



The Carolian

Official Newspaper Publication of St. Charles Preparatory School

QUICK NEWS:

- *The Government Inspector* is fantastic!
- Wrestling and Swimming win CCL!
- The recent Supreme Court decision takes away your political voice.
- This just in: Texting while Driving is not safe.

N O M O R E W I N T E R W O N D E R L A N D S

Alexander Coccia '10

Without wasting any time, the first snow day of the year came just as St. Charles students returned from a two-week Christmas break. Rumors began of a harsh winter in which the maximum of five calamity days would be well exceeded. Then there was a lull in the weather. Snow storms got bad, but not bad enough for school to be cancelled. This all ended in a fury of storms that resulted in a two-day weekend, followed by one day of school, followed by another two-day weekend, two days of school, and a four-day weekend. Adding it up, that is three days of school, and eight days off. It was beautiful, and the students rejoiced. Currently, St. Charles, along with the other Columbus Catholic Schools have used four snow days. The current seniors have lucked out when it has come to snow days. As freshmen, St. Charles cancelled the maximum five days of school to snow; as sophomores, six days were off; and as juniors, the maximum five were used. Now as seniors, they have already had twenty in four years. For the seniors of St. Charles, it has been, as Mr. Cavello has called it, "Country Club St. Charles, where we come to school a few days, then take a few days off." For the freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes, however, their luck is about to run out.



The grotto at St. Charles beautifully covered with snow.

Photo courtesy of Steven Turville.

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Ohio schools will be allowed three calamity days in the 2010-2011 school year. And the next year? Zero. The State's plan is to go to school more days, and therefore, increase students' performance against other states' school systems. Sorry, underclassmen!

**C A R D I N A L S
F O R L I F E
G A R A G E
S A L E**

Alexander Coccia '10
Cardinals for Life, Dignity, and Justice, St. Charles' pro-life and social justice organization, is hosting a garage sale this Saturday, March 6th, in the Walter Student Commons.

All items in the sale have been donated by the St. Charles community. Last year, St. Charles' donations to the garage sale led to the raising of over \$2,000 for humanitarian aid effort in Darfur, Sudan, the location of a genocide. This year, Cardinals for Life hopes to raise even more for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Money raised will be sent through Catholic Relief Services to provide immediate aid for the victims and to contribute to efforts to rebuild the nation.

Donations will be collected this entire week, so please be generous. Join Cardinals for Life on March 6th at St. Charles to contribute to this cause.

THE 2010 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Sam Powell '11

On Wednesday, January 27, President Barack Obama gave his State of the Union Address to the members of Congress and other "distinguished guests" as called for by the Constitution. With Senate President Biden and House Speaker Pelosi sitting behind him, President Obama spoke about the condition of the nation and outlined his priorities and legislative agenda for the upcoming year.

After a few typical opening statements, the president reminded his listeners that other State of the Union Addresses have been delivered in some very trying times for the country. In mentioning the Great Depression, Bloody Sunday, the Vietnam War, and other significant calamities in our nation's history, President Obama put the current state of America in perspective to our past. "America prevailed because we chose to move forward as one nation, as one people," he remarked, "Again we are tested, again we must answer History's calls."

The first item of the president's speech was the economy and the tumble it took during the late 2000s. Acknowledging that it is the most virulent economic disaster since the Great Depression, President Obama defended the bold actions taken by his administration. "We acted immediately and aggressively," he said. He continued, stating that economic experts across the political spectrum predicted another depression if Congress and his administration had not acted in the way they did. Though the economic situation is still not looking very auspicious, the president stated that he believes "the worst of the storm has passed."

The president tried to create a sense of sympathy and compassion for those still dealing with the ills of the economy. "I know the anxieties that are out there right now. These struggles are the reasons that I ran for president." As he often did during his election campaign, President Obama told the stories of many who wrote him letters describing their troubles. "For these Americans and so many others, change has not come fast enough," he passionately

explained.

Once he had shared the stories he read in some letters, the president began his call on Congress to move away from strict political partisanship. "They are tired of the partisanship, the shouts and the pettiness," he pointed out. As he did here and throughout his address, President Obama urged members of the Republican and Democratic parties to come together in an effort to bring reform to the myriad of suffering Americans.

In sharing the stories of average citizens who are pushing onward in a manner full of rectitude, industriousness and courage, the president gave his verdict on the state of the nation. "It is with this great decency and hopeful struggle that I have never been more hopeful about America's future than I am tonight. Despite our hardships, our union is strong."

After an episode of energetic applause, President Obama resumed his talk of the actions taken in response to the current recession. Referring to the bank bailouts and the hundreds of billions spent in stimulus money, the president said, "I hated it, you hated it... but I promised I wouldn't do what was popular, I would do what was necessary.... I am not interested in punishing banks. I'm interested in protecting our economy." Continuing, he said that if something drastic had not been done to prevent the "meltdown" of our financial system, unemployment would be twice as much as it is now. The president stated that because of the efforts of his administration and Congress, the markets have stabilized, and that most of the money spent on the banks has been recovered through augmented economic activity. Furthermore, he cited the fact that there have been no income tax increases, and that his administration has passed twenty-five different cuts for 95% of working families, in hopes that it would leave them more money to spend. Still giving much credit to the government for any recovery that has taken place, President Obama said, "Economists on the left and right say this bill has diverted economic disaster. After two years of recession, the economy is finally growing again."

Following his discussion of the econ-

omy, the commander-in-chief stated that jobs need to be the number-one focal point for legislation in 2010. "The government can create the conditions necessary for business to expand and to hire more workers," he said. The president suggested that the government start with creating auxiliary measures for small businesses by initiating small business tax credits, by taking \$30 billion from big banks and giving it to local banks oriented with small businesses, and by promoting companies that create jobs on American soil, not on foreign land. Additionally, President Obama urged Congress to strive to create more jobs related to clean and green energy. In a general sense, the president said that "we can put Americans to work today building the infrastructure of tomorrow."

After his discussion of the job market, the president brought up the controversial issue of climate change. He said, "Even if you doubt the science, incentive for clean energy fosters a leading global economy." Moreover, President Obama advocated for alternative forms of energy as a way to increase economic activity and to instill in our country a sense of energy independence.

Following the topic of climate change, education came to the podium. The president vehemently supported incentives to award schools and teachers that were successful in fostering the greatest level of academic achievement among students. Emphasizing math and science, President Obama warned that if America is to be competitive in the global marketplace, her students must have access to top-notch education. "The best anti-poverty solution around is a world-class education," he said, "and we need to invest in the skills and education of our people." The president additionally expressed his desire to bolster community colleges, and to offer tax credits for families that send their children to school, stating that "No one should go broke because they choose to go to college."

Next up was the issue of health care reform. The president plainly pronounced that "we still need health

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insurance reform.... I will not walk away from these [those who could benefit from reform] Americans." He also asserted that his administration's approach would decrease the deficit by one-trillion dollars, though he did not provide the details of how that might happen. After once again insisting on bipartisan cooperation and reform, the president applauded his wife's work on promoting healthy food choices and exercise among kids in an effort to eliminate childhood obesity. President Obama subsequently brought up the reality of our gargantuan deficit, saying that starting in 2011, "We are prepared to freeze government spending," but that "we can't afford the freeze until next year, when the economy is stronger. That's how budgeting works." By eradicating superfluous programs or ones that do not work, the president said that he will refuse to pass the problem of the vast deficit onto another generation of Americans. In addition, he articulated that tax cuts for those making over \$250,000 a year, for oil companies, and for wealthy mutual fund managers will not continue. In the end, President Obama

warned that he will use his vetoing power to stop irresponsible programs, and he called for "earmark reform," suggesting that all earmark requests be published online before a vote so that taxpayers can see how their money is being spent. In his concluding remarks on this subject, the president once again criticized partisan politics, saying that members of Congress should not strive to pass legislation just to gain "political points" for themselves, but to bring about positive change for the American people.

The final focus of the address was international security, and President Obama set a goal of bringing an end to the Iraq War. He announced that "we will have all of our combat troops out of Iraq by the end of this year," and that "we have a responsibility to support them when they come home." After citing that his administration has made "the largest increase in veteran's benefits in decades," the president established his goal to secure all of the nuclear material in the world so that it "never falls into the wrong hands."

As he began to wrap up his speech, President Obama mentioned various

efforts being carried out by his administration and by American citizens in a very communal manner. American aid for Haiti, work being done to help other countries feed themselves, the fight against AIDS, and the exacting labors of many working to bring about peace and justice in the world were all extolled by the president. Making references to ideals of the Constitution, he exclaimed, "America must always stand on the side of human dignity and freedom."

At the end of his address, President Obama lauded basic characteristics of the American spirit that make it strong. Using his gift of powerful and eloquent speech, the president made an effort to stimulate the strong and steadfast natures of many American people. "The spirit that has sustained this nation for more than two centuries lives in you" he insisted. "We don't quit. I don't quit. Let's seize this moment to start anew, to carry the dream forward, and to strengthen our union once more." "Thank you," the president concluded, "God bless you, and God bless The United States of America."



On Wednesday, January 27, 2010, President Obama made his first State of the Union Address.

Photo courtesy of cnn.com.

SC SPEECH CLUB OPENS HEATED DEBATE

Osaze Udeagbala '11

Saint Charles Preparatory has a reputation for producing young men with outstanding intellect. Many students come from differing backgrounds, differing lifestyles, and possess differing opinions on all sorts of topics. Lately, SC Speech Club has sought to exploit this potential for debate, and has come up with some very interesting discussion.

As a part of a recent meeting, the club had a mini-forum on interpretation of the Bible. For some time, everyone was involved, but eventually the discussion boiled down to a verbal war between Edgar Ochoa and Travis Nixon. The discussion then touched on such topics as abortion and legal rights before closing the discussion. Not one person left that meeting without a more informed perspective on what was discussed. Naturally, everyone who attended Speech Club

wanted to do the same the next week.

Thus, the following week, the club had a more focused debate. The discussion centered on the plausibility of true world peace, and the merits and demerits associated with such a topic. At the outset, peace had to be defined. The club defined true peace as "the absence of violence, combined with the search for justice, excluding those who are mentally ill or otherwise incapable of doing so." After determining this definition, discussion began. The affirmative side of the case argued that, over time, by a process of learning from mistakes, society can eventually attain a state of true peace, in the same way that a mountain climber eventually reaches the top of a mountain as long as he continues climbing. The negative side argued that no matter the amount of progress made toward peace, there will always be a group of people who resist this movement. In other

words, there will never be a point at which everyone in society can function "on the same page." Both sides had valid arguments, and there was no clear winning argument, but all participants managed the small victory of new enlightenment.

SC Speech Club allows the participants of these weekly debates to develop the skills of quick, critical thinking, as well as learning to counter other perspectives. Through the improvement of these skills, the students hope to improve as researchers and debaters, giving themselves the confidence and competence necessary for successful presentations. SC Speech Club meets on Mondays in room 302. Anyone who is curious about or interested in participating in this group should contact Osaze Udeagbala or Mr. Gibbons.

SCOREBOARDS MARK A NEW AGE IN ST. CHARLES SPORTS

Alexander Coccia '10

Just as the Walt Plank Field promoted a new age in St. Charles football — one of the utmost confidence — the new scoreboards in the gymnasium have begun a new age in St. Charles basketball — one of technology. Installed by Daktronics, the scoreboards were the result of an anonymous donation amounting to \$25,000. This generosity has meant a great deal to the St. Charles fans, who can now be led in cheering by the message board.

Game time has often seen the flashing of "Danger, Danger," getting the student section as rowdy as can be. Master technical expert Sam Binning controls the scoreboards for the game and was present to monitor their installation. Athletic Director David Lawler believes that the scoreboards will allow each basketball team to be self-sufficient because they can sell advertisements on the message boards.

When the word got around that St. Charles had new scoreboards, a Carolian walking past the gymnasium could see hoards of



A new scoreboard marks the Home of the Cardinals.

Photo courtesy of Steven Turville.

men trying to get a peek at the masterpieces through the tiny gym door window. According to senior Brandon Bowman, "They're awesome. They are the single greatest thing that has happened to me this year. And I don't even play basketball."

The Carolian staff and the students

at St. Charles would like to thank the generous person who funded the scoreboards. You have given new life to the basketball court, you have given new life to the St. Charles student section as the students cheer on their basketball teams, and you have ushered in a new era at St. Charles.

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR IS A BOX OFFICE HIT

Sam Powell '11

The Saint Charles premier of *The Government Inspector* hit the stage on Thursday, February 25th, and has brought down the house in wildly entertaining performances throughout the weekend.

The setting of the play is a Russian province, and the mayor, played by Connor Simpson, catches word that a government inspector in disguise has reached his town. In a last-minute effort to clean up the area, the mayor and other officials quickly scheme to make the province seem much better than it really is. After two fat land owners, played by Danny Turek and Peter Vilardi, identify the person they believe to be the government inspector, Mayor Antonovich and others scramble to do everything in their abilities to win over and impress the supposed government inspector so that he might bring back a positive report to St. Petersburg. What they do not realize is that the man they think is the inspector is really just a humble public servant. At the same time the real government inspector lurks around *incognito* while the fake takes advantage of the wooing, bribes, and gifts of town officials.

This performance, both uproarious and crafty, truly utilized the full potential of Saint Charles humor. The many facets of the theatre department, including the actors and actresses, Sam Binnig, Thomas Sinard, and Chris Steiner with the lighting, Johnny Steiner with his musical talents, and, of course, Mr. Montgomery with his masterful directing and producing, all came together to create a wonderful work of art.

But what really made this play strong was its myriad of skilled and truly believable actors and actresses. What a display of savvy tripartite talent from Andrew Kellogg as he sang, played, and acted his way across the stage! And who could resist the clumsy erudition of T. Chase Meacham in his role as the school principal? Let us not forget the brilliant acting of Connor Simpson as Mayor Anton Antonovich, along with stunning performances by Coleman Mahler as the judge, Dan Otterson as the hospital director, Adam O'Connor as the doctor, and Adam Drought as the police chief. Of course, what a joy it was to witness the brilliantly displayed mannerisms and foibles of the landowners Bobchinsky and Dobchinsky in cleverly played roles by Vilardi and Turek, respectively! Junior Michael Zaino delivered a flamboyant yet delightfully captivating performance as "Zee Postermasta." And finally, congratulations to the rest of the actors and actresses who all did a marvelous job and provided multiple nights of true artistic entertainment to the many viewers and newfound fans of *The Government Inspector*.



Left: The corrupt higher-ups read personal mail.

Above: Andrew Kellogg drinks to his stunning performance.

Photos courtesy of Steven Turville.

SC WRESTLING WINS CCL

Alex Tishko '11

The Cardinals won the Central Catholic League Wrestling Tournament for the first time on Saturday, February 21st, with a score of 181 points, beating Bishop Ready's score of 166.5, DeSales' 141, Watterson's 55 and Worthington Christian's 28. Individual Championships in the tournament from St. Charles included Chris Souzzi (125), Dan Latz (135) and Robert DeJaco (152). They were named to the all-CCL team. Second place finishers from St. Charles included Adam Suhr (103), Kevin Colvin (119), John Mackessy (160), Francis Essien (171) and Ryan Sanders (189). Third place winners were, Alex Dang (112), Lloyd Furuta (130) and Andrew Krieger (215).

In the District tournament this past weekend, senior Robert DeJaco placed 5th, qualifying as a State alternate.

SC SWIMMING WINS CCL

Edgar Ochoa '12

St. Charles Preparatory School's natatorium hosted the CCL Championships for Swimming and Diving. Once again, our team proved itself superior.

In the 200 yard Boy's Freestyle, freshman Nick McKinley won with a final time 1:53.34.

The Cardinals really excelled in the 200 meter free relay. Alex Kocher swam his leg in 24.32 seconds, Sam Kocher in 22.00, Jordan Krumpleman in 23.76, and Ben Krumpleman in 23.65.

At the end of the CCL Championships, St. Charles won, with a final score of 437 total points. DeSales took second with 204. Watterson had 194, and Hartley scored 181.

HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED YOUR POLITICAL VOICE, BECAUSE NOW IT'S GONE

Greg Lindsey '11

In the first month of the new decade, the Supreme Court has handed down one of most controversial and polarizing decisions in recent memory. In ruling with Citizens United, the Supreme Court, has ruled that election spending limits are unconstitutional via the First Amendment to the Constitution, which states the Congress shall not make laws "abridging the freedom of speech". This right, while thought by many to apply only to individuals, applies to corporations, unions and advocacy groups on the basis that they are organizations of individuals and thus retain the rights of individuals, according to the majority opinion.

This decision allows unions, advocacy groups, and corporations to spend without limit on advertisements that bury or praise candidates who are involved in races for political office. This benefits corporations the most due to the painfully obvious fact that corporations have much deeper pockets than unions or special interest groups. Even the largest federation of unions in the country, the AFL-CIO, has stated that "the corporate side will always have more to spend than the union side", which shows how lopsided this decision is.

The decision to lump for-profit corporations in with non-profit organizations like unions and special interest and advocacy groups is what makes this decision such an issue. While all of these organizations are groups of people, that is where any similarity ends. Unions and advocacy groups have stated agendas that relate to certain issues, while corporations only have one agenda: to turn a profit. Another difference is that while unions are supposed to be run from the bottom up, in a democratic fashion, with each member voicing his or her opinion of the direction in which the organization should progress and the decisions of which way to go in are known to all members, in a corporation decisions are handled from the top down, direction unknown to the employees of the company, and with little to no input from those employees.

Even though unions and special interests have nobler intentions and more transparency than corporations they still have no right to freedom of speech. The majority opinion of the Court is that because these organizations are made up of individuals, who are guaranteed rights under the Constitution, the organizations have the rights of those individuals. This is contrary to The Bill of Rights, which extends its protections to individuals, not groups. The logic behind this opinion is fundamentally flawed in that it means that the

organizations are more than the sum of their parts. Each member of the organization retains their full rights as an individual. Therefore according to this ruling a group of fifty individuals have the rights of fifty-one because not only does each member retain their individual rights but an additional set of rights is granted to this group. Where does this additional set come from? Simple logic states that something cannot be more than the sum of its parts and yet this decision states the exact opposite.

This huge leap toward full corporate person-hood is an abomination of the First Amendment because it has given a bullhorn to those at the top of the social pyramid that is loud enough to drown out the beleaguered cries of the unrepresented masses at the bottom. This ruling has been summed up by Forbes writer Daniel Fisher in five words: "Money talks, and that's OK." In a democracy that is not OK. "The diffusion of power through local control, thereby encouraging individual participation, is the essence of federalism and the greatest expression of democracy," writes author Lawrence Lessig in his book *Free Culture*. This decision has done more to reverse that diffusion of power away from the many and into the hands of the few than anything seen for generations, and, therefore, has done more to damage the fabric of American democracy in that frame of time.

This ruling will also stand as a landmark in hypocrisy — a conservative court that never ceases to sing the praises of judicial restraint, led by Justice John Roberts who never ceases to deride "judicial activists" for disrespecting legal precedence, what he calls "legislating from the bench." And yet with this latest ruling Justice Roberts and the conservative court have completely overturned one previous ruling and partially overturned countless others with a ruling that overturned twenty-two state laws and a federal law. Roberts said at his confirmation hearings that "Judges are like umpires. Umpires don't make the rules; they apply them." With this ruling, he flies in the face of his own statement with a boldness reserved for a person who is either forgetful or just flat out does not care.

This perversion of the First Amendment has unleashed a veritable deluge of possible extensions and applications that taint the Bill of Rights. This opens the doors for all the freedoms in the Bill of Rights to be applied to corporations. In the future your vote could be counted along with those of Doritos, Ford, and Exxon-Mobil. Is that democracy?

The written views expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" and all editorials are not necessarily the views of *The Carolian* owner, moderator, editor, and staff. Nor are they necessarily the views of St. Charles Preparatory School. All opinion pieces are just that, opinions. Reading and discussing other points of view are an integral part of the education process. The students who have chosen to write their opinions and submit them to *The Carolian* are to be commended for their passion on the issues they discuss.

TXTNG & DRVNG DON'T MIX

Alexander Coccia '10

"Lol." "I didn't know she said that." "Thx bud." Most teens who text regularly can have conversations via text messaging without really looking at what they are typing. This makes it seem acceptable and safe to do so in the car. However, what is the person texting his friend really thinking? "What does he mean by that?" "Should I hang with her tonight?" "I have to remember to get that for him." The person, however, is not thinking, "Is that car merging ahead of me?" "Why is traffic slowing down?" "What is the speed limit?"

Texting is fine. It is efficient. Driving is just as efficient as a mode of transportation. Together, however, they become a precarious combination ready and bound to end in disaster. Perhaps not this time, or the next, or the next. However, it only takes a split second. According to Allstate's Keep the Drive movement, over 4,000 teens die each year from car related accidents. On average, that is eleven a day. That means that if the eleven were St. Charles students, all 650 students of the school would be gone in 59 days. Eleven teens a day may not seem like a lot, but compared to other teen deaths in the United States, more teens are killed in car crashes than by any other form, including alcohol and drug abuse, and violence and suicide.

Whether they admit it or not, many teens have texted while driving — that one time when they thought it was safe, or that one time stopped at the red light. The question for teens to ask themselves is whether or not that one time is worth it. Is texting your friend more important than your life? Are you willing to risk the rest of your life, for something that you could call your friend about in five minutes when you get home?

The answer should always be that safety comes before texting. When driving, teens are not only looking out for their own safety, but also the safety of others. Driving recklessly endangers those driving around you, and the friends that you may be driving. For the men of St. Charles, one of

the most telling pieces of advice given on Keep the Drive's website deals with guys and dates:

A lot of teens drive recklessly to impress their date. You won't get a second date if you're 6 feet under.

Is this piece of advice meant to scare? You bet! But it should not have to. Reason and logic should be enough. It is better to be safe than sorry, alive than dead. A girl's father would not appreciate the fact that her date got her admitted to the hospital because he was trying to impress her. Reckless driving is the same, whether it is because of speeding or texting. Do not do it, and your chances of living through the date increase exponentially.

Texting while driving is certainly tempting. Personally, if I were presented with the option to live or press send, I would be much more tempted (in fact, 100% tempted) to choose life. In reality, each time you get in the car, you are taking a chance. Teens especially are told to seize the day, *carpe diem*. It is extremely important to seize the day, just as long as you are not seizing your phone and the steering wheel at the same time.

The Allstate Keep the Drive movement's goal is to keep teens from driving themselves into the ground (of course pun intended). One of the movement's key suggestions to stop teens from ruining their own and others' lives is to not text or talk on the phone while driving. It is simple enough, many people preach it, but a lot of people do not live it. Men of St. Charles, don't text and drive! Be the example everyone admires for his firm adherence to life. And now a joke in the tradition of Sergeant Tim McCarthy of the Indiana State Police:

Texting and driving is one of the leading causes of traffic accidents. Please make certain that you are not texting while driving. Remember, drivers who text are not funny, but they can still crack you up.



Texting while driving is a lethal combination. Visit keepthedrive.com for more information on ways to stay safe while driving.

Photo courtesy of gizmodo.com.

NICE SPEECH, MR. PRESIDENT

Sam Powell '11

President Obama recently delivered his State of the Union Address before Congress, and there are a lot of mixed feelings about his speech.

The president's address was filled with some reassuring statements, and an effort was made to remind the American people about the greatness of their country. For one thing, President Obama mentioned some of the powerful ideals upon which our country has been built, and it was nice to hear him say that he and his administration are rooted in the Constitution. On the topic of the economy, it felt good to listen to the president say that he cares about small businesses and the deficit. Overall, a subtle sense of comfort was offered to the listeners of the president's speech on topics from the economy to obesity.

The State of the Union Address, however, was just a speech, and it did what a lot of speeches do: it made people feel a little bit better. But quite frankly, now is not the time for feel-good politics. While the president made some claims that were positive and meant to convey a sense of security to the American people, some of these claims were quite misleading.

In one instance, President Obama said that the economy is growing again, and that he believes the worst of the recession is over. What is troubling, however, is the fact that most of the growth seen in our economy is the result of massive government spending. Right now, the economy is on a caffeine high — it has received artificial stimulation. The only reason that there is, at best, an aura of "recovery," is the stimulus money that the federal government has issued out. The American economy should only be diagnosed as "better" when it can grow on its own, without the support of the government. The American economy should not be seen as "recovering" when the government continues spending billions of dollars to support unsuccessful businesses. The American economy should not be said to be "improving" while its greatest threat, the \$1.2 trillion and rising deficit, still looms over our financial future like a large axe.

Furthermore, the president vehemently asserted that members of Congress should work in a bipartisan manner in order to accomplish positive "change" for the American people. But days after his address the president is still heard attacking and criticizing Republicans. And what does President Obama expect? Does he think that Republicans are just going to sacrifice their ideals for the sake of "bipartisan change?" Should anyone that disagrees with him just back down for the sake of getting something done? In that case there is no reason to have political parties. While compromise is an important part of the legislation process, each member of a political party should always hold fast to his or her own philosophical views and ideals.

Overall, the president made a lot of pleasant-sounding claims, saying that he and his administration plan to add two-million jobs to the economy, to fix health care, to stimulate our education system, to add more tax credits to ones already present, and to take care of the country's debt. While these things sure do sound nice on a surface level, the American people will soon discover if this was just an empty speech, or if the president really is going to accomplish all of these wonderful things.

APPLE'S LATEST "MAGICAL" CREATION: THE IPAD

Greg Lindsey '11

Since last September there has been a tempest of rumors surrounding the release of the "Apple tablet." With the January 29 announcement of the iPad these rumors were confirmed. The iPad is Apple's foray into the mobile computing market that has been dominated to this point by netbooks running Windows or Linux-based operating systems. The iPad will cost from \$499 to \$829, placing it at the high end of the mobile computing pricing spectrum.

The iPad runs the same operating system as the iPhone and iPod Touch and will run all of the apps for these devices that are already available in the App Store. iPad owners who already own one of the aforementioned devices will be able to put all the apps they have already purchased onto the iPad without charge.

This device is designed to be a media center in and of itself with connections to iTunes, the App Store, and Apple's most recent addition to their media distribution empire, the iBookstore. All of these stores can be accessed via the iPad's built in Wi-Fi or optional 3G connection, available through AT&T. However the device's nine-inch screen only has a 4:3 aspect ratio, making it incapable of displaying high definition content, which has become increasingly popular over recent years.

Another major roadblock in the iPad's way to its goal is the lack of Flash support on the web browser. Flash is an extremely common web plugin that serves as the basis for many online games and is an integral part of the user interface of many websites. The iPad also lacks the capability to run multiple apps simultaneously, a feature available on almost every major smartphone and a capability of even the most basic Windows-based computers.

Lack of external USB ports is also an issue because it disallows the use of most common computer peripherals. Any peripherals or accessories will have to function through Apple's specially designed thirty pin connector, of which there is only one, meaning that only a single accessory will be able to be used at once.

The iPad has been buried by proponents of open-source computing and praised by Apple fans all over the world. As for every other product in the marketplace the success of the iPad will be determined by the one voice that really matters, that of the consumer. Many (up to this point) loyal Apple customers do not think highly of the iPad, with the main complaints being that "it's just a giant iPod Touch" and "the name is terrible". Pending FCC approval, the iPad will be in stores in late March or early April. Until then we can only speculate as to the success of the device.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS: LEBRON

Will Ryan '10

Throughout his entire career, people have questioned whether LeBron James has lived up to the unreal expectations placed on him when he was only fourteen years old. No high school athlete has ever, or probably ever will, attract as much attention as LeBron did. He was compared to Michael Jordan throughout his career at Akron St Vincent- St. Mary High School, where many of his games were televised nationally. Since then, King James has come a long way. He is now the undisputed best player in basketball.

LeBron enjoyed some success in his first few seasons. He played in the All Star game for the first time in his second season, but many questioned his passing skills, lack of a mid-range game, and poor shot selection. Then, in the 2007 Conference Finals, he exploded. LeBron scored forty-eight points in Game 6 against the Pistons, including twenty-nine of the Cavs' final thirty. Cleveland advanced to the Finals, but was swept by San Antonio.

That Cavaliers team may have been one of the worst teams to ever make the Finals. The other starters were a washed-up Eric Snow, Daniel Gibson (now the Cavs' tenth man), Sasha Pavlovic, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas. Z was the only other legitimate starter on the team. Eric Snow was too old, and his terrible defense gave Tony Parker the Finals MVP.

Last season, for the first time in his career, LeBron James actually had a supporting cast. The Cavs traded for point guard Mo Williams, and he, along with Delonte West, Anderson Varejao, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas gave LeBron his first chance at actually winning a title. He won his first MVP, and the Cavs had the best regular season record in the NBA. Due to matchup problems created by the Magic, Cleveland lost in the Eastern Conference Finals, despite King James' average thirty-nine points per game.

Once again, the Cavaliers made improvements in the offseason. They acquired Shaquille O' Neal, Anthony Parker, Leon Powe (who has been injured all season) and Jamario Moon. Though it was unfortunate to see Z traded, Antawn Jamison is a much better defender. After starting the season slowly, the Cavaliers possess the best record in basketball, mostly due to a deeper bench and an ever improving LeBron James. They have the best chemistry of any team in the league, and it all centers around the Chosen One.

Since an opening night loss to Boston, LeBron has been unstoppable. Every game he makes at least one or two plays that most guys will never make in their careers. He is averaging thirty points, seven rebounds, eight assists, and one block a game. He has led Cleveland to two wins against the Lakers, two against the Suns, three against the Heat, two against the Magic, and two against the Hawks.

In the month of January, LeBron played the best basketball of his life. He averaged thirty-two points, eight boards, and eight assists. He led his team to comeback wins against the Lakers, Heat (twice), and Thunder, all without Mo Williams (and Delonte for Miami and Oklahoma City). Against the Heat and the Thunder, he won the games with huge defensive stops against Dewayne Wade and Kevin Durant. LeBron's combination of size, speed, strength and athleticism has never been seen before.

LeBron is unstoppable on offense, unless he is shooting too many threes; he only shoots 36% from behind the arc. He has incredible court vision, and his passing skills are phenomenal. With Mo and Delonte injured, LeBron has taken his passing to a new level.

He is one of the fastest players in the league, and, at 6'8"- 260 lbs., he is clearly the best player on the fast break, and his thunderous dunks can work the Q into a frenzy and turn opposing crowds into witnesses. The great prophet, Charles Barkley, said, "LeBron James is the best player in the world to me and anyone else who knows anything about basketball."

Defensively, LeBron is always improving. His hands are quick, and he averages about 3.6 steals a game. He can out jump anyone, and his ability to stay in the air makes him a tremendous threat to block shots. No opponent is ever safe to shoot a layup, LeBron may be behind him, ready to pin his shot on the backboard or send it flying into the third row. LeBron has been named to two All Defensive teams in his career.

The King is easily one of the NBA's five best teammates. He makes the players around him better. Just ask JJ Hickson, Mo Williams, Delonte West, and Anderson Varejao. He appreciates the guys with whom he plays as much as they appreciate him. LeBron relaxes his teammates, and they play well with their "have-fun" attitude. No team can top the Cavs' pregame introductions. As fireworks shoot from the scoreboard and Jay-Z's *Blueprint 2* blasts from the speakers, LeBron can be found completing a sweet pregame handshake with every other Cavalier.

Many believe that LeBron is leaving Cleveland after this season. They say that the clause in his Nike contract, which would pay him at least \$30 million more if he went to New York or Los Angeles, will cause him to sign elsewhere. However, this clause is a myth. LeBron is having too much fun playing near his hometown with teammates who adore him to walk away from the Cavaliers. LeBron James has the potential to win as many rings as Michael Jordan, and he can do it in Cleveland.

TEACHER TRIVIA

1. Which teacher's favorite movie is *The Sound of Music*?
2. Which teacher's favorite material gift is a St. Charles Varsity letter?
3. Which teacher's favorite meat is tuna fish?
4. Which teacher's favorite movie is *Caddy Shack*?
5. Which teacher's super power would be to be fully rested with five hours of sleep?

Cameron Murphy '11

Enjoy the fourth installment of "Teacher Trivia."

(Answers)

1. Mrs. Haas 2. Dr. Vandermeer
3. Mr. Gibbons 4. Mr. Schrein 5. Mr. Callahan

THE PINNACLE OF GAGA

Alexander Coccia '10

French philosopher and writer Voltaire wrote, "Poetry is the music of the soul." Just as poetry is the music of the soul, music is poetry of the heart and mind. While the new age of music, including hip hop and rap, has been under much criticism for no longer producing songs of substance and only producing songs with either meaningless or indecipherable lyrics, the one and only Lady Gaga has pulled hip hop from the nadir of its existence and has propped it up to be the pinnacle of poetry as music. Lady Gaga, with the help of Beyoncé, has created a masterpiece by the title of "Telephone." The lyrics not only tell a story, but they also make an already captivated audience think. The strength of "Telephone" lies in its relatability to the common man. "Telephone" deals with a conflict evident in current American culture and that which is underappreciated: the dilemma of whether to answer the ringing phone, or continue to dance. This is a problem many young adults face in addition to many other societal pressures. A study funded by Lady Gaga during the preliminary research for the song shows that 85% of American young adults ages 18-27 have at one point in time been presented with the choice to either answer the phone



Lady Gaga's album nominated for fifteen combined MTV and CNN Music Awards.

Photo courtesy of
hitmusicacademy.wordpress.com.

or keep dancing to their favorite song. While Lady Gaga's music might appeal to teens younger than 18, those fans cannot appreciate the complexities of her story until they are presented with the identical situation. As stated before, the lyrics make the audience think. For example, in the song, Lady Gaga yells at someone who is not present that she is not going to answer the phone, that she is "sick and tired of [her] phone r-ringing," and that she will not talk to whomever is calling because she is dancing. An observant audience would ask, "Lady Gaga, why don't you just turn the phone on silent?" On the surface,

this seems like a valid argument. However, the complexities and artistry in the song illustrate a deeper conflict. After careful examination of the text, one can see that Lady Gaga's message is a metaphor for a woman in a relationship who is torn between being somewhat independent and fostering a relationship with her boyfriend. Lady Gaga does not turn the phone on silent, because, although the sound begins to annoy her and distract her from dancing, she takes solace in knowing that her boyfriend cares enough about her to keep calling like a stalker. Flipping on the radio, the average listener would not be aware of the intricacies in her lyrics. But the poet in Lady Gaga speaks, so much so that she is being considered for the award of Savior of Modern Music, and she did not even have to call in favors (because she didn't want to use the phone because she was dancing). "Telephone" is truly one-of-a-kind, and Lady Gaga is its creator. The song itself is flawless, except for one line: "I left my... heart on the dance floor." Lady Gaga did not leave her heart on the dance floor, because she poured her entire heart into this song, one that captures the essence of music as a poetic masterpiece.

THE ETERNAL QUEST VANQUISHED

Andy Hof '11

Until very recently, the eternal quest of myself and fellow student Gregory Hannum Lindsey was to appear on the game show Jeopardy in the Teen Tournament. After many careful viewings, we realized that the teen version of everyone's favorite quiz show is essentially a piece of cake. The question makers decided that only prodigy teens with no social life would make it to Teen Jeopardy, so they made several categories about very easy things for anyone with a life. We each estimated that if we got into Teen Jeopardy we would make at least 50,000 dollars. However, after failing to make it past the random selection round in our sophomore year after a rigorous online quiz that's hardest question was, "What is the name of the main female character in Twilight?" we decided junior year

would be our time to shine. Greg joined In-The-Know and was proudly demonstrating his piles of knowledge in preparation for part deux of the teen test, coming up this February. I myself was watching regular Jeopardy on various occasions, and if I may say so I was dominating. Nearly three months before the test Greg texted me to inform me of the upcoming challenge, a challenge we had talked about since we met. However, very recently, I happened to go to Jeopardy.com to register for the test. I was met with a smiling picture of Alex Trebeck who told me that to compete I had to be born between November 1, 1992, and some random date in 1997. My birthday is in August of 1992, and Greg's is in September. We were appalled by the total injustice Alex did to us. As we would be eighTEEN by the time

of filming, we are officially not teenagers, so we cannot participate in the Teen tournament. We are also not in college, so the college championship is out of the question. Our only hope would be the regular version, where we would be ridiculed by Alex for being much too young. Recently I attended an informational session at Washington University in St. Louis. One of the speakers had a friend who actually won the recent college championship. He won 100,000 dollars, but received a check in the mail for 93,000, because, you know, Alex skims seven grand from the winnings of everyone. This showed my eternal dislike for Alex now that I will never be allowed to participate in the Jeopardy Teen tournament. The eternal quest has been vanquished.

THE BEST ALBUMS OF ALL TIME

Coleman Mahler '10

In a certain newspaper in a certain school (*The Carolian*, in St. Charles), I chanced upon a list. What list, you may ask? Why, only the most important list of all lists, an ALBUM list of course! This list was fascinating to me, for there were many interesting choices, different choices, and choices that would only make sense to pure musical geniuses. I would never question the author's taste and knowledge of the musical world, but the fellow offered me a challenge... "If you think you can make a Top 40 better, do it. I would love to read your list. Lists are amazing." Well, there is no doubt his list astounds in its epic-ness, but I felt the urge to take him one step further. I dared to create the top albums OF ALL TIME!

Those of you recovering from gasps and fainting at the thought of such a daunting task, fear not! For I am an expert at making lists, and no list is too big, even if I have to listen to every album ever made and make a decision on the best ones ever. As a senior I feel inclined to leave my mark on my fellow brethren, so my last hurrah will be the most influential and important article anyone will ever read, ever.

I have elected to only take the top seventeen albums of all time because I know how my brothers work. They are busy studying, and working hard for their grades, so in the essence of time I have shortened the list to seventeen. Now you may ask "Why seventeen?" Well that's a very simple answer: Because it will bother people with OCD. However! Before I reveal the list I must lay down some ground rules...

1. **You must not allow your personal biases to judge this list.** Only my biases are allowed.
2. **Do not let attachments get in your way.** You are obviously not as smart as I am, and no one likes your music. Remember: I am always right.
3. **Don't get angry with this list.** You may make valid arguments, but don't be annoying. It's annoying. Also, if you think you can make a better list, you can't.

THE ULTIMATE ALBUM LIST OF ULTIMATE EPIC-NESS!!!

1. **Playing with Fire: Kevin Federline.** The trial and tribulation of such an influential rapper and national hero is captured beautifully in his only album. He only stopped making music because he knew he could never match the greatest album of all time.
2. **Christmas in the Heart: Bob Dylan.** We are all blessed to have one of God's angels sing for us, and nothing says Christmas like Dylan. After thirty-three albums, he finally got it right with joyous music that he didn't write.
3. **Whenever You Need Somebody: Rick Astley.** Produced "Never Gonna Give You Up," which is arguably the greatest song of all time.
4. **Inspiration: William Hung.** He certainly is an inspiration. After denial from *American Idol*, Hung defied all odds and created a masterwork that shows his genius and how much deserves to have a recording contract.
5. **To the Extreme: Vanilla Ice.** He is a man with great rhymes and a great future.
6. **The Adventures of Ali and His Gang vs. Tooth Decay.** Muhammad Ali was so good at boxing that he got bored with it and made a brilliant piece of art.
7. **The Moment: Kenny G.** Sometimes we would rather hear a squeaky, metal clarinet than singing, and Kenny G always provides.
8. **Shaq-Fu- Da Return: Shaquille O'Neil.** Another athlete too good for his craft created musical and hip hop bliss.
9. **Crazy Frog presents Crazy Hits: Crazy Frog.** Who knew boring pop songs could be revitalized with the voice of a hoppin' amphibian.
10. **In through the Out Door: Led Zeppelin.** The band was never better than when they had completely fallen apart.
11. **Ummagumma: Pink Floyd.** They are so deep. Only smart people can understand their power. Besides, who can think of a better title than that?
12. **My World 2.0: Justin Bieber.** He is friends with Usher, 'Nuff said.
13. **Infinity on High: Fall Out Boy.** When no one seems to understand you, Fall Out Boy does.
14. **CATS: Andrew Lloyd Webber.** Regarded as the greatest musical ever, Webber could certainly combine music and dance to make a serious, thought-provoking drama.
15. **American Idiot: Green Day.** They saved rock n' roll with innovations the genre had never seen before such as power chords, angst-filled lyrics, and songs longer than three minutes. This album truly shows how original and creative the band is.
16. **Rock N Roll Jesus: Kid Rock.** Only a true talent could rip-off two mediocre songs and create a wonderful, down home jamboree about northern Michigan.
17. **Mud Slide Slim: James Taylor.** When you're down, and troubled, and need some loving care... just call out James Taylor's name and he'll be there yes he will. You've got a brilliant album.

T H E C A R O L I A N

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CARDINAL NEWS

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