique hairstyle.

"I've been cutting hair for 20 years, so I've seen just about everything," stylist Angela Garth said, "from feathered bangs, to Mohawks, and even purple and blue styles. Last summer, everyone wanted to look like Victoria Beckham. This year, all the girls

want super short hair like Rihanna."

Beckham and Rihanna are names that are brought up on campus when trendy hair is mentioned. "I love Victoria Beckham's hair. I learned how to style a similar haircut last semester," said junior and cosmetology student Katie Nicholson. Nicholson says she plans to be a hairstylist.

However, some cosmetology students joined the course only for fun; they have other plans for



their futures. "I love being able to make myself look pretty. When I see a girl with a cute haircut, I want to be able to create my own version. But I don't want this as a career," junior Sushila Melcher said.

Just as clothing goes in and out of style,

hairstyles decline and increase in popularity. Rihanna's pixie cut is inspired by Twiggy's signature style in the 60's; the beehive was also popular in that decade.

Most people stayed in the hair color palette of brown, blonde, brunette, and red until later years when "wacky" colors such as pink, blue, green, and purple became more

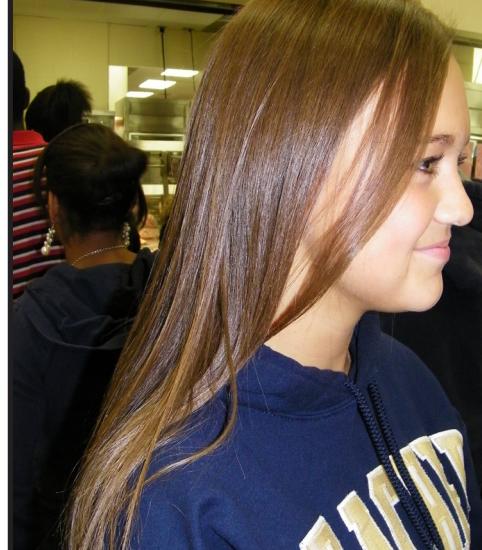
fashionable. Gwen Stefani, Cyndi Lauper, and Pink have been known to have neon colored hair. Nicholson, a natural blonde, loves to experiment with color. "My hair has been just about every color in the rainbow. I love having the freedom to express my creativity through my hair. It's truly an art form for me."

Hair will never conceal the personality that they intend to radiate. Hair does not define a person, but it does add depth to a person.



photos by Taylor Sharer

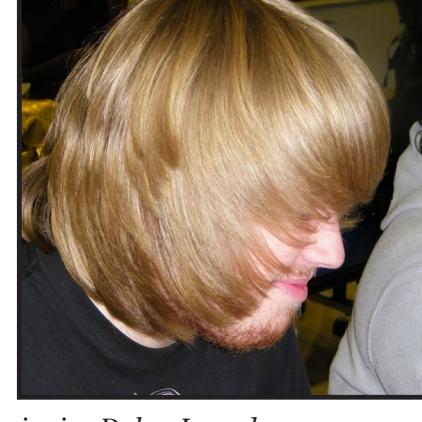
senior Shannon Rosario



junior Lauren Still



senior Brittany Simpkins



junior Dylan Langdon



senior Jaron Roberson



junior Cornell Martin

## Hair Tips and Tricks

-A healthy lifestyle will mean healthier hair. Excessive stress, smoking, not exercising and not eating well are not healthy for your hair.

-Avoid putting hair styling products directly on your scalp, doing so will result in clogging the pores on your head.

-Before entering a pool, wet your hair so it can soak up the initial water instead of the chlorinated water.

-Hot air can be damaging to your hair, so when using a hair dryer use the cool setting.

-To speed up the drying process, pat your hair dry with a towel and let the remaining moisture in your hair dry naturally.

-Gently use your fingers or a pick to untangle any knots while your hair is drying.

<http://www.haircareguide.com/tips.htm>

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# Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus

# Teacher's gender influences student enthusiasm

by Ogechi Anyanwu

McEachern high school's staff is made up of 208 teachers. Twenty-eight percent of that staff is male.

Traditionally, men have been referred to as the "bread-winner" in the family. Teaching is a female-dominated profession that men do not normally consider as a top career choice.

"I don't think males understand the importance of entering the education field," Assistant Principal James Lockhart said.

While female teachers are equally capable of more masculine careers, males dominate such professions because that is where they have worked traditionally.

Many men can be discouraged from entering the education field because there are so few male teachers in today's educational field. The smaller paycheck can also be a factor.

"Although it may take a long time to reach a satisfying salary, the reward to teaching students is enough pay in itself," English teacher Ken Lipe said.

Lipe stated that he has a friend in the electrician business and makes three times the amount he does, but it doesn't compare to the fulfilling reward a teacher gets.

It is important to have male teachers or administrators on campus, because some students may not have a father at home to look

up to. Many students find themselves in a home without a father figure to help demonstrate right from wrong.

"My favorite teacher is Jones," senior Kathryn Chambers said. "He doesn't just teach us the curriculum. He teaches us life lessons like a father would. Those lessons are the kind of thing that'll stick with me through life."

Male teachers are commonly perceived less demanding by the student body. Their laid-back nature often assists in being received more warmly.

"Male teachers are likely to be more relaxed than a female teacher would," senior Keshia Charmant said.

Most adults become teachers so they can help empower and inspire the youth to make a better person of themselves.

"I have the utmost respect for teachers because I know they

work each and every day to try to make us the best we can be, in and out the classroom," senior Levor Bryan.

While students can

by Joelle Fears

Some may say that it is a "man's world," and it is assumed that teaching is a woman's job.



photo by Chelsea Baechler

Although Government/Economics teacher Todd McMath and U.S. History teacher Rose Tucker have different teaching styles, both teachers are equally efficient in inspiring students to achieve.

be frustrated with the assignments or teaching methods in many classes, the benefits outweigh costs.

Despite their gender, a teacher can have a big influence on a child's life, and it's important to encourage students of this generation to enter the education field.

Seventy-two percent of the staff is female. "Teaching is perceived as a nurturing role, and stereotypically, women are nurturing so they are drawn to it," said English teacher Allison Paulk.

Although it has not been proven whether or not students learn better or worse with a certain gender as a

teacher, Paulk believes that respect for different genders is established in the child's young and impressionable years.

"It depends on whether or not the student is raised in a household with equal respect for their mother and their father," said Paulk, "I do not think people respect me because of or in spite of gender."

From a student's point of view, women are more patient and can put up with kids while male teachers are more intimidating but "gender makes no difference because males and females can both teach students efficiently," said senior Amanda Gomez.

Gender varies in the classroom, but discipline does as well. Students sleep in class

despite who is teaching it. One efficient way of waking a student up came from a former social studies teacher Travis Gower. "Coach Gower used his gavel to wake up students in class. They woke up pretty quickly," said senior Alana McKinney.

McKinney also points out how teachers grade

differently. "Ms. Doar has a hard grading scale. On my first paper I got a 60 because I did not care," said McKinney, "but once I saw how she graded, I changed my mindset."

Gower was not able to instill fear into unsuspecting snoozers simply because he is male and Doar was not able to motivate a student who was not used to being graded based upon quality and not quantity. These teachers are able to do what they do because they have experience in the classroom. Gender does not tie into it as much as many believe.

Teaching may have begun as a "woman's role," but it will remain as such.

Society is continually changing although at times it does not appear as such, but there has been an increase in male teachers since the last decade. "I can not recall any male teachers when I was in high school in 1986. McEachern students see 28% males compared to the two percent that I had in my days," said parent Theresa Rodrigo.

As society changes, gender roles do as well. In the classroom, all that matters is the material learned not the testosterone or estrogen that is given off while doing so. There comes a time when students have to put aside their bias of genders and appreciate the time and effort the teacher is putting forth.

It may be assumed that teaching is a woman's job, but teaching is a job for anyone who qualifies.

# Student-teacher bonds strengthen educational success

by Sydney Kelly

Yoda, Aristotle, and Professor Dumbledore all have one defining characteristic that unites them: they are teachers whose influence on their students shaped the future's course.

Often all that is needed to create a successful classroom atmosphere is a little enthusiasm from both the students and the teachers. The bond created from teacher to pupil is commonly overlooked as one of the most pivotal relationships in a person's life. In a classroom, the core curriculum is but a fraction of the principles and ideas taught on a day-to-day basis.

"Teachers have a lot more to do than just teach," seventh grade Social Studies teacher Gary Medford said, "Teachers shape character. They're role models."

Teachers often attempt to find ways to seem more welcoming and affectionate. They give their students nicknames, make jokes, and learn about

their students' lives outside of their classroom.

"I fall a lot," U.S. History teacher Rose Tucker said. "I laugh at life. You got to laugh sometimes."

The more comfortable students are with their teachers, the more teachable they become.

A relationship forms that helps stu-

dents and teachers to interact more warmly. A strictly professional attitude exuded by either party often limits the learning in a classroom.

"Sometimes people's personality gets in the way," Medford said, "Sometimes it is hard for kids to open up."

When students and teachers both open up, however, a relationship forms that be-

comes deeper than the traditional affiliation. Students ask

"She never wants her kids to miss out. She wants her students to achieve all of their dreams."

Having an adult figure in a child's life that is not a parent is

"My favorite teacher is Mrs. Davis because she relates to us and doesn't yell when we're doing something wrong." -senior Patrick Teate

"Mrs. Petway keeps me interested." -senior Alexandra Simmons

"Madame Kimble is quirky and has a passion for what she does." -senior Alex Standridge

"Ms. Flemming spices up her classes and gives constructive criticism." -junior Kelsi Nummerdor

more questions, go to these teachers for guidance, and begin to think of them as a mother or father. "Mrs. Norred is like a grandma," senior Megan O'Connell said.

"I go to Mrs. Keel about college stuff," senior Shannon Raso-rio said. "She always talks with me about my problems and gives me good advice."

A connection as profound as a student-teacher relationship should never be taken lightly. Students carry the lessons learned, whether they be academic or otherwise,

through the rest of their lives. It strengthens them and gives them confidence they might not have had otherwise.

"I had a student once who was very shy and quiet," Tucker said. "His mother came up to me at graduation and thanked me for opening him up. She said I was instrumental in helping him with his self-confidence."

If students were willing to open up and could be enthusiastic about what they are taught, teachers would be more excited about their lessons. If a little is given, a little can be received and classrooms with students not learning and teachers not teaching would be rare.

Education is a personal experience and it will never be successful unless students and teachers alike open up and get to know each other. Teaching requires a lot of self-sacrifice and in many ways, those who teach make themselves vulnerable.

"Teachers who educate children deserve more honor than parents who merely gave birth," philosopher Aristotle said. "For bare life is furnished by the one, the other ensures a good life."

Students have to be equally willing to expose their hearts and minds. They are allowing another being to shape their thoughts and mold their character. The sacrifice on both accounts gives way to a stronger, more substantial experience.

# Answers at the tips of your fingers

by Suzanne Stroup

Life's burning questions - why is the sky blue? What movie won Best Picture in 1958? Do chickens have lips? For the answers to these questions and much more, the expanding database known as ChaCha has become an increasingly popular place to go. ChaCha is a texting service that is advertised as "your smartest friend." Questions texted to ChaCha (242242) are sent to an employee who then looks them up and texts back within a few minutes.

Q: How did ChaCha start?

A: ChaCha was founded by Scott A. Jones and Brad Bostic. ChaCha launched on Nov. 6, 2006 and is a privately owned company.

Q: How many guides work for ChaCha?

A: ChaCha is based in Carmel, IN. It has about 70 employees and thousands of guides across the country.

Q: What are some hints to make ChaCha more beneficial for me?

A: To make us better for you, try using key words such as tips, W (for local

weather), hints, jokes and fun.

Q: Typically, how long will it take for my answers to come back?

A: Our goal is to get a complete and accurate answer to you as quickly as we can.

Q: Do you take any precautions against students using ChaCha to cheat in school?

A: ChaCha only gives 20 free questions a month, also ChaCha says, "rather than trying to control technology, schools should work harder on creating a climate of classroom integrity," so

ChaCha doesn't specifically use precautions, but using ChaCha for texting is no different than texting other friends for answers.

Q: Can ChaCha answer more than just factual questions?

A: Yes! ChaCha can answer advice questions, conversational questions, and also send jokes. Would you like to hear a joke?

Q: Sure! ChaCha can you tell me a joke?

A: Why did Tigger put his head in the toilet? He was looking for Pooh!

Q: That's great! Can I hear another joke?

A: Did you hear about the cannibal who went on a diet? He only ate midgets!

Q: Why is the sky blue?

A: The sky is blue because air particles reflect blue light.

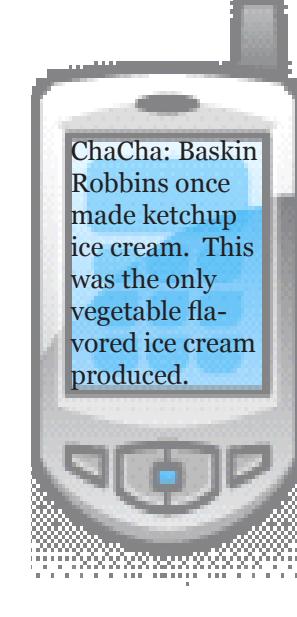
Q: What movie won the Oscar for Best Picture in 1958?

A: The Sting won Best Picture in 1958.

Q: Do chickens have lips?

A: No, chickens do not have lips. They have beaks.

Standard text messaging rates apply.



# I want my MTV back

by Ashlee Tziganuk

Hop in the DeLo- rean and take it back to the year 1981.

It was the year of a pop culture revolution, headed by the invention of MTV or Music Television. The year when video killed the radio star and Pat Benatar threatened "you better run".

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, pure music video gold.

Twenty-seven years later, no one would have guessed what the so called music television

channel would become. Shows entitled 'Date my Mom', 'Sex with Mom and Dad' and 'The X Effect' either leave you close to vomiting or

a wondering if you're watching a dating channel for the middle aged.

What really is the purpose of these music video replacement shows?

"I think MTV just goes too far in order to keep people interested", junior Myriam Saintvil said.

But wait, just when you think MTV has

reached the peak of

creativity, The Hills breaks through. An enormous hit for the network, the staged reality show that the

paid "actors" claim is

real, revolves around

the lives of young rich friends and drama. Staged reality? If I can recall correctly, that's called fiction.

So where did all the music videos go? Well if you're searching your MTV guide don't expect to find any. They are a dying breed on the verge of extinction. You'll be lucky enough to catch some at six AM, but don't look forward to any after the early morning.

"I think that they should have more music videos on MTV, but I do like the reality shows the best" junior Emily Ver said.

Perhaps this is the age of a reality revolution. The once popular show TRL or Total Request Live, played music videos requested by viewers

and often featured musical guests and actors. The network chose to air the last episode of TRL on November 16, 2008.

TRL was one of the last remaining music video programs on the MTV schedule, and music videos on the network in general seem to have the same fate as the show. They are few and far between these days and they're rarely played when most viewers will see them.

"I don't really think music videos will ever be back. People are more drawn to watching other people's lives," Vera said.

Your best bet for videos would be to watch other music channels like Fuse, BET, or VH1. The VH1

Classic channel plays music videos all day from the 70's, 80's, and 90's providing the young generation with a glimpse into the past.

But the easiest way to watch videos is to go online. All of the music channels provide websites with instant access to music and music videos.

"I used to watch MTV for the music. If I wanted to watch reality I would watch any other channel," Saintvil says.

MTV was the George Washington of the pop culture revolution in the 80's. But just like any fad, a leader must die.

## Video games kill teens: Violence instigates aggressive behavior

by Suzanne Stroup

Your main objective: kill as many of your enemies as possible. Extra points if you can blow up some buildings in the process.

This is the message that current video games are giving kids and teens alike. With images of violence, death, prostitution, destruction and blood running through America's youth's collective mind, it's no wonder hostility is so prevalent.

"Violent video games could easily become a doorway into an aggressive or unsocial viewpoint if played too often," junior Alexander Neal

said. Many children who are habitually exposed to violence, even cartoon violence which most parents falsely believe is safe, are lost in a world of fantasy. An American survey of the top-70 video games shows that 89 percent presented some kind of violence, about half of that serious behavior, while the other half was comic.

According to the Children's Defense Fund and National Center for Health Statistics 3,012 children are killed by guns each year. Approximately four to five times more are hurt by non-fatal gun wounds. That equals about one child killed

every three hours.

The studies about violent video games affecting children show that playing games where violence is displayed in a positive light leads to five different behaviors in children: increased aggressive behaviors, thoughts and impact, increased physiological arousal and decrease of a helpful behavior.

Of course, not all blame can be placed upon video games. Violence in the media also has an effect. Though it has often been debated that violence in America will decrease when it stops being reported, parents should censor what their children

can and can't see both on TV and on their consoles. With inventions like the V-Chip the ability to monitor what their kids are

watching is easier, but more responsibility falls on the parents. Sixty-one percent of all television programs feature some sort of violence, and only four percent of that is an "anti-violence" theme according to the Television Violence Monitoring program.

But with the major theme of most video games being violence, children are very likely to be exposed to it, and even be engulfed in it.

"The nature of violent video games

desensitizes the way children treat their peers and how they interact in the world," senior Jade Shuck said.

Some people disagree, stating that video games are simply recreation and not going to affect lives or nature of children and teens. "Violent video games don't necessarily lead to an aggressive life style," Neal said. "I play all kinds of violent games, and I'm one of the most patient and nonviolent people you'll meet."

Others pleading the same point argue that violence is just a way of life and not something that can be avoided. "The violence in video games

just is. You can't really avoid it, and even if you're just watching TV, you're still exposed to it," junior Matt Jones said.

Though exposure is almost guaranteed, violence in video games shouldn't necessarily be censored completely, but at least obscured so that young children don't grow up to be people that are completely desensitized to violence. We are going to soon live in a world where train and car crashes not going to be something that can't be looked away from, but something to be mocked, and we seriously need to rethink the way we're raising our youth.

# Anticipation: Changes bring potential; intensity to stay through playoff season

by Jack Culler



The 2008-09 boys basketball team will enter this season with a new approach, a new attitude, and a new head coach.

The Indians will begin the season equipped with plenty of potential. The team boasts three out of the four top high school basketball players in the state, two of which have already verbally committed to major colleges.

Although McEachern has displayed great regular season success in the last two years;

new head coach Mike Thompson has plans to run the team a little differently.

Despite the Indian's vast scoring potential, Thompson has made it clear that outscoring teams is not the key to success. "We're going to be a lot tougher defensively and more prepared offensively," Thompson said. "I plan to equip

this team with a defensive confidence, which

is very important."

Last year the In-



dian's season ended abruptly at Wheeler High School with a disheartening two-point loss in the first round of the playoffs.

Two years ago, the Indians lost only two regular season games, and seemed to be poised for a run at the state championship. Kennesaw Mountain ended those dreams in the first round of the playoff as well; Thompson was an assistant coach during both of these disappointments.

"We've already established our ability to win regular season games, we just need to work on finished

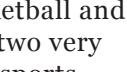
games and keeping the same intensity level in the playoffs," Thompson said.

Much like the previous few seasons, the expectations for the team are relatively high. Region and state championships are most certainly in reach. "The bottom line is we have a very talented group, they get along well, and have excellent chemistry," Thompson said.

A disciplined approach, a new defensive focus, mixed with a star studded line-up is the recipe for success this season for Coach Thompson and the Indians.

## Different sports, same Indian spirit

by Ogechi Anyanwu



Boys' basketball and football are two very competitive sports at McEachern High School that endure hard physical conditionings, practices and demands tremendous physical contact.

Although these sports can have their similarities they all share one thing in common; they are student athletes. In all sports an athlete must be passing five out of eight classes.

"If an athlete does not meet this requirement they still have to practice with the team but will be allowed no game time," basketball coach Mike Thompson said.

Playing a sport is a privilege and they are student athletes for a reason because education comes first.

The athletes have opportunities to get their grades up by attending tutoring, and if they are unable to do so they can set up a special time with a teacher when practice is not in

session.

An average football team may hold up to a hundred players while the basketball team has about twelve to fifteen players on team.

"Although we may be a smaller team, it makes us closer and share a better bond than football," junior Trae Golden said. "Having a smaller team lets us become more of a family and we help each other in areas that we may be weak in."

"Even though I also play for the basketball team, football will always be my first love," senior Terrell Mitchell said. "Not saying that the basketball team is not focused, but we are determined to overcome anything that passes our way. Our practices are also very rigorous since we can not control the outside temperature."

Regardless of preference of sport, continue to support both teams. These teams work very hard throughout the year to keep McEachern's name in the rankings.



Name: Trae Golden

Position: Guard

Ht/Wt: 6'3", 200 lbs.

Offered Scholarships: TEX, UCLA, UGA, UNC, DUKE



Name: Terrell Mitchell

Position: Wide Receiver/ Tight End

Ht/Wt: 6'6", 225 lbs.

Offered Scholarships: UGA, UA, UK, USC, MICH

## Swimmers dives into a new season of success

by Khalea Underwood



McEachern's athletic department has proven to be victorious once again with the competitive swim team. Headed by Coach Melissa Alexander, the team of 30 plus students has provided a welcome change from land-bound sports.

Since the nineteenth century, competitive swimming has been a recreational and competitive aquatic sport. Benefits of swimming include improved lung capacity and increased blood circulation. Another benefit is the ability to swim year-round instead of one season.

"We swim from the beginning of November to the beginning of February," sophomore

Kevin Krause said.

The four-day-a-week hour-long practices are held at the West Cobb Aquatic Center, a facility with indoor and outdoor pools. This is convenient for those who want to practice on weekends and holidays.

Swim competitions are held at locations all across Georgia.

"In December, we're going to St. Simon's island to compete against the best schools in Georgia, including Hillgrove and Harrison," Krause said.

The team, with more students than ever, have won numerous awards in the county and state. Last year, the team placed third at Brunswick. Recently, Dima Zinger made state time in the 100-meter breast stroke. People fail to realize swimming's impact in the athletic field, but this sport is just as important as football and basketball.

"The number one athlete in all of history is a swimmer, Michael Phelps," Coach Melissa Alexander said. "That's why we're important. Not everyone can swim. Swimmers have special qualities that no one else possesses."



The Indians Swim team practices four times a week at the West Cobb Aquatic Center.

Photo by Taylor Sharer

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