Paul B. Janeczko visits Central

Ann Chung
Cartoonist

Last week, Central had a great honor to meet an award winning poet, Paul B. Janeczko. Janeczko came to Central for the Youth Literature Festival, sponsored by the College of Education and the University of Illinois. Janeczko spoke about his life as a writer, the process of publishing books, and also read to students some of his famous works. The Chronicle students listened attentively to the poet’s words as he gave an impressive presentation on his gift and passion for poetry.

Janeczko’s career as a poet started when his first daughter, Emma was born. He has published about 10 books in one year while being away from his job, a high school English teacher, to spend time with Emma. Since then, Janeczko has written over 50 books.

He spoke about his most famous works such as A Poke in the I, Hey You, Stone Branch in an Empty Park, and World Afire. He also spends about 40 days out of the year to visit schools all around the globe, such as Spain and Poland, to teach poetry. He demonstrated two types of poetry which are different from poems that we usually see. “A Poke in the I” is an example of a concrete poem which is a “shaped” poem where shape is the object of the poem. Another is a persona poetry which is a way of writing as if the writer was an object. Janeczko also introduced his latest work, “World Afire.” This was his first attempt to write poems based on an historical event—a circus fire in Hartford, CT, in 1944. Even if it was his first try, he set up a good example of how poems can tell a hidden history.

Janeczko got his inspirations for World Afire from other books, such as Chances of Fire, but he thinks that it’s more important for writers to brainstorm rather than to get a striking inspiration. Many students have asked Janeczko how they can become good writers, and his answer is always the same, “Write, write, and write.” He also emphasized the importance of reading many different types of books and trying different things to become a better writer.

If you want to contact Janeczko, you can check out his official website, http://www.paulbjaneczko.com/ which includes a short description of his books, visits to schools, his background, summer graduate courses, “10 things a lot of people don’t know about me,” and so on.
Update on economic crisis in the U.S.

Will Zech
Asst. News Editor

October 1, 2008, the Senate voted 74 to 25 in favor of a $700 billion bailout package which included tax breaks and a higher limit for insured bank deposits, with an easy coalition of leaders from both parties, including the two presidential candidates lending their support to the unpopular measure. The Senate’s action stood in dramatic contrast to the House’s vote of 228 to 205 to defeat the bailout on Monday, September 29, 2008. The day after the House’s defeat of the bailout, the stock market plunged 778 points, causing both the public and the lawmakers to reassess the necessity of governmental support.

As news of the intent to try to move legislation through the Senate Wednesday, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 485 points to recover more than one half the loss it suffered Monday. The real concern on Wall Street is the credit market and the need to shore up the economy or suffer an unprecedented tightening of credit. The decision for government involvement raises worries on the idea that investment firms could choose riskier ventures expecting government assistance should it fail. Nevertheless lawmakers are reluctant to vote for a bailout bill that will be perceived as one more attempt to take money from the taxpayers’ pocket to pay off unprecedented debt incurred by unregulated investments in the financial sector. The Senate proposal will grant the Treasury Department access to $700 Billion to purchase and ultimately resell distressed securities that are depressing the financial system.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi did not issue a statement on her assessment of the Senate proposal, saying the House would work with the Senate on the issues. In a speech preceding the House vote Speaker Pelosi was critical of certain Republican policies that led to the financial crisis, but she did deliver the affirmative votes from the majority of the Democrats in the House for the bailout. Despite the Democratic support, the Republicans in the House failed to deliver the majority of their votes in support of the House’s bailout. The House vote of 228-205 defeated the measure.

When financial regulators unveiled their plan to insure as much as $2 trillion in money market mutual funds to bar investors from short selling last week, President Bush and lawmakers said it was necessary for a federal takeover of the troubled mortgage assets that are driving banks and security firms into dangerous debt situations. The precise details and potential cost of the takeover have not been fully elucidated, and House Republicans raised concerns about the cost to the taxpayer. In addition, House Democrats voiced objections to risk-taking financiers being preferred over ordinary citizens. President Bush replied to the legislators’ concerns by saying, “This is a pivotal moment for America’s economy. We must act now to protect our nation’s economic health from serious risk. There will be ample opportunities to debate the origins of this problem. Now is the time to solve it.”

The chief architects of the bailout, Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke, indicated that their proposal would constitute the largest government intervention in financial markets since the 1930’s. “We’re talking about hundreds of billions of dollars,” says Paulson. He and Bernanke had phoned many lawmakers to enlist support for the bailout. The legislators with whom they spoke had indicated that the administration and regulators have presented a sobering picture of fragile markets.

With the approaching election on November 4, many conservative Republicans have denounced the failure to adhere to free-market principles. Jeb Hesarling, a Republican Texas Congressman says, “At this point, Congress is being asked to support an uncertain entity, costing an uncertain amount of dollars, for an uncertain duration of time the implications for generations to come require absolute certainty.”

Despite its initial reluctance to pass the measure by the House it was passed by the Senate. The revised bill includes increased Federal Deposit insurance and tax breaks for individuals and businesses.

Sources:
nytimes.com
washingtonpost.com
cnn.com
Raising of driving age opposed

Kathryn Ikenberry
News Editor

We all dreamed of it. We stressed, hoped, and prayed that the day would come when our fifty hours behind the wheel, weeks spent in the classroom, and being sixteen years old would finally pay off. For what? A small, plastic card with our nervously scratched signature and a grinning little face on the surface; a driver’s license.

A driver’s license is essential to teenagers. It is how they get to school, drive to practice, run a quick errand, pick up their friends, and most importantly, establish themselves as an older and wiser individual.

On September 9, 2008, this dream was almost clutched from the hands of every soon-to-be 16 year-old in Illinois. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety declared its support to raise the driving age from 16 to 17 or 18.

Lucky for you 15 year olds, Secretary of State, Jesse White, reaffirmed his opposition to this action. Rather than raise the driving age, his intentions are to work better to prepare young drivers, especially by getting the parents involved. His hopes are to reduce teen accidents and fatal crashes.

To do this, White altered the driving law in January of 2008. These laws include extending the permit period from three to nine months. Curfew for weekdays has changed from 11pm to 10pm and on weekends, from midnight to 11pm. The period for which a driver can hold a maximum of one person in his or her car has doubled from six months to twelve. Also, the penalties for receiving a ticket have become harsher, sometimes resulting in the revoking of the license.

White sees no need to further modify the rules of the road. He says, “This is why my office initiated a new teen driver safety law. The new law better prepares teen drivers by tripling the length of the permit phase, increasing parental involvement, limiting in-car distractions, and strengthening penalties.”

So far, the results of this new law are looking good. After seven months with the new law in effect, the number of teen crash fatalities has declined by 47 percent, or 44 fewer deaths, almost half of what it was in 2007.

To further the progress of the new law, White has created a GDL Parent-Teen Driving Guidebook during their nine-month permit phase. Parents can also view their teen’s driving record for free online. White is really working to get parents more involved.

By giving parents access to these driving records, we are helping them stay even more involved in their teenagers’ driving patterns,” White says. Although Secretary White is happy with the success of the new law, he knows his work is not done yet. White says, “My mission is to make Illinois roads as safe as possible. If we find we can improve upon the new law, we will do so.”

“I was glad to hear the law wasn’t changed,” says junior Lonni Fredrickson. “I don’t think this would be fair for the people who are already in driver’s school and now have to wait two more years to get their license.” Although the new law may be harsh, the ability to drive at 16 has not changed...yet.

Sources: www.cyberdrive
All We Know of Heaven: a great story

Alison Dey  
Asst. Features Editor

Jacquelyn Mitchard’s latest book, All We Know of Heaven, grabs the reader from the very first page. The book tells the story of best friends Bridget Flannery and Maureen O’Malley. Inseparable since the day they meet, Maureen and Bridget even look remarkably similar. With their petite frames, blond hair and green eyes, the girls are often mistaken for each other.

They are living ideal and happy lives, making plans for the future, until one night changes everything. While driving home from cheerleading practice their car collides with a truck. As the mangled and barely recognizable girls are pulled from the car, emergency workers make a horrible mistake. They believe that Maureen has died and that Bridget is the girl they are now working feverishly to save. They have, however, gotten the two mixed up.

Maureen and Bridget’s parents are notified about the accident, and each are given horrifying news about their daughters. Bridget’s mom and dad believe she is in a coma with little hope of recovery, and Maureen’s parents are told that their daughter has died.

In the days following the accident, Bridget’s family keeps a vigil at her bedside, hoping she will recover. Maureen’s family is left to mourn after their daughter and plan her funeral.

One night, against all odds, the girl in a coma wakes up. From the moment she awakens and says her name, doctors slowly begin to realize their mistake.

As they try to sort out what happened, the girls’ family and friends are given the shocking news. The entire community is stunned to learn that the girl they buried is not who they thought she was. Caught between joy that Maureen is alive and grief over Bridget’s death, no one is sure how to react.

The story of the mix up is an instant media sensation and coverage of it is extensive. Bridget’s parents are angry, and feel as though they have been robbed. Maureen’s parents are simply enjoying the incredible gift they have been given. As Maureen begins her long and painful recovery, she must find a way to deal with her grief, guilt and her future while her best friend has no future.

All We Know of Heaven is based on the true story of two girls who were mixed up after a car accident.

Mitchard took that idea and turned it into a riveting story, describing a series of events that quickly became a living nightmare. Her characters’ reactions are believable, and her descriptions are dead on. She manages to turn what could be a confusing story into a clear and concise account of a horrible series of events.

Each part of the story, which is told in alternating points of view, is filled with emotion. Grief, fear, regret, and guilt seep into every part of the story. Most of all the story sends a message of hope.

Readers will cheer for Maureen as she fights to reclaim her life and figure out how to live in a world that will never be the same for her. Her amazing resilience and ability to keep going in the face of adversity make her an admirable character.

All We Know of Heaven is the kind of powerful story that will stay with readers long after they’ve read the last page.
Entertainment
Editors: Robbie Crow  Assistant Editors: Bethany Anderson, Peter Kuppler

Complex films commentate America

Joe Hood
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Recently, directors and writers in Hollywood have adopted a new practice, one that appeals and unites audiences from all walks of life. I am referring to ensemble piece movies, movies like Crash and Babel that have interlocking storylines about people who you would not normally think had anything in common. This offers filmmakers a way to analyze on society and social issues in an extremely entertaining and thought provoking way.

One of the first movies like this was Steven Soderbergh’s Oscar-winning drug epic Traffic. Written by Steven Gaghan, this film looked at drug’s through characters with all different connections to drugs. The traffickers, the users, those hired to stop them, and those hired to investigate them all had representation in the movie, and, when all the story arcs came together, it was pretty powerful.

Because of the complex and intricately woven details, movies like this are not easy to write. Therefore it was no surprise when the next great one came in years later in Paul Haggis’s Crash. The world had been waiting since the Civil Rights movement for a movie that took racism and dissected it down to the individual views of everyone involved. This is exactly what Crash did, and it did it well. Like Traffic before it, Crash took the Oscars by storm.

Since Crash and Traffic, there have been only a few other notable ensemble piece movies. Babel, starring Brad Pitt, was a surprisingly emotional take on this genre.

With the timelines of the separate stories skewed and moved around, it adds a level of confusion and space that really forces the viewer to contemplate what is being said and take it to heart.

Unlike Traffic and Crash, Babel was a movie with a much broader scope, spanning many different countries and continents. For example, one of the storylines is about two American children who travel to Mexico with their mexican nanny, while a simultaneous storyline is about a deaf teenage girl in Tokyo.

A recent twist on this genre is Vantage Point. Instead of using layered storylines to commentate on social issues, Vantage Point used the tactic to throw its viewers for a loop and reveal what really went on during a fictional presidential shooting. This was a good appetizer as America awaits the next great ensemble film and the commentary on society it will bring.

A worse attempt at this genre was Southland Tales by the director of Donnie Darko. It was not a bad film, but it tried to evoke the emotions that Crash and Traffic were able to evoke in audiences.

When I first saw the movie, I was really looking forward to the futuristic setting and intertwining characters I thought this movie would have. Instead, I found out that the “futuristic setting” I was hoping for was L.A. only five years from the present. As for the characters, they were all transparent allusions toward stereotypes of people in America.
Performances at the Assembly Hall

Peter Kuppler  
Asst. Entertainment Editor

I spent the best day of my life at the Assembly Hall watching The Red Hot Chili Peppers perform. The energy at that show was something I had never experienced before. Going to shows is a great thing to do with friends, and not something you want to miss out on. Here are some up and coming shows for you and your friends to enjoy.

The band with the number one album on the Billboard 200 will be performing on Sunday, October 12. That band is Death Cab For Cutie, who got the name of their band from a movie by The Beatles called Magical Mystery Tour. In the movie, there is a song about adolescent angst, performed by the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band. Death Cab For Cutie’s latest album is much more serious, and features a hit titled “I Will Possess Your Heart,” which is about a stalker, and includes a four minute intro. So Many Dynamos will open for Death Cab For Cutie, and tickets are priced at $34.00.

One Republic will be performing at the Assembly Hall on Monday, October 27. Their album, Dreaming Outloud, was released November 20, 2007. It was produced by Greg Wells and engineered by Joe Zook. One Republic seemed to have had good chemistry with Greg Wells because their album sold 1,455,932 copies world wide. The opening act will feature Augustana, and tickets for the show will cost $30.00.

On Halloween, Friday October 31, the biggest religious band around, Third Day, will be performing at the Assembly Hall. The show will have special guests, Needtobreathe and Revive. The estimated ticket prices for the show range from $21.00 to $31.00. Third Day is on The Music Builds Tour with the following bands: Switchfoot, Robert Randolph And The Family Band, and Jars Of Clay. The tour will help the Hollywood Habitat group. This group will use the help they get from The Music Builds Tour to Build houses around the world. On the tour, Third Day plans to perform at The World Trade Center. Third Day’s latest album, Revelation, has something to prove with their past three albums each winning a Grammy award. Released on July 29, this is Third Day’s first studio album in three years. If your passionate about any of these bands, make sure you see their shows this October at the Assembly Hall.

The Assembly Hall does not just feature sports, but every year a diverse group of famous bands come and perform their music.
What is it like in Honduras?

Bethany Anderson  
Asst. Entertainment Editor

Being out of America is about the scariest, most exciting and amazing experience I have ever had. Going to Mexico or China on vacation is one thing but going for a purpose, on a mission, is another. You’re putting yourself far outside your comfort zone and making a huge difference for what you believe in and live for.

This summer I went to San Pedro Sula, Honduras which is in Central America. My dad and I went with thirteen other people from my church. We met together months before we left to plan all the details. During the meetings the people who had gone before shared stories about their experiences. The stories they told made it sound scary. I got pretty nervous. I started becoming scared about malaria, sun poisoning, and tarantulas! But the minute we arrived at the foreign airport I felt a sense of peace. I knew the minute I stepped outside, this was going to be an experience I would remember forever.

Our plane arrived late on June 14 in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. The purpose of our trip was to live and work at an orphanage with 25 children and their house parents and staff. Dago, the founder of the orphanage, met us there in a big old bus. We had to drive for two hours to get to the orphanage in Azacualpa. The drive there was very interesting. In Honduras they have no speed limits and no seatbelts. They also had speed bumbs as big as mountains. It was scary and completely different from America.

Our whole mission team slept in a dorm with five large rooms and two bathrooms. The bathrooms had two toilets that you couldn’t flush toilet paper in and two showers that had only one temperature -- freezing! We had to be careful not to swallow the water in the shower or else we could have gotten very sick. Two times I went into the bathroom stalls and saw cockroaches. There was also a huge toad in the shower. It was the exact opposite of my life in America; I had never experienced not being “spoiled.” It was humbling.

Farm animals roamed freely. The first Sunday we were in church a goat just walked in and wandered around. During the week we were there our team built a chain link fence around the children’s playground so the random cows, chickens, dogs, and goats couldn’t get in. It was very hard work, and we had to stop often so we didn’t get overheated. We had to drink tons of water, and we were constantly refilling our water bottles with purified water. We also visited two schools and two churches. The schools there are so different from the schools here. They had a lot of classrooms all connected in a huge square with a courtyard in the middle. They wore uniforms and school started at eight. They left at lunch time so they could home, eat, and do homework.

After school they came home, changed their clothes, and then ate lunch. After eating homemade tortillas, beans, and rice, they did their many chores. They have to do their homework before they can play. Once they all get their work done they play a hard but fun game of soccer in one hundred degree weather. They all wore long pants and long sleeve shirts, and they ran as hard as they could.

One of the things that affected me the most about this trip was the happiness of the children. They were all orphans and they are very poor; but they are truly happy. Here in America people try to fill that empty place in their heart with stuff. Everybody needs the newest car, cell phone, Ipod, TV -- the list goes on and on. But the people I met in this third world country didn’t seem to need any of that. Many of them live in shacks on the side of the road, but they find their happiness through love, family, simple fun, innocent games, and friendship, and this is what the people of Azacualpa shared with us.

Every time they saw us driving down the road in the back of the pick up truck or bus, they waved and smiled at us. Cars honked at each other all the time just as a little “Hey!” They realize that they cannot find happiness and love through earthly, unimportant things. Seeing this opened my eyes to the real world -- the beautiful side of this earth, and that’s the most important thing to be able to see.

The kids were wonderful and amazing. I made friends with all of them. Every time one of the kids came on my sight, the biggest smile came on my face and theirs, too. We couldn’t understand each other when we talked, but we still had so much fun. Their smiles and laughs were addicting and contagious.

Despite all of the differences and difficulties in the way they lived, the happiness and laughter they shared with us was refreshing and delightful. We all had the best times playing with the kids. They had fabulous, beautiful smiles, and the fun and love we shared with them will stay with me forever.
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Central Maroons love games

Doug Kyrouac
Features Editor

When students finish their work in the computer lab early, they are always searching frantically for that perfect computer game. Everyone searches, and just when he or she finds the game he or she is looking for, the bell rings. Look no more, because here are a few of the top computer games that will keep you enticed for hours.

1. Gold Miner- This ridiculously addicting game has emerged as one of the hottest games on the internet. The point is to lower the claw to pick up pieces of gold. You encounter various maps until you can’t amass enough money to move on to the next level. Chronicle members such as Timmie Johnson, Adam Baker and Mike Lacine can be found playing this game in their free time or once they finish their work. As of now, the farthest anyone has made it from the Chronicle is level 28. You can find this game at http://www.123games.dk/game/other/goldminer/goldminer_eng.htm.

2. Bubble Shooter- Arguably the most popular game at Central, bubble shooter has attracted numerous students away from their work. You have to connect three bubbles of the same color to destroy them. The goal is to destroy all of the bubbles of one color to eliminate it. However, sporadically more bubbles will come down from the top to impede your progress. The game ends when you destroy all of the bubbles or the bubbles come too far down. It is rare to win this game in one class period. If you are interested in playing bubble shooter, simply go to http://www.cybersalt.org/b/bubble-shooter.

3. Text Twist- This game was discovered by former Chronicle member Chris Lovedahl. This is one of the first games played by most new Chronicle members once they complete their articles. On the last day of school, current Editor-in-Chief, Patrick Mazzocco, had the help of the entire Chronicle squad and scored over 120,000 points. He played for the entire class period without losing. This is one of the games that both is alluring and challenging. Points are awarded for each word that you spell out with the given six letters. You have to spell out the six letter word before time runs out. You can find this selection at yahoo.com under the games section.

4. Ant Buster- Another of Armor Games’s instant classics, the objective is to keep the ants from stealing all of your cake. You have eight pieces and you play until the ants steal all of the cake. Johnson says, “Antbuster has busted my brain for hours upon hours. Sometimes I wish I was one of the ants so I could steal a piece of that delicious pie. I would be the fattest ant of them all. If I could play all day, then I would.” This game can be found by going to google.com and searching for antbuster.

5. Two-Minute Football- This game has been known to be a sleeper. You play football with only helmets. You can customize your team name, helmet color, and player abilities. Also, you make unique plays and work your way through the levels to win the playoffs. You can play on college, pro, and all-pro difficulties. You can do all of the things that happen during a football game. The only downside is that you don’t play defense. The target is to score 21 points before two minutes is up. This game is found at http://www.shockwave.com/gamelanding/football2d.jsp.
Awesome pick-up lines to use

Ellen Moe
Asst. Features Editor

Pick-up lines are a fun, interesting way to meet people and start a conversation. They are cute and funny. In addition, they are a fun way to goof around with your friends.

Funny pick-up lines are usually received better than lovey-dovey ones or sleazy ones. You want to get the person to laugh. If you get someone to laugh, you are usually off to a better start than if he/she thinks you are creepy or twisted.

I asked a few people what some of their favorite pick-up lines were and after some serious contemplating, they came up with these:

- Do you do karate? Because your body’s kickin’.
- Are you from Tennessee? Because you’re the only ten I see.
- You must be a great thief. You stole my heart from across the room.
- Will you touch my arm? So I can tell all my friends I’ve been touched by an angel.
- I seem to have lost my number. Can I borrow yours?

To see which pick-up line worked the best, these people did an experiment. They each used their favorite line on five of their friends to see which one was the most popular and funny. The line “I seem to have lost my number. Can I borrow yours?” won by a long shot. People found it cute and clever. An oldie, but a goody.

You can use some of these pick-up lines if it gets boring while you’re hanging out with your friends. It will get everyone to start laughing and they will think you are funny.

Those are just a few of the pick-up lines you can use. Girls, remember you can use pick-up lines too. It is bold and shows confidence. You can find many more on the internet if you just google them. There are a lot of websites with many good pick-up lines. You can also make up your own pick-up lines. As long as it is funny and flattering, it should work.

Former Chronicle members tell all

Julia Bistreanu
Features Editor

Last year when I joined Chronicle, I hardly knew anyone. However, as the year went on, I became part of the wonderful Chronicle family. There were so many fun and exciting people last year, but unfortunately seven of them graduated. Since more than a month has passed, I decided to contact them and give everyone an update on their lives after high school.

What advice do you have for the current seniors?

Caroline Sholem (Brown): Apply to colleges as early as possible so you won’t freak out when senioritis kicks in.

Kelly Kyrouac (Butler): Live it up your senior summer, because every summer after that you’ll be working a lot. And don’t get arrested!

Andrew Newman (Miami): Try to have fun, and try appreciate it as much as you can.

Brandon Smith (Elmhurst): Don’t take it serious at all.

CS: The backrubs, the family, ISHPA and Chronicle breakfast.

KK: The freedom to make your room as mess as you want and to eat and sleep whenever you want. The possibilities are endless.

AN: You can do whatever you want. It’s a lot more fun when you come home.

BS: You don’t have to deal with parents.

What has been the hardest adjustment after leaving?

CS: College is so much more work than high school.

KK: The water in Indianapolis is disgusting!

Chris Lehmann (Central): Figuring out all this homework and time management

CL: Everything about the class, probably more of the relationships we all had. And Miss J and Henry. And not doing anything.

Unfortunately, Taylor Downey and Alexis Johnson were not able to get back to me. It has been great to hear from the old Chronicle members and I am very glad they are having fun in college. Hopefully, they will be back to visit us soon!
Lady Maroons are led by a humble Hobbs

Adam Baker  
Sports Editor

One fall sport that is often overlooked is girls swimming. The Lady Maroons deserve a lot of respect. They are the most underrated and underappreciated team at Central. The lady swimmers have gone undefeated up to this point and are on their way to winning the Big 12 Conference championship for another year.

The Lady Maroons are led by senior captains: **Tatum Stewart, Mary Lockman, Sarah Hlinka, Courtney Lehmann, Jenn VanNess, Rachel Garrick, and Mamie Hobbs.**

Hobbs has recently been winning just about everything she enters. At the Charger Invite, she won both the 50 and 100 yard freestyle races, along with two other relays which she entered. In the 50 free she broke her previous season best with a time of 24.94 seconds, and is looking to improve even more on her sub-25 second time.

The dynamic duo of the Newman sisters, **Emma and Hannah,** is causing double trouble for opposing teams. Last year Emma Newman just missed the State cut in the 100 yard breaststroke by a fraction of a second. This year is a different story though; she has already surpassed the cut this year with her time of 1:08 at the Charger Invite.

Hopefully, the Lady Maroons can continue their success.
As the college football season gets into full swing, a few talented players are separating themselves from the pack. These players are not only putting up astronomical stats and leading their teams to great starts in this young season, but they are also early Heisman Trophy hopefuls. These players are Chase Daniel, Knowshon Moreno, Sam Bradford, Shonn Greene, and David Johnson. These five players are separating themselves from the rest of the country and making opposing defenses look silly.

The early favorite for the Heisman Trophy is definitely Daniel from the University of Missouri. In his first five games of the season, Daniel has thrown 15 touchdown passes, 1,665 passing yards, and has put up a quarterback rating of 196.38, leading his team to four wins. These numbers are outstanding considering the great defenses that Missouri has played. In the first game of the season against Illinois, Daniel completed 26 of 45 passes for 323 yards. He also threw for three touchdowns and rushed for 46 yards. The Tigers trounced the Illini, and Daniel thrust himself into the early Heisman talks.

The SEC has many outstanding players, but one that stands out from the rest is sophomore sensation, Moreno. Moreno is the starting running back for the tenth ranked team in the nation, Georgia. In the first five games of the season, Moreno rushed for 489 yards on 78 attempts. He has also rushed for 10 touchdowns and has not fumbled once. In a game against a very good Arizona State team, Moreno rushed for 149 yards and 2 touchdowns. The Bulldogs won the game with ease and further gained the respect of spectators across the nation. Moreno is a bright young star and is an obvious candidate for the Heisman Trophy.

Another sophomore that is putting up stellar stats is Bradford from the University of Oklahoma. This super accurate quarterback has compiled a quarterback rating of 204.97 in his first five games of the 2008 season. Along with leading Oklahoma to a 5-0 record and the number one national ranking, he has thrown for 1,665 yards and 18 touchdowns, while leading Oklahoma to five wins and the number one national ranking.

In Oklahoma’s blowout win over TCU, Bradford threw for 411 yards and four touchdowns. Bradford is not only in the talks for the Heisman Trophy, but he also has people talking about a national championship for Oklahoma. In order to win this championship, Bradford and Oklahoma will have to endure a tough Big 12 schedule. Their toughest game of the season comes against their biggest rival Texas on October 11.

One of the top rushers in the nation is Greene of Iowa. This Hawkeye running back is one of the nation’s leaders in rushing with 822 yards on the ground so far this season. Along with averaging over 135 rushing yards per game, Greene has rushed for five touchdowns. Greene, who weighs 235 pounds, is very hard for opposing defenses to bring down and is a nightmare for opposing defensive coordinators who have trouble figuring out how to stop him. Greene has led the Hawkeyes to a good start to the season and looks to carry his team to another bowl birth.

The “sleeper” in this year’s Heisman race definitely has to be Johnson of Tulsa. Already this season, Johnson has amassed 1,682 passing yards and 23 passing touchdowns. These numbers are astronomical considering Tulsa has only played four games. He also has the highest quarterback rating in the nation, 214.81. He has a great chance of leading Tulsa to an undefeated season and a BCS bowl. Johnson is a legitimate contender for winning the Heisman Trophy even though he plays in Conference USA which is not a BCS conference.

Although the 2008 college football season is very young, a handful of athletes are putting up unbelievable stats. These players are thrusting themselves into the Heisman race and leading their teams to great starts to the season. Like always, this college football season will be filled with crazy twists and turns that will make you leap for joy or scream in anger. So strap yourselves in and enjoy the show, because anything can happen and anyone can win the Heisman.
Running out of money options

Neil Holding
Opinions Editor

It looks as if we will be able to continue to take hikes at Kickapoo State Park. Illinois State Senate and House votes have appeared to keep open 11 state parks and 14 historical sites at least for now.

However, the problems of public funding are still with us. Legislators simply shifted funds from one set of state funds to another to cover the $14 million in costs to keep the parks and sites open.

Too bad the $14 million is just a drop in the bucket when you consider that the Illinois budget shortfall is $2 billion.

The bottom line is government funding, given limited tax dollars, is not sufficient to fund all the services the public would like.

The shortage of public funding is not only affecting state parks, but also the roads we drive on, the bridges we cross, and many social services upon which many people depend.

As students, a concern for us is the high cost of education. For example, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has gotten very little in the way of budget increase.

Without the budgets increases, the University has had to raise the price of tuition and increase the amount of students who attend.

The new price of tuition has made it harder for kids wanting to continue their education. Instead of paying the $2,982 tuition students paid in 1990, they now are billed for $12,240 tuition and about another $8,000 in housing, food and other expenses, bringing a single year’s costs to over $20,000.

Simply raising tuition was not enough. More and more students are being allowed to attend the university to help with their money problems.

Today’s enrollment is about 42,000. The increase of students has not been accompanied by an increase in faculty. So, you could be paying more and getting less.

But, how do you pay for it in the first place? Last year, the median household income in Illinois was $50,000.

That’s nothing compared to what is borrowed by graduate and professional students.

Their loans range from $27,000 to $114,000. That leads to staggering debt coming out of college.

This pattern of borrowing has extended into every aspect of American life. The current financial crisis could result in fewer loans available at affordable rates for not just housing, but also education. Loans may become too expensive to afford.

Solutions will be hard to find to fund not parks, roads, and schools, and those that may result could be higher taxes or higher fees; or simply fewer parks, roads, and schools.
The danger of household drugs

Erika Rose Johnson
Asst.Opinions Editor

Remember the days when parents would feel uncomfortable with the opportunities teenagers had to retrieve drugs from school? Now it seems so easy to be bad. When there’s a will, there’s a way. Schools have been cracking down on the possibilities for teens to get ahold of drugs. Unfortunately new doors have opened for anyone to satisfy their darkest needs. Tell me, how do you crack down on the availability of harmful substances (drugs) at home?

Addictions, sins, and lust are villains of humanity which are taking over the world. What is there to do in an age so carefree of sin, troubles, and so quick to make bad decisions? My newest concern comes from the cabinets and drawers of an everyday home. It’s upsetting to know that children are their own dealers to themselves at their homes. It’s illegal for a minor to purchase any sort of alcohol or nicotine, as well for anyone to purchase drugs anywhere throughout the cities in which we live. Now it’s come down to the fact that somebody is going to have to pull the plug on Wal-mart, the heaven to all household appliances.

It’s a sad day when we have to worry about children walking to drug stores. It’s a known fact that some of the chemicals in everyday household items can get you high. The simple act of placing certain cleaners, cleansers, and detergents are arousing to the minds of the young adults who inhale them inappropriately, and purposely.

Recently I heard a very sad story about a child experimenting with the pass out game and inhalants. When he had passed out from an overdose, the nozzle he was using went through his nostrils, and pierced through his brain. All because of the unknown dangers of his curiosity.

Day to day in life there will always be risks of fatal accidents, suicides, tragedies etc. In my opinion I don’t believe we should be creating new ways to add to the already high death rate that we have to deal with living in the 21st century. Games are no longer innocent, and children are sometimes more naïve about the damages they’re doing to themselves for that “good feeling.”

My opinion speaks to all and says that it’s simple. Cleaning products, markers and detergents are meant for cleaning, writing, and disinfecting, not for a personal high. If you feel the need to inhale, exhale and walk away from the situation. Drink water or spray a little bit of air freshener to give you that aaah sensation. Just remember that there are better ways to live.

The Chronicle is better than yearbook

Sara Hayden
Asst. Opinions Editor

At the end of each school year some students decide to apply to join the Chronicle, our school newspaper, or the yearbook staff. You may not participate on both staffs at once, due to the fact they are both during sixth hour during the school day. They both have their advantages and are very different. If you enjoy the news and writing, The Chronicle is a perfect choice for you. But if you enjoy coming up with creative ideas, and taking lots of pictures, you make want to look into join the yearbook staff.

If you choose to join yearbook, you will only be working on the staff for the first semester of the school year because it does not continue into second semester. Ms. Teresa Hamilton is the teacher for the yearbook. She is in her third year and enjoys it. While taking yearbook, you take several pictures and learn how to layout a yearbook. Taking yearbook helps with photography and may be helpful in journalism in some cases.

Now, if you choose to join The Chronicle you will be on the staff for both semesters and become part of the Chronicle family. The Chronicle has family bonding nights, a no incest rule, no drama, and is thinking about getting matching sweatshirts. Mrs. Johnson is in charge of the staff. She loves journalism and enjoys sharing her knowledge of it with students who are eager to learn. The Chronicle also informs students and teachers about news within our school and in the world. For pure enjoyment, there is a crossword section!

When the end of the 2008-2009 school year comes, make sure to sign up for The Chronicle class. You will get the advantage of bonding with a fabulous group of students who together form a family and help others stay informed. Also, it is simply just much better.
One thing that I have realized in my teen years is the amount of alcohol consumed at major sporting events. After attending the Missouri-Illini game a few weeks ago, I was truly disgusted and ashamed of my fellow Illini football fans. Roughly an hour into the football game, two grown men started a scuffle in the section next to me. It quickly turned into a drunken fist-fight. There is nothing more annoying than two drunkards starting a stupid fight in the middle of a serious football game, or any game at that. Luckily, the fight was broken up in a few minutes by sober spectators and the two unclassy men were pulled from the stadium.

Fights caused by the distribution of alcohol do not only occur at college football games, but they happen all over the world. After talking to my good friend from England, he informed me that he was afraid to take his own son to the soccer games because of the crazy soccer hooligans. During the soccer match, the rude hooligans would use foul language, drink excessively, and start fights with the fans of the opposing team. Do fans forget about the point of the game while they are throwing punches and breaking beer bottles over each other’s heads? Taking your son or daughter to a soccer match or any sporting event should be an enjoyable and memorable experience, not a time to brawl in the parking lot.

Many would say “just stop selling alcohol at the events,” but the problem with not selling booze at a major sporting event is that most of the game’s income is produced by the massive amount of alcoholic drinks that are sold. If stadiums stop selling alcohol, they would lose money and attendance. Most athletic programs have high budget sponsorships from alcohol companies. Missouri gets $490,000 from Anheuser-Busch a year, Wisconsin gets $450,000 from Miller and Busch, and Colorado receives $392,000 from Coors. Even though some colleges banned the distribution of alcohol at college games, the companies are still allowed to broadcast ads via radio and commercial spots on game day. The money issue is very clear, but what the colleges are doing about the problem is very misleading.

One major university that has a misleading alcohol condition is Michigan State. The rules have been set from zero-tolerance of alcohol at games to allowing the sale of beer and wine until two hours before kick-off. Almost because of low attendance at football games, the University of Kansas has allowed the sale of beer until hours before kick-off. It seems as if colleges will do anything to boost attendance, even if that means bringing back alcohol. Alcohol is not only causing trouble at the stadiums, but also causing problems on campus.

After USA Today asked college kids what was the largest problem on their campus, it was clear that alcohol was leader of the gang. Forty-four percent of students said alcohol abuse was the worst problem at their campus. Also drinking by college students leads to 700,000 assaults and 600,000 injuries a year. Along with assaults and injuries, alcohol leads to 2,000 student deaths.

I thought it would be interesting to see what college athletes had to say about the problem of alcohol sales at collegiate sports. “I think the alcohol policy for sporting events should be left up to each school and its athletic department,” said Tyler Henley, a baseball player at Rice University. “Alcohol at sporting events tends to make fans more rambunctious. This means there needs to be more security in the event of unruly fans. If there is not adequate event staff and security, then alcohol should not be served. Alcohol sales are a great way for schools to create revenue, but it does not come without a price.” I think Henley has a pretty good idea of the alcohol business at colleges: no pain, no gain.