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\$15 billion car industry bailout

GMC and Chrysler to make long-term plan to restructure or money revoked

by Megan Easley



Last November, General Motor Corps and Chrysler LLC, two of America's largest car manufacturers announced their need for a substantial amount of money to "bail them out" of their financial crisis.

Both companies have said they will likely declare bankruptcy if they don't get an emergency cash infusion, which they argue, is needed because of a sharp drop in car sales in the last twelve months. Ford Motor Company has said it does not need the cash now, but warns that a failure of one of its competitors could bring it down as well.

In our present economy these large corporations are struggling to stay afloat. As the Bush administration discussed how to handle this cry for help, much controversy arose. Newly elected President Barack Obama supports direct aid for the corporations, but feels tax payers must be protected also.

"The hang-up is whether to insist that loans or loan guarantees be conditioned upon an assessment of financial viability over the next 10 years," said AJC editorialist Marjorie Hannas.

Hannas has serious concerns about this "bailout". While she supports aiding a company in need, she is worried that our present economy can't withstand that kind of a loss.

The proposed bill was presented to the Senate in

December and they made a decision regarding these companies need for help. Democratic legislators and the White House have agreed on the outlines of a deal to keep the US car industry out of bankruptcy, offering a \$15 billion loan in exchange for heavy government oversight.

If the proposed bail-out for the U.S. car industry fails, Hannas fears more job cuts and a possible industry collapse.

While the failing economy is affecting many American families, sophomore Brittny Jackson isn't feeling the crunch. "I don't feel like I've been affected at all by the changes in economy and I certainly don't feel like these bail outs will have any effect on my life." Jackson said.

Under the bill, the carmakers will have to demonstrate by April 30, at the latest, that they have a long-term plan to restructure or the money will be withdrawn. The White House will appoint what has been dubbed a "car czar," who will oversee the restructuring process and judge whether the carmakers have met the conditions.

Kim Custance, McEachern administrator, feels these car bailouts are adding more financial stress to the country's list of problems but still said, "I believe our government officials can and will handle this crisis properly."

As concern and tension continue to mount and the White House debates what steps need to be taken, Americans have to sit back and trust that our economic issues will be resolved with hard work from our government officials.



Bush:

8-year legacy marked by memories of terrorist attacks, war and changing approval ratings

by Ogechi Anyanwu



George W. Bush was appointed the 43rd president in 2001, eight years after his father left the same office.

Eight months into his first term, the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks took place in New York at the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. His popularity soon increased with the way he approached the attacks, causing him to receive the highest ratings of any president.

"Bush started out strong his first three to four years in office but toward the middle of his fourth year he was plagued with many economic problems that went downhill for the rest of his term," economics and government teacher Todd McMath said.

Even with the economic problems that Bush faced he did an exceptional job with

the transition of 9/11. He started the war strong and brought back integrity to the White House after the Bill Clinton scandals.

Immediately after taking office he proposed the "No Child Left Behind Act" to re-examine the programs and performances of schools, and to make sure that each child is on track with their education.

"Although it may be obvious that George W. Bush is not ending his eighth year in office on a positive note, I do feel that he accomplished many things early on in his time in office," senior Christina Anderson said.

Bush's second term was not as fortunate as his first judging by his low approval ratings.

"I think that Bush's biggest weakness was his communication with the American citizens," McMath said.

Bush has now passed down the title of President to Barack Obama, who will serve his country with the same nerve and vigor as Bush has.

New executive staff as varied as United States itself

by Michele Guyton



Barack Obama's victory last November was historic. Although Obama may not look like the men who assumed office before him, he still faces the same difficult decisions that they did.

One of these choices is his executive staff. The purpose of an executive staff is to assist and advise the president.

Just a few days after his win, Obama an-

nounced his first choice, Rahm Emmanuel, an Illinois native who worked under Bill Clinton during the 1990s.

"Rahm Emmanuel has a reputation for being abrasive and vulgar, so I think Obama chose him as sort of a dramatic foil," Obama supporter Dr. Arnold



President Barack Obama works with Republicans in his Cabinet, reflecting the same ideals as Abraham Lincoln.

Gaskin said.

Obama's other choices include Sen. Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State and New Mexico governor Bill Richardson as Secretary of Com-

merce, though Richardson has since withdrawn his name. President

Obama borrowed Abraham Lincoln's belief in working with his enemies, and selected several Republicans to be his Cabinet.

"The fact that he is willing to work with his enemies shows that he's an open-minded person who wants to make everyone happy," Aiken said.

Robert Gates is work-

ing as Obama's Defense Secretary, a surprising choice since he is a Republican appointee.

Steven Chu, a noted physicist and Nobel Prize winner, has been appointed as Secretary of Energy to further diversify the Cabinet.

"I think it's great that he's working with such a diverse group of people, both ethnically and politically," teacher Kat Elalouf said. "It truly signifies a new America."

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MUSIC IN MOTION

by Taylor Sharer

The rhythmic beating of a stick on a log, the soft humming of a voice and the harmonious sounds of a symphony all relate to a similar theme: music.

Since the first breath of man, music has been a part of life. Try thinking for a minute about your favorite suspenseful scene in a movie or the catchy commercial that always seems to be on TV. The music in the movie or commercial is what brings it to life.

But would you find the same music on the radio today as you would have 20 or 30 years ago?

"Music is continually changing. It's expand-

ing on its own and developing towards the different tastes of the audience," junior Tia Ware said. "In a sense, it's always been

tury and into present-day, breakout artists continue to emerge. They define this time like the artists of yesterday defined their's.

sic is entertaining but also temporary. It's fun to sing along with and dance to for a while, but then it becomes

corded a song with rap artist Sean Kingston which mixes the two genres and displays a different taste of mu-

Justin Timberlake and T.I. who recorded "My Love", as well as Aerosmith and Run DMC who produced the single "Walk This Way."

Quality musicians exist, but may find it hard getting their music out there because of the strict demands of what popular music must be in the eyes of anyone listening to the radio. Radio artists may be more interested now in themselves than with their music.

"The radio is OK; the music usually has a good beat and is catchy, but I think artists are more into selling popular music making videos for the money. I prefer music with a meaning," junior Lorianne Statts said.

"Music is continually changing. It's expanding on its own and developing towards the different tastes of the audience."

-Junior, Tia Ware

there. The themes are the roots. But the tree is always growing; different artists switch up the style."

If music were on the radio during the 16th century, you would expect to hear a classical tune by Bach or Mozart. During the 70's, some Bee Gee's and Bruce Springsteen.

Through the 21st Cen-

"Bands without a specific genre and those not on the radio is almost everything that's on my iPod because those artists seem to dig deeper and compose songs with meaning," Ware said.

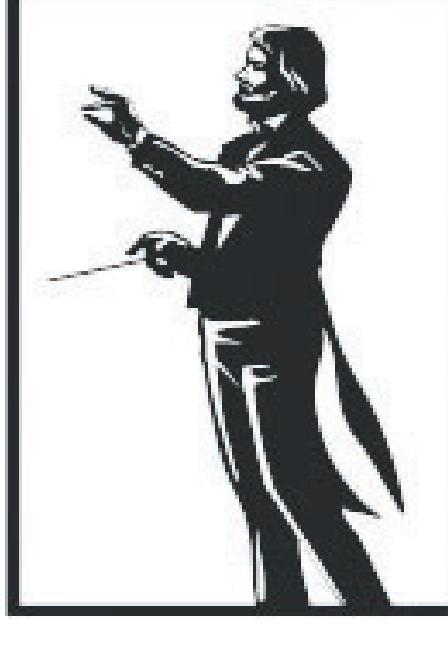
Mainstream music is defined as extremely popular or 'middle of the road' music.

"Mainstream mu-

too repetitive," Ware said.

Specific artists are trying to stand out from the rest. Pop singer Natasha Bedingfield recently re-

sic. Artists in the past have experimented with this including



From records to iPods

Music's shift in format through the last 60 years

by Khalea Underwood

Music has been an essential part of culture since the Biblical era. People on all seven continents listen to music, with over a billion songs downloaded in 2007. With the rise of digital format, other sources like cassette tapes and compact disks are forgotten.

The first known means of recording sound was the phonograph cylinder

used by independent artists who release music underground. Soon after tapes faded, compact disks were the premier way to store music. 200 billion CDs were sold in 2007.

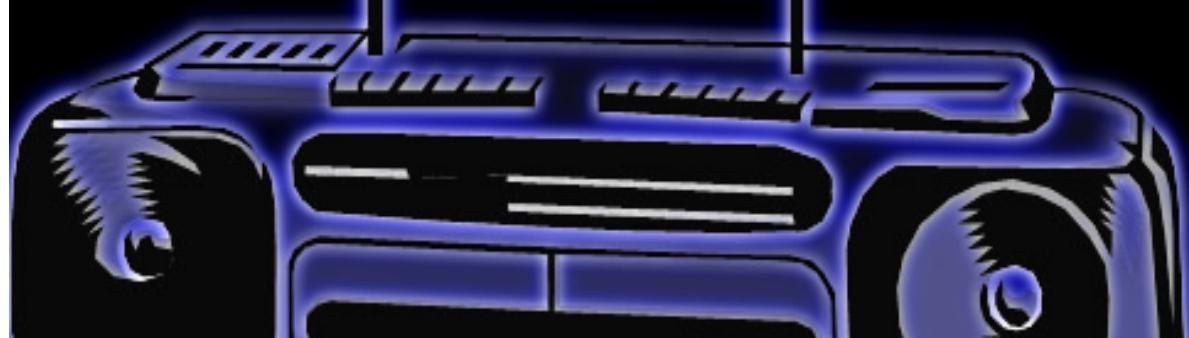
"I used to listen to books on tape when I was little," senior Scott Uphole said. "I got my first CD when I was 10. I'm familiar with other music formats besides the mp3."

Today, online stores like iTunes, Rhapsody,

tool for downloading with websites like Limewire and Zshare providing music without cost.

Some feel that buying music from the internet is not how the industry should make its money. It has proven to start controversy regarding copyright laws and others feel the music, no matter how highly anticipated, is not worth the money.

"I never buy music anymore," junior Sebastian



created by Thomas Edison in 1877. Six media formats were introduced to the world before the vinyl record was created. Lasting throughout the 60s and 70s, records were an affordable luxury that could be found in every household.

"I remember going to my grandfather's house and flipping through all of his old records," senior Briana Randall said. "They were huge, the size of plates!"

When vinyl became unpopular, consumers were introduced to the cassette tape. These were heavily used in the 80s along with huge cassette players, usually carried on the person's shoulder. Tapes are still

and Napster provide mp3 formats for consumers.

These stores are accessible to anyone with an internet connection.

Upon its original opening

in December 1999, Napster

was almost immediately

dragged into a court battle

over copyright laws by the

Recording Industry Asso-

ciation of America (RIAA).

Despite the court case

drawing attention to the

free music system, Nap-

ster shut down its entire

network in July 2001 and

re-opened as a subscription

service.

At 99 cents per song, digital downloads are affordable and convenient for all music connoisseurs. The internet is also a vital

Harton said. "A dollar for a three-minute song? It's highway robbery!"

Listening to music can be a hands-free experience.

Ringtones and digital

downloads are popular

with teens as well.

Digital downloads broke the billion

mark in 2008, with 17 per-

cent coming from the Bill-

board Hot 200 list. iTunes

has free radio podcasts that

anyone can make without

commercial interruption.

Whatever the format may

be, music will always be a

part of culture.

"Music is ever-evolving," orchestra director Dr.

Mooney said. "It never

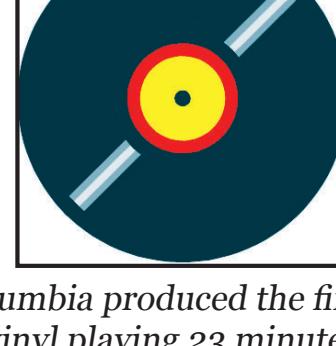
stays in one place. Music

has endless opportunity, it

always has room to grow."

Music Evolution

Music is continually evolving and the format in which music is listened to has changed as well.



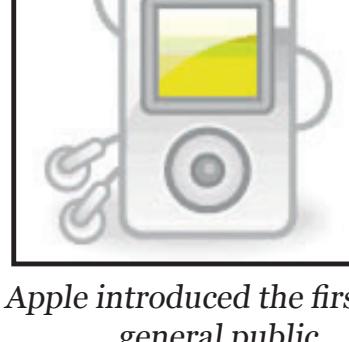
1948: Columbia produced the first record made of vinyl playing 23 minutes per side



1966: Mercury Record Company (US affiliate of Philips) introduced the music cassette to the US. It consisted of 49 titles.



1982: Billy Joel's "52nd Street" was the first CD released alongside Sony's CD player



2001: Apple introduced the first iPod to the general public.

"If music be the food of love, play on!"
-Shakespeare

!nked out New bold statement on campus

by Michele Guyton



Although they were previously associated with social outcasts and prison inmates, tattoos have become more mainstream in recent years. Shows like TLC's *LA Ink* and *Miami Ink*, and celebrities like Travis Barker and Amy Winehouse have perpetuated this trend.

"I read that tattoos started as a way of setting tribes apart from each other, and that's how it is for me today," senior Mario Crawford said. Some tattooed teenagers do get the "ink" for individuality.

"My tattoos help me express myself," he continued. Crawford said the best part about tattoos is that they are permanent and they symbolize dedication.

However, the fact that tattoos are forever is a reason for some to stay away.

"I don't care how cool they are; I would never get a tattoo," junior Dashawndra Mapp said. "The age to legally get a tattoo is 18, which is great because I think people that are underage would probably get something they would regret," Mapp said.

Some parents agree with this. "I have three children and all of them have tattoos. I always told them that they could get one if they wanted, but they had to be 18, and it had to be in a place that wouldn't prevent them from being able to find a job," Sophia Allen said.

Lack of jobs is another reason some people are apprehensive about getting tattooed. In fact, *LA Ink* owner Kat Von D does not do face tattoos on anyone who is not employed as a tattoo artist.

Even with an influx of television shows and fashion trends, tattooing is viewed as an art to some, and taboo to others. Perhaps in the next few years this will change.



Senior Terrell Mitchell has his ink in the form of a winged cross on his arm.



Junior Jessica Motley has a tattoo on her neck of her parents initials to honor them.



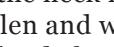
Senior Rynita Anderson's Breast Cancer ribbon tattoo on her foot to help support her mom's fight against the cancer.



Senior Daniel King has a tattoo on each arm, one stating "Laugh Now," the other "Cry Later" with corresponding faces.

Team Edward vs. Team Harry

by Ashlee Tziganuk



Who the heck is Edward Cullen and why is my girlfriend obsessed with him?

In recent years Stephanie Meyer's 'Twilight' saga has become a teenage phenomenon. With the recent release of a major motion picture that topped the weekend box office and the steady sales of the books themselves, Twilight seems to be the new Harry Potter.

But can the twilight saga really be compared to Harry Potter? "They both have unique story lines. Twilight is more about romance while Harry Potter is more action/fantasy," junior Rose-

Krystel Hegngi said.

Both stories are indeed very different. J.K. Rowling created one of the most notable book characters about ten years ago while Stephanie Meyer's appeared only three years ago. Maybe with the passing of time, the Twilight series will reach the massive success that the Potter books have. Or will it just be a fad?

"I don't think the Twilight series will be as successful as Harry Potter because Twilight is geared towards an older audience, while Harry Potter is something everyone can enjoy including children," senior Ally Carver said.

What are the reasons people choose to read

one series over another?

"I like Twilight because the main

said. Likeable characters and writing style are important factors in book likability. As

interested.

"I like the heroism in Harry Potter because people enjoy having a Superman in a book," Carver said.

For both of these series, people seem to be most drawn to the characters. It is no surprise to hear teenage girls talking about how they want to find their 'Edward', or young children pretending to cast Patronus spells like Harry, Ron, and Hermione.

As of now, the battle between these two series is either in a deadlock or there is a slight lead. The final installment of the Harry Potter series, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows', was released in July of 2007. The final installment of the Twilight series, 'Breaking Dawn', was released in August of 2008.

light series, 'Breaking Dawn', was released in August of 2008.

As far as popularity goes, Twilight has the advantage as of now. The sixth Harry Potter movie was scheduled to come out in November of 2008, the same time the debut Twilight movie came out, but Warner Brothers decided to move the release of Potter to July of 2009, to reduce competition and gain more ticket sales. With the last book release followed by the debut movie, Twilight is the series on top of the world right now. Even if Twilight does not have staying power in the future, it will remain a classic among generations. Which side will you choose?



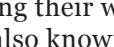
Daniel Radcliffe plays Harry Potter and Robert Pattinson plays Edward Cullen in the movie Twilight.

character is relatable. She is not like every other teenage girl and Meyer's writing style keeps you hooked," junior Melissa Mondello

both books are geared towards younger audiences, the writing style is often simplistic, yet detailed enough to keep younger readers

Visual Ensemble: Winter Guard performs their way to success in competition

by Chelsea Baasch



The Visual Ensemble is dancing, spinning, and performing their way to the top. The Visual Ensemble, also known as winter guard, is an organization that uses flags, rifles, and other equipment to perform.

The winter guard performs indoors opposed to the color guard that performs outdoors with the marching band. They perform to several types of music and use choreographed dance moves to make up their show. Along with dancing, guard members toss, spin, and change equipment throughout the show.

The Visual Ensemble has been rehearsing since Nov. 21 to prepare for the Southern Association for Performance Arts (SAPA) Circuit Championships

held on Mar. 28 in Macon, GA. "We are working really hard and this season we are going to be fierce," junior Ashli Crepsac said.

McEachern HIGH · SCHOOL Visual Ensemble

They also plan to participate in other competitions throughout the Atlanta Metro Area and four Cobb County performances at Pope, Hillgrove, Kell, and Forsyth Central High Schools. Members rehearse Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday of every week and

three Friday and Saturday rehearsal camps.

To raise money members sell doughnuts on Monday mornings at Russell Hall. On Friday nights they set up a gift wrapping booth at the mall and wrap presents for donations.

In addition to the Visual Ensemble, there is a Junior Visual Ensemble consisting of seventh and eighth grade girls from Tapp Middle School who make up the first middle school winter guard. "I think it's great that the middle school girls are becoming interested in guard," junior Sonia Flowers said, "it gives them a chance to try it out and get experience before high school." The Visual Ensemble performs in the same competitions as the Visual Ensemble to prepare their show.

Dance or gymnastics are not required to audition and no experience is necessary to get involved. The only thing needed is a positive attitude and a willingness to learn something new.

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Backpacks: Aiding success since 1886

by Jack Culler



Since its creation in the late 19th century, the backpack has evolved from a burdensome necessity to a stylish accessory.

The backpack was patented in 1886 by John Merriam, an American born paleontologist who most likely copied the ideas of early Native Americans and received credit for it. The first backpack was very useful; equipped with a sword holster, leather straps, and a sturdy metal frame.

Although Merriam was probably very content with his invention at the turn of the century, the backpack has grown into something

much more elaborate. The North Face Heckler, a



Senior DeShawn Glover shows off his Chuck E. Cheese backpack.

popular choice among students, has nearly 2,050 cubic inches of storage compartments. The straps that support the

photos by Taylor Sharer

shoulders are made of "stitched foam," offering optimal comfort when toting around that oversized Literature or Algebra book.

"I love my Heckler," senior Austin Morgan said. "It's definitely the most reliable choice, it hasn't failed me yet."

Another rising trend in the backpack world is an even older concept, the messenger bag. The messenger bag does the same job as a conventional backpack, the only difference being the orientation of the bag. The bag is worn over one shoulder with a strap that winds around the chest resting the bag on the lower back. Some students say this option is more stylistically correct, as well as more comfortable.

"Every time my messenger bag would break, I would try

my best to fix it," senior Sam Brown said. "I was very sad when I had to switch."

Another popular trend around campus is the resurgence of the cartoon backpack.

This trend would definitely fit in the style category, given that most of these backpacks have little



The ever popular North Face Heckler.

storage space or utility. Around campus you may see anything from Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers to Spongebob Squarepants attire.

"My bookbag is an expression of myself," senior Toby Lawal said. "I don't need a big huge bookbag to carry everything around school."

Regardless of style or utility, all backpacks serve and have always served a common purpose, an easier way to carry around whatever it is you need to carry around.



One of many "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" bookbags which are popular on campus.

Dress code violations

by Khalea Underwood



The fashion industry is one that changes rapidly. Teenagers and adults spend billions of dollars on clothes, shoes, and accessories to keep up with trends. However, the pressure to stay stylish reaches new consumers now—babies and toddlers.

In the past, young children wore clothing that was simple and functional. Garments were made out of cotton and muslin, without any extravagant details. Fancier clothing was reserved for families who wanted to show off their wealth. Clothing always reflected the current time period and what was popular then. Designers didn't have children needs in mind, and they pitched mature styles to a young audience. Corsets were even made for girls as young as three. Fashion wasn't a priority—efficiency reigned and money guided choices.

"I'm from the 80s punk-rock era," lit-

erature teacher Ruth Thomas said. "I ventured over to the darker side of fashion, so I was often misunderstood."

Today, children do what they see. Because of moral decay, a lack of wholesomeness is reflected in clothing choices. Young girls parade around in mini-

photo by Chelsea Baasch



A "babydoll top" from The Limited Too, a childrens clothing store.

skirts, high heels, and midriff-baring tops. Boys sag their pants and wear oversized t-shirts, just like their favorite rappers. The rock-and-roll glam of "Hannah Montana" and other pop culture influences can be blamed. Gone are the days where kids copy off of their older brother and sisters—they find inspiration from BET and

MTV.

"Children have an appeal to popular culture," Thomas said. "Personal appearance is a big aspect of life for everyone, even kids."

In a world where wholesome is the equivalent of boring, the future of children is sketchy. Youthful innocence is a commodity of the past. Instead of gradually maturing, children are forced into the adult world far too soon. When a child is thrust into a setting they aren't prepared for, they will regret what they missed early on in life.

"When I see kids in inappropriate clothing, I wonder what their future," junior Andrea Najarro said. "What were their parents thinking when they let them out of the house?"

The fashion world should model their ideas after those from earlier years. Style is something that is acquired over the years, not influenced by the small screen. The fashion world is here to stay; childhood is temperamental.

Organics vs. Pesticides

by Olaedo Ajoku



Organic foods may not be the tastiest meals to eat, but they can help save the environment, the economy, and our health.

Two apples may look the same on the outside, but on the inside, they are completely different: one of them is organic, while the other is grown with pesticides. Naturally grown foods, also known as organics, are grown by farmers in different farms around the world.

Meanwhile, foods with pesticides are grown in a factory with many gasses included in the process. Taste is affected the most by these different pesticides. When an organic treat is bitten into, the taste tends to be a little stale, since it was grown on fresh soil.

When pesticide foods are eaten, they tend to have a much richer taste. Some people may argue that fresh grown food tastes better, but

to others, foods that are grown in factories are better to eat. But shoppers also think about the quality of the product.

Since organic food is grown outside, they tend to ripen faster. Meanwhile, the pesticides in other foods prevent them from expiring faster. Chemistry teacher Amie Merrill said,

"I prefer organic foods because not only do they taste better, but they're good for you as well."

Two other things to consider are the economy and the health risks. In supermarkets, organic foods tend to be pricier than those with pesticides. A reason for this is the fact that since organic food is grown outside of factories and they tend to be much more rare and therefore cost more.

When people go grocery shopping, they usually look at the price and must decide what is best for their money. Health issues are also a factor. Research shows that the gas used in the factories tend to cause birth

defects and even cancer. "I feel that organic foods are healthier and if you have the money, you should buy them," Junior Jennifer Johnson said.

There is also the environment to think about. When gasses for the factory-grown food are used, they tend to pollute the clean air and sometimes even the water. When organic food is grown, farmers use fresh soil and water in their garden, making the process environmentally safe.

People may consider foods with pesticides because they taste better, but others may prefer organic food for environmental reasons. "Sometimes organic food tastes better, and it is environmentally safe," senior Jacquie Kilpatrick said.

Some people may prefer organic food, while others prefer those grown in factories, but either way, there are things to think about before making these choices.

College: Applying early

by Chelsea Baasch



Seniors intend to go to college but lack the motivation and incentive to apply early.

The stress that accompanies applying for college can cause students to procrastinate. Worrying about scholarships, recommendations, and having all the right credits to even graduate high school can be more than a little overbearing.

Then having to complete it all by a specific deadline adds even more anxiety. Meanwhile, seniors are trying to keep up current grades and enjoy their last year of high school.

The procrastination process begins with the "I've still got time" idea. Although graduation is months away, the bulk of the deadlines have already past due. Waiting till the last minute eliminates options and decreases the chance of getting accepted.

Remember in elemen-

tary school when all your classmates knew exactly what they wanted to be when they grew up? "I want to be a doctor," "Well I want to be an astronaut!" Chances are you've changed your mind a dozen times between then and now. Indecisiveness is another leading contributor. The beckoning questions, what do I want to study? What school is right for me? Do I want to commute or live the dorm life?, make the decision process all the more overwhelming.

What panicky seniors don't realize is that they can start their first year without deciding on a major. More than half of college students end up changing their major throughout their college career. Also, more graduates are taking a "gap-year" between high school and college. College admission officers say that the year off, if used wisely, tends to make students more focused. Some teens just

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