

THE TRIBAL TIMES

Vol. 4 Issue 2

McEachern High School / 2400 New Macland Rd. / Powder Springs, GA 30127



Bob Hardiman, 60, of Clayton, North Carolina, performs his daily exercise, "treasure hunting," on the bed of Falls Lake, Monday, December 3, 2007. High winds caused a dust storm across the dry lake bed.

by Chelsea Baasch

Water resources dwindle to a dangerously low level after months of drought.

On Oct. 20, 2007 Governor Sonny Perdue declared a total water supply emergency after months of drought.

Perdue ordered a 10 percent cut in drinking. Perdue also directed the Department of Natural Resources to develop a water conservation implementation plan.

This plan includes goals and practices to achieve water conservation and save taxpayer dollars, and be more environmentally

aware through wise water conservation.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources. They believe this drought is a level two for the entire state. "Citizens aren't paying enough attention to the problem and we need to start doing something now before it is too late," junior Alexandra Simmons said.

The EPD has drafted the first statewide water management plan. This plan has four major goals. First they want to

minimize with drawls of water by increasing conservation, reuse, and efficiency. Then maximize the return flow to bodies of water and river basins by managing on-site sewage disposal systems. Next they will ensure that water is available, now and in the future, including off-stream uses. These uses enclose water supply for domestic uses, for individual purposes, and for agricultural uses, including irrigation, all of which are fundamental to the state's economy and to the quality of life in Georgia residents. Finally

the EPD wishes to protect water quality by decreasing the release of pollutants into streams, so the capacity of the streams is not exceeded.

Cobb County is taking action in response to the drought as well. They have placed water restrictions on residents; all homeowners are prohibited from outdoor water use. As of now the entire Cobb County is on total outdoor water ban. Cobb Water has sent a letter out to restaurants asking to only serve water upon request. Cobb County water system will work with

Cobb County Schools to develop a water efficiency plan.

Lake Lanier, metro Atlanta's main source of water, has about three months of storage left, according to state and federal officials. It's not nearly enough for over three million metro Atlanta citizen's daily needs. There is about 475 billion gallons left in Lake Lanier, the problem is that most of the water is hard to get to because the water level has dropped drastically.

The water from Lake Lanier is used by Gwin-

nett County. On Nov. 8 the Gwinnett County firefighters had to extinguish a fire that broke out at the Norcross Supply Company. The fire engulfed the lumber yard and some nearby tree. Considering the current water supply shortage the firefighters had to wait until the fire died down before they could start putting it out.

County leaders ha put lots of effort into planning for the best use of our precious lake. While residents are taking steps to conserve water, firefighters are changing the way they battle fires.

Staph infections threaten schools; Cobb County citizens also at risk

by Brittany Long

Staphylococcus (Staph) is a bacterium in the body which the Immune System can usually fight off. There are over 30 types of Staph infections, but Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Areus (MRSA) is the deadliest. It is spread through open pores, open wounds, and inhaled through the lungs. The symptoms of Staph are boils or bumps that have a red head. Staph infections also may look like insect bites.

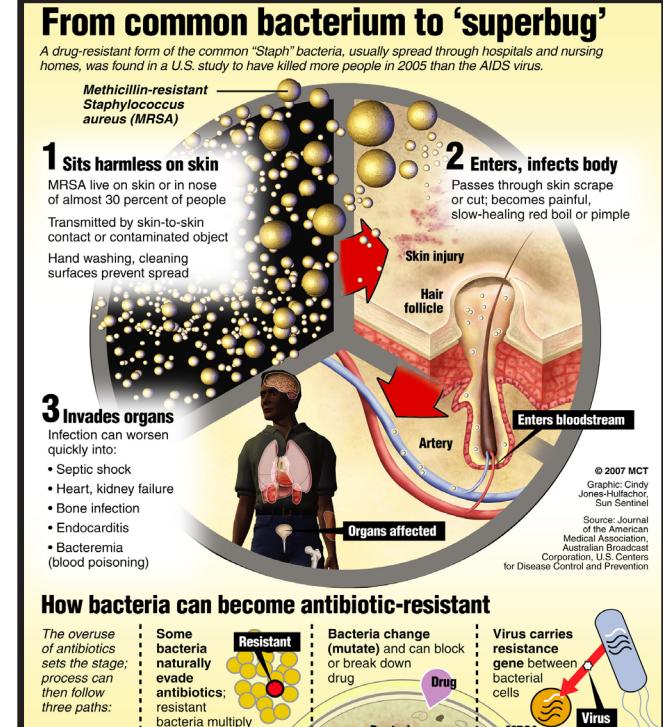
"It is imperative to wash your hands to prevent Staphylococcus from spreading," School Nurse Laurie Abney said. Many schools have been hit with MRSA. North Cobb High School, Osborne High School, and Southside High School each have two cases of the deadly infection.

Many complications can occur if Staph goes untreated such as pneumonia, severe skin infections, food poisoning, toxic shock syndrome, blood infections as well.

Staph may cause many diseases and illnesses like impetigo, scalded skin syndrome, and mastitis. Staphylococcus food poisoning is an illness of the bowels that can cause diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and dehydration.

Athletes are at a higher risk of obtaining MRSA because after workouts pores open and it can be transmitted through sweat. People with skin problems like burns or eczema may be more likely to contract Staph skin infections. In order to keep Staph out of the household, Cobb County citizens should wash their hands and avoid using other peoples wash cloths, towels, and makeup.

photo courtesy of MCT wire service



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Swim Team

Oprah Winfrey's all-girl's school in turmoil: student allegations of assault plague academy

by Ogechi Anyanwu



Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy for Girls faces several charges of sexual assault.

The \$40 million academy opened earlier in January in the small town of Henley-on-Klip, south of Johannesburg in South Africa. This school offers countless amenities on a high-security campus of 28 buildings which holds up to 450 girls.

Allegations first surfaced when a group of 15 girls went to the CEO of the school to file complaints of sexual abuse and indecency.

"I feel that it is very

important that the federal government removes all negative influences on the girls," senior Whitney Nwagbara said. "Because they deserve a fresh start and distractions like those will not help the situation."

These girls, ages 11 through 12, bonded throughout this time because they were going through the same stress, and they kept each other company in a time of need.

In recent news, allegations were made towards a dormitory matron, Tiny Makopo, who was charged with 13 counts of assault.

"I took it very personally. Those girls

are like my children. That is not rhetoric to me; I take their futures very seriously," founder Oprah Winfrey said on an interview with Good Morning America.

Although seven allegations have been made, Makopo is the only one who has been identified for now.

Other employees such as headmistress Nomvuyo Mzamane will not have their contract renewed by Winfrey when it expires in December. All other dormitory matrons have been removed.

"Unfortunately, child abuse is a reality in many countries. It is so important to have monitoring agencies

and background checks to ensure child safety," Business Education Teacher Jill Gustafson said.

While being interviewed, Winfrey, who was abused as a child, stated that this has been one of the most devastating moments in her life.

"We will make it, because they are our future and I have a dream for them that will not be taken away," she said.



Winfrey plans to hire an entirely new staff for her South African school this January.

photo courtesy of MC1 Wireservice

Paul Mitchell Design Team takes on McEachern students

Cosmetology class styles future plans with experts

by Alison Parker



Representatives and students from the Paul Mitchell the School of Atlanta visited McEachern's campus to

classes what the school is teaching them with their own added flare of personality.

Smith's students were given the opportunity to have the Paul Mitchell students speak to them and cut and style their

representative Monica McKim talked to the class about their future plans and what the difference of being behind the chair in a salon and being on stage at a show feels like. Working for a company like Paul Mitchell can give one the opportunities to fulfill their biggest dreams.

Junior Michelle Demmarelle, who wishes to pursue journalistic broadcasting, is planning to use her cosmetic knowledge as something to fall back on.

Many of the Paul Mitchell students used salon work as something to help pay for their college tuition.

"If you find your passion and stick to it, you will be successful," Paul Mitchell designer Alicia Lakhansing said.

surprise Amy Smith's

cosmetology class for a week in November.

These students from Paul Mitchell the School-Atlanta, a hair care and styling company, arrived to show Smith's

hair.

"Why doesn't someone take the jump?" Smith asked her fourth period class. "This is a one time chance. You may never get this again."

Paul Mitchell



Junior Molly Walsh gets her hair styled by Paul Mitchell designer La'Shundra Reynolds

Closing day for Atlanta slogan

by Suzanne Stroup



Two years, a controversial rap song, "The ATL", and over \$14 million later, the "Everyday is an Opening Day" advertising campaign in Atlanta is over, and it is being replaced by the \$4 million slogan "City Lights, Southern Nights".

The campaign will feature such ads as high class women sipping mint juleps in front of the Midtown skyline at twilight, and ads that commend the shopping of downtown Atlanta. Unlike Opening Day, Southern nights will be more prominent on websites such as orbitz.com and less on billboards or on television.

Though the \$4 million that will be spent this year alone on the campaign will cover

promotions to the theme of the ads, there are those who do not agree with the way Atlanta is spending its money.

"It's ridiculous that they're spending that much money on an ad campaign," senior Matt Randall said. "That kind of money should be going to our water resources."

Melinda Ennis-

Roughton, executive director of Brand Atlanta, created in 2005 for the Opening Day Slogan, says that the new slogan represents Atlanta's youthful feel, and its an energetic city with great shopping, restraints and nightlife. Though she acknowledges that a slogan does not sell a city, she brings up that there are other cities that have done well with them, such as Las Vegas with "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas".

The slogan is supposed to bring in travelers from ages 25 to 44 years old and business minded. "The campaign will tailor its message for specific groups like empty nesters, convention planners, and investors," Roughton said. Also, according to Impress Consulting, no other metro area in the U.S. attracts more young business people.

However, unlike the slogans of products, a city is much harder to pin one on, since cities are very diverse. Atlanta has had many unofficial slogans such as "Hotlanta", which wasn't adapted as the official slogan since it emphasized the negative fact that it gets hot in Atlanta, city officials said. "City Lights, Southern Nights" emphasizes the vitality that the city holds dear.



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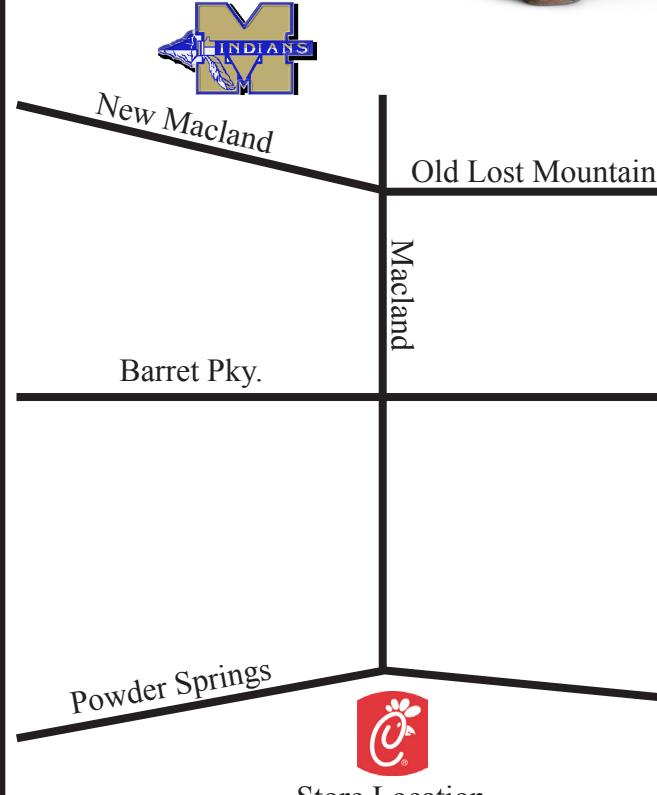
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New age, new culture, new society

by Elexius Roach



The new millennium shocks society with a buzzing new culture and strong new customs.

Culture is a changing aspect of human life. Webster's Dictionary defines culture as "the tastes in art and manners that are favored by a social group; all the knowledge and values shared by a society."

Culture is what society holds to be acceptable or, for that fact, not acceptable and how it views certain aspects of human life, but as society has changed so has its culture making the past's don'ts into dos.

The 1960s was the age of bouffant hairstyles and crew cuts. The style of dress was very conservative by modern day's standards but music had begun to push the limits of social customs with rock and roll.

The 1970s introduced nontraditional style with the hippie era. Gypsy dresses, micro mini skirts

and bellbottomed pants were of the hottest trends. Radical ideas such as gay pride rallies and drug use surged stunning conservatives of the time.

In the 1980s, culture made a plunge into hip-hop and a completely new style of dress including tank tops, leather pants, tight leg jeans, and baggy jumpsuits. Hairstyles included tons of crimping and hairspray, and metallica and self-expression were key. The popular customs of the 80s were drastically different from those found acceptable by many of the adults of the decade and all of those before it.

The 90s were just as unique. A wider variety of fashion was popular, but music made a change for the more provocative, not only with rap, but also with the types of language allowed to be played on the radio.

Now in the twentyfirst century we see that the style of dress is still broad



Parental advisory banners now mark CDs said to have explicit language.

and tolerable, mainly revisions of past styles, but the accepted social standards have changed.

"We were reading a story set in the 1950 where it was a big deal that her parents didn't approve of her boyfriend. She was an adult in her twenties. I don't think that would ever be an issue now," Spanish teacher Marni Riley said.

This change in social

standards has brought a changed in the media. A movie rated PG-13 of the 1990s would have included very minimal profanity and little to no sexual content. A PG-13 movie today will very generally include a good deal of profanity and very commonly some sexual content.

"I think we need to calm down the profanity and the nudity, but that's

just a part of life now," senior Jamal Calloway said. "Sex sells. Profanity sells. But it's not a good thing." Even more so, the specific profanities permitted to be used in such movies have changed; the same has occurred with music and television.

"There's a great deal more of profanity used, which I think causes us, both students and teachers, as people to use more profanity in our daily lives," Riley said.

Changes in music have led to new styles of dancing. Some of these styles themselves aren't particu-

lar favorites of the elder people of society.

The music industry today makes a great deal of money off of its surreal depictions of video vixens and male models. The adult magazine industry obtains a profit of over \$1 billion from such sexual illustrations.

"It makes money and we want to make money," Calloway said.

The aspects of culture that are held socially acceptable today are extremely different than those of the past decades.

Music videos show a more sex-saturated world. Dance moves are radically more provocative than those of the past. Even the profanities approved of show a different society with a different culture.

Things found socially acceptable today are definitely not the ones deemed such in the 80s or 90s, but this is how society grows. Society has changed to accept new ways and new ideas, forming a new culture, and so should its people.

Let all of the complaining end and the assimilation begin.

"YouTube has become the largest video sharing site on the web"

Media empire expands across the globe creating a cyber stage

by Georgette Eva



Since its launch in 2005, YouTube has grown into a media juggernaut, creating easier access for videographers around the world.

"It's a global phenomenon just like MySpace," junior Michael Perez said. "It seems to connect the world together."

Like many other great inventions of our time, YouTube was created in a garage in Menlo Park by Chad Hurley and Steve Chen, former PayPal workers. Hurley and Chen serve as the site's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Technology Officer respectively. They launched the site in

December 2005 with the help of \$3.5 million worth of funding from Sequoia Capital. Last November, Google purchased the site as an independent subsidiary for \$1.65 billion.

For two years, YouTube has become the largest video-sharing site on the web and has created a cyber stage for the public by the public. From homemade movies to music videos, users are able to share, watch, and comment through the website, cell phones, online profiles, and e-mails.

The site's motto "Broadcast Yourself" has opened up an entire new medium of freedom of expression for Internet users. YouTube has grown from 58,000 monthly visitors in August of last year to

more than 20 million today. According to Gadgetizer.com, the total time spent watching all the

videos on the site would last about 9,305 years.

YouTube is open to everyone from amateur filmmakers to professionals. Their age demographic ranges from 18 to 55 from all over the world thanks to the increase of international YouTube networks with exceptions like Brazil, Morocco, and Thailand. These countries have blocked the site entirely.

In February 2006, YouTube removed all NBC copyrighted content from the archive per request of NBC.

YouTube has now acclimated similar partnerships with CBS, BBC, Sony Music Group, and, more recently, Oprah Winfrey.

"People can watch music videos and listen to songs instead of buying CDs or watching TV," junior Tanya Disney said.

YouTube has created a new brand of celebrities from 19 year-old Chris Crocker, a popularly quoted video-blogger, to 19 year-old Esmee Denters, whose widely-viewed videos of her amateur singing exposed her to the likes of Justin Timberlake's Tennman Records.

Many other "Internet Celebrities," have made the transition from YouTube to mainstream media. "YouTube has had a

significant impact on the business and music industry," Business Technology teacher Jill Gustafson. "People can release videos instantly for millions of people to see."

In May 2007, YouTube has included the site's most viewed users to become YouTube Partners, a position previously opened to only commercial corporations. This partnership allowed the users to earn revenue from the advertisement on the site.

YouTube's easy accessibility and range of videos have revolutionized the free forum for Internet users. "You get to know more about people, different countries, and different cultures," Perez said.

New scientific studies prove high levels of sugar consumption contribute to premature aging

By Jack Culler



If sugar crashes, unhealthy habits, and growing pant sizes weren't enough to stop people from eating excess sugar, maybe wrinkled skin will.

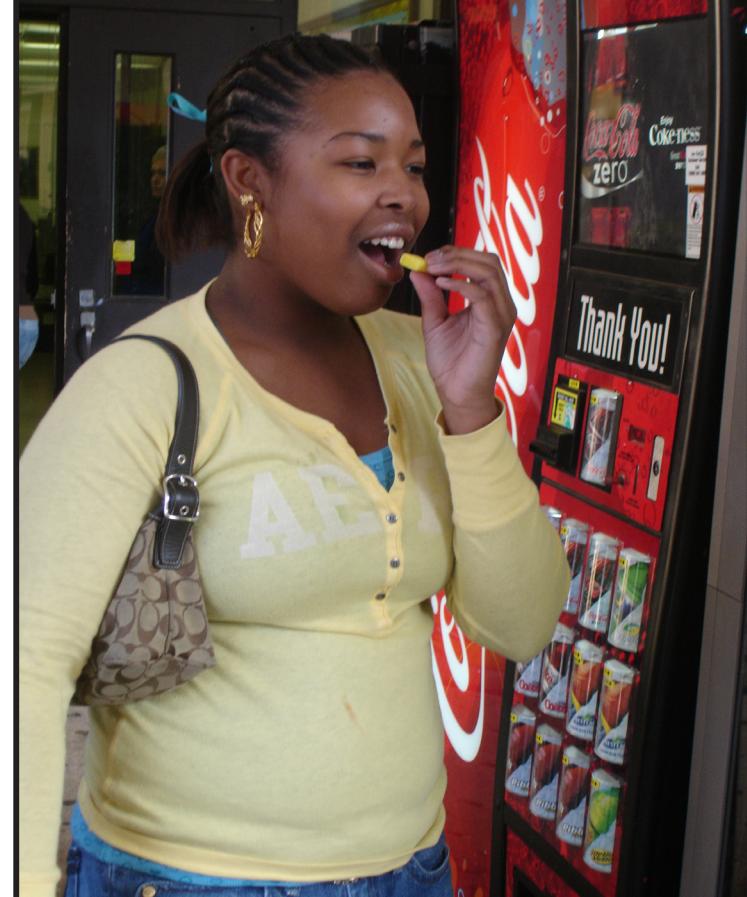
Miami dermatologist Fredric Brandt has made a recent discovery in his South Florida private practice that links excessive sugar consumption with wrinkled and saggy skin.

The cause of this pesky problem is a natural process that's known as glycation, in which the sugar in your bloodstream attaches to proteins to form destructive new molecules called advanced glycation end products (AEGs). As AEGs accumulate, they damage collagen and elastin, the protein fibers

that keep skin firm and elastic.

Collagen is the most prevalent protein in the body and once damaged, springy and flexible collagen and elastin become dry and brittle, leading to wrinkles and sagging. According to the British Journal of Dermatology, these aging effects could begin at the age of 33, and rapidly increase thereafter.

A high-sugar diet does not only damage collagen, it also affects the type of collagen a person bears. The type of collagen a person has in their skin is a resounding factor in how resistant their skin



Freshman Jameria Strong decides to indulge in a sugary snack at lunch.

is to wrinkling. Overall, a high-sugar diet is not good for the inside of a person's body, or the outside.

Most people don't realize that when they indulge in a sugary snack, not only are they hurting their diet, but they are also damaging their skin.

"I knew sugary foods weren't good for you, but I didn't know they affected your skin as well," junior Paul Hubers said.

Clearly, a high-sugar diet is not the best way to stay healthy. Despite sugar's obvious negative effects on the human body, we live in a society today that is addicted to sugar. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) the average American

consumes 20 teaspoons of sugar a day. In one year, the average person consumes their whole weight in sugar, not including an average of 20 pounds of corn syrup a year. In 2005, Americans spent over \$23 billion on candy and gum alone.

Sugar and candy is taking a huge toll on society's bodies and wallets.

While people have been aware of the negative effects sugar can have on the inside of a person's body, we are now learning that sugar has quite an adverse effect on the outside of a person's body as well.

So before you treat yourself to that sugar-filled pack of Skittles, remember that not only can the sugar deteriorate one's slim physique; it can also deteriorate a person's skin.

Fusion: music helps merge cultures, traditions

by Bridget Spencer



Cultures are being mixed by the current generation in many categories all around the globe.

When it comes to American food, one can find a McDonald's restraint in most countries. This shows that the American culture has reached out to numerous nations. Taco Bell would be an example of Hispanic food. There are also many self-owned Asian, Indian, Hispanic, and African restaurants.

Music is a huge focus of cultures mixing. "Change is always good. Cultures mixing is a wonderful thing we are experiencing, particularly with music," Public Relations Talk Host Sharon Hill said. "You have 60s and 70s music mixing with current hip-hop. Other ethnicities are even rapping now, and it works."

Crowds of people are singing the same songs around the globe. There is not just one ethnic group

performing, or listening to their indigenous music. The African-American oriented hip-hop culture is one type of music that has gone global.

"Hip-hop is a culture. No matter race you are, it carries the same meaning to all people," Zion Baptist Church member Tahajia Henry said. You will now see the Hispanic culture colliding with hip-hop. Daddy Yankee is a top reggaeton hip-hop artist. He has sold over 20 million albums, and has a hit single "Gasolina." "I think that mixing cultures makes music more creative and fun to listen to. If you hear an Irish fiddle playing to an African drum, it sounds so cool," junior Nikki Cantrell said.

The current generation is the one that is doing the majority of the cultural mixing. At any social gathering, one usually hears hip-hop. The social phenomenon is happening slowly but surely. This idea is what the world has been in need of. With war,

famine, pestilence, and corruption happening, this is a component of peace.

With the spread of customs, music, food, and tradition, the world can diversify itself and get rid of stereotypes. Stereotypes have been circulating for many years and are still present now. If cultures begin to mix, everyone will have a stereotype, but that standard will diffuse to every ethnicity.

Mixing cultures will influence the future of the world. To "make the world a better place" is cliché, but it can happen slowly. Problems will always be present in society, but mixing cultures will persuade the problematic habitants of the world to do the same. Society needs to come together.

This is just a small step to reach a goal of equality towards all, no matter where you are on Earth. To reach this goal, it all begins with fusing music, culture, and customs from around the globe.



Taco Bell is an example of the mixing of cultures and traditions in the United States, combining typical American fast food and Mexican food to become a fast growing Tex-Mex franchise.



Seniors Michelle Marble, Griffin Lindsey, Becca Daniel, and Karen Canals intermingle during lunch, and are a prime example of cultural diversity on the McEachern campus.

Changing trends in genres influence musical stereotypes, moods of teens

by Ogechi Anyanwu



Some may define music as something to enjoy during a time of relaxing while others might interpret music as vocal, instrumental, or mechanical sounds having rhythm, melody, or harmony.

As years and generations go by, people come to love the sounds of certain music by various artists. Back in the day, music was all about staying together and keeping the family strong, while today's genres focus more on materialistic things, such as "bling" and video vixens in hip-hop and rock.

Junior Michael Batres

said he does not let music influence his everyday decisions because some

meant to cast a spell over the minds of unsuspecting listeners - it is supposed



McEachern's Treble Concert Choir, who sings many different types of music, rehearsing for their annual winter concert.

lyrics are meant to listen to and not act on. Though music can be derogatory towards women or loaded with drug and sexual innuendo, music is not

to be enjoyed. Many musical genres were made throughout a period of time to establish what we have today as listeners in the American

society. Today, we have many different variations of genres. For example, rock and roll was originally created as a mixture of blues, gospel and country music.

Many musical idols are also born and worshipped all throughout the country when they become a nation-wide hit. Stars such as Elvis Presley, the Beatles, and Whitney Houston have hit the charts numerous times with classics to be remembered over time. Such musicians such as Hannah Montana can sell anything with their name attached to it, such as play guitars and dolls that sing, because of their recent success with the "tween" market.

"When I listen to music I feel like the song was made for me because I



New age composers use the cello, like the one played by sophomore Richard Howes above, to evoke a hip-hop feel from their normally classical pieces.

am so in tune with some of lyrics," junior Audrey Fonkam said. "It also

helps to soothe the soul when I am feeling down or a little moody." Music can evoke emotions in a person that other forms of art can't. The use of words and melodic phrases together helps people to understand the try reason why a song was written.

Wherever the beat comes from, people are sure to follow and make it a part of them, though it should not necessarily be followed in actions. Music can condone murder, drug use, promiscuous sex and many other questionable activities. If one takes music as what it is, being just something to enjoy, then it has done its purpose.

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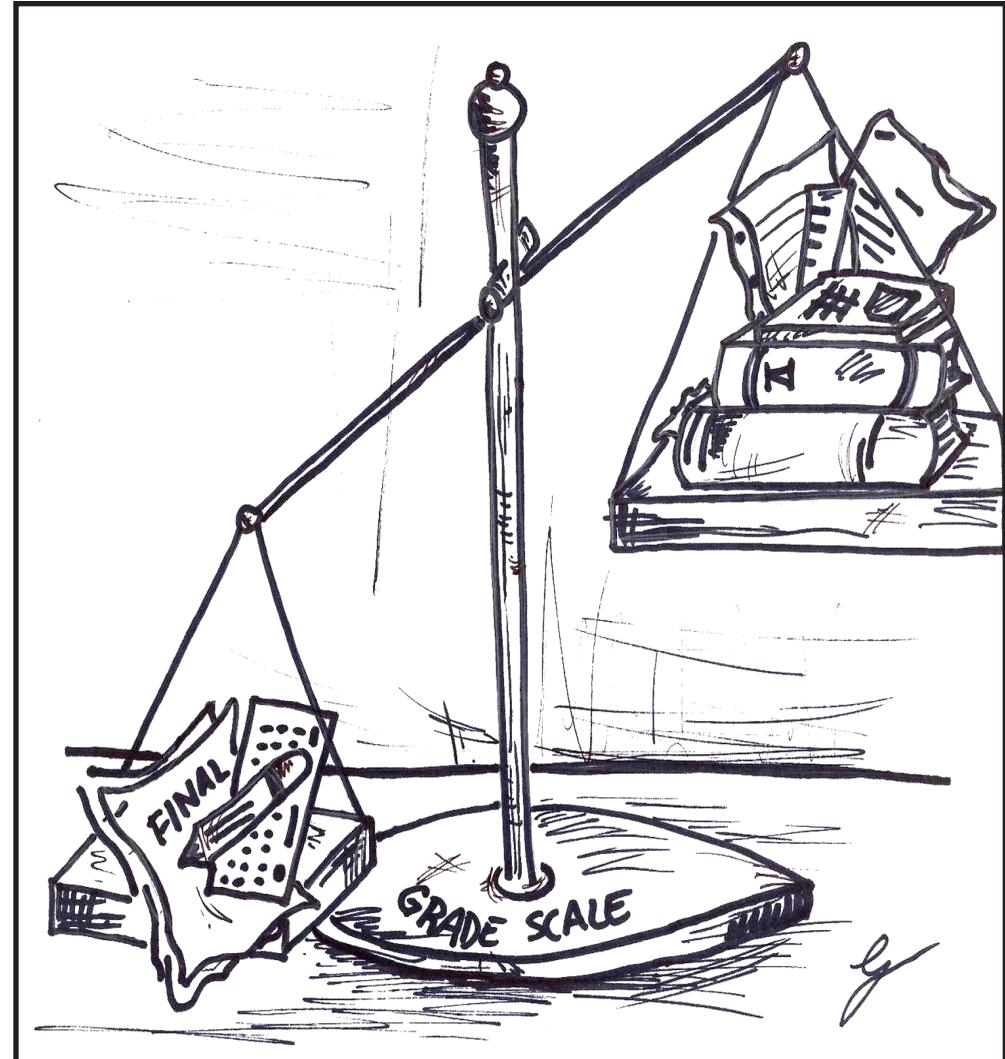


photo by Michael Goulding/Orange County Register

Photo by Anice Wiebe

One-act plays light up high school stage

by Krista Carver



One Act Play competition was held Saturday November 10th, held at Kennesaw Mountain High School.

In the past, "McEachern has had great success with One Act Play Competition, placing second in 2005," drama director Steven Jones said. "We have a little trophy up in the



Photo courtesy of MHS Drama
Katie Pflugradt and Bekah Medford perform in the fall production of "Radio TBS," a hit among students.

office from the event." Other notable awards include senior Jeremy Ledbetter who won best actor two years in a row.

This year McEachern drama acted out early a scene from

the play, Driving Ms. Daisy. The performance was approximately 55 minutes long and is set through out the late 1940s and ends in the

1960s. Driving Ms. Daisy is about a lady named Daisy, played by senior Meagan Kelly, who got into a car accident. Consequently, her son Boolie, played by senior Adam Forrest, made her hire someone to take her places. The driver, Hoke, a black man, played by senior Jon Butts is a comedic but serious character. Despite initial hardships, the pair are ultimately able to mutually trust one another. He offers her freedom, allowing her to travel where she wants

to go. She is able to teach Hoke how to read as he is illiterate. Their relationship grows as they learn to love one another. By the end of the play, Daisy refers to Hoke as, "Her best friend."

In this year's One Act Competition, Jon Butts

won best actor. "I was really shocked and filled with emotion, I almost cried," Butts said. He went on to say that doing the play was great and he loved getting to work with his friends in the show.

McEachern also held student directed One

Act plays December 4 in the PAC. Admission was free and the turnout was favorable. Directors included Sydney Kelly, Elexius Roach, and Walter Malinowski.

"As the director, I saw

everything that went wrong

with the play, however the general consensus from friends and family was that it was good."

Competition opens the eyes of students to possibilities they can achieve. This tradition of student directing is sure to continue for years to come.

The play, written

by Neil Simon, is about a newlywed couple, Corie and Paul Bratter, who are completely contrasting characters. Corie is a free spirited woman, who really just wants to please Paul, who is a straight laced, soon-to-be lawyer who can't balance both Corie and her career. Corie's mother, Mrs. Banks, is a widow who lives in New Jersey and is overly attached to her daughter. When Corie realizes how lonely her mother is, she tries to set her up with she and Paul's neighbor, Victor Velasco, a bohemian womanizer who got evicted from his

apartment who he has to go through Paul and Corie's window to get to his own. The play was originally a valentine from Simon to his wife, and is based on their trials and tribulations of married life, and celebrates bringing young, inexperienced and having no restraints in the big city of New York.

Barefoot in the Park

was a play of many firsts for Simon. It was his debut as a screenwriter, when the 1963 play was turned into the 1969 movie of the same name, starring Robert Redford and Jane Fonda in the leading roles. It also was Simon's longest running play on Broadway, running for 1,530 shows, before being taken off. However, it was put back into production in 2006.

The McEachern

version of the show will

beginning

on January 24 and

run through

the 26. It will

be directed by stage manager/student director Matt Randall and drama teacher Steven Jones, who has some great expectations about the show. "We will continue our long tradition of producing engaging theatre," Jones said. "We will expose our theatre students to one of America's best writers, Neil Simon." McEachern put on one other Simon show in the time that Jones has taught here - *Rumors*, produced three years ago.

Since there are only four leads in the show, the audition process was very competitive, but luckily, students realize that in theatre, there are no small parts.

"I'd do anything just to be

on stage," junior Ashley Lowe said. "I'd be just as happy starring in a show as I would be at the light board."

This is the second in three

shows that McEachern is

putting on this year, the

first being *Radio TBS* in September and the musical *Footloose*, premiering in March.

Broadway strikes leave NYC decidedly more quiet

by Stevenson Swanson
Chicago Tribune
(MCT)

NEW YORK: With a stagehands strike entering its third day Monday, most Broadway shows have been left in limbo, including "August: Osage County," a production by Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater that was scheduled to make its Broadway premiere next Tuesday.

Coming less than a week after a Writers Guild strike led to the shutdown of many television productions, this city that thrives on putting on a show has become the entertainment strike capital of the world. Of the 35 shows on

Broadway, all but eight were shut down when the stagehands union called the strike Saturday, after negotiations with the group representing most Broadway theaters broke down. The unaffected shows, including the new musical "Young Frankenstein," by Mel Brooks, have separate contracts with the 3,000-member union, Local One of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

The strike left Times Square markedly less packed with tourists Monday, and the theater district restaurants, hotels and other businesses dependent on the Broadway tourist trade were beginning to wonder how long and painful the strike

will be. The stagehands union and the group representing Broadway producers and theater owners are deadlocked over work rules that govern how many stagehands a production must employ and how much they are paid. With no talks scheduled between the two sides, dejected theater-goers were casting about for something else to do during their visit to New York.

"We're terribly disappointed," said Jeannette Street, 58, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, who is visiting the city for a week with her five sisters. "We wanted to see 'The Color Purple,' 'Jersey Boys' and 'The Little Mermaid.' We would have seen a play every day."

Street and her sister Val-

erie Bechard, 63, were standing in line at the TKTS booth, which sells discounted theater tickets to Broadway and off-Broadway shows. But with most Broadway shows shut down, they were not optimistic about their chances of finding seats available at the shows that are still open. Off-Broadway theaters have reported a surge in ticket sales.

Stymied in their plan to see as much theater as possible, Street, Bechard and their sisters, all retirees who travel together once a year, were filling their un-

expected spare time by going shopping. "We're still helping the economy," said Bechard. "In fact, we're probably spending more than if we had just gone to plays."

That would undoubtedly please Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who said he was going to do his part to ease the economic jolt around Times Square by putting some of his personal wealth to work.

"There are people in the neighborhood, restaurants, who are going to have less business," the billionaire mayor said Monday at a

news conference. "I know I just changed my reservation for dinner tonight, I'm having dinner with some friends, to a restaurant in the theater district, just to see if I can't help them."

For the theater year that ended in June, Broadway shows took in \$939 million in gross revenues on sales of 12.3 million tickets, a record. Of that total, tourists bought about half of the tickets.

Keeping the show-must-go-on spirit alive, the Naked Cowboy was standing on his usual triangle of sidewalk in Times Square on Monday. The muscular musician, whose tight, white briefs keep him on the safe side of the public

ago

independence

laws, strums a guitar, sings and poses with tourists, even in 40-degree weather.

"At least until the Broadway shows go up,

we can see a performance out in the middle of the street," a woman told her male companion.

Next MHS production scheduled early next year

by Suzanne Stroum



McEachern's winter play, *Barefoot in the Park*, is just beginning. With auditions on November 14, many hopefuls memorized comedic monologues and waited for their chance to shine on the McEachern stage. "I'm nervous, but excited to auditions," junior Adam Hoyak said. "I've never auditioned for a McEachern play before. It'll be a new kind of experience."

The play, written by Neil Simon, is about a newlywed couple, Corie and Paul Bratter, who are completely contrasting characters. Corie is a free spirited woman, who really just wants to please Paul, who is a straight laced, soon-to-be lawyer who can't balance both Corie and her career. Corie's mother, Mrs. Banks, is a widow who lives in New Jersey and is overly attached to her daughter. When Corie realizes how lonely her mother is, she tries to set her up with she and Paul's neighbor, Victor Velasco, a bohemian womanizer who got evicted from his

apartment who he has to go through Paul and Corie's window to get to his own. The play was originally a valentine from Simon to his wife, and is based on their trials and tribulations of married life, and celebrates bringing young, inexperienced and having no restraints in the big city of New York.

Barefoot in the Park

was a play of many firsts for Simon. It was his debut as a screenwriter, when the 1963 play was turned into the 1969 movie of the same name, starring Robert Redford and Jane Fonda in the leading roles. It also was Simon's longest running play on Broadway, running for 1,530 shows, before being taken off. However, it was put back into production in 2006.

The McEachern

version of the show will

beginning

on January 24 and

run through

the 26. It will

be directed by stage manager/student director Matt Randall and drama teacher Steven Jones, who has some great expectations about the show. "We will continue our long tradition of producing engaging theatre," Jones said. "We will expose our theatre students to one of America's best writers, Neil Simon." McEachern put on one other Simon show in the time that Jones has taught here - *Rumors*, produced three years ago.

Since there are only four leads in the show, the audition process was very competitive, but luckily, students realize that in theatre, there are no small parts.

"I'd do anything just to be

on stage," junior Ashley Lowe said. "I'd be just as happy starring in a show as I would be at the light board."

This is the second in three

shows that McEachern is

putting on this year, the

first being *Radio TBS* in September and the musical *Footloose*, premiering in March.



Photo courtesy of MHS Drama
Graduate Haley Hatmaker, as Lorelei Lee in the production "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," performs on opening night during the spring of 2007.

McEachern Math Team: solving equations one calculation at a time

Chelsea Baasch

On Oct. 13, 2007 the McEachern Math Team visited and competed at the University of Georgia (UGA).

Math teacher Sunny Yoon took over the math team in 2005 and has stayed with the team since.

Yoon, who graduated from UGA, gave the team an informal tour of the campus after the competition.

The Math Team also competes at local high schools all around Cobb County. The first competition this year was at Hillgrove High School. McEachern senior mem-

bers Michelle Ihewunwa, Zach Smith and Liane Membis placed first, sec-

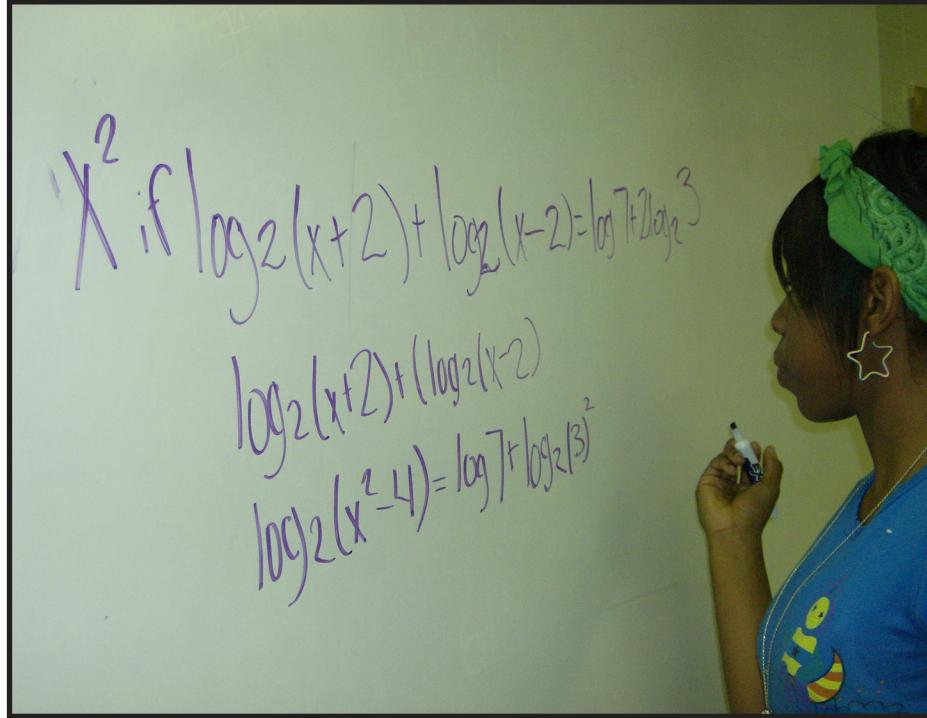
ber you must be active in tournaments and come to the practices. "Everyone with good math skills is welcome to join," Yoon said.

Varsity Math Team members must be in any math class above the Algebra II level. Junior Varsity is Algebra II level and lower.

Audrey Fonkam, junior and member of the Varsity Math Team, encourages others to join the Math Team. "It gives you an opportunity to improve your math skills," Fonkam said. "Being a part of the Math Team helped me to become

ond, and third for MHS. "We go to the competitions for the experience and to have fun, not to win," Yoon said.

To prepare for these competitions, practices are held every Wednesday morning. "We practice different types of math problems in a variety of levels," Yoon said. To become a mem-



Senior Michelle Ihewunwa prepares for an upcoming competition. The Math team practices every Wednesday morning.

better at math."

Members of the Math Team enjoy working

hard to learn new problems. "We always have a lot of fun learning how

to solve new problems with new strategies," Fonkam said.

Locks of Love successfully combs through the years

Alison Parker

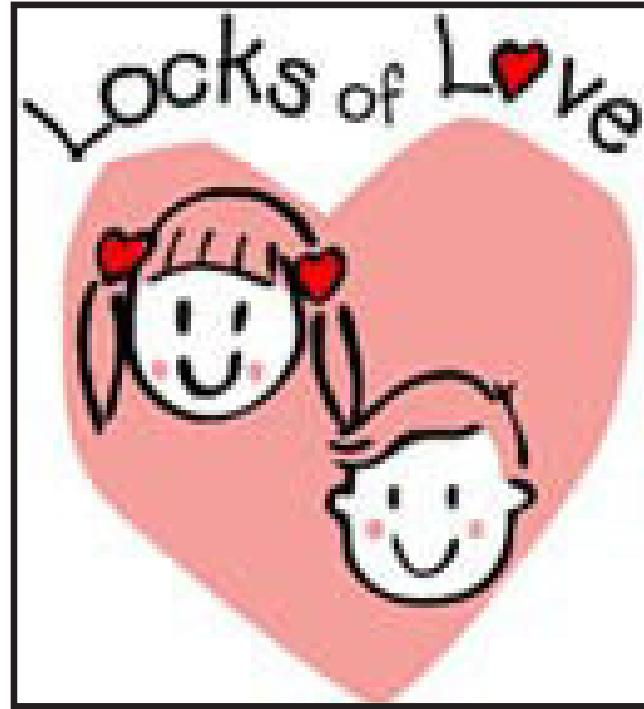
During this season of giving, people begin to notice more organizations that would rather give than receive; one of them is Locks of Love.

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that separated from its for-profit retailer in December of 1997. The organization separated when President Madonna Coffman's daughter developed alopecia and lost all of her hair. Coffman wanted to help young children who have been diagnosed with long-term medical conditions. Usually because of the

treatment the child is receiving, they end up losing most of their hair. The most common reasons for hair loss are alopecia areata and cancer. Locks of Love receives hair from people willing to grow out their hair long enough to cut off and donate.

In order to create one hairpiece, it takes Locks of Love four to six months and at least six to ten ponytails. The minimum length to donate is ten inches from tip to tip but donors can give even more.

Although Locks of Love allows all types of hair, there are some limits to what can be



The Locks of Love logo represents a symbol of hope for disadvantaged children.

donated. Hair that is in dreadlocks, has been bleached, shaved off or has swept off the floor is not acceptable. People with curly hair can be straightened to meet the ten inch requirement however any hair being donated must be in a ponytail or braid.

An estimated 80% of the donations Locks of Love receives are from young children who want to help other children.

Locks of Love also accepts monetary donations from a \$25 to a \$1000 sponsorship which are tax-deductible. Fantastic Sams, The Garth Brooks Team-

mates for Kids Foundation, and The Martha G. Moore Foundation are just a few big name organizations who have made a significant contribution to Locks of Love.

Locks of Love has been named a Four Star Charity by the Charity Navigator. Locks of Love has helped over 2000 children in all 50 states and Canada.

Locks of Love's mission is to restore the natural self esteem children had before they became sick. The organization achieves this mission through the selflessness sacrifices from each donor and each hairpiece received.

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BizFact

Holiday shopping online

Top reasons why U.S. holiday shoppers prefer shopping online:

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72%

Convenience

66%

Avoiding lines

58%

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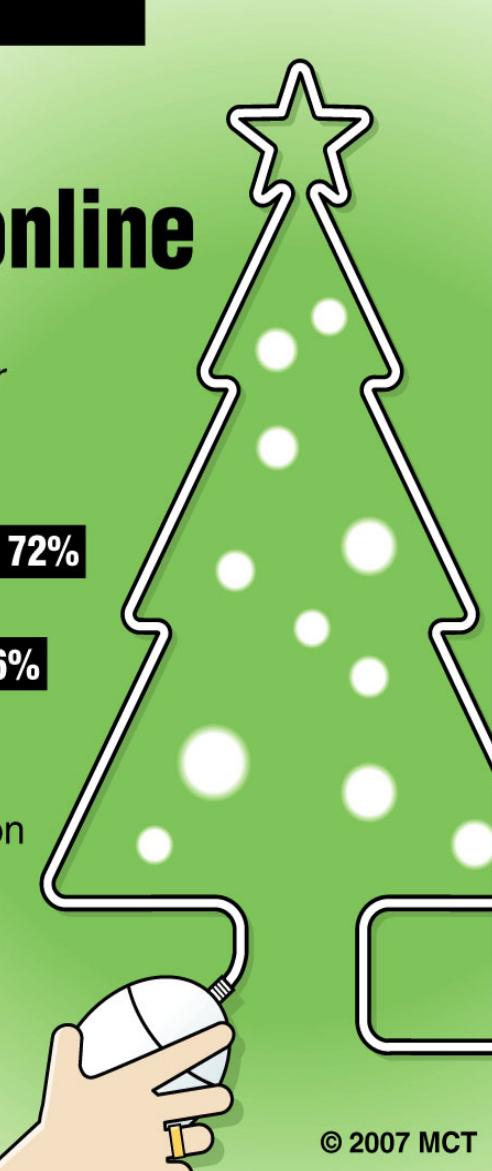
52%

Easier to find items

47%

Source: National Retail Federation (U.S.)

Graphic: Pat Carr, Paul Trap



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Colorguard's nationwide search for new instructor

By: Brittany Long &
Alison Parker



McEachern High School undergoes a national search to find their next colorguard instructor.

Lindsay Kusmierczak was the colorguard instructor during the fall marching season. But due to conflicting per-

sonalities, Kusmierczak left before the end of the season. The upcoming winterguard season, band teacher Cecilia Cicco will work with the guard to make sure they have a chance to do what they are passionate about.

Colorguard is a combination of marching

and the use of flags, sabres, and mock rifles as well as dance and other interpretive movement.

Colorguard has been considered to be both an athletic competition and an art. Today the guard uses choreography and equipment for added visual appeal during a marching band

show. Usually marching bands perform during football games at half-time. Since colorguard is gaining popularity it was suggested that it should be added to the Olympic Games.

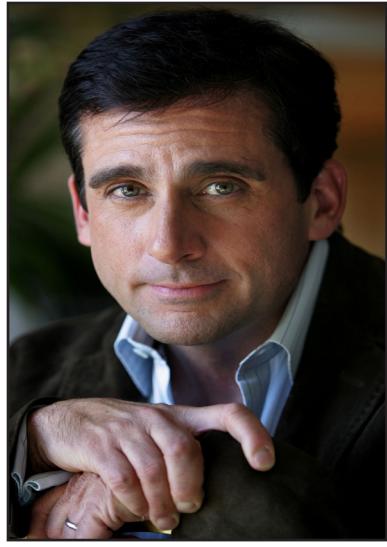
During a competition the guard adds to the overall score of the band, but is also judged

in its own category. When in competition, the colorguard score is typically based on movement, visual effect, and fluidity of choreography with the music, coordination of all members, drill, and the use of equipment. In order to perfect their show the band and

the colorguard practices Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 4-7 or 6-9 and Saturdays from 8-6. All of their hard work paid off in the end. The band placed 11th place out of 39 bands across the southeast at the Bands of America competition in Atlanta at the Dome.

Movie Reviews

Dan in Real Life



PG -13

Rated: For some innuendo
Genre: Comedy / Romance
Released: October 26
Critic: Francine Brokaw



The Mist



R

Rated: For violence, terror and gore, and language
Genre: Horror
Released: November 21
Critics: Matt Schedeen, Gile Brooks

August Rush



PG

Rated: For some of the thematic elements, mild violence and language
Genre: Drama
Released: November 21
Critics: Francine Brokaw



Bee Movie



PG

Rated: For mild suggestive humor, and a brief depiction of smoking
Genre: Animation/Comedy
Released: November 2
Critic: Francine Brokaw



Martian Child



PG

Rated: For thematic elements and mild language
Genre: Comedy/Drama
Released: November 2
Critic: Dodd Alley

R

Rated: Violence, drug content, pervasive language
Genre: Drama/Mystery
Released: October 19
Critic: Matt Sheehan

Gone Baby Gone



R

Rated: Violence, drug content, pervasive language
Genre: Drama/Mystery
Released: October 19
Critic: Matt Sheehan

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Enchanted



PG

Rated: For some scary images and mild innuendo
Genre: Comedy/Family
Released: November 21
Critic: Francine Brokaw and Dodd Alley

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Leo Anyanwu
Administrator

Ten-time state championship wrestlers train to maintain reputation for approaching season

by Elexius Roach



The McEachern wrestling team opens another season.

The wrestling team is one of McEachern's most successful team sports. The wrestlers are 10 time state championship winners with an additional 5 dual championships, 21 area dual and 6 area championships.

"Our goal is always a state championship," senior varsity wrestler Zack Smith said.

Head coach Tony Van Horn works beside assistant coaches Pat McCance, Ben Hamburg, Adrian Traumitola, Butch Climmmons to insure a successful season for the wrestlers.

"This season's definitely going to be a prosperous

season. We're definitely working hard to maintain our title as state champions," senior varsity wrestler Raphael Siguenza said.

Wrestlers' weight classes this year range from 103 to 285 with this year's roster including seniors Claudio Garcia, Jose Ferrerio, Matt Smith, J.C. Horan, Wes Hiedleberg, Zack Smith and Raphael Siguenza.

"We lost 11 seniors last year, but we had a pretty good JV team," head coach Tony Van Horn said.

The wrestlers are looking forward to a promising season. Their biggest competition includes Pope, Parkview, Harrison, and Collins Hill High Schools. This year's team is working to improve their scores against these schools this season.

"The wrestlers make sacrifices with their diets and their social lives as well as having to mentally prepare themselves for matches," Van Horn said. "Everything is preparation for the state championship."

Many of the wrestlers are looking to make state and take part in the McEachern tradition of having their name placed on the back wall of the wrestling room. "I'm hoping to place state at 171," Smith said.

The team is rebuilding from last season but plans to be ready for the season come January.

"The goals for wrestling never change. We always want to win a state championship," Van Horn said.

The wrestlers are working hard to prepare for the season and to accomplish their goals.

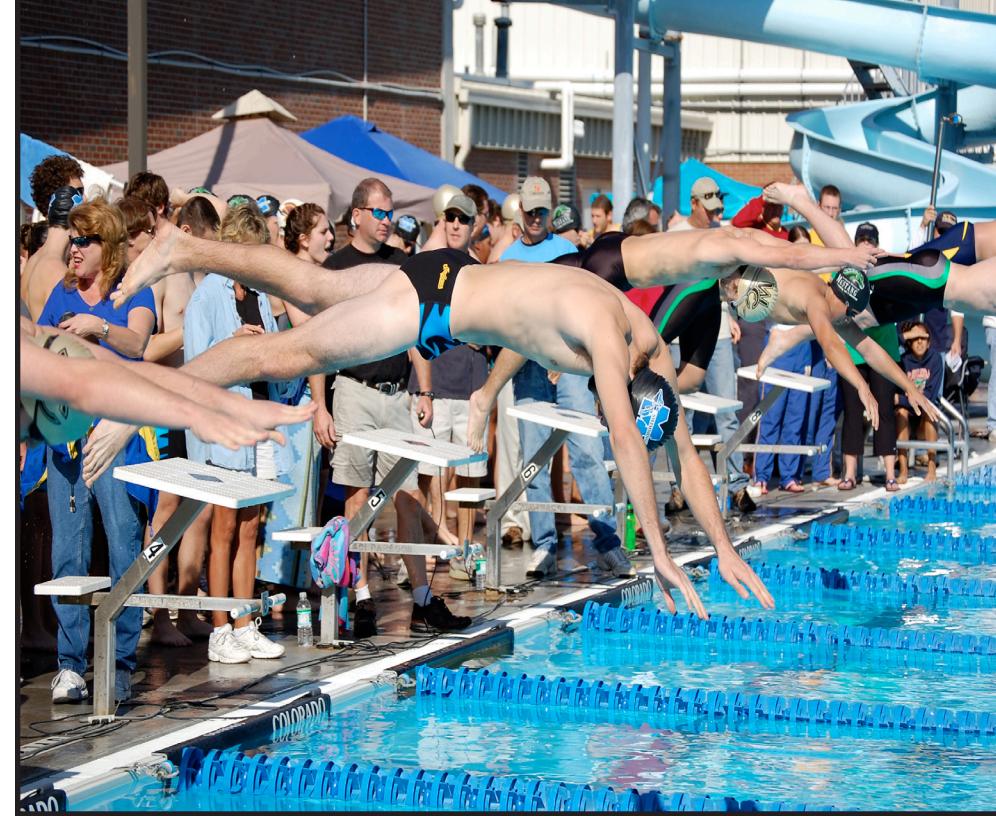


Photo by Anita Hiedle

Upcoming Wrestling Matches

December 15 McEachern JV Duals Home 9:00 a.m.
December 21 & 22 Dirty South Classic (Varsity) Cherokee 9:00 a.m.
December 28 & 29 Cherokee Duals (Varsity) Cherokee 9:00 a.m.
January 5 Southeastern Duals Home 9:00 a.m.

New swimmers, new assistant coach, five captains work to prepare for season's high expectations



Senior Chris Roberts lunges off the block for his 100m freestyle event at the Golden Isle Invitational.

Results of Swim Meets

Brunswick competition placed fourth out of eighteen

Walton competition placed second

Participated in the Golden Island Invite and the Cobb Relay Meet

McEachern will host "Indian Invite", January 12

by Chase Eriksen



The McEachern swim team dives into a new season with a revitalized force of dedicated swimmers determined to make it to state.

After struggling through last year's season, the team is invigorated with strength in numbers.

With the loss of many seniors from last year, the team faced a bleak outlook based on the number of projected returning swimmers. However, there was an explosion on interest in the sport which produces immediate results for the team.

"We've got lots of new swimmers this year and we're looking to get at least half of them to state," senior captain Zack Dukes said.

The team, this year is a crossroad of student

athletes that participate in other sports. A large number of lacrosse players are on the team this year in addition to cross country runners, football players, soccer players and track runners.

"My training from cross country has helped me jump into the season easily. Swimming and running are different types of fitness's, but I know that swimming will keep me in decent shape for track," senior Steven Freund said.

In addition to new athletes, the team is also coping with other changes as well including the addition of a new assistant coach. Coach Kristy Beck, the replacement of former coach Chris Haon, has some swimming background and is both learning and teaching.

"Right now, she's laying back and learning the

ropes, but I think she's doing a great job and I'm already learning from her," Dukes said.

This year for the first time, the team also has a total of five captains, two senior male captains and two junior male co-captains and one female junior captain. Senior captains Zach Dukes and Kyle Goulding and junior captains Mark Glendon, Eric Miller and Amelia Barnett plan on intensifying the workout schedule to further prepare the team for upcoming meets.

"We're really working to prepare for the Golden Isle Invitational held in Brunswick, Georgia. It's our second meet of the season and there is usually a deep field of competition," Dukes said. It gives us a good look on how the season may play out."

Graduated athletes leave void to fill

Champion track runners prepare for 2007-2008 season

by Mike Kljucaric



McEachern's state champion track and field team has begun training for the 2008 season, and its sight is set on more gold medals.

Winning another state championship, however, will not be an easy task due to the number of key athletes that the team has graduated.

"We've lost Ben Hubers, which means that someone from the distance team is going to have to step up and take his place. We're expecting the distance team to do big things, and they're going to have to in order for this season to be a success," coach Michael Taylor said.

Ben Hubers, the perennial state champion, has indeed graduated and gone off to college at Indiana University on a full scholarship. He leaves behind him a retired jersey, numerous school records, and a 3200 me-

ter runner by the name of Steven Freund. According to coaches, Freund's success in place of Hubers is crucial to the team.

"Everybody says that we're done now that we've graduated Ben Hubers. That should make the distance team angry, and they're going to prove those critics wrong," Taylor said.

The team has lost more athletes than just Hubers. Long jumper Josh Toliver, pole vaulter Jimmy Tillis, and discus thrower Jarvis Tillman are some of the other conspicuous absences. With so many top field event athletes gone, the team is looking to replace them before the beginning of the new season.

"If we win another state championship, it will be because somebody surprised us in the field events," Taylor said.

Fortunately, enough star runners will be returning to keep the hope for another state championship alive. State Champions Bobby Onyeukwu

and William Wynne will return both for their individual events and also to lead the boys' 4x400 meter relay team.

It is also the responsibility of these track and field veterans to train the upcoming athletes who wish to join the team. Seniors Brittany Taylor, Vanderlyn Watts, and Michelle Marble have been leading after-school conditioning sessions to make sure their team is in shape when the season starts.

"Everybody needs to work hard and listen to the veteran athletes. We aren't out here for no reason; we're here to be champions," Watts said.

No matter what obstacles must be overcome, a second state championship is first in the minds of athletes and coaches alike.

"I have all the confidence in the world that it can happen," Taylor said. "And winning a second title would just be that much sweeter, because no one out there thinks that we can do it."



Photo by Anita Hiedle

Boys' Records

2006:

Distance Medley: Brian Potts, Brenton Shelton
Stephen Arnold, Ben Hubers
10:19.52

2007:

300m LH: William Wynne
36.89 2007

Girls' Records

2005:

4x100m: Javonda Newbold, Michelle Marble
Kishelle Paul, Dominique Duncan
46.66

2006:

Distance Medley: Whitney Nwagbara, Alyssa Prioleau, Ginny Miller, Jasmine Love 13:21.68

Brittany Taylor, Michelle Marble, and Bruce Bikunju (left to right) condition after school in the stadium for the upcoming track season. These "drills improve form and ultimately speed."

Boys', girls' basketball teams dribble into 2007- 2008 season with swoosh

Anica Wiebe

With 9 class of 2007 seniors gone, the McEachern boy's basketball team begins the season with a new team.

Despite the majority of last year's team leaving, the new team is optimistic about the opportunities the new season brought with it. The six returning seniors on the squad include Lazbri Akpuchukwu, Josh Brown, Duran Blue, Darrius Garrett, Chris Moore and Vontrell Morgan.

With the starting line up in place, the team prepares for the season by practicing from 3:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. everyday. The boys started off the season with a scrimmage game against South Paulding on Thursday, November 15th and won by a decisive 17 point margin.

With a 25 game schedule and a Christmas tournament in Ocala, Florida, the Indians will try and live up to the pre-season hype. The Indians were picked to win the 5A-AAAAA region by Gasports.net before the season began. "I think we have a lot of enthusiasm and will grow quickly as a team," Chaykowsky said.

The Indians sustained a record of 22-4 last season, but lost in the first round of the playoffs to a surprising Kennesaw Mountain team. McEachern hopes to defeat the two region opponents that got the best of them last season, Kennesaw Mountain and Marietta.

"I'm hoping that we win the regional tournament and go to state playoffs," Chaykowsky said.

The players are looking forward to a potentially rewarding season.

While the boy's basketball team is focused on this year's possibilities, there are a few members of this year's team that are also looking ahead to the possibility of playing college basketball.

Senior Lazbri Akpuchukwu, 6'6" center for the Indians, has plenty of options for his collegiate future. Limestone, Faulkner, Birmingham-Southern, and Maryville University have all offered the senior a scholarship to play basketball.

Darrius Garrett, number 31, has already signed with Richmond University in Virginia, and sophomore Trae Golden has already verbally committed to the University of Ohio State.

"It will be a great season if we can bring all of the pieces together," senior point guard Josh Brown said.

The McEachern boy's basketball team is working hard to make it back to the Region Playoffs, and hopefully on to State Playoffs in February.



The Lady Indians shoot into the 2007-2008 season.

The Lady Indians basketball team, like the boys', has a lot to be excited about for the upcoming 2007-2008 season.

The team finished the 2006-2007 season with a strong 19-10 record. The team graduated six players last year, four of which have gone on to play basketball at the college level.

Five out of the six seniors plan to sign with a college at the end of the season as well. This year's seniors include Adriana Lard, Jocelyn Shaw, Tanisha Pugh, Sheronda Ward, Genelle Benjamin, and Aleena Cummings.

The girls practice after school every day, rotating from 3:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and have tutoring every other week. It is mandatory for all the players to go to tutoring.

Basketball is not the only priority for the girl's basketball team, which was made evident by the coaching staff. Weekly grade reports are mandatory for each player, and if the player's grades aren't up to par, they can expect to see a lot of time on the bench.

"If the report is not up to standard the player has to run," Varsity Coach Phyllis Arthur said. "My goal for the players this year is to have an A/B average in each class."

The Indians have 25 games this season, 13 of which are region battles, and hope to improve on last year's record. "We are a small team but we have a lot of hustle. This will help us in each and every game," Lard said.

Although there are a lot of bright spots on this year's team, there have already been some bumps in the road.

Before the season even started, starting shooting guard Ashley Mency tore her ACL and will consequently be sidelined for the duration of the season.

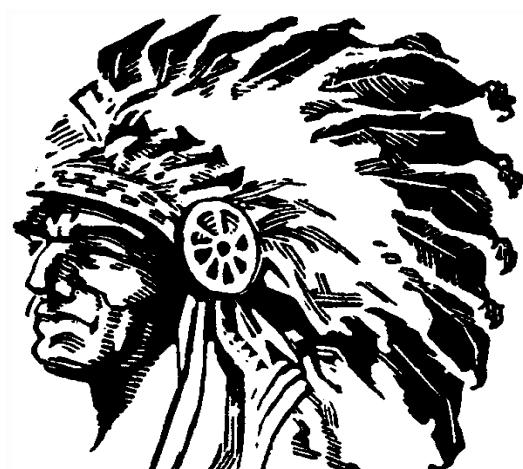
"I think that we are going to be good this year. We have good chemistry and we work well together," senior point guard and shooting guard Adriana Lard said.

Despite misfortune due to injury, the girls are looking forward to a promising season. Coach Arthur, who is entering her third season as head coach, believes that fan support is key to the success of this year's team.

The Lady Indians are working for a promising season. "We want everyone to come out and support us at our games," Coach Arthur said.



photo by Anica Wiebe



The McEachern boys' team prepares for their competitors on the court.



by Jack Culler

The Atlanta Hawks started off the 2007-2008 season with a bang, handily defeating the Dallas Mavericks 101-94.

The Hawks, who ended the preseason with an 8-1 record, defeated the Mavericks for the first time since March 2004, ending a three-season slump.

The Hawks got off to a 5-8 start which, although seems below average, is actually the team's best

Hawks fly into another season

start in three seasons.

"It would be exciting for the city and state of Georgia if we finally had a basketball team to be proud of, junior Toby Lawal said.

Although the Hawks won just 26 games last season, Head Coach Mike Woodson has set high expectations for the team. Last year, the team doubled its win total from two seasons ago. Coach Woodson hopes to see more improvement.

"We are going to be contenders- period." Coach Woodson told ESPN.com in late July.

Woodson has shown that he has an ability to coach a team of championship caliber; the year prior to Woodson's move to Atlanta he led

the Detroit Pistons to an NBA championship as an assistant under Coach Larry Brown.

The Hawks and General Manager Billy Knight also voiced that the Hawks are a franchise committed to winning this off-season.

Knight made some key acquisitions this summer such as drafting power-forward Al Horford, who in his first thirteen games already averages 10 rebounds and 9 points per game.

Newly acquired point guard Acie Law, who was drafted this off-season from Texas A&M, also contributed with an average of 7 points per game in his first thirteen games as an Atlanta Hawk. The team has high hopes and expectations, but those hopes and expectations do not always



Hawks player Josh Childress shoots a basket during the Hawks' team practice at McEachern.

equate to wins. Last year, the Hawks started off 4-1, and then lost the next six out of seven games, falling back into the Eastern

Conference cellar.

"The Hawks have not been playoff contenders since I was born," Lawal said.

Though the Hawks are off to a good start, they are still far from ending their ten-year playoff drought.

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