

## Campus: open or closed?

**Paige Bowman**  
Associate Editor

At a recent school board meeting, during the open-podium portion of the meeting, my eyes were opened. People representing the Veterans for Peace came to rally for their right to distribute information at our school. Why not? We allow the military to recruit; why shouldn't this group be allowed access to Cookeville High School students? All they wanted was equal access.

Representatives of the various sects of the military are often in our schools with pamphlets. They are nice, they do not scream for attention, and they are not pushy. Yet I wonder, is it right for students, many of which cannot even vote, to

be influenced by mini booklets? It seems to me that injustice, with a side of closed-mindedness, was served to the Veterans for Peace. Is it just them? I'm sure it's not. Why were they told they were unwelcome in our school? Why were they turned away when the military is allowed in our school? Actually, why is the military allowed in our school? Furthermore, why is any group allowed in our school?

Currently, I know that both the military and religious groups are permitted on school grounds. This may upset some, but it is my personal opinion that no group should be allowed to speak to and influence our students. Why are youth ministers from various denominations allowed in our school? While I have absolutely no problem with religion, I do think that anything ecclesiastical has absolutely no place in a public school. Disagree? Fine. It doesn't bother me, but the one

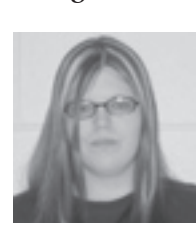
bother me is on my way into lunch a twenty-something youth minister trying to look hip asks me if I'll be at the big (insert denomination here) get-together that night. I'm sure he's nice, but while I'm on my way to lunch, the last thing I want is a dose of the Word.

I understand that for the most part, youth ministers only approach students that they know, but what about the people they sit with? Not everyone sits with their church buddies. It can create uncomfortable situations for those that attend another church, or do not attend church at all. What are you, a salesman? Well, I'm not buying, so please, take a walk.

By allowing one or two groups in, the door for everyone else is opened. If you let one in, let them all in. It is unfair for some groups to be turned away.

## Additional classes to enrich CHS experience

**Allison Coffey**  
Charger Staff



Let's pretend that I have an immense amount of power involving things that occur here at school.

This power I speak of is very interesting and important, and it may only be used for good, in this case the bettering of our beloved school. This power I speak of is the ability to change. These changes I wish to make may only apply to the minority of students, but it still does apply.

My hypothetical power is the ability to add new classes to the ones that are already offered. I know you are jealous, but you will just have to get over it.

Now, if I were to add classes, the first would be a Psychology Honors class. While I might be an intellectual snob, that is not my reasoning behind wanting this course.

My reason is that the psychology class already offered is very limited in what can be taught. This has a lot to do with it being teamed up with sociology, making each course only nine weeks long.

Because of this, lots of interesting

information is barely touched or skipped over completely.

The new and improved psychology class would last one semester and be by itself. It would mimic that of a college-level psychology course and even count for three hours of college credit.

Students taking the course would be able to get more in-depth with the topics discussed now and possibly the ones that are not even brought up.

This class would be perfect for students who are planning or at least considering a career in the psychology field.

Another class that I believe should be offered is a Modern Literature class.

Yes, I know that we read enough as it is in our English classes and that most people do not equate reading to being fun, but there are those who do. Reading classic upon classic each year can become repetitive and boring.

Introducing different and new literature to interested students would be a way to break up the monotony. The class would offer open discussions over the different books read, creating a good environment for the students and the teacher.

I believe a class on the different religions of the world would be interesting and educating.

My hypothetical power is not strong enough to make this work so we shall just move right along to my last class -- and this one is for the slackers!

Every senior needs a great last semester class. What better than a Movie Appreciation class? That's right. A class where all you do is watch movies.

Once a week, a movie would be assigned for the students to watch during class. A test would be taken over the movie, but it would require no more knowledge than the general plot.

A field trip will also be taken once a month to the movie theatre, just for kicks.

No papers, no homework, nothing. Does that not sound like fun? Of course it does.

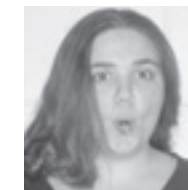
I do believe that our school has a decent variety of subjects for students to take.

I also believe that there could be more classes and possibly better ones. But I am just a student. What can I do?

## Popcorn and Politics:

What we imagine is order is merely the prevailing form of chaos...

**Erin McMillan**  
Charger Staff



For the past year, it has become apparent that changes are coming to the halls of CHS. From the

removal of Coke machines, to the recently resolved issue of whether or not to toss out block scheduling, the proposals have left most students and teachers bearing a permascowl. I think that all these issues are springing up because of horrible budgeting. Why should students bear the brunt of a budget that spends in the wrong areas? It seems as though every few years someone wants to try a new schedule or a new teaching program that some think tank has cooked up and will invariably leave at least one entire class out in the cold.

The bottom line of education is always, 100% of the time, money, not learning. There is not enough money to pay the teachers so there are threats of layoffs and firings.

There is not enough money to permanently, without a doubt, keep block scheduling so reports are presented saying that it does not reap many benefits over traditional scheduling. Secretaries and other support staff who keep schools humming have their hours cut. Also, all of the cafeteria workers faced being replaced by contract workers because it's cheaper. There is not enough money for calculator batteries or new books, so teachers and students do without. Meanwhile, there does seem to be enough money to bring in new programs--paying no mind to the fact that they come with very high price tags and get rid of all the Coke machines that provide a substantial amount of extra cash.

You would imagine that the people entrusted with all the money dedicated to education and the future of Putnam County, America, wherever, little as it may be, would be able to see where the money is really needed and act accordingly, maybe even, heaven forbid, raising taxes.

Apparently, this is absolutely not

the case, and what is left is a war of teachers and students against the board of education and the board of education against the county commission with our education left to suffer.

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