

COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

The Clarion



January 2012

Recap of 2011

By Reagan Johnson
Every year has its ups and downs, from the hilarious to the tragic.

Charlie Sheen provided us with much needed comic relief in 2011. His strange tirades made him the laughingstock of the nation and forced him out of his job on "Two and a Half Men," but the whole time he was convinced he was "winning."

Natural disasters included massive amounts of destructive tornadoes in the South and a horrific earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear reactor meltdown in Japan. Thousands of people lost their lives in these catastrophic disasters.

On April 29th we woke up at 3



a.m. to join two million other viewers watch Kate Middleton marry Prince William



at Westminster Abbey.

Other less formal, but shocking events erupted when riots broke out across Arab countries like Egypt, Libya and Syria. The rioters were demanding an end to the oppressive governments they have suffered under for years.

The Occupy Wall Street movement swept our nation when protesters attacked "big business" by creating encampments in prominent corporate areas.

We said goodbye to some people: Elizabeth Taylor, Amy Winehouse, and Steve Jobs. Other people who passed away this year included:

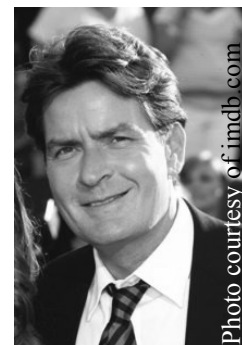
Moammar Qadhafi, Osama Bin Laden, and Kim Jong Il.

We also said goodbye to one of our major bookstore chains when Borders closed its doors for good.

Amanda Knox was released from prison in Italy when her murder conviction was overturned. To the shock of the nation Casey Anthony remained free after she was not convicted of murdering her daughter.

We watched NASA's Space Shuttle program come to an end when Atlantis landed at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on July 21.

After nine years of being stationed in the country, our troops left Iraq for good on December 15.



Busted!

By Ariel Baeseman

Just before winter break, in Mr. Schneider's 3rd block class, Personal Finance, the students took a test on that Thursday. The following day when the students came to class, they were given their own tests to self-grade. When the students reported their grades, Mr. Schneider handed back photocopied versions of the original tests—that he had already graded.

The results didn't surprise Mr. Schneider. "I set them up so they could lie," he said, "I did everything I could to make it possible." When the tests were compared, seven students had lied about their scores, two of which actually reporting a lower grade. Alex Kanouse, a senior in that class, said he believes it was "a good way to find out who would cheat in a situation like that." It is apparent that this lesson in ethics had good reasoning behind it.

So, students, be aware that your teachers will always be looking for those that they can trust and

those that need to be watched. Remember that honesty is always the best policy. If you lie, especially on something like a test, there are always ways for teachers to spot you and you will be, as Mr. Schneider put it, "Busted!"



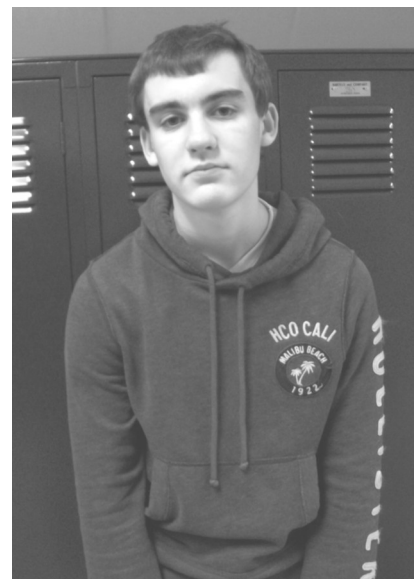
3rd Quarter Slump

By Brett Bousquet

After winter break students all trudge back into the artificially lit bowels of Columbus High School. Their souls are weathered like that of an old sailor who has lost the will to go on. This is a scene that meets everyone's eyes as they walk into the high school after winter break. Everyone loves the holiday break and the three weeks before it. The hiatus keeps students going, but after winter break the next opportunity for relaxation is not until spring break, which, in the eyes of a high school student,

is a lifetime away. Also, immediately after break students have to face the stresses and pressures of first semester finals. Right after the finals the students have nothing to look forward to but new classes and seemingly endless curriculum. Students need something to latch onto, otherwise they will sink into the classic third quarter slump with a lack of motivation. As far as I know there has been no effort to find a cure to the third quarter slump. It is my challenge to our new principal and the faculty to attempt to find a cure for

the third quarter slump that continues to plague students for generations.



Boys Basketball

By Brett Bousquet

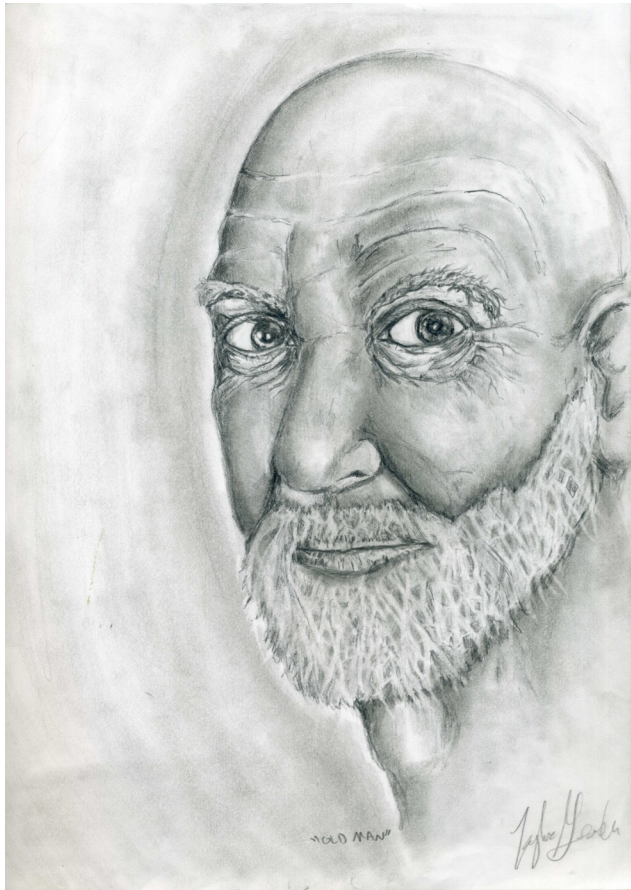
This year, for the first time in a long time, the Columbus Boys' Basketball team is showing promise. Returning starter Taylor Jansen has helped this happen, with averaging 13.43 points a game, though as of late he has been playing below his average due to a recent ankle injury. Taylor is ranked seventeenth of all Division 3 juniors in Wisconsin. Though Taylor is the only returning starter, Ty Vick, a senior, was the sixth man last year and has stepped up as a starting post this year. Ty is averaging a solid 7.3 points a game and is the main rebounder for the Cardinals. Garrett Schey, another returning senior, scores an average of only 3.4 points a game, but is the Cardinal's best defender and often matches up with other teams' high scorer. A new face on varsity is

Aaren Armoski, a sophomore who was on junior varsity last year. He has stepped up and is averaging 13 points a game, second on the team. Aaren is ranked sixth out of Division 3 sophomores. When Taylor was out for four games with his ankle injury, Aaren and Kyle Geiger, a freshman averaging 10.6 points per game and ranked fifth out of Division 3 freshmen, had to account for most of the teams' points. The imperative sixth man this year is junior Matt Paul. Matt adds 6.8 points a game. Matt had a critical eleven points to keep the Cardinals in only a two point loss to Hustisford and nine points in a nine point win to New Glarus. Despite the amount of skill on the Cardinals, they are only 6-6 and 0-2 in conference at this point in the season. This is not only due to

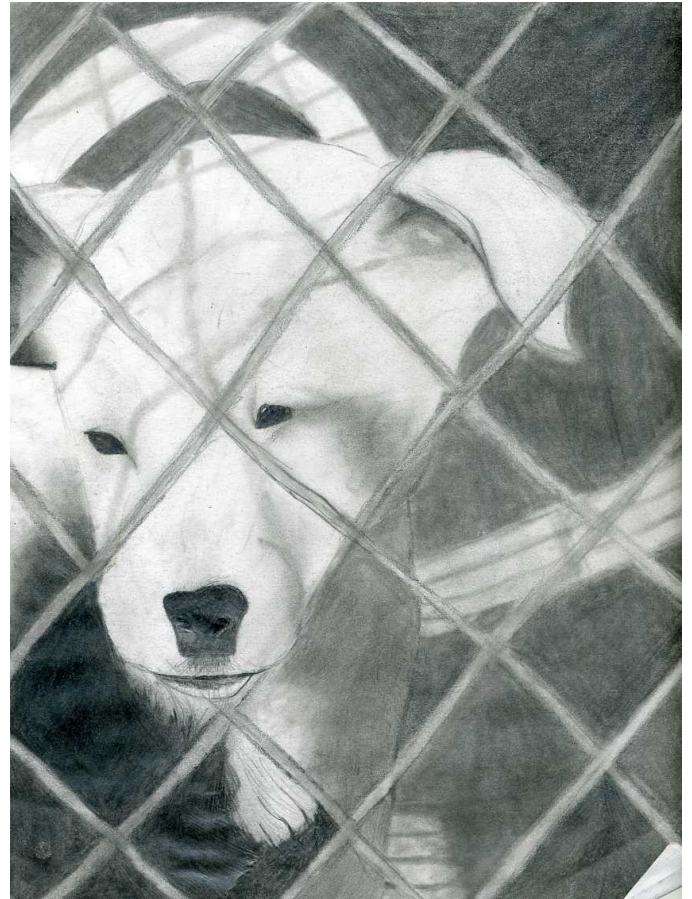
the injury to the Cardinal's star for four games, but also the abundance of skill in the whole conference. Lodi, who the Cardinals only lost to by 10 points, is ranked third out of all division three teams. If anything, Columbus has proven that it can compete with teams such as the 11-1 Lodi and can possibly make a deep playoff run. Although Columbus has lost some games, when at full strength they are a difficult team to play against. The Cardinals started the season strong, but have been in somewhat of a slump lately because they aren't finishing like they did in the beginning of the season. With the return of the Cardinals to full strength, and a 20 point domination of Lomira, I think their play will vastly improve and we will see life in the boys' program that hasn't been seen in many years.

CHS Students: You Got Talent!

Take a look at the amazing works by your fellow CHS students! If you'd like to be considered for next month's issue, submit your original work(s) to Ms. Porter in the office or to room 133. Poetry, creative writing, photography, art work or anything that can be archived in a photo is acceptable!



Taylor Gessler, freshman



Monica Raatz, sophomore

My Platypus by Abby Waldo

I wish I had a platypus.
I would name him Harold or Steve.
He would wear a tiny backpack.
We'd go to a pancake parade.

I would feed him lots of crackers.
I wish I had a platypus.
My friends could send him Christmas cards.
We would have a jolly good time.

I would make him watch Jeopardy,
And give him a new pair of socks.
I wish I had a platypus.
He would lick permanent markers.

My platypus would be the best.
I would teach him how to make pie.
We would discuss the Middle East.
I wish I had a platypus.



Gabby Menomin, freshman

Water by Anonymous

Natural, peaceful
Flows, drips, *splash*
A substance of life
Water

Flower by Anonymous

Beautiful, magnificent
Germinate, grow, gone
Bringing comfort to people
Flower

The Cool Embrace of Morning

by Elizabeth Breuckman

The sun rises like steam off of cow pies,
Shouting good morning to the lush, green crops.
The scent of morning dew,
The chirp of the forest coming alive,
The embrace of the crisp air,
The warmth of freshly brewed coffee on my tongue,
Nothing but illuminated, swiftly rolling hills.
The buzz and hiss of cicadas and crickets
Is like being violently shaken awake,
It makes your head spin.
Chris Cage sings of days like these,
Days that only happen in these wide open spaces,
Only in Wisconsin.
Shriveled and brown, the crops swallow the hills.
I think of the oatmeal still being digested
As my dad yells, "Git 'r done!" from across the lot.
I'll work all day, but I probably won't feel accomplished.

"Good morning beautiful, how was your night?"
The lyrics you hear blaring on the radio.
The dim moon of last night remembers all of my dreams.
I feel alive as a vampire in the morning light.
I can read my father's mind as he thinks
About my morning moodiness.
Lizi does nothing but admire the cool embrace of morning.
As she wonders about the attitude of tomorrow's sunrise.
I take in the ugly sunrise and eeriness of the crop-covered
hills.
I'll think of nothing but everything.
"Buenos días"
The sun whispers to me
And caresses the lush green crops
And swiftly rolling hills.

Just Sayin'

Dear Leah,
The people across from my locker keep bothering my best friend. I constantly overhear them talking about him and they have started getting more aggressive. As his friend, it is hard to deal with the constant annoyances and my friend's frustration. How can he make them stop? – Not Amused

Dear Not Amused,
For starters, I think you should confront them about the issue, just sayin'. Simply say to them that they are annoying you and you want them to stop pestering you and your friend. They will most likely get embarrassed by you confronting them and stop. If not, be a little more forceful when telling them to stop talking about your friend. And of course, you can always go get a teacher.

Advisor's Note: Bullying is an extremely serious issue; no one should ever feel like they are bullied. If you or someone you know are being bullied, please tell a staff member or trusted adult immediately. You are not alone in this; there are people to help.

Dear Leah,
How many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie pop? - Mr. Owl
Dear Mr. Owl,
The world may never know.

Dear Leah,
Why are boys so gross? - French Fry
Dear French Fry,
That is a matter of opinion, just sayin'. Girls can be just as gross as boys; they usually just choose to be more "clean"

than them. Boys are just stereotyped as gross and dirty people that are made of 'frogs and snails and puppy dog tails' while girls are made of 'sugar and spice and everything nice'.

Dear Leah,
I have been in the market for a good read. Any suggestions on a library book I should check out? - Jake

Dear Jake,
You should join the Book Club at the library! That would be a great way to find some new books to read, just sayin'. Information is posted on the bulletin board outside of the library; look for the theme for the next meeting and show up! You'll go for the refreshments, but stay for the conversation.

Dear Leah,
What will it take me to get on a date with Sarah Jahnke? - Casey Crombie
Dear Casey Crombie,
I had to go straight to Sarah herself to answer this question! According to Sarah, she wants a guy that "likes long walks on the beach." She would want to go on a date to a Marquette game, and Marquette would have to win against Wisconsin. So if you like long walks on the beach and can get her to a Marquette game, you have what it takes to get a date with Sarah Jahnke, just sayin'.

Leah,
I hate snow. There is snow outside and I hate it. How do I make it go away? - Heatlover
Dear Heatlover,
You can't really make the snow go

away. It has to melt...just sayin'. Unless you are best friends with Mother Nature, there is nothing you can do about the snow, sorry.

Got a question? Just write your question on a piece of paper and put it into the question box located in the library. Make sure it is school appropriate!

Clarion Staff

Editor-in-Chief: J.T. Cestkowski
Sports/Activities Editor: Ariel Baeseman
Editorial Editor: Brett Bousquet
Logan Wescott
Reagan Johnson
Becky Sawyer
Leah Clark
Aurélie Crémers
Sarah Rowe
Brittany Grafton
Staff Advisor: Ms. Porter

Clarion Policy

The Clarion is published, written and edited by students of Columbus High School. Information reported is accurate and factual to the best of our knowledge and ability. Anybody wishing to submit letters to the editor may do so understanding that it is up to *The Clarion* editors to determine whether or not a letter will be printed. No letter will be printed unless it is signed. Names can be withheld upon valid request to be determined by the staff. All letters to the editor should be submitted to Ms. Porter in room 133 or the office. Letters or articles may be withheld or censored at the discretion of the editors, advisors or administrators. *The Clarion* is published on a monthly basis.