

THE BURROW

The Student Newspaper of Hamilton County Senior High School

Vol. 3, Issue 6

McLeansboro, Illinois

February 2006

Cheney's got a gun!



Vice President, Dick Cheney holding his gun



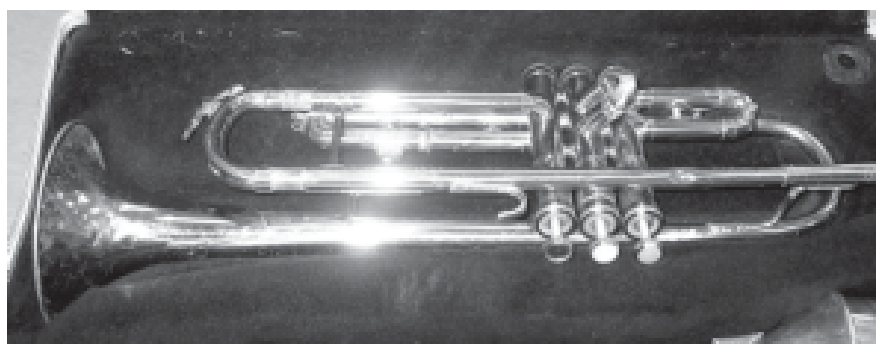
By Stephanie Hart
The Burrow

Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot a hunting companion, Harry Whittington, an attorney, Saturday, February 11, at a ranch in Texas. Witnesses of the accident all claim it was an accident. The ranch is owned by Katharine Armstrong and is located 60 miles southwest of Corpus Christi, Texas. Armstrong reported the accident to a local newspaper the following day. The Armstrongs are an influential family in Texas, and Cheney has hunted at the ranch annually for 15 years.

Whittington was shot in the neck and upper torso, and is healing well. Friends and family are hopeful he will be released within a few days.

The situation has been viewed by the media as a humorous one. David Letterman said, "Good news, ladies and gentlemen, we have finally located weapons of mass destruction: It's Dick Cheney," on the "Late Show" on CBS. Cheney has been the first Vice President to shoot somebody since Aaron Burr fired a lethal shot at Alexander Hamilton in an 1804 duel. The Burr-Hamilton duel was over politics and honor; Cheney missed a quail.

All that jazz



By Aaron Trotter
The Burrow

The Hamilton County Senior High has an organization of some of the most talented students around according to the results of last year's contest, and that organization is the Jazz Band.

"Jazz Band gives me a warm fuzzy feeling inside," said Junior Jennifer Smith, somewhat jokingly. Jennifer plays the flute in Jazz Band, which just adds more color to the already colorful group. With 31 of the best trumpets, trombones, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, and a wonderful rhythm section, the band

can only produce sounds pleasing to the ear.

In addition to their appearance in the spring concert, the Jazz Band will also be playing in their own concert. This is the second Jazz Band concert that the school has hosted.

"The only problem is, when we go to contest, we can only take 25," said Mr. Brock-Jones, referring to the IHSMA rules of contest. "We will have to drop a few people like we did last year."

Regardless of the drop, this year's Jazz Band will be sure to excel at contest, as well as receive a standing ovation from students and parents at the Spring Concert.

Ray Nagin and his chocolate factory



By Stephanie Hart
The Burrow

On January 16th, 2006, in Ray Nagin's Martin Luther King Day Speech, he talked about the rebuilding of New Orleans. Nagin mentioned in his speech, "This city will be a majority African-American city. It's the way God wants it to be." Then, he proceeded to talk of how the city should be a "Chocolate New Orleans" and how "You can't have New Orleans any other way." After being scrunized by the public for his comments, on January 18th, 2006, Nagin apologized. He said, "I'm really sorry that some people took that the way they did, and that was not my intention, I say everybody's welcome."

However, he didn't specify in what context he meant it. Perhaps, he wants President Bush to commission Willy Wonka to rebuild New Orleans. It could



Louisiana Governor, Ray Nagin

prove controversial if Nagin has objections to the orange Oompa Loompas rebuilding the levees with chocolate.

"Public figures should never highlight one race over another for any reason," was Junior, Kent Keifer's, reaction to the comments.

Winter Bash



By Brittney Heil
The Burrow

Clear your schedule on March 10th, because it's time for the Winter Bash. Last year the Interact Club tried something new with the Sadie Hawkins dance. This year they're going to be having the Winter Bash again.

Two years ago there were activities such as basketball, Twister, hula-hoops, and karaoke. They also had refreshments when you needed to take a break. They had music all night you could listen to, or you could get up and dance.

Interact is going to have lots of fun

activities this year also. The Interact Club knows for sure there will be sports again, such as volleyball, basketball, and also have raffles. Various organizations around town and Mt. Vernon may be donating prizes such as gift cards and certificates. The price to get in will be three dollars. President of Interact, Junior, Megan Karcher, says the money from the Winter Bash will be going to the Belize Crippled Children. You can also order T-shirts when time gets closer to the Winter Bash. There are still plans being worked on, but will be ready in time for Winter Bash. "Hopefully everyone can come to raise money for a good cause," Junior, Megan Karcher stated.

**GIT-R-DON'T
EDITORIALS: PAGE 2**

**ADDICTION TO GAMES
FEATURES: PAGE 4**

**MEET THE TEACH
FEATURES: PAGE 4**

**NO KIDS ALLOWED
SPORTS: PAGE 7**

GIT-R-DON'T



By Rhet Vaughan
The Burrow

If I want a headache then maybe I'll throw myself into a wall, but I refuse to pop in a Garth Brooks CD. Why on earth would a person want to torture themselves like that? Call me crazy, but listening to a redneck cry and moan about their troubles is ridiculous. Doesn't anyone else find the twang in all country songs to be incredibly annoying? The only people who listen to this kind of music are what I call "Git-r-Duns." If you think I'm being stereotypical, well that's just fine, because for the most part I am. Now let's see...these so-called country singers are supposed to have talent right? So why do they all sound alike? It's always your basic guitar, (with the annoying twang), drum beat,

and voice.

Unlike country music, rap and rock music has a wide variety of beats and rhythms. And when I say rap I mean real rap, not Lil Jon, Akon, or Fat Joe. I'm talking Eminem, The Game, 2pac, Notorious B.I.G., Dr. Dre, or Eazy-E. All of these artists's music is real. Just because more people around here can relate to country music more than rap or rock, people just automatically fall in line with the Wranglers, cowboy boots, belt buckles, confederate flags, big and loud trucks. Whatever happened to some old time rock and roll? I'm talking about good music like tunes from the 60's through the 90's. That's what America is all about. Rock music is a sweet sound that soothes the soul.

Don't get me wrong there are some good country songs. The only problem is that all of the good country singers are dead. Johnny Cash wasn't bad. He was classic country. Charlie Daniels was the man too. Nowadays, Leann Rimes tries to remake classic songs and ruins them. I sense the start of a trend coming from this. The only way to stop this horrid trend is to outlaw country, bluegrass, or any music of that sort. This could do the world a lot of good. Every time I hear a country song it reminds me of the past. Well, this is 2006 and we need to adapt to new times and just do away with the screeching sounds of the hillbillies. This doesn't make me less of a man or an American by disliking the whole cowboy up outfit. It just means that I am not a closed-minded, redneck, git-r-dun, loud truck driving, boot wearing, sister loving, fiddle playing, cowboy. I'm not saying that there is anything wrong with that, because let's face it the music you listen to reflects your style and character. But that's not how I roll so of course that means I'm not one you will find up town parked comparing the size of my tires or the volume of my exhaust.

No Foreign-Born President



By Katie Kimble
The Burrow

Would you feel comfortable with a foreign president? Since the 1870s, there have been 26 attempts to change what the Constitution says is just. Article 2, Section 1, Clause 5 of the Constitution reads, "No person except a natural born citizen ... shall be eligible to the office of president." By the Constitution's definition, 'natural born' means to be born to American parents. In 2003, a friend of Governor Arnold pushed to make a 28th amendment – one that would let foreigners who live in the United States for a minimum of 20 years eligible for presidential election.

Arguments have been made that refusing to allow a naturalized immigrant to run for president or vice president is un-American. The truth is that it's un-American to have a foreigner run a country that, honestly, isn't his or

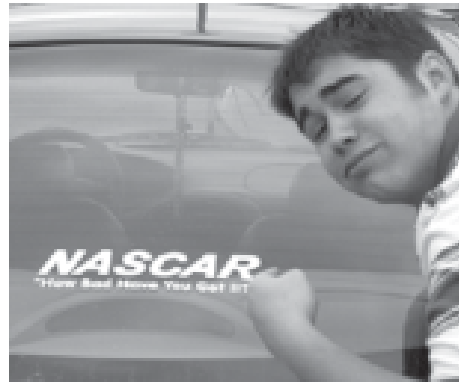
her home country. He or she will always feel connected to the people and places that define them, the culture that makes them different. No matter how long that person has lived in the United States, they are still going to have ties to the country they were born in.

Just take a look at the title 'foreign president.' It's almost an oxymoron. The president is not meant to lead a country he or she was not born in. Our founding fathers weren't being prejudiced when they wrote the Constitution. They were just happened to notice that someone from another country could become President but still have ties to their home country, therefore favoring that country in treaties and possible treason.

In America, we have tons of rights. We can say what we want, live where we want, and pray to whoever we please, but some should-be rights are really privileges. It is not, and should not be, a right to be able to become president if the requirements for the position are not filled. Being eligible for presidency belongs to the Americans who were born here, who belong to the country of their birth. This country has compromised too much in the last few years, but we should not compromise the fact that Americans should be governed by Americans.

In 2003 an ad placed on television in California stated, "You cannot choose the land of your birth; you can choose the land you love." Too often, though, the land of your birth is the one you love the most.

Give Me Country



By Devane Prince
The Burrow

All my life I have been against country music, but now I have to swallow my pride and admit that I like country music. No other music can move me the way country can. Other music has catchy beats and clever lyrics but nothing can reach down inside my soul like country music. Like one night I was out fishing in the dark, and the music began to just explode out of me. It was magical.

Country music is not just music; it is a way of life. You can tell who is a country music listener and who isn't. When you here a loud truck coming down the road you think of a real man's man not some sissy boy in a red sports car. Let's see you hang a cowbell

from that spoiler.

It is a proven fact that people who listen to country are 25% less likely to commit a crime. I'm going to come right out and say it; if you don't listen to country music then you are a thug.

Country music is written on emotion, not on booties and pimps. After September 11 happened there were numerous songs that were written on feelings, for example "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning" was a tearjerker of a song that had everyone crying. Alan Jackson put the emotions of an entire country in a song; let's see Jay-Z do that.

If you had to pick someone to represent the ole red white and blue would you want a real American like Garth Brooks or some traitor like 50 cent. That's right, a traitor, he shot his movie "Get Rich or Die Trying" in Toronto. Last time I checked Toronto was in Canada, not in the greatest country in the world.

I think people around here can relate more to country music than to rap. Seriously, I don't think anyone who has lived their whole life in Hamilton County can relate to gangs and gats. We country boys relate to deer, mud, and lift kits.

I am a real American so I understand your right to listen to what ever you want but next time you pop in a Mike Jones CD ask yourself "Is this what I want to be listening to when Jesus comes back?"

A Change in Presidency



By Amanda McEwen
The Burrow

Today we have a diverse population made up of every element. Instead of a nation descended from generations of free bred liberty, and knowledge of practiced self-government, we have a nation of races sprung from places which have known no liberty at all. Some may call this a diluted stream of alien blood, but I call it America.

The notion that those who have been here awhile opposed to those who have just arrived receives a lot of attraction. We are so far into the history of immigration that the Irish, Italians, Mexicans, Chinese, and whomever else you may like to mention have developed an immigrant amnesia. This, in all actuality, is how it should be. How long must one be an American citizen before actually becoming accepted by society as an American citizen?

We give little credit to those whom are not like ourselves. They work hard jobs for little pay. If those with green cards, those in the process of getting one, and those who are just plain illegal didn't show up for work on a single designated day, we would get a terrible taste of how the nation runs without them. You wouldn't be able to find a hotel with clean sheets for miles, working parents would be without child care, and restaurants would lack busboys.

Americans are hypocrites, we pride ourselves on the immigration from the past in which all our ancestors partook in, but reject much of the immigration in this present time. We despise illegal immigrants, but yet benefit from its underground work culture. They take the jobs with pride that we don't want to do ourselves.

There is one job new arrivals cannot fill and that's the presidency. Only "a natural-born citizen" can hold the position, so states the Constitution. This is due to the mere fact that our Founders' feared some errant Pole or Brit would slither into the highest office and turn us into an addition of Europe again. Those times are long past.

At this day and age, it is becoming harder and harder to persuade young people to enter politics, white men scarcely seem the ideal holder for our polyglot population, and 12 percent of the country's population is from elsewhere.

Of course amending the Constitution is no easy deed and to rest assure that new-minted Americans have the same outlook as the rest of us is difficult. Which is why the whole idea in itself is doomed.

We have forgotten the kids from El Salvador, Pakistan, Mexico, and all over the world, whom are beginning the journey of education in our own United States. Young foreign-born soldiers serving in Iraq will never have the opportunity at presidency if they so wished. Toddlers adopted from China or Russia, never knowing their birthplace in full, but knowing the laws behind the nation in which they grew up in will never be capable, or rather able, to run for president.

Explain to the mother who lifted a listless kid from a crib in Siberia and now has a son who loves football and Fourth of July fireworks, that because her son was born in another country he will never have a chance at the big job. In a country allegedly built on fairness; it's just not fair.

"Maybe one of the very best places to look for the presidents of the future is among the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. After all, as any religious person can tell you, converts often make passionate believers," says writer from Newsweek, Anna Quindlen.

“On fire for God” becomes literal

By Brandon Miller
The Burrow

Recently an unknown individual, or unknown individuals, burned 9 rural Alabama churches with no apparent motive other than hate.

Five of the nine churches were torched on Friday, February 3rd. These burnings took place in Bibb County. Of these Ashby Baptist, Pleasant Sabine, and Rehobeth Baptist were completely destroyed. Antioch Baptist and Old Union Baptist were damaged.

The other four churches were burned on Tuesday, February 7th. These occurred in Greene County, Sumter County and Pickens County. Two of these churches, Galilee Baptist Church and Morning Star Baptist Church, were ruined. The others, Dancy First Baptist Church and Spring Valley Church, were badly damaged.

A state official of Alabama said that although the crimes were committed out of malice, it is unclear as to whether they were



attacking based on race or religion. Yet 4 out of the 9 victimized churches were of a predominantly white congregation, the others were primarily black. All of these churches, however, were Baptist, a protestant denomination. Sophomore, Jennifer Rodgers, stated, “I don’t think they’re racially oriented, I think they are more religiously affiliated because they are all Baptist churches.”

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives have 50 agents assigned to the case. They are making this investigation their top priority.

The heat is on!

By Brian Harland
The Burrow



The thermometer is about to pop. Scientists are going crazy. Studies are currently going on to test the theory of Global Warming. According to these studies the entire northern hemisphere has been sustaining substantial warming periods. A review of the range of records shows that this period is the hottest period in the past millennium. The scientists are analyzing data from several different countries throughout the northern hemisphere. The data retrieved comes from observing the rings in trees to determine the average weather and precipitation in that particular growing season. Wider tree rings equal warmer temperatures. More data was

retrieved from fossils and climate records found in diaries of people dating back almost 750 years. The geographic extent of the warming is more widespread and more pronounced than anything we have seen since the age of the Vikings. The time is coming to put the winter coats in the closet and to put the air conditioners in the windows because scientists believe that this upcoming summer will be one for the record books.

Civil rights leader passes away

By Brittney Heil
& Brandon Miller
The Burrow



Coretta Scott King

Coretta Scott King, the “first lady of civil rights” and wife of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., passed away in her sleep on Tuesday, January 30th.

King, 78, died of respiratory failure, but had been recovering from a serious stroke and a heart attack she suffered last year. Doctors also said she was battling advanced ovarian cancer.

King was born in Heiberger, Perry County, Alabama, on April 27, 1927. She graduated high school as valedictorian and attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. King was studying voice at the New England Conservatory of Music when she met Martin Luther King Jr., a young Baptist minister and theology student working toward a doctorate at Boston University. The couple married on June 18, 1953, 18 months after their first date. Together they had four children.

Together, King and her husband strived to further their dream. She was with him

when he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize 1964, and with him King organized marches and sit-ins at segregated restaurants. “She realized the inequalities, and fought before and after Martin’s time, for equality and justice among races”, says sophomore, Veronica Shelton.

Even after Dr. King was assassinated in 1968, King kept organizing marches and delivering public speeches. The year he was killed she established The King Center. The following year she published a book, “My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.” In succeeding years King became increasingly outspoken against sundry things including groups she accused of promoting violence.

King’s funeral was held on February 7 at the 10,000-seat New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, where Bernice, her youngest child is a minister. Mrs. King has been an inspirational figure around the world. She was very strong in her civil rights movements and was an enormous spiritual leader that many will miss.

PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK

Est. 1909

On the Square
McLeansboro
Phone 643-4303
Fax 643-2292

24-hour Bank by Phone
618-643-7060

Fourteen plants closed...25,000+ jobs lost

By Sara Veatch
The Burrow

It was only one short year ago when GM was having major sales on their vehicles because they were on the verge of going broke. Now, the number two automaker in the nation has made a plan to close fourteen production plants over the course of the next six to twelve years. This will result in almost 30,000 job losses,

which is one quarter of the total number of employees. They are calling their plan “Way Forward”.

The plant nearest Hamilton County is the Hazelwood Assembly Plant near St. Louis, Missouri. Government officials say they will fight to keep the plant open and save the nearly 1,900 jobs that could be lost. This plant has been named one of the top five Ford assembly plants in quality and cost control.

Another worry is that the closing of



Ford plans to close fourteen production plants

these plants may affect people working in other companies to supply parts these plants. Many people are wondering if closing these plants will be enough. Others are thinking that unless Ford can get their sales up, it won’t be.

Meet the teach

By Sara Veatch
The Burrow

As you have walked down the hallways the last month, you may have noticed a new face, but not a student. Mrs. Christina Cockrum, 1997 graduate of McLeansboro High School, is the newest teacher here at Hamilton County Senior High. She is teaching business education. Cockrum received her bachelor's degree at Union University, and her teaching certificate at McKendree University.

Cockrum had many different jobs before being hired here at the high school, such as being a manager at Learner New York, a dental assistant, and a chiropractic assistant. When Cockrum was young she always wanted to go into graphic design, but changed her mind and decided that business education was the right career choice for her. She has lived in many different places such as Tennessee, Springfield, and near Missouri. She now lives in Harrisburg, IL. She tries to come to as many ballgames and other school related events as she can, but, living out of town, that can be difficult sometimes. Cockrum is also an active member of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Cockrum is also the potential coach for the girls' softball team this year. When asked if she was excited about coaching the softball team she said, "Yes, I always wanted



Mrs. Cockrum is the newest staff member at Hamilton County Senior High.

to come back and help with the softball program. I think I have a lot to show and teach the girls."

Cockrum was very active in the athletics program when she was in high school. She played volleyball for 4 years, basketball for 3 years, and softball for 4 years. She also went on to play softball in college.

One thing Cockrum enjoys doing is going to Bob Dylan concerts in St. Louis and then catching a Cardinals' baseball game.

Cockrum's comment about the future was, "I haven't really thought that far ahead yet, but one goal I have for school is to improve my classroom."

When asked if she likes it here so far, she replied, "Well, of course. I was a little nervous at first, but everything is going really well."

Teen Wellness Conferences

By Brittney Heil
The Burrow

On February 17th high school students attended the Teen Wellness Conferences. Each student picked four classes. They were about self-esteem, college, life after high school, drinking, and many other informative classes for students.

One of the sessions during the Teen Wellness Conference, "The Graduate", there were four college students who told about college life. College students Adam Collins, Ashley Blackstone, Nathan Biggerstaff, and Natalie Burke let students open up and ask anything about college. Many questions were asked about grades, dorms, and the real expenses of college.

College Bound was a very informative session that gave many useful tips on applying to colleges. Jason Swann, a representative from Rend Lake College, did not try to persuade you to go to RLC, but just to go to college period. He spoke about the importance of choosing a college for the right reasons. Swann also emphasized the importance to an early start at getting ready for college. You should not wait until your senior year to get serious about finding a school. You should have schools picked out your sophomore year, and narrow down your choices over the rest of your high school career, and

begin applying during your junior year. This session was very informative and helpful. He stayed on his topic very well and made an excellent presentation.

"I Feel Good" was a class taught by Karla Holz from Jefferson County Comprehensive Services about self-esteem. In this class, we talked about what self-esteem is and how a person achieves and keeps it. We did a group discussion on what we were good at and how we viewed our own self-esteem.

"If You Cook It They Will Come," was a session on the consequences of using methamphetamines. The session consisted of an informative power point presentation, and more importantly, a speech from a man who was a former meth addict. Students were reminded of how a drug that can be so easily obtained in our area can have life threatening effects.

The "Pump You Up" class was a session to uncover the true side effects of different types of steroids. The class informed what effects different types of steroids have on both the male and female body. Some steroids have worse side effects than others. Anabolic steroids, for example, leave the most serious side effects, which may cause death at a young age. Other substances, like creatine, do little to enhance your body, but also have serious side effects. Slides were shown to let everyone know, the dangers of steroids.

Inside the Fox Burrow

By Brian Harland
The Burrow



The deadline draws closer as our hands type a little more frantically. The sweat drops begin to fall as the time ticks away. Finally, the moment of truth has come. Although some may think that this sounds like a nightmare, it is actually a typical day in the life of a writer for The Burrow.

The pressure begins with the story ideas. Writers turn into attentive ears waiting to hear word of something that would make a worthwhile story. A list is made of the best prompts we can find and each writer chooses two that they wish to write about. Their mission and sole purpose from that point on is to research, write, edit, and revise. That mission takes us within the familiar walls of the computer lab.

The computer lab serves as a sanctuary if you will. A place to escape from outside disturbances. We work endlessly for what seems like months to please you, the consumer. Never ending hours are spent checking and editing. As the days get marked off the calendar, the time that seemed like months is now flying faster than we could ever possibly imagine and our "masterpieces" are giving last minute touches. The stories then are released from under our

"All Hail Games!"

By Caleb Miller
The Burrow

Drugs, alcohol and nicotine have all been proven as addictive things to the human body, but can something that may seem so lucrative like video games be categorized the same?

Many national media sources believe that video games are very addicting, and can in fact consume a person's entire life. Reuben Logsdon, a software writer from Washington, played Civilization for seven straight years after a college dorm friend gave him the installation disks. In an interview, Logsdon said, "For the first week, I didn't go to sleep. It was worse than being on crank. I'd always get a sinking feeling when I looked out the window and saw it was dawn. I'd get angry at myself for being such a loser because the game was controlling my life." Logsdon finally went cold turkey by smashing the disks.

Senior Brent Reed was questioned on whether he thought being addicted to video games is a reality. Brent said, "I have played a game for 14 hours straight, but that was because I was grounded and couldn't really do anything else. I mean, what else was I supposed to do? Read a book?! All Hail Games!" After laughing hysterically for five

watchful eyes and put in front of the people that give you what you see now.

Mrs. Auten and her computer conquering Layout class piece together the stories into a newspaper style format for a professional looking product. As the writers begin brainstorming for the next issue, the Layout students finish their work. The paper then will make its way back to us once again.

Editing is the only thought running through our head that day, as anxiety builds. Last minute, but well needed, corrections are put into place forcing us to send the not-yet-Burrow to the printing place.

It arrives back home a few days later, sealed in a box, waiting for its pages to be turned and enjoyed. Distribution is always the best part. The feeling of satisfaction is felt when we watch students bump into each other as they walk through the halls with a paper in their hands or getting into trouble for reading it during class. Some may believe that is where our job ends, but in the midst of enjoying our accomplishments, we have already begun writing for the next issue. And so it goes until the dreaded day when we type our last word and put away our pens.

minutes, Brent was asked AGAIN whether he thought a game could be an addiction. Brent then said, "Yes, because I have heard several cases from the media of people who have devoted their entire lives solely to the purpose of video games. If it can get that far, then I would consider that quite an addiction. Sometimes I get the urge to play a video game, but that is only when I am bored. It's just something to do. When I'm sitting at home with absolutely nothing to do with a videogame console in front of me, then it is a given that I will play videogames for a while."

Brent was not alone in his opinion on this matter. Various other students were questioned and most of the time gave similar answers.

Many rehab clinics exist for people with serious addictions to substances, but some believe that same therapy needs to be given to crazed gamers. Books at one time were also considered to be a life consuming addiction, but now enough can't be said about how beneficial reading is for the mind. We may very well see video games placed in that same category in the future.

As far as games being an addiction, that is scientifically unproven, but advancements in graphics and enhanced gameplay is making it harder for gamers to pull themselves away from the controllers.

Freedom Baptist
Youth Group



Sponsors: Chris & Lisa Young
Meets: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Guests Welcome!
400 Isabelle Place, McLeansboro

FEATURES

St. Patrick's Day

By Katie Kimble
The Burrow

March 17th is generally known as the day where forgetting to wear green can ruin your entire day. It actually marks the date of the death of St. Patrick, a saint of Ireland, and contrary to popular belief, he did not banish snakes from Ireland. St. Patrick was a religious leader who was converted to Christianity while in prison after a group of raiders attacked his family's estate. After he escaped, he studied religion for 15 years before returning to Ireland and converting pagans to Christianity. He traveled around Ireland starting churches and schools for over 20 years before his death in 461 AD. Today we celebrate the legacy that he left almost 1500 years later. Sophomore Cameron Frey enjoys the holiday. She said, "I love St. Patrick's Day because it's close to my birthday and I like the color green, and I like leprechauns, too."

The myth that St. Patrick banished all the snakes from Ireland stems from the belief that his sermons were so powerful that one of them ran the snakes into the sea so that they drowned. Some people think that this is just a metaphor for St. Patrick's Christian effect on Ireland. They believe the snakes in the story stood for paganism and that his sermons converted so many people that paganism became obsolete.

The symbol many associate with St. Patrick's Day, or even the Irish in general, is the shamrock. This is because of an Irish tale that tells of how St. Patrick used the shamrock's three leaves to explain the Christian Trinity in his sermons. He explained how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were



three separate beings while still being one. His followers began wearing the shamrock on St. Patrick's Day as a token of remembrance.

Leprechauns aren't even related to St. Patrick, but they come to mind when we think of the Irish. Leprechauns in Irish folklore are Irish fairies who look like small men. According to legend, they are not friendly and live alone, making shoes. If a leprechaun is caught, he can be threatened into telling where his gold is hidden. He is very deceiving, though so whoever catches one must watch it or it will vanish.

St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in American in Boston of 1737. New York currently has the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the world, dating back to 1762 and including 150,000 participants. Other cities paint the road stripes of the parade green, while others such as Chicago have been known to dye entire rivers green in honor of the holiday.

Sophomore Cameron Frey enjoys the holiday. She said, "I love St. Patrick's Day because it's close to my birthday and I like the color green, and I like leprechauns, too."

A pat on the back

By Sara Veatch
The Burrow

Student Council is a very worthwhile organization that is not recognized near enough in our school. The main purpose of the Student Council is to give our student body a voice. If we ever want anything to change with our student body a Student Council member would be a good person to talk to. The current officers for this club are treasurer-Ashley Ayt, secretary-Whitney Stephans, vice-president-Erica Anselment, president-Hannah Simmons, and the sponsor is Mrs. Connie Lueke.

The student council is responsible for putting on the school's homecoming dance each fall. This year the club had an opportunity to organize our homecoming pep rally. "The participation of the student body helped make it a success. Thank you," said president, Hannah Simmons. The club is also

responsible for a Spring Fling or an entertaining assembly for the end of the year. "We want to make our Spring Fling more appealing to teachers, faculty, and students alike," commented Simmons.

The club attends a Student Council Convention each year, to see what other Student Councils in the area are doing, and try to get new ideas to get the student body involved in things. They will be attending this on March 2 in Marion. "Our goal is to learn new and exciting ideas at the conference and demonstrate them at the school functions we are responsible for putting on," said Simmons.

The Student Council intends on raising money for the American Cancer Society and donating it to the cancer walk.

This club does many things for our school. Our student body benefits from all of their hard work. They are all very dedicated and deserve a pat on the back for all that they do.

Student profiles

Autumn Dixon
The Burrow



Moriah Justene Wellen is a freshman here at Hamilton County Sr. High. She is fifteen years old and doesn't drive. If she could have any vehicle she would like to have a short bus. Wellen doesn't have a job but in her free time she likes to sleep and go to town. The kinds of music she likes is, "punk rock and stuff". Wellen's favorite movie is Dazed and Confused. Wellen's dream man would be tan with long curly hair. Her dream vacation would be to go to California.



Joshua Dale Denham is seventeen years old and drives a Dodge Stratus. He would like to drive a Dodge Viper but with working at Dairy Queen it may take some time. Denham has worked at DQ for ten months and doesn't really like his job. When Denham is not at work he enjoys playing computer games, making programs in C++, making small computer games, and learning about Roman history. Denham listens to rock, classic rock, and some heavy metal music. His favorite movie is Gladiator. The perfect vacation for Denham would be, "go to Rome and see what ancient Rome looked like and better understand how they lived".



Veronica Ann Shelton is sixteen years old and drives a Cavalier but would like to drive a Viper. Shelton baby-sits for her neighbors every Monday for three hours. She enjoys her job but her hobbies are drawing, swimming, and being crafty. The music Shelton listens to is country, rap, hip-hop, and "just about anything". Her dream man would be athletic with a cute smile. To go on vacation she would love to spend a month in Italy, a month in England, and visit New York, Hawaii, and the Caribbean Islands.



Siopha Christine Bridwell is seventeen years old and drives a Cavalier but if she could drive anything it would be a Grand Prix. Bridwell does not have a job so instead she talks on the phone, cruises, and sleeps. She listens to rap music, rock music, and a little bit of country. Her dream man is tall, dark, blue eyes, and handsome. Her dream vacation would be to go to the Bahamas.

Seniors fill out your FAFSA!

By Amanda McEwen
The Burrow

While the end of the year is approaching, seniors need to begin filling out their FAFSA, which is for student financial aid.

You may begin filling out your FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Before beginning the process you and your parents will need a pin number which can be retrieved from www.pin.ed.gov if you are planning on filling the form out on the internet. Gathering the documents you will need to finish the form before actually starting it will help immensely. Things needed are: Social Security Number, driver's license, income tax returns, bank statements, and in-

vestment records.

The quickest way to fill out a FAFSA form is on the internet. By doing this you may retrieve specific help for each page of the application, access to worksheets that automatically calculate and enter information for you, and if you are unable to finish your application it can be saved at any time.

You may also go back and change any information at any time and make corrections. If you have any other questions the FAQ is located on the website.



Lasting Impressions

by Design, Inc.


Cynthia Cravens
Owner/Decorating Consultant

- Interior Decorating Services
- Custom Framing
- Sewing
- Upholstering
- Furniture Restoration
- Home Accessories & Gifts

200 South Washington
McLeansboro, IL 62859

Bus. (618) 643-5080
Cell (618) 237-3363

A Lasting Impression

 By Travis Ackley
The Burrow

Most students that attend Hamilton County Senior do so in the hope that they will receive what they need to achieve success and make a lasting impression on those around them in the future. Some students, as with the case of the following three representatives of the class of 06, manage to do so before they ever graduate.

Senior, Cedrick Graham, a three-year starter on the Foxes basketball team, recently eclipsed the 1000-point mark for his career. Such a feat is especially impressive when taking into account the team's trademark "slow

down" offense. Graham is also among the all-time leaders in rebounds, while standing only 6 foot 2' tall. Congratulations on a very successful career, and good luck for the rest of the season Cedrick!

Seniors Abby Rankin and Miranda Hathaway have been lighting up the stat sheets for the Lady Foxes. Their four years of hard work have earned them both rewards this year, as Rankin has become the all-time leader in school history in points and Hathaway has easily surpassed the 1000 point mark. The class of 06 has won over 100 girls' basketball games since their freshman year. Congratulations ladies and good luck living up to that class of 07!

Gentlemen Start Your Engines



 By Devane Prince
The Burrow


The 48th annual Daytona 500 went by this year with the usual debate over fairness. The winner, Jimmie Johnson, was surrounded by controversy after qualifying when his Crew Chief Chad Knaus was suspended for 3 races after getting caught illegally modifying the car. After the race many of the other drivers had suspicions as to how his car got so fast; and many fingers were pointed.

This shadow was cast upon a weekend that should have been a triumph for

the sport. Sunday's Daytona 500 attracted 37.2 million viewers and drew a record 11.3 household rating/23 share, which made the race the most watched Daytona 500 as well as the highest rated NASCAR event in history.

"The numbers prove that the Daytona 500 is the premier motor sports event," Daytona International Speedway President Robin Braig. "The record television ratings along with the record \$18 million purse and \$1.5 million payout to the winner prove the Daytona 500 is America's signature motor sports event."


Pump You Up

 By Caleb Kirsch
The Burrow

The "Pump You Up" class was a session to uncover the true side effects of different types of steroids. The class informed what effects different types of steroids have on both the male and female body. Some steroids have worse

side effects than others. Anabolic steroids, for example, leave the most serious side effects, which may cause death at a young age. Other substances, like creatine, do little to enhance your body, but also have serious side effects. Slides were shown to let everyone know, the dangers of steroids.

NBA All-Staged Game

 By Rhet Vaughan
The Burrow

The most recent NBA all-star game seemed like more of a media stunt, rather than a game. True, the dunk contest and three point shootouts are just crowd pleaser events, but the game is supposed to actually be played seriously. As I watched, I found myself constantly being almost embarrassed for the sport. Players were making careless passes trying to please the fans and make themselves look good.

I am not complaining necessarily, because who doesn't want to see a cool dunk or a fancy pass, but winning should always come first. The West was pulling away with it then they made careless mistakes just to let the east get back in it. I'm not a conspiracist, but the whole time I felt like it was rigged

to where they tried to keep it at least a close game. The fans want to see a good game and in the NBA it is hard to ever catch a game on that is above mediocre.

With football and baseball the fans are automatically interested it seems. Their all-star games can be complete blowouts and fans will still be into it. People don't follow basketball like the do other sports anymore. The NBA players keep getting bigger and better, but the game has changed so much that it hardly feels like its basketball. Baseball was in a slump in the early 90's until the home run races gave the game a huge media boost. Perhaps basketball will find something amusing to fans to save the game.

Rene' Trotter, MS, FNP

Hamilton Memorial Family Clinic
611 S. Marshall Ave.
P.O. Box 429
McLeansboro, IL 62859



Phone: (618) 643-2151

Fax: (618) 643-3018

4R Equipment
Hamilton County

McLeansboro, IL
(618) 643-2124

Carmi, IL
(618) 382-2311

CASE III

THE GOOD



- ✓ The Girls + Boys Basketball playing well this year
- ✓ Spring is almost here

THE BAD



- ✓ The Vice President shoots a lawyer
- ✓ The Groundhog and his bad weather

THE UGLY



- ✓ No days off school after President day until Spring Break
- ✓ Violence in the Middle East



Jerome Bettis Pittsburgh Steelers

The bus runs through the super bowl

Devane Prince
The Burrow

Story book endings do come true. It came in the form of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Jerome Bettis. The Steelers brought home the title with a 21-10 win over the Seattle Seahawks.

"Jerome Bettis won his first title in his last game in front of his home town crowd. It doesn't get much better than that" said sophomore Brody Mitchell.

The Steelers won the Super Bowl in

record breaking fashion. Among the Super Bowl records broken by the Steelers were that Roethlisberger is the youngest quarterback to win a Super Bowl, Randle El's touchdown pass was the first ever done by a wide receiver in a Super Bowl game, and Parker's run was the longest for a touchdown. The Steelers are also the first team to win three playoff games on the road and then win the Super Bowl.

Hines Ward brought home the games MVP award with 5 catches and 123 yards with a touchdown.

"We did it the hard way," Steelers line-

backer James Farrior said. And they made it look easy. That's a tribute to the toughness of this group, which is also the character trait of their coach. This run finally gives Coach Bill Cowher a Super Bowl ring. He can push aside all that talk of not being able to win the big one.

Cowher downplayed that angle.

"I'm not in it for validation," Cowher said after the game. Even so, consider him validated.

"This was a great ending to another crazy NFL season", said sophomore Orry Taylor.

Tribute to the greats

Caleb Kirsch
The Burrow

There isn't much of a better way to pay your respects to the players that revolutionized baseball than on May 15, 2006. Two National League Central Division rivals, not to mention some of baseball's oldest franchises, will meet in a head to head game to tribute the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The Pittsburgh Pirates and Cincinnati Reds will hook up in the 60th annual Hall of Fame game, in Cooperstown, New York. The Hall of Fame game has been played since 1946 to tribute baseball's most prestigious players. It is the only exhibition game during the regular season of baseball, but nerves still run high going into the game. Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said that even though it is an exhibition game, it has a playoff type atmosphere since each team wants to go down in history with a win in the Hall of Fame game.

Another unique aspect of the game that sets the "vintage hall of fame" mood, is that it is being played in the legendary Doubleday Field. Abner Doubleday has been given credit for being the first person to devise a scheme for playing professional baseball. In return the legendary Doubleday Field was established in Abner Doubleday's hometown of Cooperstown, New York.

With such an action packed, high stakes game, there are bound to be people with differences in opinion. Although sophomores Holden Jackson and Ethan French both have the same thoughts on the game. "The Pirates have the best young talent in the game, there is no way they will lose," said French. "When I think of baseball, I think of the Pittsburgh Pirates. In a game that dedicates the founding of baseball, there is no way they will lose," said Jackson in agreement.

With the entire classical baseball heritage piled into one game, it is sure to be an intense rivalry game, between the Cincinnati Reds, and the Pittsburgh Pirates.



Plaque at Doubleday Field

No kids allowed

Caleb Kirsch
The Burrow

Imagine the NBA without superstar players such as Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, and Kevin Garnett. What do all these players have in common? They were all drafted in the NBA straight out of high school. The NBA wouldn't be as exciting or power packed as it is today, without

these players. Starting in the 2006 NBA Draft, we will no longer see young talent coming straight out of high school.

In late 2005, the NBA passed a rule, which changes the minimum age requirement from 18 years old, to 19. It will be impossible for young talents to make the jump from high school to the NBA. This rule not only affects high school players, but over-seas players wishing to enter the NBA draft will also have to be at least 19 years of age.

After players finish high school, they can either attend college, or play overseas until they meet the age requirement, then try to get into the NBA if they are still motivated to do so. There is no rule that says a player can't leave college early to go to the NBA, which is what one high school player plans to do.

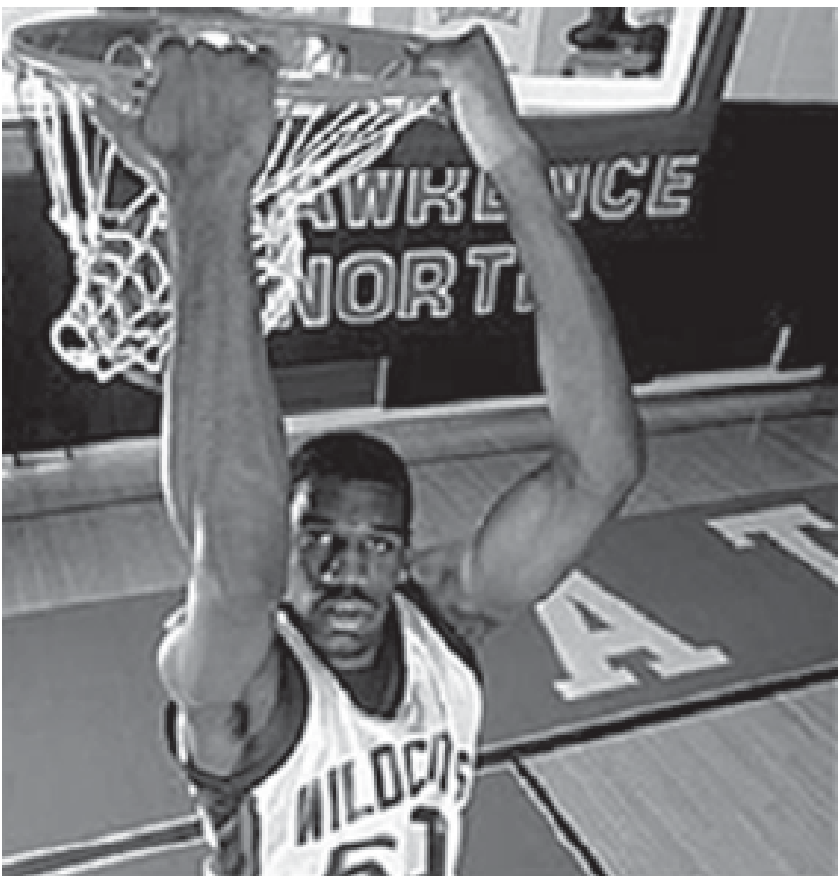
Greg Oden, has already established himself as a well known basketball player, and he is only in high school. Oden was projected to be a high draft pick in the NBA, but with the new rule, he cannot enter. So, he is committed to attending Ohio State University, play basketball for a year, and then enter the NBA.

Even though there are a number of respectable NBA players that entered the draft immediately after high school, NBA officials are convinced that it is not such a good thing. They believe that a teenager should mature as a person and a player before making such a big decision

as skipping college, and going straight to the NBA. Other people argue that high school players are risking injury by not being able to go straight to the NBA, and may never have a chance to play in the NBA.

With all the controversy of the new rule going on, it is a very touchy subject to discuss. Although, sophomores Orry Taylor, and Brody Mitchell aren't afraid to express their opinion on the subject. Taylor disagrees with the rule saying, "Why should athletes waste their time in college if they are only going to stay for a year? They should just let them in the NBA if they are good enough." Mitchell disagrees saying, "I think it is a good rule, high school kids aren't mature enough to make such a big decision."

No matter if people agree or disagree with the new age requirements, we will never again see another Kobe Bryant type player, come straight from high school.



Highschool basketball star Greg Oden

AUTENS PIZZA HOUSE

207 Walker

McLEANSBORO, IL 62859

Phone: 643-3471

Owners: Dick & Lucille Auten

