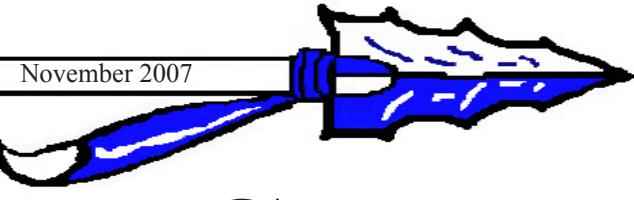


THE TRIBAL TIMES

Vol. 4 Issue 1

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

November 2007



New principal of MHS

Former assistant principal replaces Benson

by Chase Eriksen



Peggy Constantino, who once began training at the New York police academy, has shifted her focus from protect to serve.

The seemingly smooth transfer of principalship from Robert Benson to Constantino created little outward stress despite all of the construction and changes in student body size.

"Nobody is principal alone. The staff has been amazing supportive and helpful. I felt very comfortable getting my feet on the ground," Constantino said.

Although McEachern's former principal, Benson, has left to work in the school district's office, Constantino will continue many of the same policies created by her predecessor. In the forefront is keeping MHS off the academic needs improvement list, which is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

With regards to academic improvement, "I have been at McEachern for the past four years and was able to watch and assist Benson in his plans to improve school scores," Constantino said. "Now, we will continue to look at areas of weakness that need improvement and celebrate areas of success."

She also intends to implement school improvement plans of her own. "Now that we are down to 2,400 students, we will look at ways to be more connected and



MHS Principal Peggy Constantino

person in a position of responsibility: having a passion for whatever you're doing, be good at building relationships and being a good listener.

As it stands now, changes are already noticeable by staff and students alike. "I was sad to see Benson leave, but I think Constantino is doing a great job and will continue to do so," Senior Class President Laura Register said.

"I think we are more of a family now. The students know what is expected of them and there is more communication between administration and teachers," Rose Tucker said.

The process of becoming principal is involved and arduous with several tiers of interviews. After expressing interest, Constantino passed through two formal interviews with Cobb County education officials: the area superintendent and the members of the cabinet. Finally, she was passed to the Board of Education for approval of the position.

With a resume including a Bachelor's Degree in English and Psychology, a Certificate of Advanced Study and special Education and a Master's Degree of Supervision and Administration, Constantino was a strong candidate for the position.

As the first female principal of McEachern, instead of feeling apprehensive, she is ready for the task ahead. "My only hope is that the board chose the right person, not the right gender for the job," Constantino said.

Skin deep: chemicals absorbed from makeup causes higher risks for cancer

by Suzanne Stroup



Women who put on makeup everyday may be at risk of developing cancer.

Makeup may cause women to absorb approximately five pounds of chemicals into their skin per year. Many people use more than 20 different products daily, and nine out of 10 of them are expired. Expired lipstick is a hothouse for bacteria. Even though experts warn to throw away makeup after it has expired, most women confess to keeping makeup for years instead of the few months that they're supposed to be kept.

Junior Lindsay Roberts wears makeup daily. "It doesn't really scare me, but it does gross me out. I wouldn't stop wearing makeup because of it though," Roberts said.

Mascara should be kept for three to six months. Foundation, cleanser, concealer, and moisturizer should be kept for six to eight months. Blush, pressed powder, eye shadow, lipstick and toner may be kept for up to a year, and eye and lip liner can be kept for 18 months.

Even fresh makeup may cause long lasting problems. Although some naysayers believe that skin is a perfect barrier and is impermeable to chemicals, they may be mistaken. Skin is like a sponge, and can absorb things like nicotine, caffeine, and chemicals in some sunscreens.

Cosmetic manufacturing is a \$35 billion industry. Most teenagers spend \$400 per year on makeup. The Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, which represents about 600 companies such as L'Oréal, Avon, Body Shop, Revlon and Aveda, says that there is nothing wrong, but also states that it's something to be looked into, and is conducting research to make sure all of the their products are safe for their customer's health.

Cover Girl Lipslicks Lip Gloss may cause developmental and reproductive toxicity, neurotoxicity, organ system toxicity and lung irritation. On a scale of one to 10

based on hazard by cosmeticsdatabase.com, this lip gloss scores an eight. Sixty seven percent of chemicals in it are not reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and it contains seven ingredients that are not assessed for safety in cosmetics. When questioned about their products being unsafe, Cover Girl responded by stating that their products have "undergone extensive safety evaluations prior to market launch and have been proven to be safe for consumers."

Maybelline Great Lash Mascara scores a four on the scale, but may cause cancer, conducts animal testing and Maybelline did not sign the Compact for Safe Cosmetics. There is a chemical in this mascara that is recommended restricted in cosmetics, and two that interfere with gene expression. The number one reason of eye infections is accidentally poking an eye with a wand of expired mascara.



All animal studies, whether in small or large doses, showed a negative effect.

One way to alleviate the problem of absorbing chemicals into the skin is to use organic skincare. Most experts agree that with skincare the purer, the better. Although it can be argued that organics are "pure hype", the studies show differently.

Dollar breakfast available at McEachern

by Mike Kljucaric



Due to an increase in the number of free and reduced lunches at McEachern, breakfast is now being served every morning in the dining hall.

The new meal is being offered to students every morning from 7:45 to 8:15. On the menu are breakfast foods such as waffles, sausage biscuits, and french toast. A differ-

ent combination of three entrees is served every morning.

"It's good, but the Chic-Fil-A biscuits taste better," senior Ralph Siguenza said.

These various items sold in the morning cost \$1, leaving some to worry over a decline in morning fundraisers, such as the Chic-Fil-A chicken biscuits. The biscuits, a money-maker for

McEachern clubs, cost \$2 each. That is double the price of the new cafeteria breakfast. However, Jim Dorsey, McEachern's Athletics and Activities Director, does not think that the new morning items being sold will have any negative side effects.

"The attendance at breakfast may not even be enough to make a difference," Dorsey said. "Fundraising in the morning will go on as it always

has."

According to Dorsey, Chic-Fil-A chicken biscuits have a convenience value that the cafeteria breakfast lacks.

"Many McEachern students arrive late in the morning. It's much easier for them to grab a biscuit and eat it on the way to class than to eat a sit-down meal," he said.

However, the attendance for breakfast has been small. On average,

only 30 to 40 students patronize the cafeteria each morning.

"After the first year of serving breakfast at South Cobb High School, I saw a large rise in attendance over time," said McEachern's new cafeteria manager Brenda Baldwin. "At the beginning of the year an average of 40 students ate in the cafeteria every morning. By the end of the year, that number had gone up to about 200 per

morning."

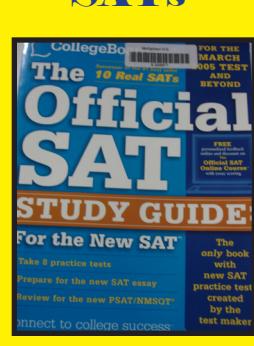
Baldwin also stresses the positive effects that offering a school breakfast in the morning can bring about. According to a recent study conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education, students who ate breakfast in school had a nine percent increase in standardized test scores and a 40 percent improvement in behavior and attitude.

Vending Machine



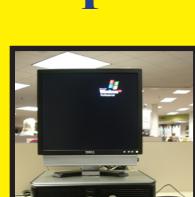
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New Computers



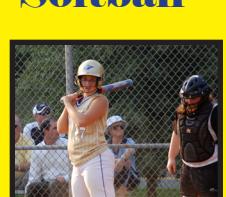
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Fastpitch Softball



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Regulatory hurdles may be low for Enterprise

by Christopher Boyce
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
(MCT)



ST. LOUIS: Antitrust regulators aren't expected to block Clayton, Mo., based Enterprise Rent-A-Car's acquisition of Vanguard Car Rental Group, according to industry analysts and legal experts.

Though the deal gives the car-rental company an even bigger market share, it won't hurt competition or alarm regulators, they said.

Enterprise, the country's largest car-rental company, announced Friday that it would buy No. 4 Vanguard, owner of Alamo Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental. The deal is pending approval by antitrust authorities.

The acquisition would give Enterprise about 46 percent of U.S. car-rental

revenue, according to 2006 revenue estimates by trade publication Auto Rental News. Before the purchase, Enterprise had a 37 percent share.

Both of the companies are privately held and declined to give the deal's value when it was announced. But the New York Times reported in February that Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group was interested in merging with Vanguard, of Tulsa, Okla., in a deal valued at around \$3 billion.

Under the Hart-Scott-Rodino antitrust act, either the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission must now review the deal. Once Enterprise submits its Hart-

Scott-Rodino form, Justice or FTC has a 30-day period to respond.

Though there are many layers of examina-

tion, there are two basic principles any deal must withstand: whether the transaction will significantly increase market

law for the same reason it is a financially sound decision, Enterprise's historic strength in the off-airport market rather

ness," said Neil Abrams, auto rental consultant and founder of Abrams Consulting Group of Purchase, N.Y.

"(The deal) doesn't really add to any further dominance or competitive edge in either market," he said.

The rental market is highly segmented, Abrams pointed out. Though Enterprise has 37 percent of the entire U.S. car-rental market, it holds just 7 percent of the current airport segment, he said.

Further, car-rental competition remains strong, and several companies have been expanding in the off-airport market due to the increasing cost of airport fees and taxes, said Rose Stratford, senior vice president of industry relations in the Atlanta offices of BCD Travel, a corporate travel

management company based in the Netherlands.

Legal experts also say regulators have been especially lax about blocking mergers that could reduce competition in recent years.

Stephen Ross, law professor at Penn State University and author of the book "Principles of Antitrust Law," pointed to Whirlpool's 2006 acquisition of Maytag, which gave the company a 76 percent market share. Though it raised eyebrows, regulators approved the deal.

Current regulators "are committed to what is known as the Chicago School of Economics, and that markets self-correct. That general attitude is that markets will serve as regulatory enforcement," said Larry Sullivan, emeritus law professor at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles and author of "Handbook of the Law of Antitrust."



Buyouts promise better products

by Elexius Roach



United States industries dominate economic competition in 2007's business buyouts.

Rising numbers in mergers show a trend this year. Many companies have begun the process of consolidation and expansion with business buyouts.

The United States has one of the most efficient economies to support a regular business buying and selling rate: free enterprise. "You need capitalism," economics teacher Todd McMath. Both of which are major components of US government.

In the U.S. economy, companies such as Cingular, Rite-Aid and Belk have made their move towards a larger franchise. AT&T Wireless became the largest cellular company in the United States after Cingular Wireless purchased it in January 2007.

Cingular Wireless beat competitor Vodafone Group PLC, a British-

based company, to the purchase spending \$41 billion on the buy and now serving nearly 50 million customers.

In 2006, AT&T bought out Bellsouth spending \$67 billion and gaining a net worth of \$130 billion, making it the largest local phone company in the United States and now the leader in both local and wireless companies.

Following competitor Verizon has already made its bids towards Quest Communications and MCI attempting to expand its franchise and net worth. Similar actions are occurring with other industries.

Some are worried about the quality of their purchase at newly owned stores. "I'm not worried about there being any problems. I've been with AT&T for a long time.

They're a good company," senior Michael Gozokowski. Some companies have made the effort to prove that the quality of their service will still remain the same.

"Even though we're changing, the things you

love will stay the same," Eckerd Pharmacy online says. As of June 4, 2007, Rite-Aid began its \$2.55 billion buyout of Eckerd chain stores. The chain will now have more than 5,000 stores nationwide, making it the largest drug store chain in the United States.

Parisians, a popular department store with annual revenue or more than \$700 million, was purchased by Belk department stores in August 2007. Belk will be acquiring 38 Parisian department stores, nine of which are Georgia locations, at cost of \$285 million. It is also taking over two Saks Fifth Avenue store headquarter locations in the South.

"I like Parisians. I used to buy my Polo shirts there and now I'm wondering if Belk is going to carry the Polo brand that I like," Gozokowski said.

This buying and selling trend is a sign of a healthy economy. "It's a factor of laisse faire. It happens naturally," economics and government teacher Todd McMath said.

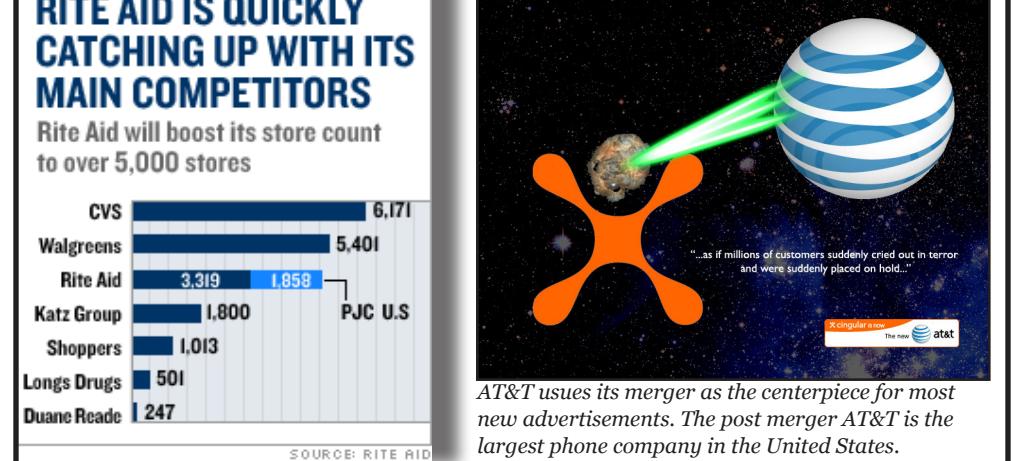
not talking about owning the airport business, and National and Alamo have a negligible presence in the off-airport busi-

ness, said Rose Stratford, senior vice president of industry relations in the Atlanta offices of BCD Travel, a corporate travel



The \$2.55 billion merger between Eckerd and Rite Aid will extend the companies reach to over 5,000 stores nationwide.

photo by Chase Eriksen



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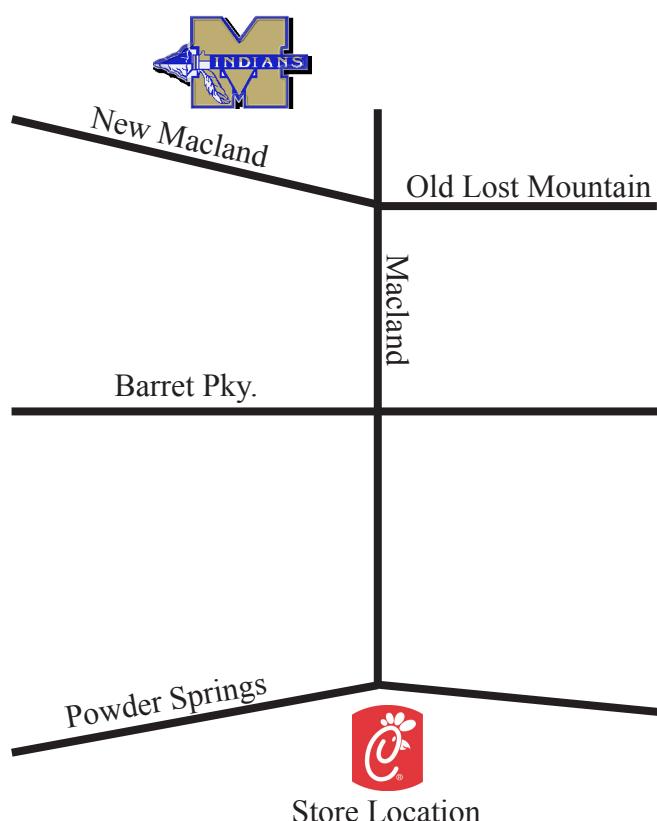
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Free Chick-fil-A Sandwich

With purchase of medium Waffle Fry and medium drink.



Cover up:

New law controls what Atlanta citizens wear

by Jack Culler



More Georgia cities are hearing multiple complaints on low-riding pants where underwear is visible. It is slowly becoming a conflict of fad versus indecency.

Georgia law states that "A person commits the offense of public indecency when he or she performs any of the following acts in a public place: an act of sexual intercourse; a lewd exposure of the sexual organs; a lewd appearance in a state of partial or completely nudity; or a lewd caress of indecent fondling of the body of another person," Georgia law Code Section 16-6-8. This may conflict with the fad or style of today's time.

The city of Atlanta has decided that baggy pants which expose undergarments are illegal and is cracking down by issuing stiff fines of up to \$500. The new amendment, proposed on August 28 by the City Council's Public Safety Committee, will not only ban underwear-exposing pants, but visible undergarments in general. Ladies will not be allowed

to wear sports bras in public, or show "even a wisp of a bra strap" city

major concern" in the city of Atlanta. The proposed ordinance states that "the

undergarments" would be unlawful in any public place. "The target is young men who wear their pants low off their hips to show off the two pairs of boxers they wear beneath their saggy pants," Martin said.

Atlanta would not be the first city to make saggy pants and exposed bra straps illegal. Earlier this year, the town council of Delcambre, La. passed an ordinance that carries a fine of up to \$500 or six months in jail for exposing any undergarments.

Exposed undergarments started as a fad, but grew into a problem that has startled many citizens in the Metro-Atlanta community. It has been deemed as "delinquent" and thug-like conduct. If Atlanta citizens do not cover themselves more thoroughly, they will end up with a steep fine and possibly a jail sentence, regardless of their race or gender.

If citizens cannot venture out into public without exposing themselves indecently, they should stay inside their homes or prepare to be hit with a fine from the Atlanta Police Department. Undergarments should be exactly that; garments worn under the clothing. This law is not a restriction on culture, but rather a means to control a fad that has become unmanageable.

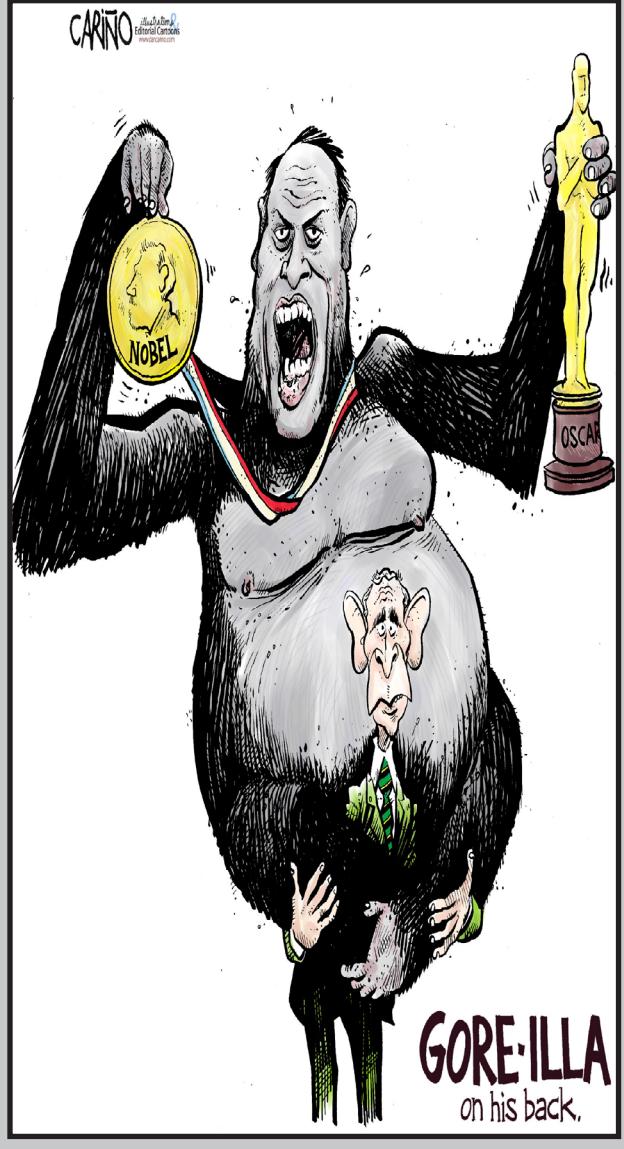


Councilman C.T. Martin, an open advocate for the new amendment, said.

Martin said that sagging pants have become an "epidemic" and a "ma-

indecency exposure of his or her

Gore time



Universal Health Care: A blessing or a curse?

by Krista Carver



The United States is one of the few leading industrialized nations that does not provide health care for all of its citizens.

In universal health care the government is responsible for providing national health coverage or for any citizen who needs or wants it. This is a major platform issue in the upcoming 2008 election.

If universal healthcare is passed it will be handled like social security, a portion of a citizen's paycheck, roughly 40 to 50 percent as tax will be put in to health care which does not include neither social security tax nor federal taxes. This means if a person chooses to use government health care, they don't have to pay at the doctor.

"I would never rely on a government based healthcare system for my own needs. Not only would having universal healthcare take out an even greater portion of my paycheck, but it would never be adequate," said senior, Noah Hammond.

In addition doctors will be paid a fixed salary, about 40,000 dollars a year. Waiting list for organs and such and lines at the doctor offices would be extremely long. A person may have to wait a

few months, if not a year, to get simple procedures done. When you finally see the doctor the quality of the doctor, the service and more will not be any good. There are positives but many negatives to the universal health care system. Also, the quality of doctors services and more will be diminish.

There are many ways to look at Universal Health Care, either a person looks at it with a liberally or a conservatively.

"The conservative ideology gives 'the individual has the right to choose,'" says David Casas, Georgia Representative. Conservatives aren't against medical coverage they just don't see universal health care as the answer. Conservatives think that the market should be brought in. This means that more competition should be brought in to bring down prices. Citizens should choose the actual prices of shots and procedures. Competition should be led through the actual pricing of individual procedures. Then a citizen can choose to pay a specific price for a specific procedure based on different doctors' prices. According to Politicalbalanced.org, Profit motives, competition, and individual ingenuity have always led to greater cost control and effectiveness.

"The liberal ideology is

solution to all of society's problems," said Casas. Universal Health Care is a product of the liberal ideology. The liberals see it as government's responsibility to provide health care for the citizens. Health care is expensive, and people who can't afford health care are without care.

Universal health care is being used in other leading countries, such as Britain, France, and Canada and America is watching the system fail. A person should have the right to choose what is appropriate for them when it comes to this. According to Politicalbalanced.org, Just because Americans are uninsured doesn't mean they can't receive health care; nonprofits and government-run hospitals provide services to those who don't have insurance, and it is illegal to refuse emergency medical service because of a lack of insurance. Yes, the government needs to help the poor, but universal health care is not the answer. Our country will not grow stagnant economically. Our country needs to stand up and decide what's right. The right decision is to not have universal healthcare because all it will do is out us at an economic stand still and take away our right to choose.

ERA makes return

by Bridget Spencer



The Equal Rights Amendment has been ratified by 35 of the 38 required states in order to make it a part of the United States Constitution.

This amendment was written by suffragist Alice Paul, born on January 11, 1885, and was introduced to Congress in 1923. Then, this idea was considered widely progressive. This Amendment's quest to become the 28th Amendment is mainly focusing on women. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex," section 1 of the hopeful Amendment. Some supporters now call it this journey the "Women's Equality Movement." On March 27, 2007, the Equal Rights Amendment was mentioned again by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. Maloney is explained how she is not happy that women still do not have equal rights in the 21st century. The issue has been on the backburner for over 30 years. Some states that have already adopted the Equal Rights Amendment have interpreted it differently, claiming that the Amendment would violate laws targeting abortion. This happened in the New Mexico Supreme Court. Between 1972 and

1982, many went on hunger strikes, marches, and rallied for this cause.

This cause is serious, especially in the year 2007. At the same time women need to remember that male and female do not have to be mentally, spiritually, and emotionally equal to men. "There is a point where women just are not physically able to be equal with men, women are much more emotional," senior Kyndal Crider said. Men have a purpose, and so do women. Their purposes are not supposed to be equal. Although clearly, women have clearly become more powerful and are still progressing as time goes on. Women have achieved much over the many years without the Equal Rights Amendment entering the Constitution. Nothing is wrong with being authoritarian, but not equally as powerful as a man.

"Women always have more to bring to the table, and women's roles are always evolving and will continue to over the years," Zion Baptist Church Youth Minister Bianca Robinson said. She is an example of women in the church, how women are able to become ministers. In the early to middle 20th century, the woman played to June Cleaver Leave it to Beaver housewife. This still needs to be done in some form or fashion, along with being a working and strong

woman. The majority of women in the United States are currently doing that anyway. Multi-tasking is very common. Lots of children are growing up without guidance or they are living in a single family home. One of every four households are single parented. From this, morality and behavior of children are descending. One may have heard their parent say, "Don't walk home by yourself, times are not what they used to be."

That statement is true, and things are learned at home. So there is a downfall to the Equal Rights Amendment, and many people may not be looking at it from this perspective.

The future is being targeted. If women are not being good mothers and are too busy pondering on what method they can use to ratify the Constitution, then morality of the next generations will suffer. Women can be paramount are are, so the best thing to do it to leave the Constitution as it is. "If anything women need to be treated better because they have been through more," Drama teacher Steven Jones said. Women's aptitude shows through the children they raise along with the other work they perform. It is more difficult to be a woman. Women are already equal to men, but there does not have to be a statement in the Constitution that says that.

Increased vending machine prices leave students' pockets empty

by Elexius Roach



Students' pockets are left dry after 25 percent increase on vending machine prices.

McEachern students looking to enjoy beverages from school vending machines noticed a 25 cent increase on 20-ounce Coca-Cola soft drinks. "This \$1.25 price has been killing me; now you have to find a quarter," senior Tiffany Taylor said.

Many consumers assumed that the rise in vending machine prices was a small inflation. "The United States has about a four percent inflation rate. Something that costs one dollar today will cost one dollar and four cents next year," economics teacher Todd McMath said.

The increase in Cola-Cola's and Pepsi's vending machine prices is simply due to a rise in manufacturing price by Pepsi and Coca-Cola bottlers.

Coca-Cola's bottle manufacturer, Coca-Cola Enterprises (CCE), has steadily raised the price of manufacturing, forcing the company to increase the price to account for the difference in the manufacturing costs versus the sales volume. Coca-Cola is looking to increase sales volume to account for the price issue.

Pepsi's need for price increase is the same with its manufacturing company, Pepsi Bottling Group (PBG), raising its production costs also. The price increase

was not due to necessary profit increase or the economic view of cost versus demand. It is merely to fund manufacturing costs.

Now, if students and school staff would like cheaper Coca-Cola products, those sold in the school cafeteria are set to remain at one dollar. Also, select college campuses provide a tax release by supplementing the profit made by the vending machine, lowering the cost to \$1.09.

Although it's not the fault of the company, the price rise is inconvenient. Carrying change is not a popular means of purchasing an item that could once have been paid for in a single bill, but the argument is not with the Coca-Cola or Pepsi companies but with its manufacturers.

The manufacturers' decisions to raise production costs have caused an increase on the consumers' end of the purchase. Unfair and unexpected, the price increase is little more than an extra quarter to carry everyday. It's not providing consumers with an acceptable price for the product. "That's ridiculous. I can get a two-liter soft drink from the grocery store \$1.39," Taylor said.

While some may spend the extra 25 cents, others may choose to break their caffeine habit.

"Analyze and watch the process. Don't fault Coke; that's capitalism," McMath said.



With higher prices this year, drinks are much more scarce on campus.

Substitutes: stepping up to the plate in teachers' absences

by Suzanne Stroup



Absences of teachers during the school year result in substitute teachers, something students either love or dread.

To students, substitutes are either easy prey or a good excuse to watch a movie and relax during class. "Sometimes substitutes are really nice and let you get your work done, but sometimes they're mean, like a taskmaster, because they think that's how the teacher likes it," junior Katie Pflugradt said. Substitutes are as varied as the students that they teach, or as some say, baby-sit.

Substitute teachers are familiar with most subjects, but not all. It would be a hard for a math teacher to switch classes and teach Spanish for a day. If a substitute doesn't know a subject, then they may act more like a baby-sitter than a teacher – give the students a handout to keep them busy and they're set for the rest of class. If the work doesn't occupy students' time, a problem may arise. "Whether or not the teacher leaves enough work makes a big difference on how a class behaves," substitute Harriet Green said. "If kids have nothing to do, then they get out of hand and start talking and disrupting classes around them." Green also said that if a teacher leaves too much work for their



While substituting for an informal geometry class, Brenda Whitener helps senior, Lowanda Davis with a problem.

students, substitutes are generally happy because it leaves less room for something bad to happen.

Students can be cruel, and substitutes know that often things can or will go wrong. Unlike full-time teachers, substitutes are in-and-out, making it hard to develop a relationship with students. Many times, older students are easier to substitute than younger ones because they may have already had the substitute that is teaching them.

If students don't behave, substitutes feel that it is important for teachers to back them up on disciplinary measures, that way the next time that that class has a substitute, they will know what is expected of them.

Teachers, on the other hand, have fewer problems with substitutes. "I think a lot of them do. They are always there for you when you need them," Spanish teacher Susan Trammell said. According to Trammell, every once in a while they may forget to do something major, like take attendance, but in general, they are a great help.

The classroom dynamics are changed when a class has a substitute, and the relationship between student and teacher is different. Most teachers get the respect that they deserve from students, but most substitutes do not. Students only ask for the routine of a regular lesson plan when their teacher is away. Substitutes only ask for the respect that everyone deserves and they rarely find.



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SAT scores soar: Cobb County scores rise after institution of new test

Georgette Eva

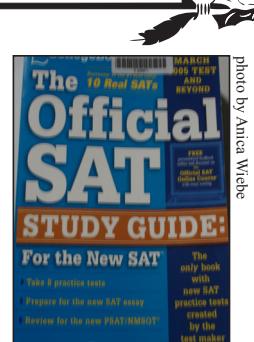


photo by Anita Wiebe

Each year the college board compiles a list of questions and answers to better prepare students for the SAT.

Georgia's Cobb County high schools beat the national and state SAT average scores despite the increased participation of students taking the exam.

"College Board has raised the bar," Graduation Coach Kenya Gilliard said. "The test is longer and has more rigorous questions."

This year, approximately 80 percent of Cobb County high school seniors took the test compared to the state's 69 percent and the nation's 50 percent. An increase in test takers tend to lower the average, but Cobb outscored the state average by 62 points and the national average by 23 points, earning a total of 1534. Nationally, the number of SAT participants has reached a record amount of 1.5 million students.

Compared to 2006, averages in Cobb steadily dropped from 1538 to

1534 as math scores remained the same at 517. Two points fell in both the critical reading and writing sections.

The highest score in the district was Walton High School with an overall score of 1697, the third highest score in the state, while McEachern averaged 1419. National and state averages scored 1511 and 1472 respectively.

Along with SAT prep courses and classes, McEachern's trust fund has paid for this year's freshmen to take the PSAT with the sophomores. The state also pays for an online SAT prep course for student use, free of charge.

For the second year in a row, Georgia has ranked 46 in the nation with a five point decrease from last year, a considerable jump compared to Georgia's almost last place in 2005.

National average scores fell three points in math from 518 to 515, 502 from 503 for critical reading, and 494 from 497 in the writing portion. However, College Board, the nonprofit organization that releases the exam, insists that the lack of second-time test-takers have dragged down the national mean. Second-timers are known to increase their score by at least 30 points on average.

The nation's SAT scores have reached its lowest since 1999, continuing the decline in the second year of the SAT's new format.

In 2006, the year the new SAT debuted, scores dropped considerably for the first time in 31 years; five points down in reading and two points down in math. Changes in the new format include essay prompt, higher level math problems, and a score scale of 2400 instead of 1600.

"A lot of colleges look at the SAT score," senior Andre McIntosh said. "So students would feel that their whole college future rides on the test."

Many colleges have decided to wait out the use of the new SAT's essay portion, choosing to follow the first years of data scores before settling on how to use it.

Meanwhile, scores of the opposing ACT exam had a small increase from last year's national mean of 21.2 to this year's 21.2 out of 36 scoring scale. Nearly equaling the amount of SAT participants, ACT test-takers reached a high of 1.3 million, a seven percent increase from last year. However, the number includes those who partook in both exams.

"Even though rank is important," Gilliard added. "I don't think it's a true reflection of the student's abilities."



SAT Statistics

<u>2006-2007</u> AVERAGE	
Georgia	1472
United States	1511
<u>2005-2006</u> AVERAGE	
Georgia	1477
United States	1518
In the grand scheme of SAT scores, Georgia ranks 46th.	
<i>All data derived from Georgia Department of Education.</i>	

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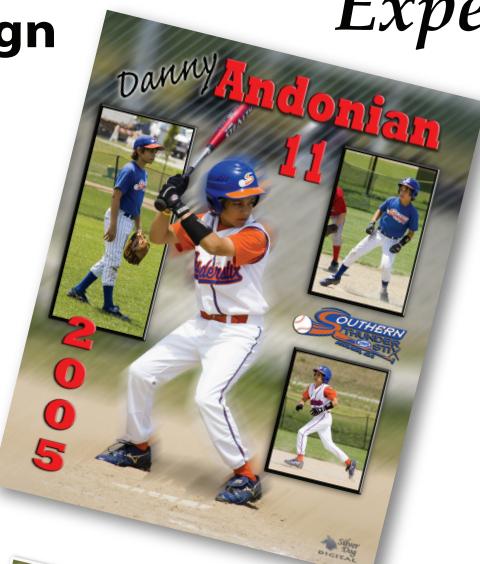
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Clubs on the Corner

The Mock Trials: Bringing law to high school students

by Bridget Spencer



The Mock Trial team is here to expose students to the world of the legal system.

The Georgia Mock Trial Competition is helping students learn the ways of the legal system using a hands-on approach.

122 high schools statewide participated in the 2007 program. The State Bar Office supplies guidelines and case materials to the high schools.

Students are

taught by experienced lawyers on how to use their critical thinking skills, develop questioning, and oral advocacy.

"Mock Trial began in Clayton County in 1953. It went from a local competition to state in 1988. So we are now in our 20th anniversary season," Georgia Mock

Trial Coordinator Stacy Rieke said. If a student is an aspiring lawyer, this team will be great practice. Jill Gustafson is one of the sponsors for the team. "I've taught law for a number of years in Florida and we performed mock trials, but we never

actually pursued it. We did debates and related competitions. So

having a

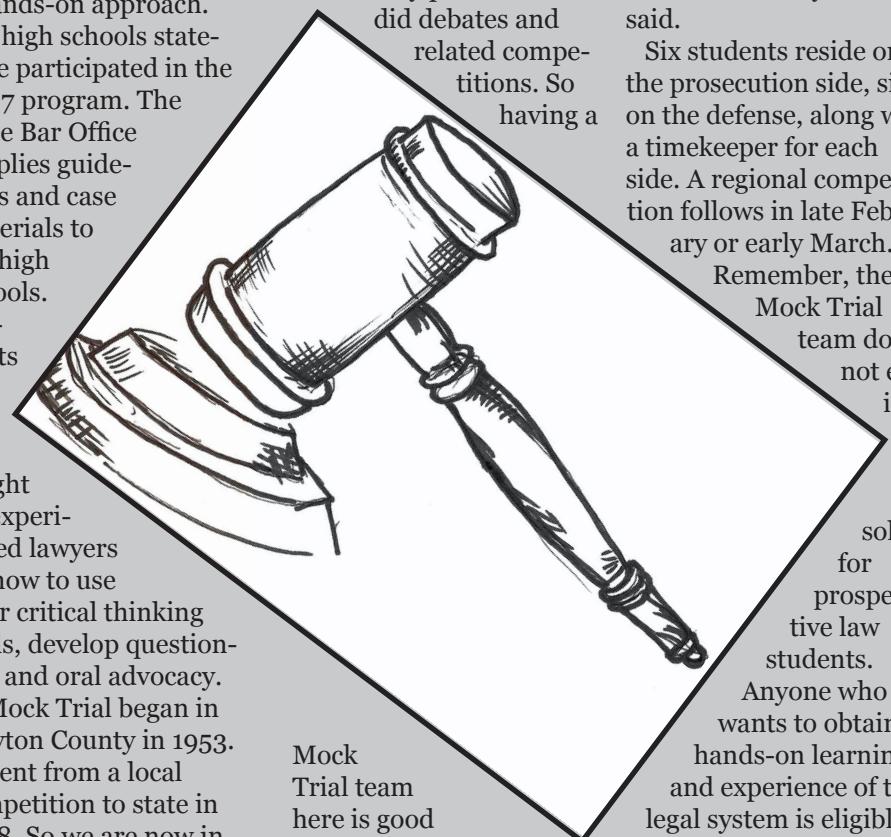
action with the judges, attorneys, and other legal occupations are included with being on the team. "A mock trial team is an awesome idea. Many kids may not even know how the courtroom runs, so that is some good experience for them," McEachern alumnus Kayla Pethel said.

Six students reside on the prosecution side, six on the defense, along with a timekeeper for each side. A regional competition follows in late February or early March.

Remember, the Mock Trial team does not exist

solely for prospective law students. Anyone who wants to obtain hands-on learning and experience of the legal system is eligible.

Mock Trial team here is good for students," Gustafson said. Inter-



Lit Mag is back

McEachern's Literary Magazine returns for another year of student expression and publication

by Brittany Long



Literary magazine is a student run organization that consists of short stories, poems, articles, and artwork.

first year for the Literary magazine. The sponsors of the group are Christina Morgan-Theriot and Ruth Thomas.

Students can join throughout the school year just by showing up to a meeting. The meetings are usually on Thursdays after school. The purpose of the

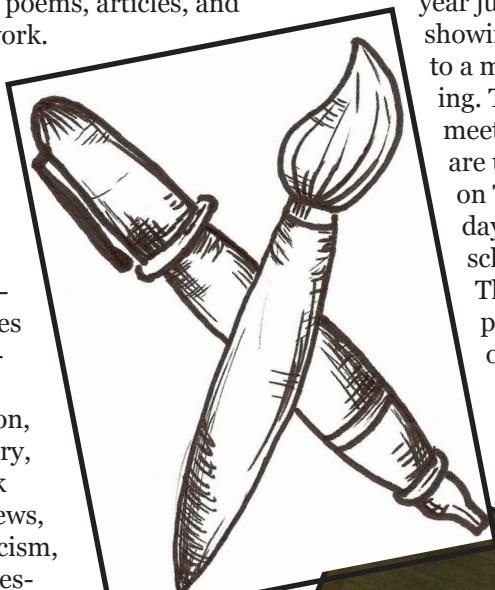
McEachern Literary magazine is to allow students to get their work recognized by the students, faculty, and community.

The major activities consist of reviewing work, selecting work, editing work, and formatting the magazine for publishing. "If you want to submit your work you can give it to any of your literature teachers or you can give it to me," Lumpkin said. Students can also submit work anonymously if they prefer. Students may also submit art work for the cover page of the magazine.

Literary Magazine gives students the chance to express themselves through writing and artwork.

There has been two publications and there is an upcoming one this year.

The magazine is filled with color and artwork of all sorts. It exists for those students who want their work to be recognized by the faculty and community. Students are encouraged to submit their literature and artwork to make this issue an unforgettable one.

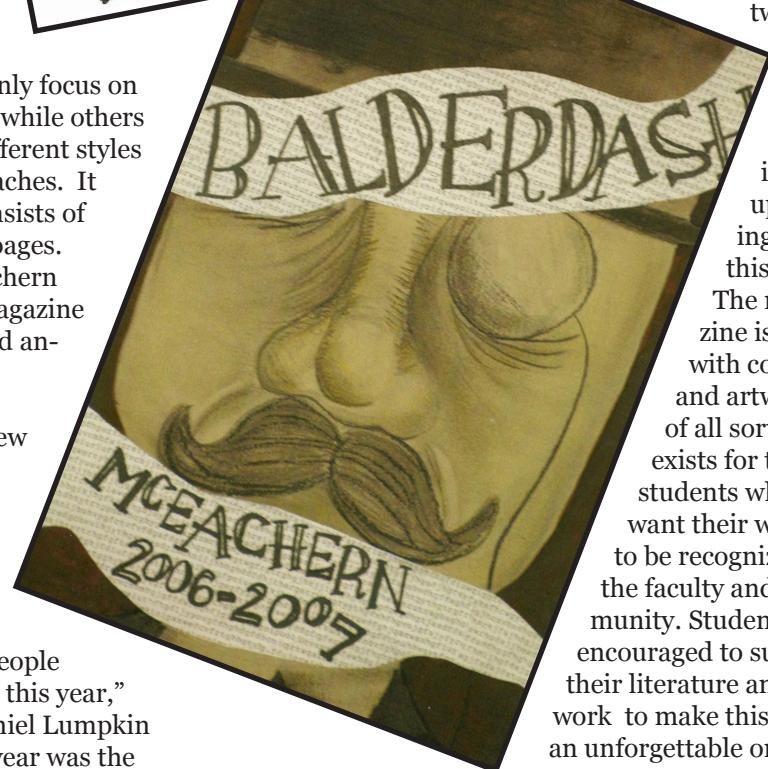


Literary magazines publish fiction, poetry, book reviews, criticism, and essays.

Some essays mainly focus on one genre, while others provide different styles and approaches. It usually consists of 14 to 400 pages.

The McEachern Literary magazine is published annually.

"We are adding a new musician section in the magazine so hopefully we get more people to show up this year," senior, Daniel Lumpkin said. Last year was the



McEachern Presents

by Elexius Roach



McEachern's drama department staged the controversial comedy Radio TBS.

On Thursday September 27, 2007, McEachern's drama department opened the stage play Radio TBS by Mark London Smith.

The play is the story of a dysfunctional group of neighbors in the Luna del Mar trailer park. The main characters host a radio show voicing their opinions on local gossip and cultural stereotypes.

The leading roles of Vesta Poteet and Dixie Mandrell were played by Katie Ptflugrat and Re-

becca Medford, with accompanying roles played by Bridget Spencer, Suzanne Stroup, Kyndal Crider, Naomi McCarthy, Rose Alexander, Chelsea Stone, and Sydney Kelly.

The all girls company performed for three nights. The play was directed by drama teacher Steven Jones and stage managed by senior Jonathan Butts.



Pauline Felts said.

"Students really enjoyed it. More people are interested in the drama department now," McCarthy said.

Although the show is believed to be a hit, the cast and crew were worried about the racial stereotypes addressed by the script.

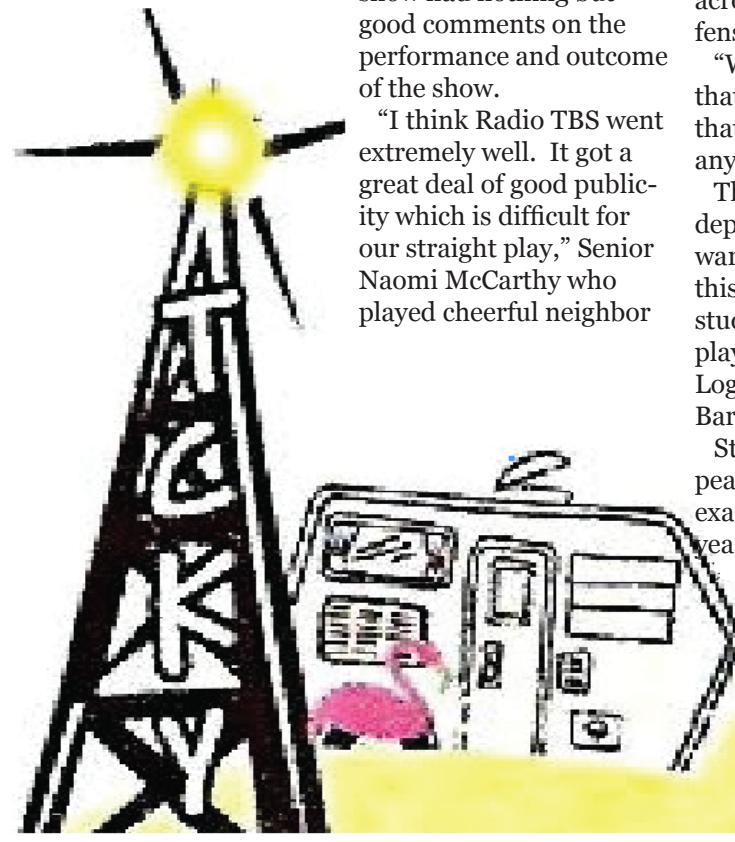
"I think it was really well received. We were all afraid that it'd come across as ignorant or offensive," Crider said.

"We had to make sure that it was so over the top that it wouldn't offend anyone."

"I think Radio TBS went extremely well. It got a great deal of good publicity which is difficult for our straight play," Senior Naomi McCarthy who played cheerful neighbor

The McEachern drama department is looking forward to doing more plays this year including its student-directed one act plays, Footloose by Kenny Loggins and Neil Simon's Barefoot in the Park.

Still, Radio TBS appears to have set a good example for the rest of the year's coming up plays.



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Heat • soaring temperatures hinder team practices

by Ogechi Anyanwu



Many Georgians living in Cobb County say that it has never been this hot, but it's something that they physically and mentally prepare themselves for.

The heat doesn't keep McEachern's athletics or any activity outdoors from practicing. Before each practice starts, each coach or teacher uses a Wet Bulb rating device supplied by the county that reads the temperature and humidity. If the rating reads more than 82 degrees, practice will be cancelled.

"During practices, breaks depend on the reading of the Wet Bulb at the beginning of practice," athletic director Jim Dorsey said.

"Color guard students are recommended to wear light colored clothing, which they provide at the beginning of the season," head band director, Sonny Petway said. The Band Booster Club also supplies water or Gator-



Coach Thompson's Team Sports class playing on the football field in the hot early October weather.

ade for practice, which is used during mandatory 15 minute breaks.

Some student athletes who play outdoor sports such as football, softball, and cross country say that it's too hot to practice everyday.

Senior Kyle Jlenn, who plays varsity football, says sometimes when

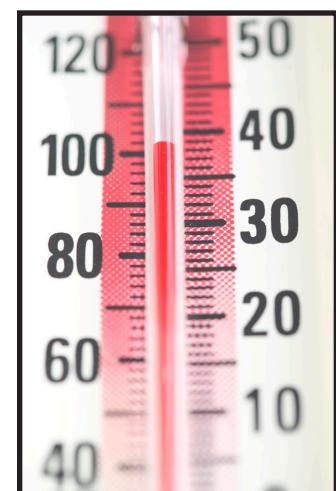
he's out practicing, the heat overwhelms him and makes him feel sick. Senior Luke Hunter, who runs cross country, says the weather may be harsh but it's something that is overcome. He encourages students to drink water and eat energy bars during the day to keep their metabolism up. Junior

Mary Rachel Kane, who plays slow pitch softball, says to enjoy practice in the heat, she and some of her teammates get pumped up in the locker room before filing out onto the field.

While on the fields practicing, students are advised to wear SPF 30 sports and waterproof

sunscreen. Sunglasses are also recommended to protect the eyes from harmful UV rays. Athletes are also instructed by coaches to stay hydrated prior to practice. Some students who have a health problems are encouraged to bring their medications, such as inhalers, to practice with a note.

photo by Anica Wiebe



Healthcare Science teacher Sandra Null encourages students to snack between classes, and drink lots of fluids. This means eight ounces of water every few hours. Athletes should balance water intake with activity and body size.

The heat is too much for some students to handle. "Students should re-apply deodorant throughout the day because of sweat and perspiration," junior JaQuita Hiem said.

Students should keep deodorant either in their book bag or purse to use throughout the day.

Hot weather or not, students and faculty who exposure themselves to the heat should remember to remain safe and hydrated or there could be serious consequences to face, such as sunburn, heat illnesses and the often deadly, heat stroke.

\$700,000 computer refresh revamps campus hardware, makes use of SPLOST funding

by Anica Wiebe



At the start of the 2007-2008 school year students walked into classrooms and realize that there are new computers and new software.

Previously Cobb County decided to upgrade McEachern with new computers all over campus. McEachern isn't the only school going through these upgrades; all of Cobb County received new computers in the classrooms. "The Internet works faster and you management, classes said.

McEachern currently has new computers in the Business Technology building (BT), Career/Technology building (CT). This is including three computer labs in the Freshman Center (FC). This was the first phase of the computer upgrade.

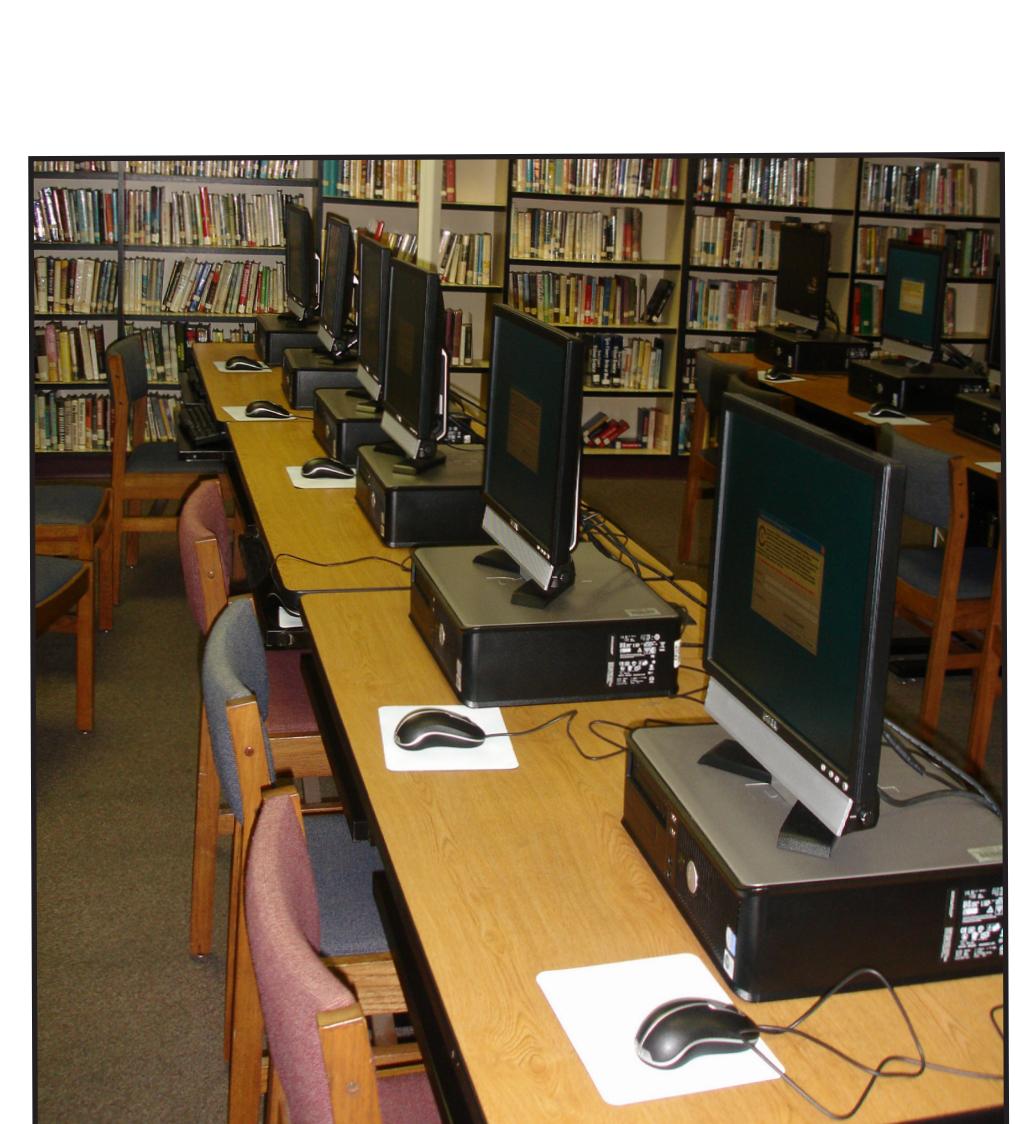
The next phase was initiated in September. At this point, all the other buildings on campus have been refreshed. "The new computers run faster, have better resolution and are of better quality," senior Griffin Lindsey said.

Cobb County approved

the 2003 software to be used on all the computers. "The 2003 software was used by Cobb County because the earlier versions have been tested and the software runs well on the computers," Claire Brackett, coordinator of the installment and de-installment of the computers said. The new computers have some new software including FrontPage 2003 program, Office 2003, and NotePad. Studio 8 was also put on the computers, which is the combined versions of Flash, DreamWeaver, Free Hand and Fireworks. These programs were combined for customer convenience.

Some programs such as Publisher have not been added to McEachern's computers because there isn't a use for that program at this time and it wasn't apart of the package that the computer software was apart of upon getting the upgrade.

"That with the new computers students will have more storage for documents," Web Page and Computer Applications teacher, Janice Ritchey said. "Now, when



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Mark Ramlochan, Vanessa Amaya and Taylor Linscott working diligently in Ms. Zlotnick's Business Management class on the new computers.

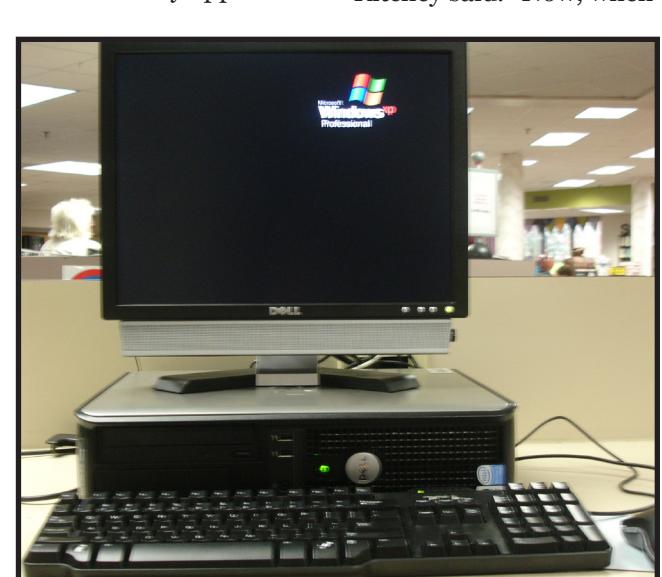


photo by Anica Wiebe

Animal abuse prevention through adoption, protection, education

by Alison Parker



Many people have heard about animal abuse, but consequences are far reaching.

Whether referred to as cruelty to animals, animal abuse or negligence, these acts are against the law. In the state of Georgia, animal cruelty is a felony with a maximum sentence of five years in jail and a fine of \$15,000.

According to PetAbuse.com, people do not necessarily know all of the facts even if their heart is in the right place. This website is

designed to educate others on how to protect one's pets and gives a variety of examples of how to prevent animal abuse within the community. There are many different websites created to put animals that have been abused into contact with people who wish to help them recover. These websites show ways to prevent animal abuse. Included in the list are education, volunteer work, and donations to animal support groups. Senior Rebecca Smith, who wishes to become a veterinarian, has worked with her church

to raise money to help save animals from the streets. "I believe that animal abuse is a reflection of inner conflict with oneself and it is common with people who, in turn, have been abused or bullied. It is basically finding a prey that can't fight back," Smith said. A common mistake people make is letting someone else into their pet's lives without knowing the background of that person. By giving the unknown person an opportunity to be with their pet, they are opening the door for possible animal abuse. For example,

someone looking to find a new pet groomer should review references and other clients. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) advise those who wish to add a higher level security to their animal's lives to make sure they have proper identification tags. "Pets need to always be monitored," Pulin Modi, Street Team Coordinator for PETA said. New technologies have been designed that enable pet owners to place a microchip in the back of their animals as another means of monitoring.

Slaughterhouses, animal testing factories, dog

fights, chicken fights, and dog-hog rodeos are just the beginning of a long list of animal abuse varieties. "The animals on today's factory farms have no legal protection from cruelty that would be illegal if it were inflicted on dogs or cats: neglect, mutilation, genetic manipulation, and drug regimens that cause chronic pain and crippling, transport through all weather extremes, and gruesome and violent slaughter," Modi said. What the public doesn't realize is that they consume these animals on a daily basis.

In some parts of the

country, people justify their abusive ways by claiming tradition. For example, dog fighting is considered a southern tradition along with visiting dog-hog rodeos.

The abuse is not limited to fighting. In the 2007 summer, PETA ran a campaign to show the public what Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) really put the chickens through, thus creating the title Kentucky Fried Cruelty.

Whether it be slaughterhouses, animal testing, or dog fights, animal abuse is against the law and can be prevented.

THE NUMBERS ACTIONS AGAINST ANIMALS

THE LITTLE KNOWN FACTS OF THE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

19% of all intentional animal abuse crimes are committed by teenage boys.

More than 15 million animals are poisoned and killed every year in toxicity experiments required by the federal government.

The Chinese fur industry is skinning cats and dogs alive for use in clothes and fashion accessories.

Over 115 million animals in North America are tortured, poisoned, maimed, and killed in laboratories every year.

The fashion industry is responsible for the torture and death of millions of dogs, cats, minks, raccoons, foxes, rabbits, and other animals each year.

Crime doesn't pay: dogfighting linked to drugs, gangs, violence

By Jack Douglas Jr.
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)



CLEVELAND, Texas - It has been more than a year since a 7-year-old Texas boy was made to watch as his father bled to death from a bullet wound to the leg. His infant brother and their mother also witnessed the shooting.

The brutality of the case has made seasoned law enforcement officers cringe as they continue to search for the killers of Thomas Weigner, a known dogfighter and pit bull breeder, tortured to death inside his rural home in Southeast Texas. Hundreds of miles away, and across an even wider gap in wealth and background, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick awaits a court date to be sentenced on federal charges of breeding and fighting dogs.

The two very different high-profile cases have stunned state, local and federal investigators into realizing the scope of organized dogfighting across the country.

Investigators in Texas and in Virginia, where Vick pleaded guilty and is awaiting a Dec. 10 sentencing, have worked closely together to learn more about the hidden world of breeding, selling and fighting pit bulls. Several of the officers in Texas spoke to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on the condition that they would not be identified because of the sensitive nature of the murder investigation.

Dogfighting has gone virtually undetected by law enforcement for years, investigators said, and they now realize that the criminal activity is booming throughout the country, with the trafficking of fight-worthy dogs intersecting with drug trafficking, street gangs and violence.

It is a cruel sport, the officers say, which lures in the poor and the very rich, the publicly prominent and the obscure, rural residents and urban dwellers.

Citing Vick's plea agreement, which requires him to

"cooperate fully and truthfully ... and provide all information known to the defendant regarding any criminal activity ...," several well-informed officials said they expect him to provide the names of other dogfighters, possibly including additional professional athletes, in hopes of reducing his prison sentence.

Neither Vick's lead defense lawyer, Billy Martin of Washington D.C., nor an official with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Richmond, Va., would respond for a comment.

A Texas investigator said there could be one connection between the Vick and Weigner cases. Vick reportedly bought two pit bulls from a man now in a Texas jail, on unrelated drug charges, who is believed to be involved, or at least have information about Weigner's slaying.

John Goodwin, deputy manager over animal cruelty issues with The Humane Society of the United States in Washington, said the Vick case and Weigner's killing are only the tip of the iceberg in a criminal underworld that has "boomed in size and scope, particularly in our urban areas," during the past decade.

"Law enforcement is starting to recognize that dogfighting is nothing more than a cruel form of recreation for criminals," Goodwin said.

The Humane Society has documented during this year alone more than 130 major incidents related to dogfighting, including the slaying of a breeder in North Carolina, where 30 pit bulls were taken, and another killing near Portland, Ore.

A child was attacked in Oklahoma by a pit bull that had been bred to fight, a "massive round" of dogfighters and drug dealers were arrested in Kentucky and postal carriers temporarily stopped delivering mail to a Detroit neighborhood because of the frequency of pit bull fights in the middle of the streets, the Humane Society said.

Authorities have also been told about "crews"

of robbers, with inside knowledge about high-stakes dog fights, who follow the big winners to their homes, threaten them and make off with their booty.

One such heist, according to the officers who talked to the Star-Telegram, reportedly occurred in or near Fort Worth, where a woman was tied up, doused with gasoline, and then threatened with fire until her husband led the robbers to his \$200,000 in dogfight winnings. The couple and their cash may have been followed from as far away as Nashville, the investigators said.

But such acts of violence are seldom reported to police by the victims because of the fear of retaliation among their own circle of dogfighting criminals. And the account of the home invasion in or near Fort Worth, made by

the investigators said.

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Weigner's death, they were told, may have at least partly been in retaliation for a botched drug deal, which included the accidental burning of \$450,000 in drug money.

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Guilty: Falcons star faces jail; possible end to career

by Jack Culler



Michael Vick, Atlanta Falcons star quarterback and three-time Pro-Bowler, accepted a plea deal from federal prosecutors on August 27 that will send the superstar to prison for a maximum of five years, and could very well end his professional football career.

Vick, who has been suspended indefinitely and banned from Falcon's practice sessions and games by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, will now await his December 10 hearing, in which he is expected to be sentenced to 13-18 months in federal prison. The time he will spend incarcerated could be lengthened depending on the outcome of the state trial he is now facing, which also includes dogfighting. Vick was indicted on July 18 after his Surry, Va. home was raided by federal investigators. The results of the investigation were chilling; 54 dead dogs, numerous dog graves, and many allegations that Vick sponsored illegal dogfighting at his estate, gambled on dogfighting, and that he permit-

ted and even took place in acts of cruelty at his Virginia estate. Since the verdict was announced, Vick has also tested positive for marijuana and will now be forced to confinement in his home from the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Three of Vick's alleged dogfighting conspirators have already pled guilty to similar charges, all of which agreed to testify against Vick in court. The co-defendants also implicated Vick as a sponsor and ringleader. Even Vick's biological father, Michael Boddie, came forth with information accusing Vick of illegal activity in the August 2007 issue of ESPN the Magazine.

Vick is the only quarterback in the history of the National Football League to rush for over 1,000 yards in a season and has been the Falcon's starting quarterback since the beginning of the 2002 season. In his first season as quarterback, he led the team to a playoff berth, ending the team's four year drought.

"Let's not forget that before Vick, the Falcons were a mediocre team that was at the bottom of the league. Vick re-

energized this team and the city, and changed the quarterback position as well," junior Eric Miller said.

While Vick may have saved the franchise five

out a formal apology to those same fans Monday, August 27 for "using bad judgment and making bad decisions" after his court hearing in which he plead guilty. Vick ended the



Pit Bulls are the dogs most commonly associated with dog fighting.

years ago, it seems today that he has severely damaged the reputation of the NFL and the Falcons organization, and has also disappointed many loyal fans. Vick send

apology by saying he "will redeem himself". Whether or not Vick will actually win back the hearts of the Atlanta fans, it will be quite some time before he gets an opportunity.

Dogfighting: a growing epidemic of cruelty in U.S.

by Suzanne Stroup



ing all to contact their elected law makers and law enforcement," the SPCA said.

To provoke a fight between the two dogs, mesh bags filled with small prey, such as rabbits, kittens, and puppies, are hung over the dogs so that they can fight for it. The dogs run on treadmills to increase endurance and are injected with drugs to numb the pain of another dog's teeth and claws in their flesh.

Dog corpses are a frequent sight in the world of dogfighting. They die from blood loss, dehydration, exhaustion, and infection. Even if a dog lives, the fights can have lasting effects on them, such as broken bones, deep puncture wounds, severe bruising or crushed cartilage.

There are many different organizations trying to catch dogfighters in the act. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has been going undercover to find Dogfighting rings. They state that their biggest issue is finding the proper authority in a task force to contact. "We also work hard at raising awareness of the abuse (dogfighting) going on under their own noses, humane education for youth, and encourag-

Boy Steppers: Stomping Into Action

by Chelsea Baasch



Chris Mosley pumping up the crowd.

on the squad came back because Page came with his stepping experience from the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity at Grambling University.

"I like stepping with the boys because it gets the squad hyped up," senior Lady Stepper Master Delphine Fordam said, "The boys put forth so much energy into their performance that it makes the rest of the squad more enthusiastic." Both the boys and girls are looking forward

to performing with each other. "My goal is to get through the season and be the greatest we can be with everyone doing their best," sophomore stepper Bob Coussellant.

To audition for the boys' step team students are required to complete an application, have a physical on file, and three teacher recommendations. "Step team is a great motivator for academics. The boys have to keep their grades up to stay on the team," Page said. They learn skills like team work, precision, discipline, and

creativity. The step team is active in the community. "We compete throughout Metro Atlanta, Dekalb, Rockdale,

Cobb, and Fulton counties," Giles said, "We volunteer in community events as well, like parades and at churches. The steppers go to middle schools to encourage upcoming students to join.

Along with adding to the team, the whole squad is getting new steps, new transitions, and new performance attire. The routines are designed by

Giles.

With all new additions and changes that are occurring, the step team will demonstrate an increase

in performance and team results. "I want to see the step team, pep squad, and cheerleaders do a routine together because that

would show an awesome amount of team work and school spirit," Administrator James Lockhart said.



Members of the boys step team, Marqueze Cooper and Cameron Cain, performing in front of the student body at the pep rally.

photos by Chase Eriksen

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Refueled: Fastpitch team returns for successful season

By Bridget Spencer

Redesigned, renewed, and rejuvenated, the Lady Indians fastpitch softball team vigorously prepare for success in the 2007-08 season.

Last year the fastpitch team placed fourth in the regional competition.

This year they had grand plans to win the championship. Nick Chaykowsky, former basketball coach, is the current softball ball coach. Even with another coach, the team's goals have not changed. "The team plays the same. The seniors came forward this year and helped Coach Chaykowsky," parent Betsy Burgess said.

Infielder Taylor Burgess and outfielder Megan Rutherford are leading the team as captains. During their sophomore year, they took the team to a regional competition first round, but they did not win the tournament. "Being a leader is exciting, it gives you an adrenaline rush, but also you never know what you can be accounted for," senior Burgess said.

Many of the players on the team have been playing softball for many years, such as senior Emmie Trull. "The season is looking really good so far. Offense is really getting it together." Trull has been playing for ten years.

Fastpitch's base measurements are what make



Megan Rutherford is at bat for the home Kennesaw Mountain game.

separately, and focus on their own skill-building drills. Consistent ball catching is an essential skill that cannot be sacrificed if the Indians wish to have a strong defense.

A championship is possible with the right amount of teamwork and practice. Their region record at the end of the year is 10-3. "I was expecting Coach Crawford to be the head coach, so his leave was totally unexpected for the team and me," Chaykowsky said. He has hopes of building a team that will follow tradition.

"We will be sticking to Coach Crawford's book as far as practice drills," Chaykowsky said. They have been a thriving team over the past few years, so the Crawford plays are being used and strengthened again this year. According to Burgess, Crawford's exit created a great deal of stress for the team, but nothing stopped them from grabbing a triumphant season.

Teamwork, sportsmanship, goal setting, discipline, and leadership are the focus for these Lady Indians.

The fastpitch team hopes to continue the McEachern tradition and has been carving its own path around the field with focused practices, game successes and veteran leadership.

Opponent:	Sprayberry	Pickens	Sprayberry	Kell	Pickens	Walton	South Cobb	Hardaway	Etowah	Hardaway		
	Won 5-1	Won 8-0	Won 7-1	Lost 3-9	Won 8-4	Won 5-4	Lost 2-5	Lost 2-3	Lost 2-3	Lost 2-3		
Score:	Brookwood	Marietta	Woodstock	Harrison	Riverwood	Lassiter	Alexander	East Paulding	North Cobb	Hardaway		
	Lost 6-4	Won 9-3	Won 5-2	Lost 0-3	Won 8-1	Won 7-3	Lost 2-5	Won 5-0	Lost 2-5	Lost 2-3		

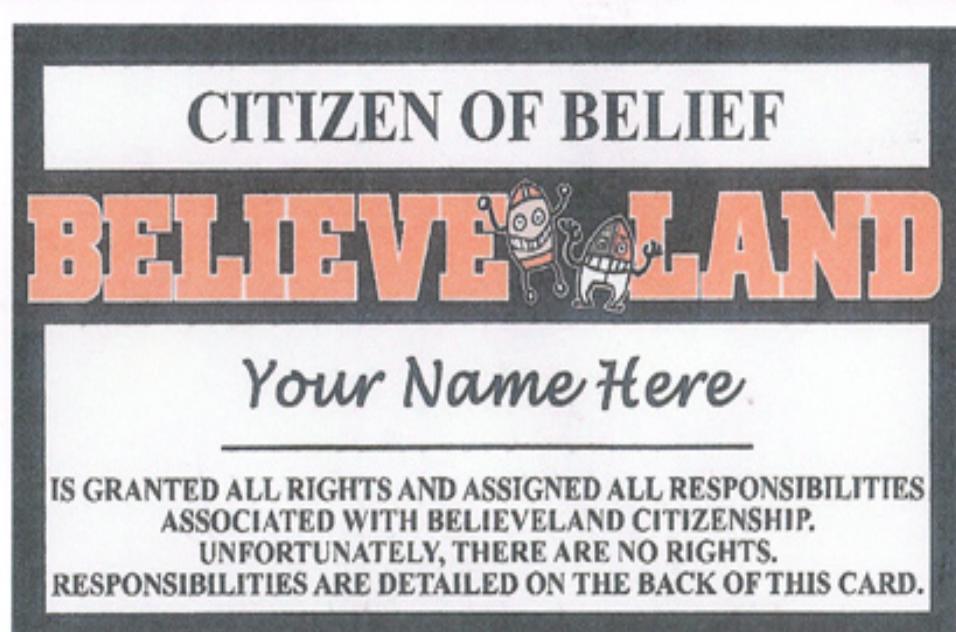


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