A proposal has been made recently to the Atlanta City Council that would ban the wearing of saggy pants in public. The proposed amendment to the city’s indecency laws would make it illegal for both men and women to show their underwear in public. The penalty for showing underwear would be a fine in an as yet undetermined amount.

Various other cities throughout the United States have already enacted bans on sagging pants in public. Earlier in the year, the town of Delcambre, Louisiana passed an ordinance that forbids exposing underwear in public. In this particular town, the penalty for disobeying this law would be a fine of up to $500 and a possible jail sentence of up to six months.

Sagging Pants Hit Bottom
By Rebecca

A proposal has been made recently to the Atlanta City Council that would ban the wearing of saggy pants in public. The proposed amendment to the city’s indecency laws would make it illegal for both men and women to show their underwear in public. The penalty for showing underwear would be a fine in an as yet undetermined amount.

Recently, more and more city councils...
October 26th
Teacher Institute Day, No School

October 31st
4pm - Pumpkin Viewing in Dorms
5:30pm - Early Dinner in the Dining Room
6-7pm - Optional Trick or Treating on Harper Street
6:30-8pm - Halloween Dance in the Big Gym,
Sponsored by Student Council and the Parents Association!

November 1, 2, 5-8
Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 12th
Veteran’s Day, No School

November 22nd & 23rd
No School - Happy Thanksgiving!

A Note from the Yellow Door Chronicles Staff:
If you are interested in contributing to our paper please submit your articles, poems or artwork to Michelle P. or Michelle Z.
Your work will be reviewed by the YDC team for our next issue.
New iPods, Worth the Hype?
A Critical Review Of Apple’s Hot New Products
By Ryan

On Wednesday, September 5, Steve Jobs, president of Apple, Inc., announced the release of several new iPod models, and a dramatic drop in the price of the iPhone. If you haven’t already heard of the new Apple releases, this is a perfect time to find out. However, are the new features worth the hype? I’m here to give my advice.

The first announcement was for Apple’s new, revamped iPod nano. Featuring a crisp redesign and the usual five-color selection, it also has one new feature – video. In an interview, Steve Jobs noted that the most popular consumer suggestion was for it to be able to play movies. Therefore, it was added to the iPod nano, with the same amount of bells and whistles as its larger brother, the iPod. The new nanos also feature a 2-inch screen, with the same resolution as the full-size iPod. Any concerns about a bad picture are washed away when the crisp, full-color screen packs in enough detail to make it worthwhile. Priced in at $149 and $199, it’s become the entry-level iPod for Apple fans who want a screen on their media players but don’t have a large enough library to make an 80GB MP3 player worth the purchase.

Now, my first thought is this: is it really worth it? Video on a nano may seem like a cool thing, but the lack of space needed for movies is a major drawback. The two models, which are 4GB and 8GB respectively, are small compared to the size of most movie files, including Apple’s H.264, one of the most compressed video formats on computers today and the only format available on the iTunes store. An hour-and-a-half long movie takes up over a gigabyte of space. On average, you would only be able to fit 4 movies on the 8GB model, which in turn would leave little room for music. A half-hour TV show is about 300MB, which seems more compact but would fill up quickly if you wanted the entire first season of “The Office” to watch on demand. The last idea put forth is music videos, which are about 100MB each. This seems the most reason-
After a smashing season last year, can the Bears live up to all of the hype? The expectation to make it to the Super Bowl once again can be daunting. They had a rough start this season, losing their first game against the San Diego Chargers, 3 to 14. There was a glimpse of hope after winning their next game against the Kansas City Chiefs, 20 to 10. However, they went downhill again in their game against the Dallas Cowboys, losing 10 to 34, and then losing to the Lions 37 to 27. Things aren’t looking so good for our beloved Bears.

This time last season, they were undefeated. It is probably just as disappointing for the players as it is for the fans. The Bears are going to have to step it up a notch if they want to go as far this year. Chicago teams seem to be cursed. The last time that the Cubs won the World Series was in 1908. They made it back in 1945, but lost. They have won their division in 1984, 1989, 1998, and 2003, but were unable to win the national league pennant. Now, in 2007, four years later, they have won their division, and are finally off to the playoffs once again. Although, how far they go is yet to be seen. The White Sox won the World Series in 2005, after not winning for 88 years, and the Bulls haven’t won anything since 1998.

The chances of the Bears making it to the Super Bowl seem slim at those odds. The last time that the Bears won the Super Bowl was in 1985, only making it to the final game once after, which was last season, an unforgettable season for the Bears and the city itself.

Rex Grossman was the starting quarterback for the Bears, starting for nineteen straight games. He didn’t play so well in the first three games, throwing no touchdowns and one interception in game one, one touchdown and two interceptions in game two, and no touchdowns and three interceptions in game three. He seems to be having a rough time so far this season. As stated by his teammate, tight end, Desmond Clark, “He’s not playing great right now—we all know that…” in an article on the Bears website. Sadly, his starting days seem to be soon over due to letting his team down and assisting in their recent losses.

Replacing Grossman in their fourth game of the season was Brian Griese, who let Bears fans down just as Grossman did. In the game against the Lions in which Griese played, he threw 52 attempted passes, 34 of which were completed. He gained 286 yards and threw two touchdowns, but had three interceptions, one which resulted in a touchdown for the Lions.

Over the history of baseball there have been plenty of traditions to have come and gone. Some teams have had more than others that survived. The Chicago Cubs are one of the few teams that still have traditions from years ago that have survived all the changes.

A very old tradition at Wrigley Field the home field of the Cubs, is to sing during the 7th inning stretch every game in memory of announcer Harry Caray. In the 7th inning stretch they will usually have a famous celebrity or a huge Cubs fan come out and sing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” One of the most famous celebrities that sang during the 7th inning stretch at Wrigley is Mike Ditka the coach for the Chicago Bears.

One of my personal experiences with a Cubs tradition was at a game I was at recently. A homerun ball was hit by the Milwaukee Brewer’s and a Brewer’s fan in the bleachers caught it and refused to throw it back on to the field. One of the biggest traditions at Wrigley Field is to throw a homerun ball hit by the opposing team back onto the field. The Brewer’s fan finally decided to throw it back after much taunting and badgering.

Cub’s fans are known for their passion for their home team and for their unique traditions. I'd say if you are a fan of baseball or sports in general at all, you should come to a Cubs game.
The Modern Wing

By Rebecca

A new wing, currently under construction at the Art Institute of Chicago, will be the newest addition to the museum since 1988. Construction on the new wing began on May 31, 2005 and is expected to be done by the summer of 2009. Officially named the Modern Wing, this new addition will increase gallery space by approximately 30 percent, and will allow the Art Institute to double its daily student capacity.

The Modern Wing, designed by architect Renzo Piano, will house the Art Institute’s modern and contemporary collections, including paintings, sculpture, photography, film and video, and architecture and design. The first floor will be home to a gallery that will display rotating installations of the museum’s photography collection, as well as a gallery for various temporary exhibitions. The galleries of contemporary and modern art will be on the second and third floors, respectively.

The first floor will also contain the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Educations Center. According to an article on the Art Institute’s website, the Center, made possible by the donations of Pat and Shirley Ryan, will offer “more than 15,000 square feet of light-filled space,” and “provide a warm welcome for students, educators, and families.” The goal of the Education Center is to introduce art into the lives of children starting at a young age. Families, schools, and other children’s groups will be able to visit the Center and take part in a variety of fun, art-making projects.

Other prominent features of the new wing will include a unique sunshade, known as

Wicked the Musical

By Alice

Wicked the Musical has been in Chicago since 2005. It has been filled almost to maximum capacity since opening day. It has not gotten the best response from critics, but its rave reviews have traveled through word of mouth of the people who have seen the show. When the show begins, you’re taken to the end of the story when all the townspeople are gathered around Glinda, “the good witch,” when she tells everyone that the wicked which is dead. Glinda is telling her story about how she was once a friend of the Wicked Witch of the West.

The plot of the musical roughly outlines Wicked, The Life and Tales of the Wicked Witch of the West, by Gregory Maguire. The story is from the point of view of the Wicked Witch of the West, and shows how she grows up to be the Wicked. The story differs from the musical because in the novel, Elphaba, “the wicked witch of the west,” is not a witch, she is more into the science of the difference between animals and animals that can talk. She does not tamper with magic’s because of her father, who was a man of god, and did not like to believe in that sort of nonsense. Also, the book has Nessarose, Elphaba’s sister, in a wheelchair instead not having any arms, because not having any arms would be very hard to do in the show.

The book, as does the musical, has Fiyero as a love interest for Elphaba. In the end of the musical, Fiyero and Elphaba go away together, and they pretend that she is dead, so she can live in peace with Fiyero. In reality, the witch did not like water because her mother used to make comments about drowning her in the lake near her home where
Console Wars
By David

Right now we are in the first year of another console video game war with the two most recent competitors being Nintendo’s Wii and Sony’s PS3. There is some heated debate as to which console is superior. Right now the Nintendo Wii is in the lead with the PS3 struggling to sell.

Both consoles have some serious advantages and disadvantages. The PS3 and Wii both have backwards compatibility, allowing you to play older games from other video game consoles. The PS3 allows gamers to play old PS2 games but the selection is poor, only certain games work, and PS1 games require you to have a PlayStation Portable handheld device costing around $200 just to play some of your old games. Many games won’t run properly, while some will run but are horribly glitchy and suffer from audio and controller issues.

The Wii’s support of the feature is great, however, allowing you to play old Nintendo, Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64, Sega Genesis, and Turbo Grafx games. I would say there is absolutely nothing wrong with the Wii. I’m a total Nintendo fan, but unfortunately, some people have issues with some of the systems features. For one thing, people feel that there aren’t enough games geared towards more mature gamers who aren’t into Mario Bros. Also, the system hasn’t used its wireless internet capabilities enough in multiplayer gaming. Aside from these issues it is near perfect. Nintendo has not only kept hardcore fans since the 80’s, but gained a newer audience of gamers including an increase of females and people over the age of 40.

Fitting into the Nintendo Wii’s family friendly approach, Little Big Planet sets aside the blood and guns and replaces them with an expansive environment that is all yours to create, customize, and manipulate in interesting ways. If I wanted to make a block out of sponge and then moved my character so it was standing on the block, the sponge would squish and deform under the weight. It is good that gaming companies are making games that are less intimidating for new players but it is also important that they don’t forget about the hardcore audience.

With a price tag of only $250 and a great game lineup, including The Legend Of Zelda, Twilight Princess, Super Mario Galaxy, and Super Smash Bros. Brawl, I can see why this system is so popular.

Halo 3
By Jerry

Would you believe that people would count down the months, days, hours, minutes, and seconds to the release of a video game? Fans all across the world were counting down the days and hours until the 25th of September. Halo 3 officially came out at 12:01 AM on the 25th, and fans were camping outside of stores. The last game in the saga is available for the Xbox 360, and will run from preordered prices of $59.99 (Standard Package) to $129.99 (Legendary Package).

If you have played or are a fan of Halo, then you would probably know that there will be tons of new features in Halo 3. Some of the new features will include 2-4 player campaign mode, that runs through various combinations of Xbox Live and System Link. Xbox Live is an online feature of Xbox that allows gamers to play with other gamers across the world. Xbox Live for Halo 3 will be greatly modified for faster game play and less waiting in game lobbies.

There will also be a new ranking system that will be integrated to make matches based on skill level and playing time. The new ranking system will be based on the military ranks in Halo and will be determined by achievements on Xbox Live.

Finally in Halo and Halo 2 you could only play as Master Chief who is the main character, and a covenant (alien race) character called Arbiter. In Halo 3 you will be able to play as four characters, two of which are brand new to the series, and two of which are old.

For those of you, who don’t know what Halo is, I’ll fill you in on what you have been missing. The Halo series, is a series of games made originally for Xbox. It’s a First Person Shooter game that is renowned for its originality. Halo is actually a set of artificial worlds around the universe made by an ancient race called the “forerunners,” and that’s where the name Halo came from.

The Master Chief, as they call him, is the last of an elite species of humans. As the plot line goes in Halo: Combat Evolved, Master Chief is Earth’s last hope of survival against the Covenant and the Flood, a parasitic species that takes over human bodies and uses them at their discretion. In the first Halo, you only play as Master Chief and fight to save humanity. In Halo 2 you switch char continued on Page 9 continued on Page 16
Toy companies scramble as they rush to recall any toys with a ‘made in china’ sticker on them, many of which were found to contain lead paint in August of 2007. Among some major toy sellers in the US, Mattel, one of the largest resellers, has recalled millions of toys sent from China, including Barbie dolls, Polly Pockets, and movie merchandise from the popular animated film Cars.

Sometime in July, Mattel reported that one of its retailers in Europe found traces of lead in the toys and immediately let them know. In August of 2007, millions more Chinese manufactured toys were discovered to contain lead paint. Now, quite obviously, this makes not only a problem in the toy industry, but a danger for children. Millions of parents buy these toys for their children, oblivious that they may be extremely dangerous and toxic.

Lead is a very hazardous substance, and can cause many health problems in humans. When consumed, lead can be very poisonous, especially for youth. It can severely affect the nervous system, red blood cells, kidneys, and even possibly the reproductive system. Consumption of large amounts of lead can cause mental retardation, behavior problems, anemia, and in very extreme cases, it has proven to be fatal. It is important to stay away from lead if possible, especially in children and those who are still developing; the group to whom toys cater the most.

More toys are being recalled every day in attempt to avoid the dangers of the lead infested toys. Companies recalling toys include Mattel, Fisher Price, and many more. Many parents are angered by this turn of events, but it needs to happen to preserve the safety of children in the US.

Unfortunately, this will be a large hit to our economy, as we have fewer toys to sell in stores. The average consumer could face raised prices for toys, as well. For instance, a Barbie doll may go from $6.00 to $7.00. In many toys it may be raised even more due to supply and demand. It is predicted that a child friendly digital camera may go from $70 to $80. Many parents are willing to buy more expensive toys for the safety of their child, but many can’t afford it.

Another issue being raised with this recall is relations with China. Because of the toy recall, China is very displeased with the US, since the relationship between China’s mass production and the United States retailers is so important to China’s economy. This turn of events further deteriorates our already flimsy relationship. The head of a Chinese toy factory committed suicide recently in light of the situation. Our relationship with China is rolling down the drain, and this issue doesn’t help the tension.

Mass production from China is important to us, because they can make toys and electronics incredibly fast, as to keep up with supply and demand. There’s also the cost aspect of it. Labor is cheap in China, so having a factory with thousands of workers will cost a whole lot less there than in the US.

Unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of lead infested toys have been sold to families. It doesn’t appear that there is a place where parents can get rid of their lead toys for money back at this point. They can always be thrown away, or destroyed. However, many parents are turning to home lead test kits. These kits can be used to show if lead is contained in the toys. These tests though, have reported accuracy problems.

This event may cause many problems in our economy and foreign relations, but I wouldn’t be terribly frightened about what may happen. It is important to know that toy prices may go up substantially, so if you plan on buying that new Pretty-Girl Barbie, you may want to check your cash.
merely next year’s budget, this may subdue the doomsday, but cause it to be more devastating than before if officials can’t come to a conclusion on a long-term plan. This means even higher fares, even more busses cut, and even more lines cut.

As of September 20, 2007, CTA, Metra, and Pace all approved the proposed fare hikes and service cuts that were to happen Sunday the 16th. It would appear as though the CTA and RTA are now open to any funding, even if all it accomplishes is delaying the inevitable, as they accepted the $91 Million stopgap from Blagojevich, which will buy more time, up to November 4th, in hopes that lawmakers can come up with a solid long-term plan. Most say that Blagojevich’s capital reinforcement is an appreciated effort, but is seen as “totally inadequate and insufficient.”

Many Chicagoans have strong opinions on the situation. Many are angry, letting their opinions known as to how they think CTA is run now, and how it should be run. Many others are extending their arms, reaching out to the community, believing that we should help CTA, fundraise, and donate. One thing is constant across the board. People know how devastating it will be if the CTA fails in it’s duties.

Tom Griffett, a teacher at the O’School, is a consistent user of the CTA busses. He uses CTA at least 2 times a day for trips to work and home, and anywhere else he may want to go. “I am totally reliant on CTA for transportation,” he explained. Even if the fare hikes happen, though, he would just pay the hiked fares. Tom feels that “CTA is not handling the situation ideally,” although some aspects are being handled well. Tom is aware of many other people, including his wife, and many O’School staff, who also rely heavily on CTA.

In terms of the general functioning of the CTA, Tom shared that “accessibility is very good, an 8 out of 10, where as reliability is terrible, at 3 out of 10.” Regardless of the problems in the current system though, he feels that while the fare hikes and bus cuts may not affect him a lot, for Chicago as a city it would be catastrophic for the CTA ‘doomsday’ to occur.

Some might ask, “How does this affect me? I don’t use CTA.” The answer is very plainly in front of you. According to CTA, their busses take in approximately 1 million fares daily. That’s 1,000,000 at about 12,000 bus stops. That’s not even including the trains, which haul around 500,000 fares a day [statistics taken from CTA website]. Just think, what if even 100,000 of those fares had to take a car? Can you imagine the amount of extra congestion down major streets? And surely downtown can’t be forgotten. It would potentially become a perpetual parking lot.

This is where the economy comes into play, which affects everyone. If busses stop going certain places, people can’t ride them. These people need to get to work somehow, but many times can’t without the CTA. This would mean that many people may miss work, or will be stuck in traffic due to the extra cars on the street. This would lead to a domino effect of lost money due to the worker’s inabilities to make it to work on time or even at all.

These are all possibilities that Chicago is worried about if the CTA cuts the amount of service planned.

Now, many of us live in or near the O’School, and may also be asking, “How does this affect us? The students and staff who will receive this paper?” I think it’s important to keep in mind that we use public transportation as well. We use it often for getting off-grounds, and going on outings to the further parts of the city. If the fares do get hiked enough, it may be less of a possibility to use CTA for us to get around in large groups. The cars get signed out really fast on weekends when we may have bigger outings. Where public transportation was our most favorable option, it may become impossible or less favorable in future times.

Be weary of the CTA troubles, because it may affect you greatly if you are a constant user of public transportation. Things can change, and if they do, it can happen fast. CTA has never been an extremely stable business, but it just seems to keep spiraling down and down. Cross your fingers and hope that this “Long-term plan” pulls through.
Hot Topic: Do you think that cities should make laws about the way people dress? Why or Why not?

No! The way we dress is a type of expression. I feel like expressing my self is a form of speech, but through my clothing. – Shelby

Yes, because some people should dress their age, not dress like a kid. – Ricky

No, people should have their rights. – Leo

Yes, it might not be safe or it might be gang stuff

Yes, all in goth is dumb, black black black all day every day – Drew

Yes, but only for issues regarding public decency (no indecent exposure) - Ryan

I think that people should be able to just dress however they want whenever without any laws at all. – Katlin

No, because it violates people’s individual freedoms.

NO! absolutely NOT! Talk about converting to communism. The way people dress is freedom of expression. There is no “proper” way, or “right” way to dress. [Forget] what’s socially acceptable, the fact that people can express themselves through their clothing is one of the last valuable things of our society!

GOD NO! If they made a law on how I should dress I would be so mad, how would I stand out? No ripped pants or shirts, no tripp or other crazy stuff, and worst of all…no fishnet. - Nick A

I think the only law should be that people can’t go nude. – Nick F

NO. Because if they did, there would be complete warfare. – William

I think they made a law on how I should dress I would be so mad, how would I stand out? No ripped pants or shirts, no tripp or other crazy stuff, and worst of all…no fishnet. - Nick A

NO. But there should be laws stating you cannot be without clothes covering private parts in public. – The Mysterious Writer

No I think they should not. – Colin

No that makes no sense, we should be able to make that choice. – Joey

No because I think people should be able to dress any way they want. – Michael

No, because people should be allowed to dress how they wanna dress. – Corissa

I don’t think cities should make laws because it will put a damper on freedom of expression. Also, people couldn’t wear costumes of justice. – Batman

No, It violates our right to freedom of expression. It’s not the law’s place to regulate. – John

No, they can regulate it to the point where they make you wear something. After that people have the freedom, and if someone wants to regulate that they are too dumb to be in any kind of government position.

Only for those darn superheroes who think it’s okay to run/fly around in skin tight spandex, fighting crime. It is just plain nasty. – David

Halo 3

By Jerry

Continued from Page 6

acters, between Arbiter and Master Chief, to destroy the Covenant and the Human’s biggest threat against survival, the Flood. The Halo series is not only known for its Campaign Mode, but also for its multiplayer mode. There is expected to be a ton of new features in multiplayer. One of the new features is customizable armor for all four characters, and equipment, such as Bubble Shield, Rocket Pod, and Trip Mine. The customizable armor won’t be in the game just for looks, it will also play a role in how you resist certain equipment items that you or your enemies deploy. There are also new vehicles, the option of removing turrets, carrying turrets to other locations, and being able to shoot the turrets while carrying them.

Recently, along with the announcement of the release of Halo Wars and Halo 3 came the announcement of a Halo movie. If you look on YouTube you can already find some short live action “Halo” movies made by the director of the Halo movie to help get some more publicity. Speaking of publicity, you may have seen at your local Seven Eleven that they are now selling and preordering Halo 3. Halo and Mountain Dew have also teamed up and made a soda, called “Game Fuel,” in honor of the epic release which even sports a picture of Master Chief. Some people think that all the publicity for this game is ridiculous, but as for others they savor the thought of the 25th.
The Modern Wing
By Rebecca
Continued from Page 5
the “flying carpet,” a street-level public
garden, and the Nichols Bridgeway, which
will connect the wing to Millennium Park.

The Art Institute of Chicago was
founded in 1879 as both a school and a
museum; the original building stood on
the southwest corner of State and Monroe
Streets. In 1893, as the City of Chicago
prepared to host the World’s Columbian Ex-
position, the Institute relocated to its current
home at Michigan Avenue and Adams Street.
Within the next decade, two improvements
were made to the building: Fullerton Audito-
rium, in 1898, and Ryerson Library, in 1901.
Purchases made in 1913 initiated a collec-
tion of modern art that continues to impress.

In the 1920s, a growing collection
forced the Art Institute to once again expand
its boundaries. The expansion involved ad-
ditions to both the museum and the school,
and included memorials to two soldiers
killed in World War I: the George Alexan-
der McKinlock Jr. Memorial Court, built in
1924, and the Kenneth Sawyer Goodman
Theater, built in 1925. The 1950s saw the
construction of the B.F. Ferguson Memo-
rial Building. This was soon followed by
the Morton Wing, which was built in 1962.
The Rubloff Building, erected in the 1970s,
included space for new studios, classrooms,
and a film center for the school. The last
addition was the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice
Building in 1988, but various other con-
struction projects occurred throughout the
1990s. Ironically enough, the Goodman
Theater was leveled in 2005 in order to make
room for the building of the Modern Wing.

Although the wing will be under
construction for at least another year and a
half, many Chicagoans are eagerly awaiting
its completion. The Modern Wing’s con-
nection to Millennium Park will enable it
to attract many new visitors and give more
people the opportunity to experience what
the museum has to offer. Old and new pa-
trons alike will be able to experience all
that the museum has to offer, and everyone
will enjoy seeing how much more of the Art
Institute’s collection can now be viewed
thanks to the space of the new wing. The
most difficult thing now is having to wait
two more years until we can finally all go
and visit the Art Institute’s Modern Wing.

Bears
By Lizzy
Continued from Page 4
According to the Bears website, “Just
as Rex Grossman did versus Dallas, new
starting quarterback Brian Griese threw
three interceptions and had one returned
for a back-breaking touchdown early in
the fourth quarter.” The Bears are having
a tough time. After being crushed 17-0 in
the fourth quarter, going on to lose 34-10
to Dallas, the Bears took a 13-3 lead into
the final period Sunday against the Lions,
but in a disappointing turn of events, they
lost 37-27 loss against the Lions. Things
aren’t looking up “The 34 points were the
most Chicago has allowed in any quar-
ter in the franchise’s 87-year history.”

Not only are the Bears having some dif-
ficulty with passing and scoring, they are
down six starting defensive players, Adam
Archuleta, because of a hand injury, Lance
Briggs because of a hamstring injury,
Charles Tillman because of an ankle injury,
and Nate Vasher because of a groin injury.
They all watched the game from the sideline
in street clothes, along with Mike Brown and
Dusty Dvoracek, both of whom are out for
the rest of the season due to torn ACLs sus-
tained in the Week one defeat in San Diego.

The Bears are on everyone’s mind this
fall. We all want them to have another
winning season. The city was brought to-
gether over their winning streak last year,
with helmets for lions, jerseys for dinos-
aurs, and a city skyline full of messages
and support for our team. After last season,
we all have big hopes for the Bears this
year; the buzz about the team is every-
where. Hopefully they won’t let us down.
Sagging Pants Hit Bottom

By Rebecca
Continued from Page 1

have been considering similar proposals. The city of Shreveport, Louisiana recently considered a proposal that would ban people from wearing pants low enough to reveal underwear. The penalties named in the proposal included both fines and community service.

All of these bans, and proposals to ban, are a belated response to a trend, which has long been popular among young people, of wearing one’s pants low enough to expose one’s underwear. This style is especially popular among young men in the teens and twenties, who like to wear their pants hanging below their butt. The style first became popular in the hip-hop community in the 1990s and has since spread to a larger community of teenage boys.

Many of the boys who now wear their pants like this are probably not even aware of the style’s origins. The style of sagging pants is thought to have originated in prison. Most prisons do not allow inmates to have belts because they are afraid the prisoners might use the belts to hang themselves or others. For this reason, and because inmates are usually not given well-fitting clothes, pants worn by prisoners tend to sag. Wearing low-slung pants is also used by inmates to indicate that they are sexually available.

There are many people on both sides of the debate over whether or not saggy pants should be banned. Supporters believe that these new laws will help to curb a popular style that they consider to be inappropriate and indecent. Opponents believe that such laws are a form of racial profiling that specifically targets young black men. No matter their opinions, though, no one can argue with the facts; several cities have already passed laws banning pants that sag, and many more cities are considering such laws. So, a warning to guys and girls who like to wear their pants low: it could cost you some money if your underpants show.

Cub’s Traditions

By Jerry
Continued from Page 4

tions. If you have ever followed the Cubs or the Sox you would probably know about the Cubs’ billy goat curse. The so called “curse” started in the 1945 Cubs season. Billy Sianis, a Cubs fan, brought his pet goat to a Cubs game after many persistent arguments with Wrigley Field management. Later in the game the goat was ejected for “foul smells” and other reasons that were not mentioned. According to the story, as Billy left the park with the goat he proclaimed that the Cubs will never win another pennant or world series. The so-called “curse” has done a pretty good job, if you want to believe in it. The Cubs have not won a world series since 1908. Some say it’s due to the Billy Goat curse.

By David
Continued From Page 1

ing here has been a learning experience. It gave me insight on children’s development, and it has been a pleasure to be a part of the school.”

He does his job with pride and dignity. “My job is a dedication to make sure the school is functional. I am proud of my work,” he explained.

Even at home, his skills in organization and cleanliness carry over and reflect his personality strongly. When not at work, Tyrone enjoys walking, biking, reading, and touring various places. A recent favorite place he visited was the Chicago Art Institute.

Tyrone has some very impressive views on the rest of the school and staff also. He feels that the administration and all the people working at the school are very fair to the students and staff, and the teachers put in their full dedication. Tyrone believes the school and program benefits all walks of life, and he strongly admires art teacher Michelle Z for her creativity, kindness, and love that she fully displays in the programs she helps to create.

Tyrone truly sees the school not just as a place of dedication but as a place filled with great memories and people. “Even when I leave, the school will have a place in my heart from all the wonderful experiences I have had,” he told me. It is touching to see how much this school can give and how much of a family it creates for everyone who is here.

I hope you have been enlightened on how amazing the staff at our school is. Tyrone is an example of how incredible our counselors, tech staff, and teachers are.
When Bush entered office in 2000, he had a 50% approval rating. Time magazine named him the Most Influential Person of the Year for 2000, and 2004. Immediately after the September 11th crisis, his approval ratings sky rocketed to 85%, and he maintained an approval rating of between 80% and 90% for the next four months. Because of his handling of foreign policy, his ratings have steadily dropped. As of August 13th, 2007, Bush’s estimated approval rating is 32.4%. In contrast to the impeached President Clinton, whose morals were questionable, who left office with a 65% approval rating, the highest approval rating for a president leaving office since before WWII.

Although No Child Left Behind is not forced upon any public school district or private school, it might be difficult to refuse the seemingly rewarding program. The Office of the Press Secretary released a “No Child Left Behind Fact Sheet” which stated the following facts: $11.7 Billion go just to “title one” schools, or schools that receive extra money due to their population of students whose families are below the poverty line. So when school districts see $11.7 billion being pumped out continuing to run the country the way that he and his cabinet have seen fit.

Some of the biggest positives of the program, are that it really emphasizes reading and math. With the large emphasis in reading, the program helps get funding to schools so that they can get newer, nicer, and larger libraries. No Child Left Behind brings funding to schools for mentoring, tutoring, educational technology, and summer school programs. Another use for funding is for programs that work toward drug free, safer, nicer, gang-free schools, and so that students can have safe and efficient modes of transportation to and from school.

No Child Left Behind, is the infamous program that initially began three days after our current president, George W. Bush, took office. To some people, the program is a perfect solution to an endless amount of bumps in the road. To other people, No Child Left Behind is the cause of an endless amount of obstacles and barriers they have to get through.

Simply put, the No Child Left Behind law “asks each state to set standards for student performance and teacher quality.” According to Rod Paige, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, “the law establishes accountability for results and improves the inclusiveness and fairness of American education.”

Continued on Page 14

By Ashley

When most people hear the phrase No Child Left Behind, they most likely think that it is controversial. Although the program is intended to do good for schools, how likely is it to make sure that there aren’t any children being left behind?

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Some of the policies and behavior of the current President and his cabinet have been questioned by of some Americans. These policies are portrayed in an alternate version of reality, on Comedy Central’s television series, Lil’ Bush. In the show, the events that have taken place during Bush’s time in office and the war in Iraq are shown with a bit of a different spin. Every thirty minute episode features two different story lines, and always includes a performance from the Lil’ Bush rock band.

Most of today’s major political leaders are in the show, all with Lil’ in front of their names: Lil’ Barack Obama, Lil’ Hillary, Lil’ McCain, Lil’ Mikey Moore, to name a few. Lil’ George, President George Bush, has a gang of cronies, Lil’ Condi, Condolezza

Continued on Page 15

By Lizzy

No Child Left Behind

Lil’ Bush

Continued on Page 14

Lil’ Bush

Continued on Page 15
Coming Soon to the O’School...

JA company Program encompasses business, economics, and entrepreneurship curriculum for students in grades 9-12. The program emphasizes business content, while providing a strong focus on mathematics, reading and writing skills. The JA Company Program experience enhances students' classroom curriculum. Students are encouraged to use innovative thinking to learn business skills that support positive attitudes as they explore and enhance their career aspirations. Through a variety of hands-on activities and technological supplements designed to support varied learning styles, students develop a better understanding of the relationship between what they learn at school and their successful participation in a worldwide economy.

The following key concepts are presented:

- Company structure and the student's role within a company
- Company capitalization
- Customer-product focus
- Product-market pricing
- Company operations
- Product sales
- Company Liquidation

Our company will be producing T-Shirts! The T-Shirts will be made by the students in the art room. Students will learn to make high quality printed shirts using environmentally sound inks and practices. Custom order designs will be available (minimum of 24 shirts). If you are involved in a sports team or have a family reunion coming up keep us in mind! There will also be a stock of original designs created by the students available for individual purchase.

Who, What, Where & When!

Who: Students were given the opportunity to apply to be a part of this program. 10 students applied and were awarded a position in JA.

What: T-Shirts... T-Shirts!

Where: In the Art Room of Course!

When

Semester 1 - We will be forming our company.
Semester 2 - We hope to be ready to take orders!
No Child Left Behind
By Ashley
Continued from Page 12

to the "title one" schools, I'm pretty sure they would want to jump in the line that will help them gain a few million dollars towards their own schools. Who wouldn't?

However, the United States government can't just hand out billions of dollars to whoever says they're a public school, right? Right. Well first of all, contrary to popular belief, the United States of America is not paved with streets of gold. And second of all, if the government were to just hand out billions of dollars to everyone that said they had a public school district, I guess it might be like the movie "The Incredibles." In the movie, a couple of kids, who have just graduated, create their own college to make their parents think they were accepted into a college. In the movie, their plan is foiled, when hundreds of kids think the school is real, and actually enroll to the fake college, including their own check for a couple thousand dollars. It would be kind of a similar situation, except people would be creating their own schools to earn millions of free dollars from the government.

The No Child Left Behind program starts with accountability; it requires each state to implement accountability systems that every state writes for themselves. The systems cover all public schools and students, even if the schools are not currently a part of the program. The systems must be based on challenging academic standards, that each state creates, in reading and mathematics. Annual testing is required for all students in grades 3-8, and annual statewide progress objectives ensure that all groups of students reach proficiency within 12 years. Assessment results and state progress objectives must be broken down by the categories of poverty, race, ethnicity, disability, and limited English proficiency to ensure that no group is left behind.

No Child Left Behind not only focuses on the things that are done in school, but also on the way things are done. Obviously testing, in math and reading, are two very important parts of the program, but another large part of No Child Left Behind, is making sure that every child can efficiently communicate in English. President Bush made sure that $681 million goes towards English Language acquisition funding for children who are learning the English language, "so they can reach their academic potential and fully participate in the American dream."

The negative things about No Child Left Behind include very little focus on Special Education. Students are looked at as a whole, so students who need help as an individual, or even students who are extremely gifted, are just another number when it comes to No Child Left Behind, and they don't get the attention they need. Another negative effect of No Child Left Behind, is that teachers don't get to express their creativity in the ways that they want, instead they have to go by their states' standards, and stick to the books. All of the testing, and preparation for testing, from No Child Left Behind takes away from the things that most kids love to learn. In Illinois, middle school students lose at least 15 hours of class-time in art, doing their ISAT testing. There is also, in some schools, too much of a focus on math and reading.

As far as changing the way things are done, No Child Left Behind requires that a highly qualified teacher be in every public school classroom. Most states have their own standards for evaluating teachers, but there are still loopholes. For example, in many states, a "highly qualified" teacher could earn their title by receiving as little as five hours of additional training, even if the training isn't in the subject they teach. States are given funding to provide their public school teachers with extra training, and programs such as reforming teacher certification, licensure requirements, alternative certification, and differential and bonus pay for teachers in high-need subject areas, high poverty schools and districts, and mentoring programs.

Through No Child Left Behind, teachers receive $5.1 billion, which can go to the training and certification programs, but states are also using millions of dollars to lay-off thousands of teachers, pay teachers' severance, and then hire new teachers, that seem more qualified. In many cases, the newly hired teachers are only more qualified by five hours of training. School districts have ended up losing thousands of dollars, and in the end, cramming students into classes with 30 or more students.

School districts earn money if their students, as a whole, are progressing annually in reading and math. If schools fail to meet their annual standards, then they face penalties. When nearly all of the schools in a district fail to meet their standards, school districts risk losing their funding or even possibly having their schools shut down. In situations where nearly entire school districts have been closed down, students have been transferred to nearby schools. The schools that are closed re-open under completely different management systems, and some of the schools have even been turned into charter schools.

According, to the National Education Association, since 2002, 71 percent of the United States’ School Districts have reduced time spent on subjects like Art, Social Studies, and History. Well, one thing that I’ve learned since I’ve been in school, is that if we don’t take the time to learn from our history, then our history will repeat itself. So what’s going to happen when 71 percent of the nation’s future is not having a chance to learn from their history?
Lil’Bush
By Lizzy
Continued from Page 12
Rice, Lil’ Rummy, Donald Rumsfeld, and Lil’ Cheney, Dick Cheney.
The show takes place in the White House where Bush lives as “Resident of the United States.” In the series, Lil’ George lives in the White House with this, brother, Lil’ Jeb, his father, George Bush Sr., and his mother, Barbara Bush, who is mistaken for a polar bear in one episode. It is also explained to us in an episode that Bush Sr. fell in love with the presidents of our nation the first time he found a quarter, and felt that he needed to dig up the bodies of former Presidents of our nation to create his wife, Barbara. The show has him use the head of George Washington, the body of William Howard Taft, because he had a large bosom and wide hips good for birthing, and finally the “lady parts” of Betty Ross. Barbra was created like Frankenstein in a lab by former President George H. Bush, and transformed from the corpses of dead political figures to a woman good enough to marry. Lil’ George’s brother, Lil’ Jeb, is portrayed as though he is mentally handicapped, and able to withstand huge trauma. For Example, he survived the crash of the nuclear bomb that he was riding on, and Lil’ George trying to kill him by hitting him in the head with a crow bar, and he was not injured in any way. Lil’ Condi is in love with Lil’ George, and she tries to get his attention again, and again, but he tells us that he only likes “chubby nerds,” which means Lil’ Laura. Lil’ Cheney is Satan’s spawn, ripping off the heads of live chickens and other animals and drinking their blood. He eats live animals for lunch and grumbles nonsensical words that only the “gang” can seem to understand. Lil’ Rummy has resentment of the abuse he withstands from his father, and makes comments about how he is burned with cigars and whipped with belts.
Our nation feels so strongly against the war in Iraq, and the policies of President Bush’s campaign, that the producers of L’il Bush have created a whole television series to mock the president. You have to wonder why we live in a nation where we do not support our president, and make TV series that is marketed with playing cards, calendars, coasters, and dolls, all to mock our president. People watch Lil’ Bush. People laugh at it, and agree with its message. What does this say about our country and our place in the world?

Wicked
By Alice
Continued from Page 5
she grew up, but the water doesn’t kill her. The musical and the novel both, in some ways, compliment each other because of the way they are both written. The musical hits the glam of the story but emphasizes the dramatic point of view and the character development. The novel, however, aims to get you thinking about the political state of OZ, and how the wizard is racist against talking animals. He wants Glinda and Elphaba to glamorize what he is doing transforming talking animals into speechless animals, to make Oz an all human society.
In Shiz University, Elphaba was getting into a class with a teacher who was an animal and when he suddenly could not talk, she grew angry and went to the wizard to tell him what was going on. The wizard was soon discovered to be behind the sudden change in the animals and needed some people to be his cheerleaders.
Towards the end of the show Elphaba and Glinda are on the run from the wizard and that is when the song “Defying Gravity” is sung and Glinda and Elphaba are making up their minds about what to do. Elphaba wants to find a way to change what the wizard has done using magic, but she doesn’t really know how or what to do. Glinda goes and joins the wizard.
The wizard hears about Dorothy, a girl from his homeland who comes to OZ, and knows that she will not have the knowledge of the fear of what the witch can do, so he sends her after Elphaba. Dorothy thought that water would kill her and she dumped a bucket of water on the witch, but the witch doesn’t die, she escapes Oz with Fiyero never to be heard from again. Giving readers and viewers a glimpse of the familiar world of OZ from another perspective, Wicked, The Life and Tales of the Wicked Witch of the West, by Gregory Maguire is a must read, and the musical, Wicked is a must see!
before the last holiday season and is prime for a new look. The iPod classic, as Jobs renamed it, now sports a sleek new look, the same snazzy user interface as the iPod nano, and a ridiculous amount of media storage. Starting at $249, the same price as it was, the iPod classic has an 80GB and 160GB model. No, that last number was not a typo. That’s 40,000 songs. That’s so many songs that according to Apple, you could drive back and forth between San Francisco and New York City over 40 times and never hear the same song twice. This is the only announcement on Apple’s roster that I would consider well worth the hype. Other than that, the features of it are the same as the iPods you have in your pockets right now – music, photos, videos, cheesy games, and the like.

This enormous set of new stuff was marked by yet another big announcement – the iPhone’s price has dropped. Jobs announced that the 4GB model was thrown out and the 8GB model has had its price reduced by $200. Now a new iPhone costs $399, a deliberately aggressive and competitive move by Apple. This price drop has generated a flurry of complaints from Apple’s customers, particularly from the ones who had just bought an iPhone the previous day. I told everyone that if you waited, the price would go down. Obviously no one was listening.

Because of this, Jobs announced a rebate program, in the form of a letter posted on the Apple website. Everyone who bought an iPhone from AT&T or Apple before the price drop is now eligible to receive a $100 Apple gift card to use to their choosing. Steve Jobs clearly hopes that this will also quell most of the complaints. This surprising offer would certainly shut me up about it.

The last item Jobs mentioned on his agenda was a deal with Starbucks Coffee. First of all, it is now free to access the online iTunes store at any Starbucks location. Using the Internet outside buying music still involves money, so it’s really not much of a change unless you own an iPhone. Second, starting in October in San Francisco, and then slowly moving from city to city, ending in Chicago in March of 2008, is a special feature to the iTunes store. When you are in a Starbucks with an iPod touch, iPhone or a computer with iTunes, a small Starbucks icon will appear in your menu bar, or, in the computer’s case, in iTunes. From this, you can buy the song currently playing through the coffee shop’s speakers, as well as preview and buy the last 10 songs before the one playing. Once again, seemingly cool, but stay away if you buy things on impulse.

Thus Jobs’ Keynote conference ended, and marked a beginning of both a new iPod line and major changes in Apple’s future. These new devices, though flawed, are guaranteed to bring in a lot of revenue for Apple and send their competitors into a mad whirl to come up with an equal product. Indeed, Apple announced recently the sale of the one-millionth iPhone. Considering that the iPhone has been out for less than three months, that is a major accomplishment. With over one billion iPods sold and an award-winning design team, Apple has guaranteed their success for the future simply through their new products of the last few months. I can hardly wait for the next major Apple announcement, and their next simple yet smart idea.

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New iPods, Worth the Hype?
A Critical Review Of Apple’s Hot New Products
By Ryan
Continued from Page 3

The PS3 costs $600, which isn’t good if you’re on a budget. Sadly, for $600, the PS3 doesn’t have a strong enough game line, but it has some promising games coming out this year including Metal Gear Solid 4, Guns of the Patriots, and Little Big Planet.

Nintendo is also planning on releasing new Wii accessories including the balance board which is used with the upcoming game Wii fit. Wii fit is a game concept of game creator Shigeru Miyamoto who has designed games such as Super Mario and Zelda. The gaming audience is getting out of shape, and Wii Fit is his plan to fight the problem of obese gamers, making games more than a sedentary activity. It seems gamers aren’t generally in the best of health, because a majority of them play games several hours a day and get little to no movement.

The sales charts prove at this point that the Wii is standing tall as the most popular system released in 2006, even though it isn’t running on a high power graphics card and its gameplay type is new to the market. Will the PS3 catch up to the Wii’s already million plus sales? Only time will tell.

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Console Wars
By David
Continued from Page 6

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