



The Colonial

Tuesday,
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Issue 5

The Presidential Race...Finally Concluded?

Kurtis Meyers
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, November 26, the American people found out who their 43rd president would be. Finally, George W. Bush, governor of Texas, defeated Vice President Al Gore by the small margin of 537 votes. To no surprise, lawsuits and accusations of conspiracy have been fired from both sides of the party.

But who cares? We were supposed to know who was President on November 7th, but due to faulty voting ballots and premature predictions by the major networks, we didn't know. Apparently, the ballots were confusing. Thousands of people voted for Pat Buchanan when they meant to vote for Al Gore. In Palm Beach, Buchanan received 50% of the votes. This is highly unlikely, considering that the majority of Palm Beach is Jewish. I don't see how the entire state of Florida could find those ballots confusing. I saw a picture of the ballots, and yes, they could be confusing to a five

year old. But if you look at it for more than a glance, you could figure it out. Some say this election shows how messed up our voting system is. I think it reflects the intelligence of the state of Florida.

Ever heard of a Hanging Chad? No, it's not the name



of an adult film star. A chad is the punch-out on the ballot. Sometimes its hanging, not fully punched through, hence the name Hanging Chad.

Some of you out there are thinking, who cares about

Florida. Gore already won the popular vote. Isn't that all that matters? It doesn't matter

ELECTION 2000

when there is a thing called the Electoral College. See, the framers of the Constitution didn't trust the American people to vote for the President. Instead, we vote for a group of really smart political people to vote for us. Each state is given a certain amount of electoral votes based on their population. Whoever wins the popular vote in a state gets the Electoral College votes. This can be a big factor in California, where there are 54 electoral votes, due to the fact that you need 270 votes to win. Acquiring this many votes usually isn't a problem. The popular and electoral votes have only been split three other times in history.

The popular and electoral votes usually match, but this year it was different. Gore won

the popular vote. But it all came down to Florida, which George W. Bush came through with.

I don't know about the rest of the American people, but I am sick of hearing about all of these politicians complaining about legalities and such. It's amazing how one election can



bring so much voter interest only to lose it due to whiny politicians and money-grubbing lawyers who take people to court. Even though the election is over, the whole presidency of George Bush will be shadowed by the fact that half the coun-

try doesn't want him there. I think we should do what David Letterman suggested on his late show a couple of weeks ago. We should just let George run the red states, and Al can have the blue.

2000 Presidential Election Results:

Electoral Votes:

Bush: 246 votes

Gore: 267 votes

Florida Results:

Bush: 2,912,790 votes

Gore: 2,912,253 votes

With Bush winning by only a margin of 537 votes, this presidential election turned out to be one of the closest in U.S. history.

Pictures and text box source:
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/election2000/index.php3>

Clay to College-Are you Preparing?

Charee Holloway
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the deadlines for college applications approach, many seniors are taking the SAT's one last time or shelling out the money for transcripts. For many, all the endless hours of studying throughout their public school career has all been preparation for college. Now comes the task of deciding where they really want to go and what they really want to do. Some students have had a specific career in mind for a long time, while others are still clueless. For the people that have decided, do they have the practical experience to back their choices? For example, some may say, "I want to be a doctor," but have they ever seen a surgery or volunteered in an emergency room? Others may say, "I want to be a lawyer," but have they seen the inside of a courtroom?

Some students want to go to college in other states, simply because they want to leave South Bend behind. Others have hopes of attending a school closer to home. Ivy League schools like Yale and Harvard may be right fit for some. As juniors, the list of potential schools can be a foot long. Every college looks appealing. Then comes the campus visits and tuition costs and by the time you're in your senior year, the list has dwindled.

"Location, size, graduation rates, and the amount of minority students are some of the things I'm looking for in a college," commented Senior Darius Gardner. It's a fact that some students don't give any thought to their future, not that college is right for everyone. There are many al-



Photo by: Jeni Carnicchio

ternatives to attending a university, like attending a vocational school, joining the work force, becoming a part of the military, or, for a small few, doing nothing at all. College has long been the obvious choice for many. One hundred years ago it was rare for women and minority students to obtain a good education. Nowadays, with equal rights for these groups, a booming economy, and more accessible and affordable education, more and more students are finding that they can go to college. However, college is not cheap,

nor has it ever been. Financial aid and scholarships are a large factor in deciding where to go to school.

The application process itself can be mind-numbing--endless questions about what you want out of life, checking off those tiny boxes, writing essays and personal statements, and finding a teacher who will give you a good reference. Parents also face the college dilemma. They are usually the ones who will pay out thousands of dollars for supplies, tuition, and textbooks.

It's only December, but many seniors are already imagining where they will head off to in the fall. "What college to go to," is a question that will remain unanswered until the spring. The months in between now and then are spent biting your nails and

waiting for the acceptance letters to come in the mail. Whatever college a student chooses, he or she should definitely research all possible schools. A school may have an attractive campus but may not offer the academic or athletic opportunities that particular student needs. One college may be an option simply because of a parent's affiliation or the price is right. This holiday season, while little five-year-olds are sending their Christmas lists to the North Pole, many seniors will be sending manila envelopes whose contents could help determine their futures.

The Crier

Reminder:

The Basketball Scratch and Win fundraiser will last until December 22nd. You can contact Mr. Huppenthal or Mr. Kern for more information.

Music, Music!

The Holiday Pops District Orchestra Concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium on December 14th.

Remember!

The Freshman Program will be held during seminar from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. on December 5th.

Hurray!

There will be a half day on December 7th. Students will be dismissed at 10:45 a.m.

Hear ye, Hear ye!

The Colonial will be selling Greeting Grams



from December 6th-14th during all lunch hours. If you want to wish your friends Happy Holidays, this is your chance. They're only \$1.00, so don't forget to get yours soon!

Mmmm!

The Girls' Track Candy Sale will be held from December 7th until December 18th.

Listen Up!

You can order Balfour rings during all lunch hours in the cafe with Mr. Bell on December 13th.

F.Y.I.

The registration deadline for the January 20th SAT-II is December 15th.

Holiday Greetings We Sing to You...

The Choral Holiday Assembly will be held in the auditorium during seminar on December 19th. The Choral Holiday Concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. that night in the auditorium. Contact Mrs. Nantkes for more information.

In loving memory of Yolanda Marie Sanders

Yolanda Sanders was born March 31, 1981 and passed away November 25, 2000. She was 19 years old.

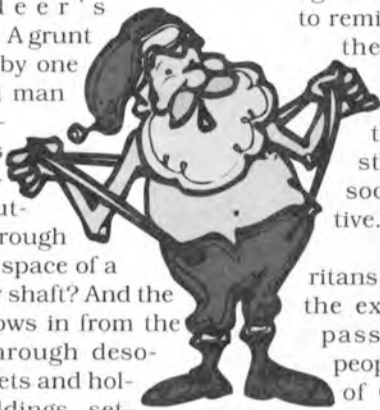


Unlike most of the past 50 years, we have the opportunity to enter a new age with open minds and little resistance.

SANTA? THE PAST, THE PRESENT, OUR FUTURE

Kyle Burkett
COPY EDITOR

Do you remember? - Lying in bed on Christmas Eve, a feeling like static energy pulsating through your body; they call it anticipation. I remember the darkness; I remember every noise and every movement taken in by sensitive ears in the middle of the night. My tiny body lay shivering, covered in blankets, dreaming of what the morning would bring. *What was that?* The scratch of a reindeer's hooves? A grunt uttered by one jolly red man squeezing his enormous buttocks through the tiny space of a chimney shaft? And the wind blows in from the west, through desolate streets and hollow buildings, settling on the golden dawn of Christmas morning.



In 1997, an artist by the name of Robert Cenedella envisioned Santa Claus in a different light; he depicted Santa dangling like Jesus from the thick wooden beam of a crucifix. Cenedella was attempting to show how Santa Claus has replaced Jesus as an idol for the holidays. Mrs. K Stevenson, Art Instructor at CHS, feels that Cenedella is simply doing his job as an artist. "He shows in this painting the conflated image of Santa and a religious icon to remind us that we have lost the true meaning of the holiday," said Stevenson. She feels that, "An artist's job is to step back and reflect to society a bigger perspective."

In the 1600's, the Puritans took Cenedella's idea to the extreme. They actually passed laws forbidding people to celebrate any form of Christmas. Men and women were not able to light candles, sing carols, or exchange gifts around the holiday

season. The Puritans held the belief that these holiday icons were actually false idols, and a threat to Christianity.

In this century, people are less concerned with figures such as St. Nicholas and Santa Claus being false idols and more concerned about the commercialism associated with the holiday season. "I don't feel that Santa Claus has replaced Jesus, I feel that the love of material possessions has replaced him," says Senior Amanda Fack.

She continues to say: "I find the image of Santa Claus vulgar, or almost obscene in a childish way- he's almost mocking the lavish and beautiful Buddha in a stupid American way. Buddha represents happiness in poverty."

The Santa Claus we know today, the fat, jolly red man, is actually the composite of traditional holiday figures from all of history. To some, Christmas is a celebration of the day Jesus was born. Santa Claus, in Catholicism, takes the

form of Saint Nicholas, the former Bishop of Myra in Lycia (now Turkey). Unfortunately, there is actually no documented evidence that Saint Nicholas ever existed.

Nonetheless, in the 4th Century, Christians began converting the temples of Pagan gods (Such as the Greek god Poseidon, the Roman god Neptune, and the Teutonic god Hold Nickar) to shrines devoted to St. Nicholas.

The Santa Claus we know stole characteristics from the holiday figures of many different cultures: Joulupu the Yule-time goat from Scandinavia and Befana from Italy are two among many. It is because of the Italian Befana, or "The Grandmother," that we hang

those bright red stockings over our fireplaces. At the beginning of the 19th century the popular belief in most of Europe was that the reincarnation of Jesus, Christkindlein, was traveling

around with a small, dwarf-like creature named Pelznickel, dropping packages through people's windows.

In 1822, the contemporary American image of Santa Claus was made concrete by a poem. A Dentist by the name of Clement Clarke Moore crawled out of the sea of anonymity, and wrote five words that seemed to capture the spirit the season. "T'was the night before Christmas..." And with these words, men and women, sons and daughters, were called to marshmallow beds- seduced into the realm of slumber- to anxiously await the snow-crowned dawn.



Attention Shoppers

Mandi Hooley
STAFF WRITER

Well it's that time of year again. A time to show the ones you love how much you care. It can also be a time to go broke. Searching for the perfect gift for a friend or special someone can also be a stressful time during the holidays.

Stick to these simple little tips I have for you, guaranteed to make your holiday season go much smoother.

10. Dollar Store!!!!
9. Home made gifts-it's the thought that counts
8. Don't be afraid of SALE and CLEARANCE signs
7. Ask your friends to make gift lists with items priced \$10 and Under
6. Start early before the holiday



- rush
5. Chip in with friends to buy gifts for other friends.
4. Bigger isn't better- don't forget about the little stocking stuffers.

3. The Mall- Do Not Go In There!!!
2. Attention all Target Shoppers..... Target is a shopper's heaven
1. When all else fails a gift certificate to their favorite store never gets old.

A few additional tips that didn't quite make the list are.... 11. Walmart is the way to go. 12. Home baked goods- what a treat, and 13. For those of you with high-tech equipment, a burned CD. Study this list, act on this advice, and have a great holiday season.



Drawn By: Erin Lewis

Drive Like I Do

Adam Sheer
STAFF WRITER

Welcome to the no holds barred Clay High School parking lot. Already everybody drives poorly in the parking lot and winter makes it worse. People race across the parking lot and cut through rows of cars. Everyone is excited to be out of school at the end of the day, and they like to show it.

Everybody is in a hurry to get home. They want to be the first one out of the parking lot, or at least, they want to get out before you.

The first day of snow this winter brought with it

many car accidents, not to mention many near misses. Everyone forgets how to drive in the snow. People forget that four wheel drive doesn't help them stop quicker. Almost everyone has slid through a stop sign or off the side of the road.

Driving in the winter is dangerous. Even if you have your car under control other people might not. Extra care should be taken while driving in the winter. Giving yourself extra time to stop and driving slower will help prevent lots of accidents. New tires with good tread give you better traction in the snow. Clearing your win-

dows of snow before driving will give you better visibility and allow you to see what is happening around you. If everyone would drive a little bit more responsibly many cars could be spared.

For those of you that have to travel down Roseland to get to school, we advise extreme caution. There are police officers everywhere pulling over our fellow students in the morning. When we rush to school so that we are not tardy or perhaps because we forgot our name tag again. Remember that your life is more important than a tardy bell or an ID tag!

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## Quiz Bowl 2000: Headed for the Top!

YaVonda Smalls  
NEWS EDITOR

The capital of Afghanistan...the author of *Crime and Punishment*...the circumference of a 12-diameter circle...the derivative of  $4x^2$ ... Although these facts may often appear useless outside of the classroom, they do prove beneficial when you're on the Clay Quiz Bowl team. Many of last year's Junior Varsity team members have returned this year as members of the Varsity team. On the other hand, the Junior Varsity has grown and has gained many new freshmen and sophomores. With a great number of students exhibiting an increasing interest in the Quiz Bowl this year, both the JV and Varsity squads are performing well.

In case you didn't know, Mr. Guy Morrical served as the Quiz Bowl director last year for both the JV and Varsity teams. This year, however, he has been

promoted and, along with Ms. Carol Pajakowski, is the coordinator for the entire St. Joseph Valley Quiz Bowl league. Even so, he says that, deep down, he is still rooting for Clay. Replacing Mr. Morrical this year are two new directors—

Mr. Andrew Kern (head of Varsity) and Mr. Paul Kingston (head of JV).

Both the Varsity and JV teams have a record of 3-1 (at press time). The directors and the students have enjoyed being part of Quiz Bowl and have shared, as well as

accumulated, knowledge during the experience. Mr.

to develop our underclassmen into solid performers." To all

Quiz Bowl members, Mr. Kern suggests, "Don't be afraid of being wrong. These questions are more difficult than *Jeopardy* and a lot of questions on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*. Players also need

performance, he quotes, "It could be better. We lost a lot of good people and I know there are plenty of smart people out there who could be in Quiz Bowl." He went on to say, "I advise the team to stick with Quiz Bowl and to encourage their friends to join because, in the end it will only help them--making their applications look good--and they might learn something they never knew before. After all, it's just a game, isn't it?"

Each Wednesday, everyone is encouraged to come on out and support the team as it undertakes each of its matches. Provided that the team establishes high goals and works hard to achieve them, it will be as productive and invincible this year as they were last year. "We just need to remain focused on our long-term goals," said Mr. Kern. Mr. Kingston concludes, "Keep learning and soaking up everything!"



Photo taken by Jen I Carmichael

Kingston quoted, "It has been a blast! The students really get into it and have fun as well." Mr. Kern added, "My goals for the Quiz Bowl team this year include beating Penn and St. Joe, and winning a State championship. We also want

to anticipate questions and ring in early when they know the direction of the question."

Sophomore and Junior Varsity team member Kartikeya Bhati says that he has been a member of the Quiz Bowl for two years. Concerning the team's

## Fine Arts; Express Yourself

Sarah Lauer  
STAFF WRITER

Fine Arts are a way of expressing yourself. A non-verbal way to show the real you. To be creative and show your inner emotions. Fine Arts can be a way of life. An everyday practice for some. For others, they don't know the meaning of the word. How sad is it to live in the smartest, richest country and still have those people who only care about material possessions and the thoughts of other people? There are so



many possibilities to reach out and have fun in lots of ways. Sing, dance, act, draw, paint, plays and instrument or make a sculpture! There is a

plethora of views in the Fine Arts. All of these are possible here at Clay.

Participating in these activities can be fun and even help you in a time of distress!

Do you ever have a stress filled day? Of course you do. It's a fact that when you dance you can relieve the stress and forget about you

current problem for a while. It's better than punching a wall and breaking your hand, right? Even if the problem has to do with drugs, alcohol, the fam, or anything at all, this WILL help you! Get involved! Another plus, this gets you out of the house and out of your parent's hair. That has to be a positive thing. Explore your choices and get into the arts. It's a great experience. DON'T let it pass you by! Some of the great choices are Swing Choir, Concert Choir, Mixed Chorus, Band, Orchestra, or an art class. Plays and musicals are also a big part of this school as well. On December 3rd the Swing and Concert Choirs performed in the annual holiday concert with the South Bend Sympony. It was definitely an event to remember.

## Balancing Time

Jamica Womack  
STAFF WRITER

Many high school students go to school and hold down jobs. Some students say that working while in school is difficult, others say it's very easy. Everyone has their own opinion, but mostly students don't mind working because they like the job they have or because it's something to do and a way to earn money. If students had to choose between school and work, even though work might be more fun, most students say they would rather go to school to get ready for the future. When it comes to working and going to school, no one has the same opinion. Sophomore Nicole Troyer, says that she

started working at the age of fourteen. When asked the advantages and the disadvantages of working and going to school she said, "The advantages are not having chores at home, and I can't think of any disadvantages." What does she think about high school workers overall? Nicole went on to say, Working while in high school is good, because it teaches students responsibility and also how to manage their time." Junior Tina Wilson started working when she was sixteen because she wanted something to do, "Working doesn't interfere with school; you just have to know how to balance your time." It takes skills to do both work and go to school. Anyone without a job should

get one." Latoya Witt, a sophomore, is about to start her first job. She has no experience in balancing school and work, I feel that going to school and working won't be a problem because I can get my homework done in seminar. I think five hours a day would be a reasonable work load."

Overall the majority of students who are working are glad they have jobs. The benefits include earning money, keeping busy, learning responsibility and testing your limits. However, getting a job can interfere with school and sometimes you can't handle both. If you are thinking of getting a job, grades and school come first because they determine your future.

## Will of the People... Right?

Shahaab Uddin  
STAFF WRITER

In one of the most historic and closest election in our history our election process has been called into question. Any person would think in a Democratic system like ours, a person with the most votes would win the election. The question comes up does your vote really count? The answer is yes and no.

The Electoral College came into existence so candidates wouldn't just visit big cities to get all the votes; they would have to spread out and campaign all over the country. Is that necessarily true? The main place that presidential candidates campaign are in the battleground states, such as Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Michigan and Florida. These states do not traditionally favor one party over another. Indiana for instance

hasn't gone Democratic since 1964. It would be a waste of time for Republican or Democratic candidates to visit here. Suppose someone voted for a Democrat candidate for president in Indiana. It wouldn't help unless your vote is thrown into a popular vote. This would be the same case if you voted for a Republican in a state that usually went Democratic. In this case your vote doesn't carry much

weight. If you lived in Florida, which determined the election, you would have received many visits from Al Gore and George W. Bush. In the end, Bush won Florida by only 537 vote. In this case your vote does count.

Another problem is if a candidate wins a slim majority in California and grabs its 54 electoral votes, he or she is one-fifth of the way to the 270 electoral votes needed to capture the presidency. If you don't get a lot of states it doesn't matter. As long as you get the right combination of big states you can win

without carrying a lot of states. With problems such as ballots being not clear, people may not have voted for the candidate of

their choice. All

these recounts that have been done really questions the integrity of this election and calls for a major change in some form to the election system.

For the first time in a long time the person who won the popular vote is not going to win the election. For a country that is a symbol of how a democracy works, this is a big loophole. Yes, if they did have the popular vote system, the candidates would go to the big cities to get more votes, but at least the citizens would have a chance to see the candidates in their home state.



## The Wrestling Team Suplex Their Competition

Megan Walker  
BUSINESS MANAGER

"We're gonna be RAW!" said Senior Ben Carrier about this year's wrestling team. The wrestling team is confident and is ready to work hard to repeat as Sectional champions.

Many members of this year's team are young and inexperienced. However, many of the unskilled wrestlers are stepping in where

they are needed and, much to the surprise of the fans, end up winning their matches.

"We're a very good team overall, with not really one weak point," said Senior Ryan Riesenberg. The feeling of the team, as a whole, is positive. Everyone believes that the team can be even better and achieve more than last season. Coach Al Hartman said,

"The potential of this team is very good. It's reaching that potential that may be a challenge."

Sophomore Kevin Hartman commented on the team's ability. "Our strength

is 119 [weight class] a definite six points every time." "The younger wrestlers are also 'eager to learn,'" said Coach Bill

Baldwin. The team is very well balanced and the upper and lower weights are both solid.

The team has a tough schedule, but the one meet the team agrees will be the toughest will be against Mishawaka on December 7. Junior Chris Vargo exclaimed, "People need to come and support the team for once! We need fans!"



From left to right: Seniors R. Riensenberg, P. Kelly, B. Carrier, T. Bonds, and D. Elliott.

## We're Quicker, We're Prettier, and We're So Much Better!

Mike Brzezinski  
STAFF WRITER

Title by Shaun Palus  
SPORTS EDITOR

As always, when winter comes around, so does Girls' basketball. The Girls' basketball team is returning this year hoping to surpass last years accomplishments. They have many strong players returning including seniors Aretha Hill and Altarea Hall, along with co-captains Erin Downey and Jessica Aldridge. The team is under the leadership and direction of Coach Diane Robertson. This will be Coach Robertson's eighth season as the head coach of the Girls' basketball team.

With practices every day after school and games during the week and on weekends, the team shows dedication and pride in all that they do. "The team works hard but we have fun" claims senior co-captain Erin Downey. "We are a young, but competitive team," senior co-captain Jessica Aldridge. Being a young team may prove to be tough but under the leadership of the senior players the team will be a reckoning force in the NIC. "We are a strong team that will be at the top of the NIC," says Erin Downey.

With the season just starting the Girls' basketball team has already begun to show their ability and talent. Not only are they trying to defend their Sectional title from last year, but

they also hope to gain the Regional title as well. This year's season promises to be a good season for the Girls' basketball team and all that support them.



Senior Co-Captain  
Erin Downey



Senior Altarea Hall



Senior Co-Captain  
Jessica Aldridge



Senior Aretha Hill

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Shaun Palus  
SPORTS EDITOR

### Featured Athletes

## Katie Zientara and Mike Stefaniuk Cross-Country and Track

**Nickname(s):** Katie: Big KZ.

Mike: I don't think that I have any.

**Who do you look up to:** Katie: My mom.

Mike: Steve Prefontaine.

**Why do you run:** Katie: For the natural high. After completing a race, you feel as if you could conquer any challenge.

Mike: It brings the best out of you.

**Pre-game meal:** Katie: Tons of pasta.

Mike: Vanilla crisp Powerbar.

**Favorite band or singer:** Katie: Guster.

Mike: Beastie Boys.

**Favorite restaurant:** Katie: LaSalle Grill (even though I've only been there only once).

Mike: Wings.

**Favorite teacher(s):** Katie: Mr. Kasper.

Mike: Mr. Grenhert and Mr. Morrical.

**Favorite class:** Katie: Swing Choir.

Mike: IOL.



**Who would you want to be stuck on a deserted island:** Katie: A handsome Italian.

Mike: Laura.

**What college do you plan on attending:** Katie: St. Mary's or IU Bloomington.

Mike: Undecided.

**Favorite movie(s):** Katie: *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

Mike: *Without Limits* and *The Saint*.

**Coach Kov or Coach Bob:** Katie: Kov! Sorry Coach Bob.

Mike: Kov.

**Favorite thing to do in your free time:** Katie: Sleep or go out with friends.

Mike: Hanging out with the crazy cross team and going over to Laura's house.

**Most memorable moment of your career:** Katie: Advancing to Semi-State both junior and senior year.

Mike: Advancing to Semi-State this year.

**In twenty years, you will be:** Katie: Happy.

Mike: Happily married and hopefully close to retirement.

## The



## Address

**Nandu Ramanan  
and Sandhu Sandusky**

Four score and seven weeks ago, block scheduling was the Bengay® of the education system. Clay High School applied block scheduling as the healer of all problems. We had a president (somewhat), we had a budget surplus, and Evan, Mike, and Shahaab were out on the town making chicks quiver. A fourth of the way through the school year, we don't know who the next president will be, we don't have money, and we don't have connect-the-dots in *The Colonial*. One thing we do have is (!) block scheduling. So when Marco and I visited Notre Dame and found Superintendent Dr. Joan Raymond, we expected to hear a speech on the virtues of this "IcyHot®".

To our surprise, Dr. Raymond had no use for the

ointment. She commented that block scheduling has not been proven effective yet, and it is very expensive to maintain at all our high schools. While she did not directly address a solution, she did add that the jury is still out on block, and that a decision whether to keep it or not will be made at a later date.

The superintendent is a very intelligent, prudent woman. She has very strong views on the direction that our schools should take. She has been thrust into this situation; she did not facilitate it. However, school administrators and the School Board should have addressed the concerns she outlined a long time ago. They had to know that budget problems would arise. They had to know that the type of schedule used makes little difference to students. They had to know that

continuity in scheduling is more important than conformity. Switching schedules again next year, which is a possibility, would be uneconomical. It would give the public the impression that the School Board and the administration are clueless as to the needs of its students.

Our present schedule should be given a full three-year trial period. At the end of this time, an open discussion should coincide with numerical data to help decide a course for the future. We fully agree with Dr. Raymond that the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of block scheduling is still in question. However, now that it's here, let's give it a shot. As the great Hindu medical scientist Forrestani Gumpala once said, "Ointment is as ointment does."

## Crafton's View

**Andy Crafton  
STAFF WRITER**

The subject of this week's *Crafton's View* was conceived over Thanksgiving break.

I was taking a rest from eating turkey, looking for something to watch on TV, when I happened to come across some talk show. The hosts were discussing the ways college students use the Internet to sell essays and book summaries to each other illegally.

What struck me as funny is the fact that most of the students who were buying this stuff went to schools like Harvard and Yale. The ones actually doing the work and selling it went to little state schools that have names like Northern Central East Michigan State Community Technical College. It obviously takes a genius to get into an Ivy League school. George W. Bush went to Yale, didn't he? hmmm...

Al Gore is no rocket scientist either. During the debates, one of the big criticisms of the Vice President was that he made up stories about Bush. Everyone exaggerates,

but when either the media or Bush came up with proof that what Gore was saying was untrue, good old Al would fire back by claiming that people misinterpreted what he said. Nobody is going to win voters over by being unreliable, so what intelligent person would say that he can't even get his facts straight on his own unreliable accusations?

I wasn't old enough to vote at the time of the election, but that didn't matter; I wouldn't have voted had anyway. Of the many candidates running for President, only two were given the opportunity to enter the debate. When a person's party affiliation determines whether they are given a chance or not to present themselves, something is wrong. We're taught to stay away from cliques and form our own opinions, so why does this change when we enter the real world? Sorry, but if neither candidate has the backbone to truly form their own beliefs,

then I don't believe he can be a leader.

## Blurred

**Sarah Vice  
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What's the one dessert that spells out the holidays? It is there year after year hoping that this year will be the one that will consume its fruitfulness. Of course it is fruitcake. Otherwise known as the eighth wonder of the world.

To understand fruitcake you need to know where fruitcake originated. The oldest reference to fruitcake dates back to the Roman times when it was full of pomegranate seeds, pine nuts, and raisins mixed into barley mash. You know fruitcake as being somewhat sweet,

## Nuts and Berries

but this all did not happen until the Middle Ages. Italian Crusaders carried the fruitcake to hold them over long periods of travel. Once a man in Alaska survived the bitter and intense cold during a dogsled race on nothing but his mother's fruitcake. Perhaps you are questioning our fascination with the fruitcake. This heavy bread

saturated with nuts and berries has not been as fully recognized as Sarah and I would have hoped after all these years.

The fruitcake has a colorful history. During the Victorian era in Europe fruitcake was highly desired. Ceremonial fruitcake was baked in celebration of the harvest year. For these people it was a symbolic

food. Megan and I came across the legend that Queen Victoria once received a fruitcake for her birthday and put it aside for a year as a sign of restraint, moderation, and good taste. Who would have thought something that was acclaimed with such esteems not too long ago would now be used as a doorstop? In England, unmarried wedding guests traditionally put a slice of dark fruitcake under their pillow for dreams of their future spouse.

We, the American people have overlooked this fruitful joy as nothing more than the casual dessert that loved ones send us

in the mail during the holidays. We hold our jobs as reporters highly on issues such as this to help extend your membrane! Some might think that this topic would be useless, but how can we predict what the next question on *Who Wants To Be a Millionaire* show will be?

From now on we leave you with a final thought to reflect on our highly fascinating topics.

**FINAL THOUGHT:** The next time you think about skipping fruitcake, think about its adoring past, and its creator, your far off relatives.

## Clay's Cuties Not Such Bad Boys Afterall

**Jamila McMorris  
STAFF WRITER**

By now you all know I am the gossip queen. Therefore, I must attend to my loyal subjects and keep them well informed. After many lunch room conversations with ladies from Clay, I realized that many are unaware of Clay's Hot Boys. These are Clay's biggest flirts, players, and heartbreakers. My loyal subjects, I am about to give you glimpse in to the life of a Hot Boy.

These guys are not only super cute, but for the most part intelligent, too. With most of these guys being athletes, they are also well rounded. I also happened to know that these super cute guys are also a part of many clubs here at Clay. These same Hot Boys that girls sigh over in the halls are really decent guys. After sitting down

with these Hot Boys I realized that hot or not they aren't such bad boys. Yes, I do have to admit that with their charming smiles and super cute faces it is very hard to resist them.

These "Hot Boys" take pride in this title. For the most part, the only objection they have to this title is that they do know how to be faithful! They don't like the idea of being hurt by a female; that would be a huge blow to their hearts. But they do try, they are just looking for a good girl to settle with. Yes, I admit that there are a few not so nice guys that are considered Clay's "Hot Boys". I won't name them, but a few aren't exactly as sweet as peaches and cream. After spending time with these single "Hot Boys", I see that they can be very romantic to a point, and that point varied with each one of these "Hot Boys."

I guess that I should let all of

you know what some of our "Hot Boys" had to say. Here it goes...

**Drew Dixon** had this to say: "I am just playing with the cards dealt to me. Basketball skills, smarts, and good looks. Oh and I love my Mom!"

**Jeff Davis** on his "Hot Boy" status: "I use to mess around a lot but now I have settled down with one female."

**Sal Shabazz:** "I like this title, it's me."

**Sylvester Mayes:** "I only give people what they need."

**John Riffle:** "I'm a really nice guy. Try looking past my smile."

**Jason Britton:** "I'm a Hot Boy, only because I can relate to the ladies."

**Landis Rayborn:** "I have a girl right now. So put my Hot Boy status on hold."

**Craig Moore:** "Being bad isn't really bad for me"

**David Franklin:** "Me? I'm a bad

boy? Really? You're joking!"

**Tim Hudnall:** "I'm too sexy."

So there's a word from our sponsors. Moving on... runners' up for this Hot Boy list are as follows, Sean Wilson, Eugene Johnson, Ronald "Chip" Joers, and Derek Mabry. Okay, you know I had to hit the street and ask the ladies how they felt about Hot Boys in general. I promised not to give names but for the most part, girls say every Hot Girl needs a Hot Boy by

her side. For those who aren't exactly clear on Hot Boy or Girl status: sometimes the title isn't just sex appeal or finesse. Sometimes it's the grades, the sports skills, or the smarts. It's all about perspective. In some upcoming issue I will give you the top Good Guys, Good Girls, as well as Hot Girls. So, if you like this article let me know because in the world of writing you hear more bad than good.



Some of the "Hot Boys" pose for the cameras. These guys are not only super cute, but for the most part athletic and intelligent, too. With their charming smiles and super cute faces, it is hard to resist them.