

THE

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AP students are *ahead* of the class

by Megan Easley



If you were offered the opportunity to get a head start on college level work while standing out in the college admissions process, wouldn't you?

Many McEachern students have taken this opportunity by enrolling in Advanced Placement (AP) Courses. The College Board, a non-profit organization based in New York City, has run the AP program since 1955. It develops and maintains guidelines for the teaching of higher level courses in various subject areas. In addition, it supports teachers of AP courses. These activities are funded through fees charged to students taking AP exams.

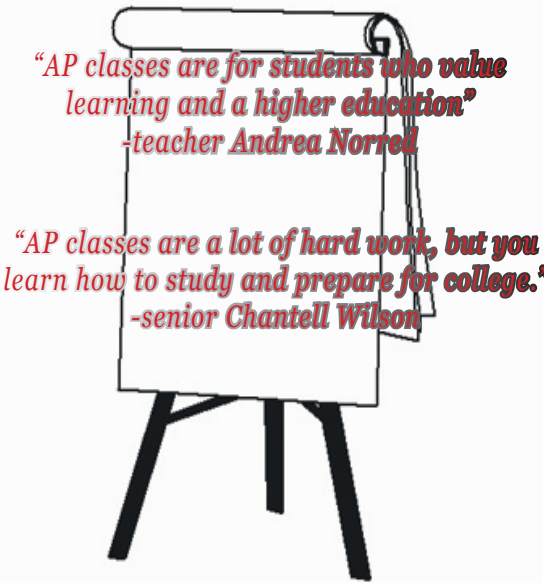
Senior Chantell Wilson has taken two AP classes in her high school career and is headed to college in the fall, with the option of exempting her first two years of history classes. "AP classes are hard work but you learn how to study and prepare for college," Wilson said.

After taking an AP class, students are given the option of sitting through an AP exam in May, that allows them to show mastery in the subject area. AP tests are scored differently from the A-F grading scale common in the United States. They are scored on a numeric scale, one to five. "These scores are obtained with a bell curved grading scale - thus students are scored competing against each other rather than on a set standard," College Board Representative Diane Davison said.

These scorings are used by some colleges to exempt students from introductory coursework if they demonstrate mastery through an AP test. Each college's policy is different, but most accept scores of four or five, and some accept scores of three.

Senior Carly Dean is currently taking six AP classes. "It's quite a

work load and it can become overwhelming, but it's all about having your priorities in order. I have to figure out what's important and then try my hardest at those things, not getting bogged down by little stuff," Dean said. Succeeding in AP courses requires this type



of dedication and endurance.

"In 2006, over one million students took over two million AP examinations," Davison said. These numbers continue to increase every year.

Many high schools in the United States offer AP courses, though the College Board allows any student to take the examination without participating in the course. Therefore, home-schooled students and students from schools that do not offer AP courses have an equal opportunity to take the examinations.

"I'm glad I took AP World History and AP U.S. History in high school and now I feel really prepared for college level work," Wilson said. These sentiments were shared among many seniors enrolled in AP classes.

The College Board has developed 37 courses across 22 subject areas to be at college level and much more rigorous than standard high school classes. High schools decide if they will offer these classes, and high school students can opt to take these courses if they want to stand out academically, want to be challenged, or have a keen interest in a given subject. "AP classes are for students who value learning and a higher education," AP U.S. History teacher Andrea Norred said.

"These classes can be stressful. If you have a job or multiple extracurricular activities and you can't dedicate the time to do well in these classes, then opting for AP courses wouldn't be the best idea," Wilson said.

As the 2009 examinations come and go, students nationwide reviewed and prepared in hopes of doing the best they could to secure a good enough score to obtain college credit. As stressful as this time tends to be students must remember to maintain a balanced diet and get plenty of sleep. This way their bodies will be able to withstand the pressure they might face, come testing day.

McEachern clubs *raise* morale

by Olaedo Ajoku



Small clubs on campus are making big changes on campus and in the community. McEachern clubs have been competing at a state and nation-wide level.

For instance, the Reading Team placed in reading competitions in the state area. They also came in first place in the Reading Bowl State Championship.

The Reading Team is also well known for placing in debate competitions and being honored for its knowledge in current works of literature.

"The Reading Team has worked so hard this year and deserved to win the State Championship," Reading Team advisor May Inman said.

While many organizations are known for competing, academic achievements or leadership, other clubs, including Beta Club and FCCLA, work hard to provide for those who are in need, namely those who are suffering physically or financially.

These clubs help many people across the county, especially around the holidays. Academic excellence and leadership are the foundation of participation

in anything at school, all are guided by doing good work.

"It's good to see that people are taking part in these clubs, especially when they are helping people in need," junior Tem Gretachew said.

And there are clubs that help give the school a touch of diversity and a taste of fascinating cultures from around the world.

The French, German and Spanish Clubs give those who are interested in foreign countries a deep international insight, whilst the African club gives off a taste of culture for those who have African roots.

The Cultural Diversity Club merges the cultures from all around the world and also provides a unique touch of diversity as well. These cultural groups provide a variety of different activities from recognizing Black History Month to celebrating Mardi Gras.

"The cultural clubs give a sense of diversity around the school and we should have more of them," sophomore Sara Sensing said.

If the literary arena is your favorite



Members of the African Club pose with many of the statues representing the Civil Rights Movement of Atlanta's King Center.

photo by Nena Okpala

place, the yearbook class and newspaper staff are always looking for qualified candidates. While not a club, it does document the history of the school for future generations. The Literary Magazine meets after school to create a magazine-style collection of student and faculty writing.

These clubs may look the same across the state and the nation, but they each bring a unique touch to MHS, and they give students a chance to make their marks in the community at a young age.

Commitment to an organization contributes to all parts of the academic

experience. These groups are committed to MHS: and Becca's Closet, Debate Team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Anime Club, Future Educators of American (FEA), Film Club, Key Club, Gospel Choir, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), and Science and Nature Club.

Public transportation popularity increases

by Michele Guyton



People have depended on public transportation for years; whether

it's for an easier way to a job, to conserve energy, or to simply explore Atlanta.

MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) has been a part of Atlanta for over a quarter century. It was purchased for \$12.9 million in 1972. A quarter of a century and 3.5 billion rides later, MARTA is still rolling strong in and around Atlanta.

"Since my experience last summer, I use buses and trains to get around whenever I can," junior Hal Williams said.

However, in the last few years, public transportation in the city of Atlanta has fallen victim to an increase in crime.

According to the FBI's National Offenses Known to Law Enforcement Survey, Atlanta ranks 16th among the most crime infested cities in the United States. The study also found that burglaries and aggravated assaults combined in Atlanta are 8

times the national average.

"The city of Atlanta has changed so much, I just feel that nothing is as safe as it was years ago," Julie Breton said. "I might seem old fashioned, but I would like to live in a place where I could take a train ride without having to worry about something bad happening."

This year, MARTA has seen two homicides — more than the past four years combined. Even with these occurrences, MARTA continues to make strides in improving their security through its M-PACT (MARTA Proactive Attacking Crime Trends) program. The purpose of the M-PACT program is to target crime and violence on MARTA transportation.

"I am delighted that MARTA has been making strides toward better safety and comfortability on their transportation," sophomore Melissa Brown said. Using public

transportation's growth can be attributed to the country's efforts to conserve energy and save on gas. With prices rising over \$2 a gallon, the public is looking to pinch pennies wherever possible.

According to the American Public Transportation Association, ridership in Atlanta on MARTA has increased by over seven percent.



I might seem old fashioned, but I would like to live in a place where I could take a train ride without having to worry about something bad happening.
-Julie Breton





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Congratulations seniors!

Chelsea
Suzanne
Sydney
Jack
Ogechi
Khalea
Joelle

We will miss you! Newspaper will never be the same without you!

Q&A

The facts about swine flu

by Robert S. Boyd
McClatchy Newspapers

Here are some questions and answers about the science of swine flu, the H1N1 virus that's sweeping the world:

Q: What exactly is a virus?

A: It's a tiny packet of only eight genes wrapped in a cloak of proteins, much smaller than a bacterium. Unlike bacteria, a virus is only half alive. It can't eat or reproduce on its own, but must take over the genetic machinery of a living cell. Most viruses are harmless; some are useful, but others, such as the flu virus, can be deadly.

Q: What makes this swine flu virus special?

A: It's a novel combination of bird, pig and human viral genes never before found in the U.S. or elsewhere, so people have no immunity to it. It's a descendant of the H1N1 virus that killed tens of millions of people worldwide in the pandemic of 1918-1919, mixed in with recent strains of swine and bird flu viruses. The 1918 virus originated in birds and then jumped to humans. This year's virus apparently jumped from a pig to a 5-year-old boy in Veracruz, Mexico, who passed it on to other humans.

Q: What does H1N1 stand for?

A: It's the initials of two sugar proteins (their scientific names are hemagglutinin and neuramidinase) that sit on the surface of the virus and do its dirty work. There are 16 types of the H protein, numbered H1 through H16, and 9 types of the N protein, numbered N1 through N9. That makes 144 possible combinations of the virus, a constantly changing challenge for prevention or treatment. A new combination, H2N2, cause a brief swine flu epidemic in 1957. An H3N2 strain was the source of another epidemic in 1968. The bird flu virus that began in Southeast Asia a decade ago and has spread throughout the Old World is an H5N1 combination.

Q: How do medicines such as Tamiflu and Relenza work?

A: They block the action of the N protein so the virus can't spread. They're not vaccines to prevent an infection, but drugs to limit its impact. They should be taken as soon as possible since the virus reproduces most rapidly between 24 and 72 hours after illness begins.

Q: How does a new virus develop?

A: When the genes that govern the H and N proteins reproduce, random changes — mutations — can occur in their DNA. The changes gradually accumulate, ultimately producing a virus that may be more lethal or may penetrate a target cell more easily. Another possibility is gene-swapping. This can happen when a cell is infected by viruses from



A doctor washes his hands with hand sanitizer, a precaution used to avoid

photo by MCT Campus

different creatures, say a chicken and a pig. The cell becomes a "mixing bowl," whipping up a new virus containing some chicken genes and some pig genes. In the new strain of H1N1 virus, pieces of human, bird and pig genes are all scrambled up.

Q: How does H1N1 virus jump from animals to humans?

A: Usually the H protein on a pig or bird virus doesn't fit easily into the receptor of a human cell. So a person exposed to such a virus is unlikely to get infected. However, random changes may occur in the genes that control the shape of the H protein and allow the virus to pass through the cell wall. This gives rise to a new strain of H1N1 that's adapted to humans. Now the virus can pass from person to person, as is happening now. Contact with infected pigs or birds no longer is necessary.

Q: How does one person catch H1N1 from others?

A: The virus can be transmitted through the air — by a cough or a sneeze — or by a handshake or by touching an infected surface, such as a doorknob. The virus can live for up to two hours outside a cell. It can't be passed by eating pork.

Q: Why does this disease seem to be more deadly in Mexico than in the U.S. or other countries?

A: That may be an illusion. The first U.S. death has now occurred in Texas and more fatalities are expected. It's possible that many cases of mild disease in Mexico went undetected, making the mortality rate appear to be higher there than it does here. It's also possible that the virus strain in the U.S. differs slightly from the one in Mexico, making it less virulent.

Q: Why does H1N1 seem to attack healthy young adults more than sick and elderly people, who are most affected by the ordinary seasonal flu?

A: Young adults have a healthy immune system that launches a massive counterattack of antibodies against the flu virus. Unfortunately, the counterattack can cause an overwhelming inflammation that damages other organs, such as the lungs. Elderly people with weaker immune systems are less likely to suffer from such harmful inflammation. Older people who were exposed to earlier flu epidemics might also have some residual immunity in their systems.

Invasion



WiFi takes over technology's landscape

by Chelsea Baasch

Sitting at a local Starbucks, sipping a white chocolate mocha latte, and checking up on the latest celebrity gossip is all possible thanks to WiFi.

Wireless Fidelity, more commonly known as WiFi, is the ability to obtain wireless internet. WiFi is the hottest craze in the new, modernized technology. You can get WiFi on phones, iPods, and laptops in places that normally would not be suspected. McDonald's, Subway, and Dunkin' Donuts are just a few restaurants that double as WiFi hotspots.

"WiFi takes a signal from a cable and sends it through the air to whatever device," technology specialist Cliare Brackett said.

Teachers are taking advantage of WiFi by incorporating it into their lesson plans.

"WiFi allows us to use online simulations that reinforce the content of the curriculum," teacher Suzanne Keel said, "I use the laptops at least once each unit."

WIFI ALLOWS US TO USE ONLINE SIMULATIONS THAT REINFORCE THE CONTENT OF THE CURRICULUM

-Chemistry teacher Suzanne Keel

Students do activities like Gizmos, virtual labs, and research in the classroom. Using the wireless internet source in the classroom allows students to explore and be interactive on laptops. Also, the lab probe wear can be connected to the computer in order to save data. Accessing WiFi on the laptops saves

class time because it cuts the trip to the computer lab.

"WiFi gives network access to remote places where you might not otherwise be able to get a signal." Brackett said.

WiFi is also used on Smart Boards, the touch-sensitive display

connects to the computer and a digital projector to show the computer image. These interactive whiteboards engage students in lesson and make teaching more interesting.

"When Mr. Loomis does examples on the Smart Boards he changes the colors and uses the

effects to make the problems easier to comprehend," senior Tommy Hilker said.

Although WiFi is simple and easy to use, finding a reliable connection is not. If the wireless access requires a browser based login, like ones found in hotels, the phone or laptop cannot connect without a password. Smartphones, or cellular phones with PC-like functions, use wireless internet which tends to suck up battery life.

WiFi also can be had everywhere. The internet access can only be connected because a router is close by. Laptop or smartphone users often wander out of range and are forced to expell their work until they're close to the router again.

Storming the nation with technological advances, WiFi not only benefits businesses and coffee bloggers but teachers and students as well.

That Makes Me SICK!

Somewhere between 50% and 90% of people who work at a computer have least some symptoms of eye trouble

Talking on the phone makes you four times more likely to have an accident and texting doubles your risk yet again

Adolescents who watched three or more hours of television per day were at a significantly elevated risk for frequent sleep problems by early adulthood

As little as a half hour a day of computer mouse use could put you at risk for Repetitive Stress Injury (RSI)

An article in the journal Pediatrics estimated that 12.5% of children aged 6 to 19 have noise-induced hearing loss commonly induced by listening to music too loudly

According to the Associated Press, children should use cell phones only in emergencies because their brains are still developing

Cell phones: The cancer-causing radioactivity and the pains of text messaging

by Sydney Kelly

Technology has become a prominent contributor to many of today's health issues.

Although technology has brought a deal of positive change in recent years, these advances are also starting to effect us physically. Carpal tunnel, migraines, and poor sleeping habits, among other things are occurring more and more frequently because of text messaging, email, and other services.

"I absolutely hate texting. I had it taken off my daughter's phone because I think it's distracting and unnecessary," parent Eleanor Madlock said. "Whatever happened to just calling someone?"

Text messaging has become increasingly effective on young people's hands. The outbreak of Text Messaging Injuries (TMI) has caught the attention of thereputic organizations across the country. The American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT) recently issued

a consumer alert cautioning that overuse of handheld wireless devices can lead to overuse syndrome. This syndrome usually begins with a pain in the thumb, wrist or forearm.

Students seem undaunted by the odds of physical harm. The convience of technology outweighs the effects cell phones and other devices could potentially have on their health.

"I think texting is easier and more convenient, even though it does get uncomfortable sometimes," junior Brittani Fox said. "I know I shouldn't be doing it as often, but sometimes I really think I am addicted."

The effects of technology could possibly be more serious than an expensive bill or joint pain and discomfort. Recent studies have shown that frequent cell phone usage could potentially lead to cancer.

The National Cancer Institute is currently studying the effects of cellular phones and their link to cancer. Cellular phones emit

high levels of Radio Frequency (RF) which is a form of electromagnetic radiation. This radiation is conducted through the antenna of the cellular phone, which is placed close to the head when the phone is in use. The closer an electromagnetic radiation conductor is to the head, the more Radio Frequency is absorbed.

"There are two kinds of electromagnetic radiation: ionizing and non-ionizing," a Cancer Information Specialist from the National Cancer Institute said. As an Information Specialist, our source is not at liberty to give his full name. "Ionizing electromagnetic radiation, like those found in x-rays, have been linked to cancerous tumors in instances of high exposure."

Researchers are working to discover the full effects of cellular phones and health risks. This is proving difficult due to the lack of varifiable data in users. Its run likely that those participating in studies can remember the exact

number of hours they were on their phones.

"There have been numerous studies researching the link between cell phones and cancer," the National Cancer Institute Cancer Information Specialist said. "The results are limited. Cell phones are a relatively new technology and due to the fact that the clinical onset of a tumor is at least 10 years, further evaluation of long-term effects is needed."

For the moment, these health facts are not enough to phase the general population of phone-users. The Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association (CTIA) released a statement reporting 255 million cell phone and internet subscribers as of Dec. 2007. Cellular companies in the U.S. profited a grand total of \$148.1 billion last year and AT&T's profit alone jumped 22 percent from 2007. The industry is continuing to grow dramatically and until the effects of such technology can be studied long-term, conclusions will continue to be indefinite.

Alternate power sources in the works for GA

photo by MCT Campus

by Suzanne Stroup



Of the 44 power plants that feed into Georgia Power, 20 are hydroelectric power, 13 are oil or oil/gas, nine are coal-fired and two are nuclear power. These plants supply 2,333,045 homes with power.

Alternative power sources could be a reality for Georgia in the future. Sources like hydroelectric power, solar power and wind power could be effective and efficient for Georgia.

"Not all of the sources are widely available and the expense is too much for most people," AP Environmental Science teacher Gretchen Davis said. Technology is expensive and may not be adequate to power enough homes to be cost effective.

Some of the sources that can be used are hydroelectric, wind and solar power. In Georgia, we only widely utilize hydroelectric, coal, nuclear and oil, most of which are non-renewable resources and have major threats (either health or facility-wise) to accompany them.

"Nuclear power makes a little bit of sense, just because of the amount of power it can produce, but the cons may outweigh the pros," senior Adam Karabenli said. The nuclear power plants in Georgia are the Hatch and the Vogtle, both in South Georgia. Though the power efficiency of nuclear is astronomically larger than that of coal fired

plants, the nuclear rods have to be stored in vats of water for hundreds of years due to the amount of radiation they still put off. Radiation poisoning is a major con of nuclear power, and if something were to happen to the plant, the surrounding area would be destroyed.

Georgia uses an abundance of hydroelectric power because of the strength of the Chattahoochee River. Hydroelectric power is created by three parts – a river, a reservoir and a dam. A river is dammed off, and then the water flows through a fan-like turbine which then creates electricity. From there, the electricity goes into a generator and pumped through power lines to homes everywhere.

"Of the renewable resources, hydroelectric is probably the one that Georgia could really do well with," Davis said.

Wind power is an ultimately affordable way to power Georgia. Though one wind turbine costs about \$1500, the electricity made will pay for itself in about six years. A wind farm would be needed to produce enough electricity to power a city, and most people don't like the way that turbines look.

"I understand the fact that wind power is efficient, but I'd never pay for them, just because they're ugly," senior Garrett Kastner said.

Alternative energy sources may need to be looked into in Georgia with the rising costs of oil and electricity in the volatile economic stance that the United States is in.

Website attacks 'Craigslisr Killer' raises questions for site security

by Sydney Kelly



The recent string of killings sprung from Craigslist users has inspired concern for internet classifieds and social networking sites.

April brought on a series of robberies and killings in Boston Hotels. Masseuses and escorts who were attacked while meeting customers they obtained on Craigslist have been found bound and shot multiple times. Questions have arisen as to the security of such websites and

how users can remain safe.

"Craigslist itself has employees that work around the clock and keep their server from being hacked," Educate Interactive founder Todd McMath said. "But if someone gets a user's password, hackers can go on and change whatever they want."

Masseuse Julissa Brisman was found April 14 in the Marriot Copley Place Hotel in Boston shot multiple times in the stomach. She died soon after and police found she ran an ad for massage services on Craigslist. Brisman has been one in a series of killings, the victims' only

connection to one another being their ads posted on the website.

Police suspect Philip Markoff, a Boston University student who currently resides in Quincy, a mere ten miles from downtown Boston. Having been spotted at several killing sites on security cameras, Markoff is always photographed typing on his BlackBerry just minutes before the victims are discovered.

In an attempt to research the security features on Craigslist, *The Tribal Times'* own Joelle Fears placed a personal ad on the website to report her findings.

"I had several very strange responses," Fears said. "I had one man in his fifties who told me he wasn't interested in a relationship and he was just looking to be a 'sugar daddy'."

Fears expressed a personal concern for the lack of security on Craigslist. To log-in, users simply needed an email address and password. Those interested in the ad would send Fears an email expressing their needs. Fears could simply respond to the email and all her personal information would have been released.

"There wasn't any means of

profile blocking and protection," Fears said. "All anyone had to do was check a box saying they were eighteen and they were an accepted user."

Questions have been raised as to the level of security at Craigslist and similar websites. Users have asked what they can do to protect themselves from hackers and predators alike. Experts say keeping passwords secret and difficult to guess is the only way users can truly be protected.

"Users need to have a very good password," McMath said. "It needs to be something that isn't easily figured out."

As the founder of Educate Interactive, McMath takes precautions in keeping his users safe from any kind of technological attack.

"All of our users work through a software program that's fully encrypted," McMath said. "All the programs we use are highly reputable."

Websites including Craigslist have continued to create newer and more hacker-free systems in an attempt to protect their users. Advertisers and viewers must understand the risks of such sites before becoming activity involved in the programs.

College acceptance only half the battle

by Brittnee Marshall

College bound students wait anxiously as college application deadlines approach.

According to a study done by CNN, the average cost of a four-year private college leaped to \$30,367 this school year, the first time the average has broken the \$30,000 mark. These prices are intimidating to most college applicants.

“I applied for financial aid, Hope Scholarship, the Bill and Melinda Gates scholars program, and the Jackie Robinson Scholarship and I’m still not sure they will cover my college expenses.” senior Ola Badru said.

Badru is not the only senior with these concerns. Senior Robert Chinukwue is ecstatic to find that he has been accepted to West Georgia, but still worries about how he is going to pay for it. He has applied for the HOPE grant and other financial aids.

In order to be eligible for the Hope Scholarship students must stay in the state of Georgia, have a 3.0 GPA, and have the financial need for it. The Hope takes away weight for honors classes but offers students who passed AP courses in high school an extra .5 on there GPA.

“Because of the Hope most students decide to stay in Georgia, creating more competition for in-state colleges than ever before,” Beta club sponsor Barb Beyke said.

Chinukwue is still waiting for his response from HOPE and his financial aid. While he waits for those responses, he consistently looks for more scholarships.

“On a difficulty scale from 1-10, it is an 11,” Chinukwue said.

Online he researched and determined that his first semester at West Georgia will cost him approximately \$5,000 including tuition, books, room, board, and a meal plan. If he plans to attend West Georgia for all four years, his college education will cost him approximately \$40,000. He plans on finding as many scholarships in order to pay for his education and graduate without debt.

“Apply for every scholarship you can set your eyes on. The more you apply for, the more chances you have to get approved,” McEachern’s Graduation Coach Patrick Burch said. There are millions of scholarships offered to students such as the Pell Grant, Work Study, and the Academic Competitive Grant.

The allotted Pell Grant amounts are dependent on: the student’s expected family contribution; the cost of attendance (as determined by the institution); the student’s enrollment status (full-time or part-time); and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less.

Work Study Program provides funds that are earned through part-time employment to assist students in financing the costs of college. Students can receive WS funds at approximately 3,400 participating college institutions. Hourly wages must not be less than the federal minimum wage.

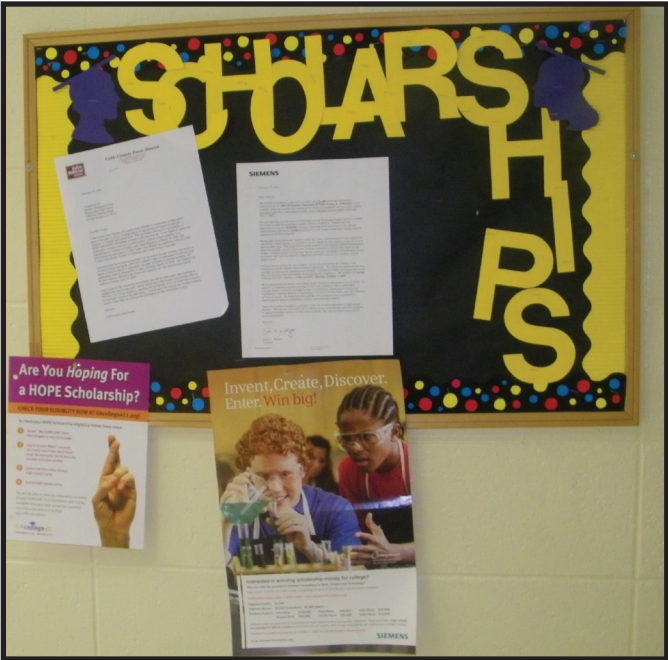


photo by Joelle Fears

Scholarship information is available to all students in the right hall of upstairs Dobbs.

Teens volunteer more than adults: giving back to the community benefits everyone

by Megan Easley

In 2004, 55 percent of American teenagers volunteered - almost twice the rate of adults, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

Students who do volunteer work actually do better in school than those who don’t volunteer. In fact, volunteering provides many benefits for teens, including increased self-esteem, a feeling of being valued, the opportunity to meet new people, the acquisition of valuable new skills, and a lifetime of wonderful memories and experiences.

Volunteer opportunities for teenagers aren’t difficult to find. Some organizations may have age restrictions if the job involves a certain amount of risk, but opportunities abound for all ages. “One of the best places to start is with your local church, synagogue, mosque or other place of worship,” CNCS representative Daniel Stevens said.

Of course volunteering helps to serve the community, but it also can help with both self-awareness and self-respect. “When teenagers learn to serve others, they become empowered. They grow up knowing that they can make a difference in the world. Just imagine what this kind of attitude can accomplish

Interested in volunteering?

Check here for opportunities!

Like helping people?

American Red Cross

Salvation Army

Good Will

www.redcross.org

Like power tools?

Habitat for Humanity

www.habitat.org

Like feeding the hungry?

Open Hands ATL

www.projectopenhand.org

Like animals?

Humane Society

www.humanecobb.org

when our adolescents are soon the leaders of society,” Stevens said.

Junior Emily Heidelberg has been involved in numerous mission trips with her church and takes every opportunity to reach out to those in need. “I live a very blessed life and I feel it’s my duty to help those who are down on their luck,” Heidelberg said.

Typical teenager stereotypes, such as being lazy and selfish, abound, but still, some give their time to help someone other than themselves. Teens give their time to all kinds of causes and efforts, whether it be through their church, family friends or just looking up opportunities online.

Volunteering is not something teenagers should dread, it increases community spirit as well as a teenager’s marketability to a potential employer. Most colleges look for students who have had experience in the community.

Parents and teachers can encourage students to find outreach opportunities. “Making the world a better and safer place starts by showing kids and teens how they can be part of impacting the future through volunteering,” Stevens said.

Volunteering can help to make students more aware of their surroundings and more aware that they can make a difference.

North and South: cultures share mostly differences

by Olaedo Ajoku

In the United States, the cultures of the north and south differ greatly.

There are vast economic and lifestyle differences. Looking at history, people living in the North tended to be wealthier and well developed than in the South. This was, of course, magnified during the Civil War, when the North and South fought over the South’s challenge to state’s rights.

Lifestyles of these two locations have many differences as well. The Northerners are seen as having an urban, upscale lifestyle and more apt to relish modern trends, while Southerners are seen as having a more rural lifestyle mired in the traditions of ancestors.

Education is a large bone of contention with regional residents.

“I think Northerners are more prepared for college than we are,” sophomore Kendricka Williams said.

In fact, according to the Center for Civic Innovation, graduation rates in the Northeast and the Midwest are higher than the overall national figure, while the South had a lower rate. Florida has the lowest graduation rate in the nation. But the South’s college-ready seniors out rank the North’s.

With politics, the North tends

to be more Democratic, while the South leans toward the more conservative side of the fence. Recorded voting habits support labeling your home as a blue or red state.

During the cold seasons, the North is prone to extreme cold, getting into the single digits, while the South’s extreme temperatures come during the summer months

Much of this is due to the distance from the equator. During the warmer seasons, the South gets very humid and dry with little rainfall, unlike the North, where the weather tends to be very breezy and cloudy, with less rainfall.

When it comes to greeting one another in public, especially when talking to each other, there is a big difference. In the North, people usually greet each other with a friendly handshake and a few words, then go on their way. Meanwhile, in the South, people are more social and open with one another as they greet each other with a big hug and start a conversation.

“I think that Southerners are friendlier and Northerners aren’t as social, especially when they don’t know you,” vision specialist Ericka Christie said.

Despite the fact that states such as Alabama and New York are only a few hundred miles away, many see the differences clearly,

As their loved ones fight war, military families fight fear

by Amy Freund



Sophomore Desiree Bidot and senior Alissa Bidot are sisters who know exactly what it is like to have an empty spot at the dinner table. Their father has been a part of the military for four years and has been away for months at a time. Their dad was deployed for Afghanistan in March after months of preparation. "Being the oldest, my mom sees me as the strongest person in the family, and I help my little sister understand why dad is not here," senior Alissa Bidot said. There are various social support groups intended to assist military families with the emotional

stresses of having a relative in the military. Many family members face certain issues such as curiosity, worry, loneliness, and stress. The Bidot family visits a social group called Army Family Readiness Group (FRG) because it helps families plan what to expect when a family member leaves and how to send care packages. Organizations like FRG talk about deployment and who the families can confide in while their loved one is gone. Military groups also plan activities for the families before their soldier leaves. "Sometimes I miss my dad and I just want to talk to him," sophomore Desiree Bidot said. Although Americans miss the troops, many of them are in the

military because they have fervor to defend our country. Many soldiers want to be there, they want to fight for the U.S. Engineering teacher Paul Eubanks spent five years in the Navy. He went numerous places in the world, and every time he was gone, he came back with an additional handful of stories to share with his family. "It's hard being gone for so long, all you have when you leave is that mental picture of everyone in your family, and it's always different when you come home," Eubanks said. Students with family members in the military are forced to take on new responsibilities. Each member of a family plays an important

role, and when one is absent, every other member must adjust to take on their role. "It was my responsibility to take care of my brothers while my dad was in Afghanistan," senior Andrew Bradshaw said. Thankfully, technology has made communication between soldiers and their families easier with web cams. This convenient source of technology has eased a lot of worry and loneliness among war-affected families. "My family was able to use the web cam all the time when my dad was gone," Bradshaw said. When it is morning in America, it is night in Middle Eastern countries; military families take advantage of that small, convenient time

period to see their loved one on the computer. Some families choose to put the holidays on hold. They will wait for their loved ones to come home, and then they will celebrate the holidays their soldier missed. There are many other military and non-military families who opt to send care packages to soldiers overseas. "We sent my father care packages and candy for the Afghan children while he was gone," Bradshaw said. Different families do different things for their soldier when they are gone. One thing remains constant though, and that is the fact that our troops are loved and cared for when they are gone.



photo by Pamela Remos

Double Take

1986 MHS graduates as twins, teachers, volunteers, coaches, mentors

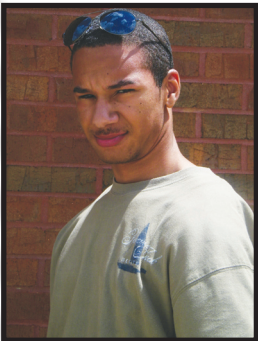
by Lauren Montgomery



There's no need for a double take with these twins. Steve and Stuart Jones are two spectacular brothers whose efforts in the McEachern community have won a standing ovation. Proud McEachern alumni, the two returned to their roots on MHS soil. Stuart Jones is a computer-guru by day and McEachern soccer coach by night. Stuart's twin, Steve has led the McEachern Drama department producing plays and musicals since 2003. "Steve is collaborative, extremely creative, and has a great philosophy about teaching," Fine Arts Department Chair Cecilia Cicco said. A man on the move, Steve wears several hats as a father, husband, mentor and friend of the community. Colleagues, students, and friends agree that Steve is a true inspiration to the community; a man who lives for the moments of discovery. He gives his students a method of higher thinking by designing a show, then guiding the young actors through its vision. "Everything I know, all my inspiration, and everything I've learned is because of Jones," senior Christo Taoushiani said. When analyzing a character or story line, Steve always aims to inspire people through his teachings and performances. Several of his students believe that Steve produces plays that all students can connect to or relate to society in some way. "As a director, he makes sure we have a reason for doing things and

that we know what that reason is. "We read in depth into the character and ask questions. This way, he gets us to think so that we can do our best," Taoushiani said. For data analyst Stuart Jones, life is more logical. Supporting a family of five, Stuart is a busy man, who still encourages McEachern campus affairs. Stuart also participates on campus, mainly during his position as the assistant boy's varsity soccer coach and attending drama productions to see his son, Matt Jones. Mirror twins such as the Jones brothers, are considered reflected opposites. Steve is left-handed and right-brain, while Stuart is right-handed and left-brain, making the two a perfect example of an artistic mind versus an analytical one. The Jones' have small reflected physical differences, but are actually genetically identical. "We make a great yin and yang," Stuart said. Growing up, Steve and Stuart were always together. Pairing together in homeroom, Sunday school, singing in the choir, and even on the same sports team, they each always had someone by their side. When asked about their childhood, they both replied, "I always had a guaranteed playmate." Today, Stuart hopes for the same priceless friendship for his own sons. Once adolescence came around, Steve and Stuart made a strong effort to establish their independence. In high school, the two admitted to having completely different circles of friends; working diligently against being seen as one package. It was clear that both brothers wanted people to see the differences between them. This became very apparent in college

when the twins shared an English professor who connected with Steve through theater productions, but lost her wits with Stuart who was slightly impaired to the arts. "Definitely, in high school there were times when I didn't want him around and he didn't want me around," Steve said. The 1986 McEachern graduates value the years of development spent at McEachern and the emotional connection they share with the school. Steve still describes the school as rich, old, and wonderful. Although neither twin expected such closeness to their hometown, they still appreciate their chance to give back to the community. "It's nice to show a little pride. Goofy or not, Steve and I still appreciate when people wear their blue and gold," Stuart said. The Jones twins maintain a sincere closeness with the school and community and are dedicated to supporting each other and their families. Although today, Steve and Stuart don't spend as much quality time, except for occasional days golfing on the range, they continue to stay connected; knowing that neither of them has to travel very far to find the other. "The Jones twins are a great contribution to McEachern. They're folks of integrity who speak for what's best and make a difference," Chorus director Zachary White said. As their lives carry on and their success grows, the Jones twins will always have the comfort of each other and the community that has raised them. Separately, their achievements may be overshadowed, but together they stand strong.



photos by Pamela Remos

Senior Charles-Reginald Smith



Smith is enlisting in the Air Force and plans to become a pilot for the Air Force.



Senior Carlos Fernandez



Fernandez is enlisting in the Marine Corp and plans to get an aerospace engineering degree.



Senior Dino Ramic



Ramic is enlisting in the Navy.

Future Freedom Fighters

‘09

reasons to be an



1 Getting the free cake at the Alumni Tent at the Homecoming football game.

2 Coming back to McEachern once you’ve graduated feels like coming home again.

3 Knowing fun facts about MHS, for example, that Russell Hall was named after Senator Richard B. Russell.

4 Realizing how fortunate you are to have gone to such a beautiful high school like McEachern.

5 Knowing, “Once a McEachern Indian, always a McEachern Indian.”

6 Seeing familiar faces after years have passed.

7 Remembering the age old fight song, “Go McEachern Indians!”

8 Reminiscing with friends under Friday Night lights.

Alumni

9 Knowing that you’ve gotten a solid basis for a great education.

Saving lives one step at a time

by Joelle Fears



childbirth can be detrimental to the health of a newborn, and McEachern has joined in the effort to help save infant lives.

About 40,000 extremely small babies – less than 2.2 pounds – are born each year according to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Immediately after a premature baby is born doctors place them into the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, known as the NICU.

A premature child is born before 37 weeks of its completed gestation. Premature infants are born with underdeveloped organs, leaving them at increased risk for disabilities and health complications.

“I was born prematurely, and I was on a machine for two months because my lungs were not developed. I participate in the March of Dimes so I can help babies like myself,” said senior FBLA reporter E’lexis Brewer.

Research for medications to save a premature baby can be costly. Many mothers depend on the funds raised by the March of Dimes.

The March of Dimes is an organization devoted to donating money to mothers of prematurely born babies. Of every dollar earned 77 percent goes to fund research.

This year, McEachern’s FBLA is participating in the march. “We need to raise money for people who do not have it. Children are our future,” senior FBLA vice president Tahira West said.

The march is only 3-5 miles long, but benefits for so much more than 3-5 years of life.

Johnson & Johnson, Continental Airlines, and Discovery Health are just a few of the notable companies who have taken part in the March of Dimes.

The March of Dimes takes place at various times and places throughout Georgia during early April. This year, FBLA participated in the April 25 march, located at Marietta Middle School.

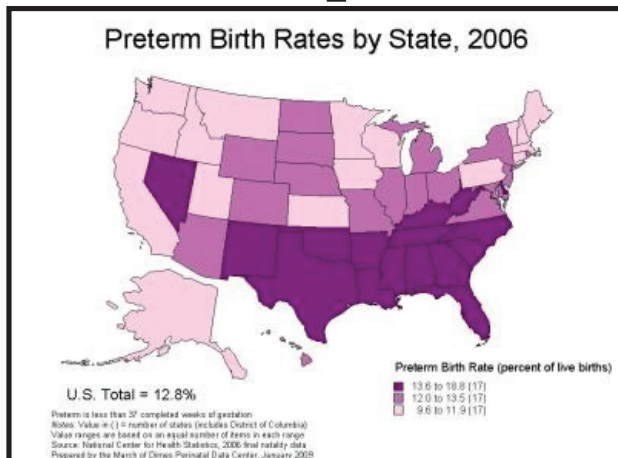


photo by Lauren Montgomery

Junior Jeweleon Jones and seniors Elexius Brewer, Alexandria Carter, and Joye Bowen show off their accomplishments in the halls of BT.

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Top five college majors

1. Medicine

2. Law

3. Nursing

4. Music

5. Art

Unusual college major choices

by Sydney Kelly



As the 2008-2009 school year draws to a close, seniors begin to plot a course down the road of life. Some will choose the one less travelled than others.

McEachern senior graduates are now being met with a flurry of questions regarding the rest of their lives. ‘What school do you plan to attend?’, ‘What’s your major?’ or ‘What kind of career options do you have with a degree like that?’ While many students’ answers are accepted without further inquiry, some student’s choices are not typical.

“You know, you hear about kids going into pre-med, pre-law, teacher,” counselor Kristy Royer said. “Then, I had a kid once who wanted to be a coroner.”

Off-beat career choices are certainly a matter of opinion. However, such odd careers are

often the least pursued and narrowest of fields.

“I think the biggest fear for students is the question of ‘Can I be, not just successful, but make enough money to live?’” Royer said. “You can be successful and not make any money.”

Although these career choices are somewhat unorthodox, they do supply a population of employees for jobs where the choices are slim.

“You got to have someone do it,” Royer said. “If we had this overhaul courses like money management and NJROTC classes. Extra curricular activities also assist in the preparation for students career paths after high

school. “Definitely playing football for my senior year helped me prepare for being a sports manager,” senior Colin Butler said. “I got to see what it takes to play.”

These career choices can be intimidating, particularly when the fields are as narrow and selective as they are today. It takes a determined person to take consistence work and failure.

“You’ve got to want it deep down in your soul,” Royer said. “And be willing to stick it out. There will be lean years but those years will build strength of character.”

These students pursuing such off-beat career choices are ahead of the curve due to the class and extra curricular options they have had at McEachern. They are braving the truly unknown and have been gratefully been handed the tools to get them there.

Senior Week!

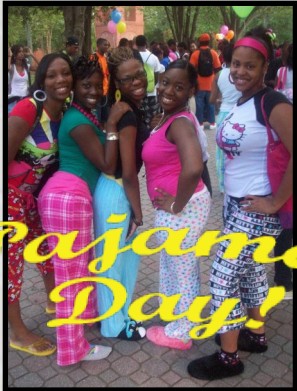


photo by Corey Williams

Pajama Day!



photo by Rose Alexander

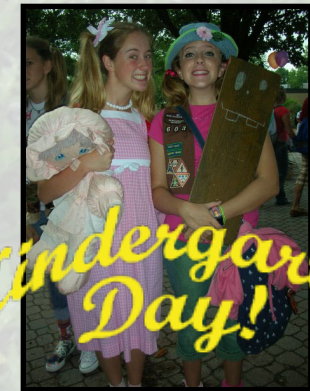


photo by Shannon Rosario

Kindergarten Day!



photo by Taylon Shaver

Patriot Day!



photo by Rose Alexander

Senior Spirit Day!

BOO

- Three lunches
- Six minutes to get to class
- Veterans Day Assembly Etiquette
- Fewer early release days
- No McEachern Live
- Loss of recycling bins
- Homecoming Game loss
- Blackouts
- No snow days
- Closing the mall
- Not many senior shirts

HOORAY

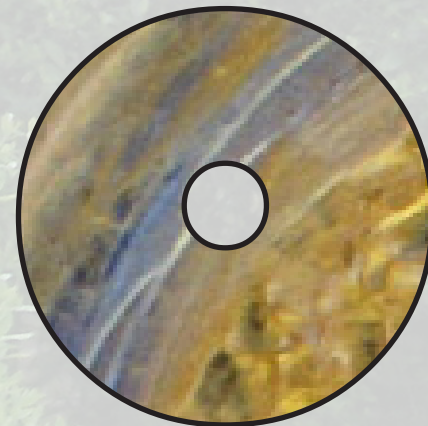
- Three successful pep rallies
- Boys basketball went to playoffs
- Marching Band made Super Regional finals at Bands of America
- Two actors named All Star Cast at the One Act Play Competition
- Girls soccer won both games at Jekyll Island
- Obama in the Gym
- A whole week off for Thanksgiving break
- Block Party success
- New Fine Arts Center
- More food options in the cafeteria

Nine perks of being a Senior:

1. Leaving early
2. *Almost* always winning the Spirit Stick
3. Cutting in Grill Line
4. Making fun of freshmen
5. Senior Week
6. Senior trips
7. First dibs on parking spots
8. Senior Skip Days
9. Leaving for college

Class of

2



CLOUD NINE

"I feel like this year has been a learning experience. It was my first year cheerleading, and it forced me out of my comfort zone."
-Mache Kane

"Football was a lot of work, but every Friday night was a lot of fun. Especially at Waffle House after the games!"
-John Perren

"On the last night of Grease, I realized that when I called my last cue and when I walked out for my curtain call that it was one of my last great experiences before graduation."
-Sarah Busby

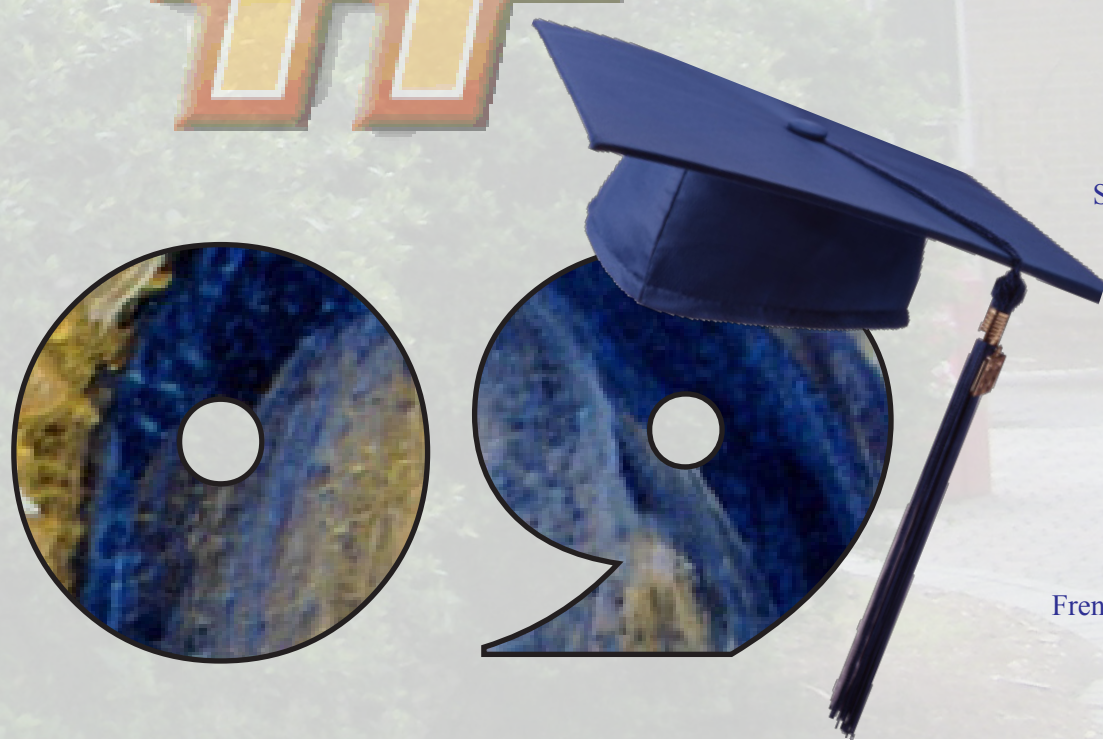
"The performance at BOA really wrapped up my senior year, I was really proud."
-Alexandra Simmons

"What made my senior year great was the fact that I could look forward to graduating and moving on to bigger and better things."
-Scott Upole

"It has been a memorable year playing with the full symphony orchestra during my senior year."
-Malcolm Jones

By the Numbers

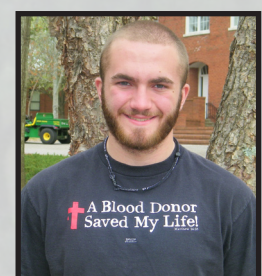
Total number of seniors: 493
Senior boys: 236
Senior girls: 257
Seniors with minimum day: 118
Seniors with mentorship: 72
Seniors with AP classes: 385



SCA: Christo Taoushiani



BETA: Carly Dean



FCA: Jake Taylor

The Senior Circle Prominent Presidents



French Club: Alex Standridge



FBLA: Chantell Wilson



NHS: Kenechi Agbim

Mean Girls: More than just 'The Plastics'

by Sydney Kelly



Let's face the facts ladies: There's something about all girls that rubs you the wrong way. Relationships with other women have always been a problem in society. Women are catty, moody, clingy, whiny and insecure. They don't let you live it down if you wear a brown belt and black shoes, they get jealous when you look better than them and they lie. Women are the poster children for saying one thing and meaning another and they never fail to be dissatisfied.

"Some girls say 'Oh you're so

pretty!' but think 'Oh my gosh, did you see what she was wearing?'" said freshman Anna Sagraves.

Women have always been objects of beauty. With the changes in time a change in the definition of beautiful has shifted as well. Thus, women are forced to keep up. They compete with social expectations, with themselves, but particularly with other women.

"Competition is a problem for lots of girls," psychology teacher Katie Nicolson said. "Guys are competitive in a completely different way. Girls are catty."

It has been said before that men are the head and women are the heart. There is much truth to this theory. Females tend to focus on

how they feel rather than what they think. They wear their heart on their sleeves and they often lose control of their emotions. Hence the reason they scream, cry hysterically, laugh until their stomach hurts and then go back to screaming again all in a matter of minutes. It is in their nature to be heartfelt and unpredictable.

"When we get mad, we stay mad because we think its easier to hold onto that feeling," Sagraves said. "And then sometimes we stay in that mood for attention or to have something to talk about."

In sharp contrast, there are women out there who simply lack most basic feminine qualities. These tomboys are a part of a ste-

reotype that is exploited by film and television writers as female heroines a chief male character is madly in love with but does not know it because she is so much like him.

"Tomboys are almost easier to get along with because they don't care what guys think," Sagraves said.

Tomboys eliminate a consistent problem that hinders many female friendships: men. Their closeness with the opposite sex is usually a strict friendship and the truth is they care more about Monday Night Football than episodes of Sex and the City or their close male friends.

Still some women find it dif-

ficult to get along with Tomboys. Their closeness to men is too unorthodox and its often seen as a scheme to be close to a woman's object of desire.

Perhaps it's true that women are too much alike and perhaps women are just too different. The bottom line is, girls will be girls and as long as they let their insecurities and their emotions get the best of them, they will continue to fight one another. Men have a special bond that allows them to make each other bleed, then shake hands and move on. The grudges women hold are timeless and will forever be carried in our heart.

If women would learn to be comfortable in their own skin,

they would get along with each other. The key to successful female friendships is honesty and acceptance.

There can not be any stealing of boyfriends or lying about the new shoes a friend bought because dishonesty gets the female population nowhere. Its now time for an era when women do not take advantage of other women; that simply makes it acceptable for others to take advantage of women.

A Golden Age of feminine friendships would have to occur for there to be any drastic improvement in women relationships. Until then, learn to steer clear.

The skinny on weight obsessed teens

"Whose line is it anyway?"



by Chelsea Baasch



The stereotypical image of "beauty" has been thrust upon young people all over the world. For some, true beauty is about having the perfect tan or that pearly white smile; but for many, being skinny is the true definition of being beautiful. Teenagers have the idea in their head that they must look "perfect." Whether it's a drastic diet or an extreme workout plan, they will go through whatever it takes to attain physical perfection.

The consequences of living such a life style can be fatal. The immense stress that is induced by trying to maintain that ideal appearance is overwhelming. They become consumed with thinking about not gaining weight. These constant thoughts distract students from their daily lives, which turns from concentration on school work and friends to concentration on weight and self-image.

"I believe it is a waste of time to focus on a flaw that isn't actually there," junior Jennifer Johnson said. These weight obsessed teens sometimes turn to cigarettes to relieve stress and suppress appetite. Little do they know the cigarettes are actually making it harder for them to exercise and lose weight.

Weight obsessed teens could be suffering from Body dysmorphic disorder (BDD). BDD is a chronic mental illness in which individuals cannot stop thinking about a flaw with their appearance, a flaw that is either minor or imagined.

For example, even if someone is average weight for their age and height they are convinced that they could lose more weight. If the case is so severe then the patient may need to talk to a psychiatrist.

After realizing that there is a healthy approach to maintaining an average weight, teens can return to a regular lifestyle. Less stress and a renewed confidence will allow those who struggled with weight obsession to relax. At such a young and impressionable age, teenagers shouldn't have to experience pressure about simple things such as weight.

Match the teacher with the quote

 Alan Mullett	 Suzanne Keel
 Kimberly McCarter	 Jermaine Ross
 Andrea Norred	 Steven Jones
 Zachary White	





Oh! The Drama!

1: In *Cheaper by the Dozen*, Larry (Matt Jones) tells Anne (Bekah Medford) that he still likes her, in light of her recent behavior.

2: In *Lovers & Executioners*, Don Lope (Will Bradshaw) fights Frederick/Julie (Katie Pflugradt) when he finds out that his intended, Constance, has feelings for him.

3: Bernard (Christo Taoushiani) begs for his life while on trial for the murder of his wife in *Lovers & Executioners*.

4: Animatronic figures (Jenna Dorece & Crissy Treccia) come to life in *Property Rites*, revealing the moral that beliefs shouldn't be forced on someone else.

5: Danny (Adam Hoyak) and ChaCha (Jasmine Edwards) win the Hand Jive Dance Contest in *Grease*.

6: Danny (Adam Hoyak) and Sandy (Suzanne Stroup) sing "Summer Nights" in *Grease*.

7: In *Mr. Roberts*, Pulver (Blair Smith) has just set off a firecracker in the laundry room and goes to brag to Roberts (Matt Jones) and Doc (Christo Taoushiani).

8: In *Cheaper by the Dozen*, the various children are seeing their father for the last time before he leaves for Europe.

9: In *Audience*, Sam Brown, the director, instructs his "audience" on the subtle art of being an audience.



Summer Sequels

Coming soon to a theater near you

by Sydney Kelly



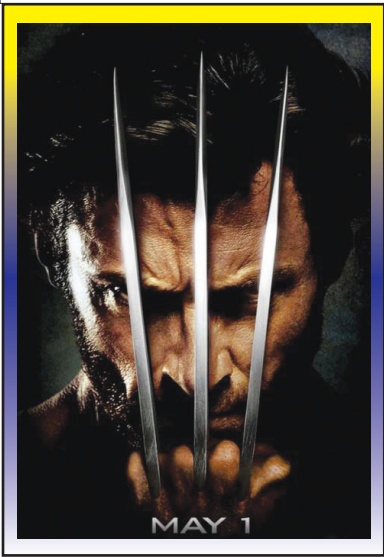
Much like the summer of 2007, the film industry is revving up for another season of hot action movies that have three simple common factors: big names, big money, and big sequels. After a good, long look at the summer blockbusters beginning this May, the list has been narrowed to five sequels (and prequels) that will blow their budgets like they blow their audience's mind.

X-Men Origins: Wolverine

Release Date: May 1

Starring: Hugh Jackman, Ryan Reynolds and Live Schreiber

Synopsis: A prequel to the X-Men series, Origins follows Logan's (Jackman) loss and hardship prior to his induction into the X-Men. Racked with grief over the loss of his true love, Logan drives himself into becoming the infamous Wolverine, a mutant with a short temper and a taste for revenge.



Keep It Coming:

The beauty of the X-Men series is that each story explores the division of races. There are mutants who want to make peace with human kind and to live among them happily, while there are others who are bitter for being treated unfairly in the past and ruminate in their mistrust. Logan is a wonderful marriage of the two and as the most compelling and awesome character in the X-Men series, it's safe to say his story will be equally heartfelt and action-packed.

Not So Much: In contrast it's important we don't overload the viewers with a cheesy and melodramatic back story. We've already seen Logan vulnerable in *X-Men: The Last Stand* which, let's face it, did not turn out too well. The bad-boy-gone-soft routine is old and overworked. That idea is certainly a crowd-tickler but even the sixteen year-olds who fell in love with Jackman when they saw *Australia* won't be swooned that way.

Verdict: A packed house for the first two weeks is what will be expected for Origins' release. It's the first big blockbuster of the season and if the fan base has grown as fantastically as the other comic book hero films have, Twentieth Century Fox will be rolling in a cash bin twice as large as *Spider-Man 3*'s.

Angels and Demons

Release Date: May 15

Starring: Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor and Ayelet Zurer

Synopsis: Prequel to Ron Howard's *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown's second novel-turned-movie follows Robert Langdon's (Hanks) first Indiana Jones-esque adventure. As a Professor of Religious Symbolism, Langdon is forced into a quest to save the Vatican from destruction from the anti-religious group, The Illuminati.

Keep It Coming: Although *The Da Vinci Code* was not wildly successful, Howard's second attempt should yield better results. *Angels and Demons*' overall plot is less offensive so the writers do not have to tip-toe around audiences. *Demons* is also generally well-received by readers. The

action is fast-paced, like *Code*, but infinitely more consistent. If the downright maliciousness of the villains is as clear in *Demons* as it was in *Code*, Howard should have no problem winning back his audience.

Not So Much: If *Demons* could avoid the lack of character development that *Code* presented, the film would already be infinitely better off. Audrey Tautou was particularly weak and her lack of character was really the downfall of the film. Hopefully *Demons* will have a better leading lady, as the character of Vittoria is written to be strong-willing and fearless. Feminists everywhere will have a newfound respect for physicists

Verdict: Attendance will be low but for the adamant fans of Howard, Hanks and Brown. Most likely, the film will be a strong comeback but will not make much at the box offices as most of the viewers are still angry about *The Da Vinci Code*.

Transformers II

Release Date: June 24

Starring: Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox

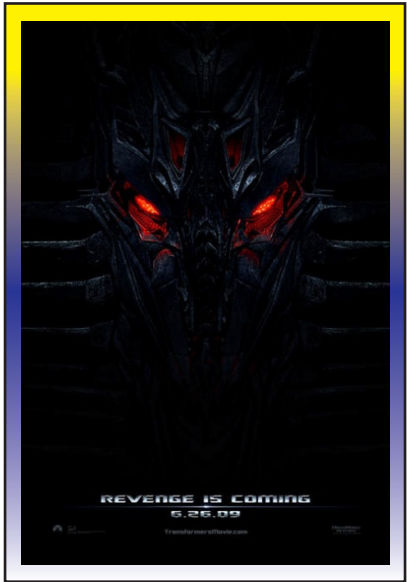
Synopsis: The battle for Earth begins again when the Decepticon forces return with the purpose of kidnapping Sam Witwicky (LaBeouf) after her learns of the Transformer's origins.

Keep It Coming:

From the witty dialogue to the awkward romance scenes to the mind-blowing action sequences, there is little about 2007's *Transformers* that did not sit well with audiences. Spielberg once again blends story with effects in a way that is simply captivating. The realistic take on this cartoon series has earned the series millions.

Not So Much:

On the other hand, it's obvious from the opening sequence that *Transformers* was written with teenagers in mind. Setting aside LaBeouf's character, most principal roles are shallow and without real worth. Considering the film was based on a children's cartoon show, the sexual jokes and the forced love-interest of Megan Fox was trivial and often inappropriate.



Verdict: The income of this production will be astronomical. The ridiculously large fan base and the wildly popular LaBeouf make this film a guaranteed smash hit. Most likely, *Transformers II* will be the highest-grossing film of the season.

Terminator: Salvation

Release Date: May 21

Starring: Christian Bale

Synopsis: With McG in the director's seat, *Terminator: Salvation* begins as Skynet is destroyed in a nuclear holocaust. John Connor (Bale) leads a team of men to police what's left of the human race and to keep the machines from overtaking John's makeshift home and friends.

Keep It Coming: *The Terminator* series feeds the 1980s Sci-fi fanatic in all of us. Time travel, futuristic settings and alien creatures have mystified and terrified audiences as far back as H.G. Wells and for good reason: its good, plain fun. *The Terminator* and films like it got a hold of our attention and have kept it for decades because it's an escape. *Salvation* has a rare chance to dig into our decaying imaginations and spice things up again.

Not So Much: Sci-fi fantasies and equally known for their overbearing amount of clichés. Spare us, if you please Mr. McG, the endless time travel that was reminiscent of *Back to the Future: II*'s 'alternate 1985' bit and the writing that seems more satirical than ominous.

Verdict: Another film that could be affected by its predecessors. However, due to Christian Bale's wildly awesome success of *The Dark Knight* last summer, I can see the audience looking over the mistakes of the 1980s and being willing to indulge their geekdom once again.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Release date: July 17th

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Michael Gambon and Alan Rickman

Synopsis: Coming into his sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry Potter (Radcliffe) stumbles across an old book inscribed with the signature of the 'Half-Blood Prince'. Harry, along with his friends Hermione (Watson) and Ron (Grint), sets off to discover the secrets of this prince and of the infamous Lord Voldemort.

Keep It Coming: *Harry Potter*'s smashing success as a novel series has truly reached a number only previously obtained by *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*. While the first five installments have had the artistic perspective of several directors, David Yates has returned from film five to direct a second time. This was the smartest move Warner Brothers could have made. Yates was the most critically successful director of any *Harry Potter* film to date and with good reason. Yates has a good eye for the comedic and the dramatic and in the enchanting world of *Harry Potter*, there is little room to cut the story short.

Not So Much: Most fans who were also devoted readers were frustrated with Yate's version of the fifth novel. The pacing was off and the plot was so overwhelming that, at times, the writers forgot to develop the relationships between the characters. Harry's relationship with his godfather, Sirius, was particularly lackluster and as a result, the final sequence was more a shift in the plot than the tragedy it should have been. It will be in Warner Brother's best interest if Yates is allowed to lengthen the film a bit. Thicker books can not be translated into shorter time-limits without an uprising from the fans.

Verdict: Due to the fact this film's release date was pushed back nearly eight months, this will surely be a money-winner for Warner Brothers. The devoted fan base has grown into an international phenomenon and the film is certain to be high on the charts.



Options: more than college

by Joelle Fears

A high school education is typically described as preparation for college level work.

Not all students attend college, however, they use their high school diplomas for other things.

There are many other options for graduating students other than college. Whether it is cosmetology school or the military, high school graduates who do not attend college are not always destined for fast food restaurants.

"There are many different situations for why a high school graduate chooses not to attend college," said senior Alan Tate.

Though a college diploma offers a much wider range of career choices for a person, there are some instances in which a person has only one career choice in mind in which college is not required.

Hairstylists do not typically attend college, but go straight to cosmetology school. According to PayScale.com, the average salary of a hairstylist is equivalent to that of a stock broker who has attended college and been in the field for 5-9 years.

Those students who enlist in the military after graduation, sometimes only do so to have a college education for a small cost of duty for their country.

"A lot don't have the funds to go to college even though they may be very intelligent," said Srg. Maj. Earl Suggs. "Some use that time in the military to think about what career they want to pursue." In the field of aeronautics, a navy pi-



photo by Ogechi Anyanwu

Senior Caleb Lee has been involved in McEachern's NJROTC program during his four years of high school and plans to pursue a career in the U.S. Military

lot is offered a higher paying position than that of a person who has a degree in aerospace engineering and flying from an accredited flight school.

A college education is something not every student can afford. There

are other options for such students to get a decent job and possibly attend college when their finances are better. College is always going to be an option and should not be viewed as a requirement to be successful.

Learning styles: a factor in instruction

by Khalea Underwood

Last August, teachers distributed colorful assessments determining the learning styles of students. Though the categories define how a student responds in a classroom setting, they can be viewed as either an aid or a hindrance.

Students have always had different ways of thinking, but the concept of stylized learning grew popular in the seventies amongst college professors and experts.

Educational theorist David Kolb, was one of the first to develop a system of style preferences with his Experiential Learning Model which organized the thinking process in a circle. Numerous variations followed.

The Fleming VAK (Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic) model is one widely used in classrooms today,

putting learners in visual, auditory, and kinesthetic groupings.

"Research shows that students learn in various ways," assistant principal Kim Custance said. "The different ways help the students and teachers exchange information better."

Fleming's model seems general, but the descriptions of the groups are concise and descriptive. Visual learning involves charts and diagrams; auditory learners enjoy lectures and verbal direction and are usually strong in group discussion. The kinesthetic style involves physical activity.

"I'm a visual learner," senior Babatunde Aborisade said. "It helps when teachers put extra examples up on the board instead of spewing out information."

McEachern implemented the learning models after teachers and administration saw a need

for variation in the classroom. As a result, a differentiation committee was formed and they received training at a conference in Nashville. The committee redelivers what they learned to the staff, making their goal of variety school-wide. This also makes giving direction easier for teachers.

"The purpose of differentiation is to accommodate the needs of all members in the classroom," teacher Erica Beck said.

To group students by their learning styles allows educators to discriminate against their students. It's almost like categorizing race-- everyone has more than one ethnicity that they are a part of. There are billions of students around the world. Their ways of learning are as different as their locations.

Proof of improvement in grades and test scores won't be available until the summer.

It's a slang thang

by Ashlee Tziganuk

Walking around campus reminds me of just how far we've strayed from our Anglo-Saxon forefathers.

As an American I have much respect for the motherland. Always sounding precise and proper, she brought us our beautiful and complex language. Now flashing back to the present it is evident that a new plague has spread across the great pond. English is dead. This is the age of slang.

Walking down the street someone comes up to you and says 'yo man you be looking fly' or 'don't be trippin'. You slowly start to wonder if you've lifted off the

ground or have fallen. It's what makes English teachers cringe. With poor grammar and enunciation, the diction is just all wrong.

"As time goes on people are changing the language with slang. At this rate it's only going to get worse," junior Osamagbe Osagie said.

The English language has been deteriorating for quite some time. You pick up a Nathaniel Hawthorne novel and you can barely understand what's going on. But truth is, even that was already a simpler form of the language.

"English is a living language. It will change as time goes on," History of the English Language

teacher Pamela Fleming said. "I think if people don't read more, it's going to get worse. New fads like twitter are a real problem among the youth."

Putting a stop to the deterioration of the English language sounds just as plausible as surviving a fall from the top of a ten story building.

"Even though the language is deteriorating, we will always adjust," junior Janice Edwards said.

At this point adjusting seems like the only option. We've been falling for quite some time and it won't be long before our language hits the ground. This might be a good time to start looking 'fly'.

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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.

Kicking their way to success

by Joelle Fears

McEachern's Lady Indians soccer team does not have to kick and scream to gain success. Hard practices and team work have done the job.

What you see on the field is just the beginning of the skill set for McEachern's Lady Indians Soccer. Conditioning begins months before the season even begins. During the season, they practice three to four times a week to improve their skills and work as a team. They began their season with a great start when they won their first game against Hiram High School.

"These girls have truly outdone themselves this season. They play like girls and win like champions," Coach Steven Jones said.

The Lady Indians Soccer team plays with the same toughness as the boys. In a game against East Paulding, the team played for 60 minutes with a player out and the other team did not score once.

They continue to learn and grow as a team. "Last year, we went through a rough season and this year we turned it all around," team captain Jenna Dorece said.

To the Lady Indians, losing a game does not discourage them from playing again, it motivates them to play harder and better. So far, the team has won more games than in years past. The teams sense of closeness has brought them to a winning season.

"We are amazing this year. We have become a team. We have a heart to play and don't slack off," senior Dana Garbe said.

Girls' sports teams tend to be underestimated, but the sweat and hard work from the Lady Indians is defying that stereotype.

One of the more pleasurable parts of the soccer team is the trip they take to Jekyll Island every year. They play a tournament of two games and get to have some down time on the beach for team bonding.

"Being a part of this soccer team has taught me to work well with people and put our differences aside to work well as a team," Dorece said.

Athletic teams not only keep students in shape, but they motivate them to go outside of their social circles and relate to different people.

"The main thing this soccer team has taught me is responsibility and trust. We have to trust one another to know we have each other's backs," senior Anasa Lover said. "We need responsibility to do our part so we are able to trust one another."



Senior soccer players Megan O'Connell, Blaine Canning, Tanya Disney, Anasa Lover, Desiree Wilcox, Dana Garbe, Jenna Dorece, Helena Samson, and Chantell Wilson bond together at their annual trip to Jekyll Island for a soccer tournament.

rock and roller skate with TEAM RITUAL

by Jack Culler

Team Ritual, McEachern's very own roller skating team, kicks off its inaugural season this spring.

Although dance style roller skating has not been revered as an official sport during McEachern's first 75 years of operation, that has now changed.

Senior Charles-Reginald Smith, the organizations founder and avid skater, established the organization last fall. "I founded the skate team with my passion and great involvement in dance style

roller skating in mind," Smith said. Smith has only been a student at McEachern for a span of two years in which he has already initiated two organizations at MHS, the other being the Aviation Club. "I enjoy providing activities that involve all types of students," Smith said.

For those unaware, dance style roller skating entails many different skating styles. Dance roller skating includes, but is not limited to, speed skating, aggressive skating and jam skating.

Jam skating is the most popular form of organized skating, in which skaters

blend sport and dance related moves to form a unique style. Jam skating's origins hail from traditional roller disco, but it is also heavily influenced by modern dance, gymnastics, and breakdancing.

"We only have seven members so far, but I'm still on the look out for more talented skaters at McEachern. I still haven't found the best skater at the school, but I'm still searching," Smith said.

Team Ritual is in the process of being sponsored by Sparkles Skating Rinks, and they will also be performing at various school events and activities.



Charles R. Smith blends traditional roller skating with old school break dancing. He performs at Sparkles or with Team Ritual jam skate team.

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Senior Scholarships

X *Signing their lives away*

by Ogechi Anyanwu



Long and strenuous practices, blood, sweat, tears and unparalleled dedication has paid off for three McEachern students who have earned scholarships to three prestigious universities.

With the economy in a recession, gaining a full paid scholarship to any university or college is a relief for any person or household.

Though these three students may have made it look like a walk in the park, a scholarship is not a simple gift. "There is nothing easy about getting a scholarship to a school, so when a student gets it, that is an achievement that they should be commended for," Coach Jim Dorsey said.

LaCresha Styles received half of a scholarship to Duke University in North Carolina for Track and Field.

"From the moment I stepped foot on their campus, I knew that was the school for me," Styles said. "Track has opened many doors for me, and has made me be the person I am today". Styles

plans to pursue a major in the medical field.

Terrell Mitchell, a member of the football team for four years, received a full ride scholarship to University of Kentucky.

"After talking to the coaches and the other players, I felt at home and had my decision made up in my head," Mitchell said. "The benefits of a free education and getting to play the sport I love are definitely worth it." Mitchell plans to pursue a major in Business.

Branigan Wix, a four-year starter on the fast-pitch softball team, garnered a scholarship to Columbus State University.

"After I left Columbus, I felt like that was where I needed to be, academic and softball wise," Wix said. "When I found out that I had received admission and a scholarship to their school, not only was I relieved, but I was excited." Wix plans to pursue a major in physical education.

These three seniors can agree that getting a scholarship made the college search much easier. Playing a sport not only keeps an athletes body in shape and disciplined, but it can also present many opportunities that other students do not have.



LaCresha Styles

"From the moment I stepped foot on their campus, I knew that was the school for me."

Branigan Wix

"After I left Columbus, I felt that was where I needed to be academic and softball wise."



Terrell Mitchell

"After talking to the coaches and the other players, I felt at home and had my decision made up in my head."

Kyra Crosby

"I'm looking forward to attending West Virginia University to play basketball, meet new people, and begin a new life experience."



Seniors LaCresha Styles, Terrell Mitchell, and Branigan Wix proudly wearing their uniforms in front of the Alumni House.



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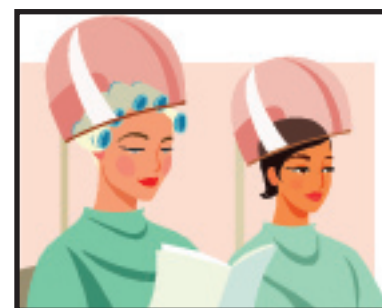
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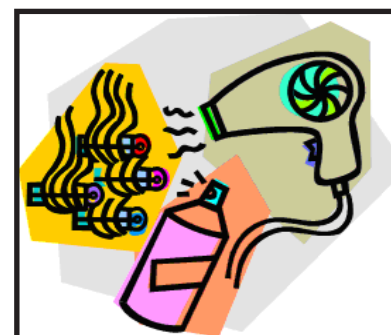
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Skydiving: Taking adventure to new heights

by Taylon Sharer



Strapped up, heart racing, plane ascending, sick-to-the-stomach; it's almost time to jump. The moment of falling around 200 miles per hour from the sky can only be understood as skydiving.

Many would not consider jumping out of an airplane a sport. For beginning jumpers, it usually isn't. But with experience, trained athletes are able to compete in the sport of skydiving through methods such as 4 way, Crew, Accuracy, and Swooping.

As manager of the Atlanta Skydiving Center in Cedartown, Tyler Lawson has had experience in skydiving as a sport. "Swooping has taken me to Spain and Holland for competitions as well as around the United States. It takes hundreds to thousands of training jumps per year to compete at a successful level," Lawson said, who has taken 4,000 jumps with his eight years in the sport.

Training to skydive can take only 20 minutes for a first time diver. This is required for a tandem jump which includes jumping with a professional skydiver. The student is attached to the instructor and experiences the thrill of 60 seconds of free fall followed by a longer segment of parachute riding.

Another jump for students is known as the Accelerated



Free Fall or AFF. Instructors attend, but only to give simple commands. The student is responsible for landing and flying the parachute correctly. About a half a day of instruction is required for AFF skydiving.

Junior Debbie Castor would love to skydive when she turns 18. "I want to have a feeling of being able to fly. I would be terrified when I was on the plane, but when I jump off I would be very excited," Castor said.

As a professional skydiver there are many different ways to dive. Lawson detailed four different techniques:

Belly Flying- This is the first axis we learn to fly. Speeds average about 120 miles per hour. Groups perform maneuvers. You may have seen this method in the movie Point Break.

Head Down- As the name says, we fly with our heads pointed toward the earth. This method takes many jumps to master and is far faster than belly flying with speeds of 175-225 mph.

Sit-Flying- This is when we fly feet first and is also referred to as stand flying with speeds of 145-165 mph.

Tracking- On our stomachs we actually fly a distance (usually about two miles) away from the drop zone and fly back to it. As a group we fly back to the drop zone in a V formation, like a flock of birds. We also use this method of flying to create horizontal separation at the end of the jump. This ensures that we do not collide under canopy.

The Olympics are considering taking on tandem diving as a competitive sport, but this would most likely not start for another eight years.

Braves storm into '09

by Jack Culler



The Atlanta Braves enter the 2009 season boasting a newly improved starting rotation and a new identity.

The Braves posted a 72-90 record last season and were dormant in the playoff race. Pitching, which has been held to a very high standard in Atlanta since the early 90's, struggled miserably at times last year. John Schuerholz took on the role of president, thus making Frank Wren the new general manager for the '09 season. Wren entered the off-season with one clear goal on his mind: to improve the starting rotation.

He started with the acquisition of a major free agent from Los Angeles, Derek Lowe. Lowe posted a 14-11 record last season for LA and

has an impressive Major League resume with two all star selections and a world series championship. Tom Glavine, a ten time all star with Atlanta, was also resigned by the Braves in late February to a one year deal.

"You can't be successful without starting pitching, that's just the bottom line," senior Aaron Gaines said. "I'm glad they decided to improve the staff."

Though they have ventured out to improve their troubled staff, the Braves are excited to reveal one of the organizations most promising prospects in the 2009 season, Tommy Hansen. Hansen

blew through the minor leagues last year, advancing all the way to triple-A Richmond in his first season, and posting a very impressive 6-0 record.

Hansen will add depth to an already impressive staff. Four of

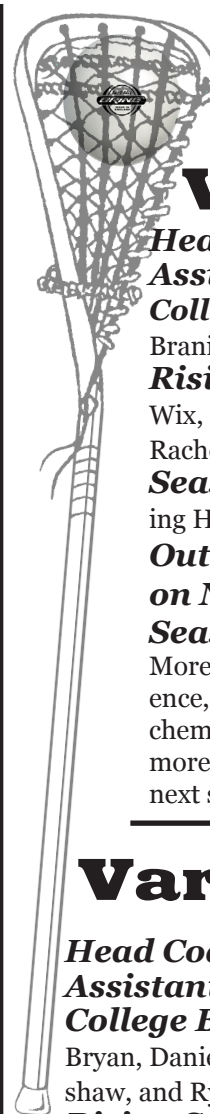
the five pitchers on the projected starting rotation have already earned World Series rings.

The starting rotation was not the only aspect of the team that needed improvement following last season. Wren also acquired veteran outfielder Garret Anderson and first basemen Casey Kotchman from the Angles in February.

"The Braves will actually be exciting to watch this season, which will be a relief after last year," senior Dan Hoptroff said.

Bobby Cox will be entering his 19th season as manager of the Braves. He has well surpassed every other Braves manager in wins, and is currently the 4th winningest coach in Major League Baseball history.

Equipped with a much improved and possibly dominating pitching staff, an enhanced outfield and infield, and one of the most successful managers of all time, the Braves are poised to make a competitive run for the National League East title this season, and hopefully more.



The LAX Report

Varsity Girls Lacrosse

Head Coach: Amy Voakes

Assistant Coach: Jennifer Green

College Bound Seniors: Mache Kane, Branigan Wix

Rising Stars: Lauren Coleman, Austyn Wix, Sara Sensing, Amber Hicks, Leslie Cox, Rachel Abernathy, Patrice Allen

Season Highlights: Senior night, beating Hillgrove

Outlook on Next Season:

More experience, better chemistry, more wins next season.



Left: Senior Branigan Wix strikes opponent. Top: Senior Mache Kane outmoves her opponent.

Varsity Boys Lacrosse

Head Coach: Patrick Lynch

Assistant Coach: Corey Goldstein

College Bound Seniors: Alex Gavilla, Levor Bryan, Daniel Rowland, Sean Agahi, Andrew Bradshaw, and Ryan Baird

Rising Stars: Kevin Krause, Josh Hilderbrand, Zach Rainwater, Reese Abernathy, Evan Halik, Gant Morgan, Robert Nash

Season Highlights: Beating Northgate in final seconds by one goal

Outlook on Next Season: Young, tighter knit, and better knowledge of game.



Lynch



Goldstein

photos by Lifetouch



Above: Seniors Levor Bryan and Codi Shafer battle against Whitewater Defensivemen. Right: Senior George Payton fights for position.

Babatunde Aborisode • India Adams • Sierra Adams • Kenechi Agbim • Sean Aghai • Yaw Agyepong • Rose Alexander • Malecka Allen • Tanner Allen
Deborah Amosu • Anthony Anderson • Christina Anderson • Dominique Anderson • Rynita Anderson • Erika Antunez • Ogechi Anyanwu • Shayla Appleby • Shaundalyn Armstrong • Evan Arndt • Raymond Arnold • Nathaniel Asare • Mayowa Awe • Elile Ayika • Chelsea Baasch • Olakunbi Badru
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