



THE DART



complete 2004 election coverage



Protestors at 63rd and Ward Parkway voice their support for presidential candidate Senator John Kerry.

photo by Juana Summers

100% of all STA 18-year-olds polled are planning to vote in the upcoming election. It is our duty and privilege to be informed.

In This Issue:

- A table breaking down the candidates views on key issues
- How students are getting involved in local political events and campaigns
- A look at the different influences on teen voters
- Poll of STA students

Speakers enlighten STA Faith in Action Series kicks off with journalist

Jessica Closson
Staff Writer

Faith in Action is a program created by Dr. Faith Wilson, president of STA, and Mr. Kevin Flattery, director of development, designed to instigate more faith in the STA community. Speakers from different organizations and backgrounds will be coming to STA to talk about several issues and worldwide concerns that involve the Catholic Church once a month from October through May. The first meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 5 in the auditorium during both activities. Although the school does not require attendance, many teachers may ask their students to go, for many of the talks are relevant to numerous classes.

The program invites students, teachers and even parents to see how others have taken faith to the next step and to be inspired to go through the journey as well.

"I have been interested in STA doing this for a number of years, where adults and students learn about faith and living faith," said Wilson.

The committee hopes to get two particular things out of this program: people will gain a global understanding of the Catholic Church and will be inspired by regular people who have taken their faith to the next step.

This past summer Dr. Faith Wilson, Ms. Anita Reznicek, Ms. Robin Good, and Mr. Kevin Flattery met with people in the Kansas City area about Faith in Action to see who would be interested in speaking to the STA community. Among the chosen were Mr. Tom Fox, publisher of the *National Catholic*

Reporter (NCR), Mr. Tom Roberts, editor of the NCR, Ms. Carol Coburn and Sister Martha Smith, professors at Avila University, Sister Rita Lavivee, Ms. Mary Kay Meyer, who works in the Catholic Worker house, and Ms. Rachel Grillot, an STA alumna.

The talks will cover different topics such as, how to learn from the poor in the community, the history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and religions of the world.

"My hope is that the talks will stir good conversations and have ripple effects," said Reznicek.

Reznicek believes that these talks will help students to form opinions about faith and religion. She says that, especially for underclassmen, right now is a critical time for forming opinions, and this program will hopefully initiate some interest and good opinions about faith.

"I am so excited by Tom's vision of hope," said Good. "He conveyed so much hope for the church, when all there has been is so much scandal and controversy. There is a desire on my part, on all our parts, to look at where the church is at and where it is going. I listened to Tom and I became aware that faith is so much bigger than our own little world."

Good believes that if people experience faith and recognize what is beyond his or her own world, that each person can become a powerful witness and see faith as part of reality.

During each session the audience members are invited to voice thoughts or opinions, so that the meetings are less like lectures and more like symposiums. In this way the committee hopes to help the STA students to gain a deeper understanding of their faith and the faith of others around the world.



photo by Ann Langworthy

Mr. Tom Fox, publisher of the *National Catholic Reporter*, addresses students and faculty Oct. 5 during Activity period.

Teen deaths shake metro

Leslie Herring
Staff Writer

Nike tells us to "Just do it." Gatorade asks us "Is it in you?" Media encourages us to work harder, be faster and be the best. Sports participants are taught to win and they train to do just that. Coaches, parents and peers alike feed into the mind-set of all athletes to defeat. But, is the pressure in youth sports becoming too much?

According to the *Kansas City Star*, Lee's Summit North freshman and cross-country runner, Rachel Dent, was competing in her first ever high school meet on Sept. 4. After going through the chute at the end of the race, Dent collapsed and stopped breathing. She was rushed to a hospital in Jefferson City, where the race was being held, and then moved to a hospital in Columbia. There, she was put on life support. Four days after the race, on Sept. 7, Dent died.

"My immediate reaction was sadness," says STA cross-country head coach Mrs. Karen Moran Redlich. "She was a freshman running in her first meet ever and it's just sad how young she was and how much potential she had."

Eight-year-old Ryen Vanden Broeder was trying to lose weight to make a weight limit for his youth football league when

he collapsed of heat stroke on Aug. 27, reported the *Kansas City Star*. Vanden Broeder was four pounds over the 135-pound limit.

Weight limits are very common within youth football leagues, and often determine who can play and who can run with the football.

"Weight limits are mostly a safety issue," says Visitation football coach Mr. Mike Taylor. "It's not in the best interest of anyone involved for a 140-pound kid to crash into a 90-pound kid. [Weight limits] are not imposed to make the game more fair and there is a choice for parents. They can decide what leagues they want their child to play in."

Both deaths have raised many questions for athletes regarding pressure says sophomore cross-country runner, Mary Nulton.

"There is always pressure coming at [athletes]," says Nulton. "Especially with parents. It's hard, but I think that they need to stay within guidelines. They need to give their child freedom to work as hard as they want to work."

The pressure in youth sports in something that Nutritionist Paula Antanocci is very familiar with.

"In our culture there are a lot of sports that tell you to push
see Deaths, page 2

STRANGE CAMPUS NEWS

Theology teacher, Ms. Hansbrough said that she "just picked up the wrong one" while dressing in the dark the morning of Sep. 14. The mistake was not noticed until activity two in a Community Service Club meeting when junior Molly Friend pointed out that Ms. Hansbrough was wearing two

different shoes.

Ms. Hansbrough explained that although both shoes were Birkenstock sandals, she wears one to school and the other while painting. Ms. Hansbrough said that she was dressing in the dark so she wouldn't wake her husband who had been on call at Baptist-Lutheran Medical Center the night before. -Mollie Esposito

OVERHEARD: Round II Student Stress

Ann Stacy Editor-in-Chief



What do STA girls discuss as they giggle and guffaw their way across the quad? What can possibly

get students so excited that they jump into the air while clapping with delight? How can one, lone topic of conversation hold the attention of a group of energetic girls throughout the 40 minute span of a free, and render them completely oblivious to the world that surrounds them?

Last year I attempted to answer these questions in a column, "OverHeard." Although I was able to uncover some truths of the wild, strange and entertaining conversations of STA girls, I feel that there are more topics on which I can shed some light. This year I'm back, keeping my ears open and striving to capture some of the captivating conversations of STA girls.

Although I will not be discussing personal hygiene, the weirdness of STA girls or student stress among other topics as I did in the past, I will still be on a mission to discover what students spill out of their mouths with such animation. So in the words of MC Hammer, "Ring the bell, school's back in," because this is "OverHeard: Round II."

Even before girls begin their careers at STA, they are reminded that college is just around the corner. During STA's Open House tour there is a stop at the college counseling department. There, prospective students and their parents are told that even though it seems like a lot of time, four years actually goes by quickly, and before they know it, the time to apply to colleges will have arrived. Although this piece of information is believable, it is hard for most girls to grasp the concept of having to decide what university to attend, when they don't even know what they are going to wear to their eighth grade graduation. Once freshman year has begun, many STA girls desire to put off thinking about college until some other year.

"I just decided on a high school. How am supposed to already be thinking about college?" girls often question. "I have three whole years until I need to think about college," others say. But faster than the four-minute passing periods between mods, freshman year fast-forwards to senior year. It is then when the shock-probably similar to that which a dog experiences when it runs through an electric fence-hits. It's not that students haven't been prepared for this moment, but the realization that it has arrived, that gets them.

After all, girls have received preparation in countless college planning meetings, and have been reminded since that time long ago freshman year to keep up their GPAs. Nonetheless, they wander campus and sit in classrooms frantically discussing college.

"Are you going to that college fair tonight?" a girl asked her friend. "Do you want to go with me?" she questioned further, hoping to gain strength in numbers in an effort to tame the beast known as the college application process. "Have any of you had your meeting with Ms. Hart?" a senior asked some of her peers, seemingly hoping that they now held the secret to finding the right school, and that they would share it with her.

When students reach senior year they face a wave of questions from STA faculty and staff, family members and friends. These people commonly want to know what schools are on students' lists, what their top choice is or where they are going to go. Many students, unsure of the answers, dodge these questions.

"Let's not talk about that right now," a girl said, deferring a question about college. "First I have to get in, and then we'll talk," a student said, taking a realistic approach to college. "Don't ask me that," a stressed senior stated in a matter of fact manner.

Despite the clouds of worry and confusion that linger over the heads of STA seniors throughout the fall, many students experience some level of comfort knowing that they attend St. Teresa's Academy: College Prep for Young Women Since 1866. If the girls of the Academy have been surviving the college application process for over a century, it's probably unlikely that the train will stop chugging here. This knowledge allows students to occasionally approach applying to colleges with a light-hearted attitude.

"My mom said that I don't have to apply to that school if I don't want to, because she's afraid of its mascot," a girl said, laughing. Additionally, it's nice for girls to know that when the college crusade has ended, and they have finally reached their destination, the reward will be great. Many college graduates profess that college was the best time of their lives, a chance to meet new friends and an opportunity to discover who they are. Heck, in the movie "Old School" Frank the Tank and his friends didn't dramatically alter their lifestyles in an attempt to go back to their college way of life for nothing. But until acceptance letters begin to arrive, girls will continue to battle through the daily stacks of college mail, fill out applications, write résumés and compose essays.

"I can't wait until all of this is over."

OBITUARY

Graphics teacher dies



Former STA computer graphics teacher Mrs. Joyce Burkholder passed away on Oct. 3, 2004.

Burkholder was a staff member at STA for 20 years. Her death followed a battle with skin cancer.

Burkholder attended Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. Before teaching at St. Teresa's, Burkholder taught in the Kansas City, Missouri school district.

Burkholder is survived by her husband, brother, children, and grandchildren. She will be missed by the entire community.

LIFE BY NUMBERS

Flaming hot dress \$100

Four inch heels \$50

Sassy updo \$30

Romantic candlelit dinner for two + generous tip \$57

A hunk of a date for Teresian PRICELESS

COLLEGE INFO

College Fair

The Shawnee Mission East College Clinic will be held Wednesday (October 13) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the gym of Shawnee Mission East High School. Juniors and Seniors are welcome to attend the clinic, where over 200 colleges and universities will be in attendance. Students can talk to admission representatives from the schools who will answer questions about admission, scholarships and other facts about the school.

SCO

Rockhurst Switch Day

On November 1, Rockhurst boys will invade the STA campus. Eight boys will be shadowing selected SCO members for the day. Later, on November 11, the STA girls will be shadowing at Rockhurst. The idea is to give students from both schools the opportunity to experience a different school setting for a day. -Ann Langworthy

Top Ten Worst Ways to Ask Your Date to Teresian

- 10. If I can't find anyone else, will you be my date?
9. You + me = us (at Teresian), with all the hand motions from MTV's 2GETHER.
8. I have the dress, tickets, limo and now all I need is you.
7. All the other guys said no so will you go with me?
6. I was skimming through the Rockhurst directory and I found your name...
5. Check with your parole officer and let me know.
4. You probably don't remember me, we went to day care together...
3. I saw your personal ad and I love Liza Minnelli too...
2. If you're my first cousin twice removed, we're not REALLY related right?
1. Is your wife going to be ok with this? -Leslie Herring

Deaths

(Continued from page 1)

it to the limit," says Antanocci. "Especially with guys; they do not want to be that guy that couldn't handle the practice. They don't want to be the weak link of the team."

In Dent's case, she had run every day in the summer and had been healthy except for a minor cold virus a week before the race, said the Kansas City Star. But, onlookers said she had looked "pained" during the race.

"It is seen as normal for a cross-country runner to faint at the end of a race," says Antanocci. "Or, to throw up in the middle of it. That's just not true and [runners] need to realize that."

When dealing with weight issues, Taylor offers advice for parents and coaches.

"With losing weight to be within a regulation weight limit, it really should come down to how far away the child is from making the limit," says Taylor. "If they are 10 pounds away the week before, it's the coaches responsibility to say 'they you're going to play on the line, and you are going to love it on the line' and to make the player love it."

According to Anorexia Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders, athletes that participate in

a sport that emphasizes a lean body, such as running, gymnastics, and ballet, are at a much higher risk for developing an eating disorder.

The NCAA did a study in 2003 to look at the number of student athletes that had experienced an eating disorder in the past two years. Ninety-three percent of the reported cases were from female athletes.

After the deaths of Dent and Vanden Broeder, athletes and coaches are much more aware of their team's health.

"Her death makes me much more cautious as a coach," says Moran. "The girls realize the importance of taking good care of themselves."

Nulton agrees. "[Dent's death] is really scary, because I realize it could happen to anybody," says Nulton.

With all youth sports, weight and physical fitness are always issues that bring about pressure. Despite that, Taylor thinks youth sports are a great opportunity.

"Youth sports are a great thing, but it can become a bad situation is programs and coaches don't understand what the players can handle and not handle," says Taylor. "But, for a lot of kids, sports are the first time they are able to be a part of something greater than themselves."

College Application Deadlines

Table with 2 columns: If your application is due... and Turn it in to Miss Hart by... listing dates from November 1 to February 15.

CLASS OF 2005

National Merit

Seniors Katy Boat and Rose Dillon were recently recognized as National Merit Semi-Finalists. This achievement is based on a student's PSAT scores from their junior year. Boat and Dillon are two out of approximately 16,000 semi-finalists across the nation and are in the top 1% of high school students in Missouri.

After notification of semi-finalist status, students submit a form, essay and teacher recommendation, which are reviewed by judges who then choose which students become finalists. Of the 16,000 students, 90% are expected to become finalists, who will then compete for the 8,200 college-based and national merit scholarships, whose values vary. Students will be notified in February 2005 as to whether or not they become finalists.

Boat and Dillon are the only two semi-finalists from the class of 2005 compared to the four semi-finalists and finalists from the class of 2004. -Maggie Mullane

St. Teresa's Academy, 5600 Main St., Kansas City, Missouri 64113 816 501-0011

Table listing staff members and their roles: Ann Stacy (Editor-in-Chief), Ann Langworthy (Managing Editor-News Front Page), Ali Ryan (Managing Editor-Design/Center Spread), Rachel Straughn (Managing Editor-Visuals), Cierra Obioha (News Page Editor), Rose Dillon (Features Page Editor), Katie Hembree (Lifestyles Page Editor), Alex Hercules (Co-Sports Editor), Caroline Findlay (Co-Sports Editor), Tyler Yarbrough (Copy Editor), Molly Huber (Copy Editor), Julia McQueeney-Thorp (Entertainment Page Editor), Juana Summers (Center-Spread Editor), Maggie Mullane (Graphics Editor), Kathryn Fitzsimmons (Advertising/Business Manager).

Staff Writers/Photographers

Mary Kate Bird, Jessica Closson, Chandler Domian, Mollie Esposito, Nicole Farley, Leslie Herring, Katie Meyers, Colleen Owens, Kathleen Pointer, Alison Raybould, Colleen Slentz, Sarah Tampke

Editorial Policy

The Dart is a student newspaper written, designed, and typeset by members of the newspaper staff. The Dart is published with funds from the St. Teresa's Academy general operating fund. Unsigned editorials present the opinions of The Dart staff. Signed editorials reflect the opinions of the individual.

Letters Policy

The Dart encourages letters to the editor. All letters are to be submitted to Mr. Eric Thomas in Music & Arts 205. If a letter is to be considered for publication, it must be typed and signed by the author. The author's name may be withheld upon request.

LiveStrong message reflected on campus



Photo by Kathleen Pointer

Two students model their support for the Lance Armstrong Foundation through wearing the yellow band LiveStrong bracelet.

Kathleen Pointer

Staff Writer

Yellow seems to be the "it" color of the season. Since May 17, yellow armbands imprinted with Lance Armstrong's manta, "Live Strong," have been available

for purchase through the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF). All funds are being donated to cancer related issues. Armstrong's goal was to raise \$6 million (including a \$1 million donation from the Nike Corporation), but so far, \$11 million has been made.

STA family ties strained by warfare

Katie Meyers

Staff Writer

After eighteen months and over 1,000 US casualties, the war in Iraq continues on, and more and more families are beginning to feel the strain and stress of sending their loved ones to war. For many, the strain has been there for years. Experienced and amateur military families alike go through an array of emotions. Distress

"Sometimes I wouldn't even know that he had left," said senior Tiger Connole about her father, Senior Chief Timothy Connole of the US Navy. "I used to fall asleep at our front door just waiting to hear him pull up the driveway."

Timothy Connole has been called away on duty about eight times. Though he doesn't always agree with the reasons why he has to go, Timothy Connole



Mr. Timothy Connole

knows that he cannot let his opinion interfere with his orders. Most recently he went to Kuwait, leaving Tiger Connole and her mother who had just undergone surgery. While in Kuwait, Timothy Connole was with the Mobile Insure Undersea Warfare Unit 114; the unit's job was to protect the seaports of Kuwait and Iraq.

"I wished that I could go home to my family every single day, but I had a job to do," said Timothy Connole. "I had to protect America."

Aggravation "He missed my 8 grade graduation and the beginning of freshman year," said sophomore Claire Cullen about her father, Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Cullen of the Air Force Reserves.

"That was a little sad, but we have it easier than a lot of other families," Mr. Jerry Cullen said. During Claire Cullen's lifetime, her dad has had



Mr. Jerry Cullen

to leave his family twice. In 1997 he went to Germany and in 2002 he went to the Republic of Georgia. For six months each time. Currently, Jerry Cullen works for a private contracting company based in Newport, Rhode Island. Almost every other month he visits Baghdad for about two weeks. Fear

"It always scares me to hear about the Marines being killed in Fallujah,"

said freshman Elizabeth Nelson, whose step-brother, Corporal Josh Lacey of the US Marine Corps, has been stationed in Fallujah for the last year and just signed up for another term.

Lacey specializes in small arms repair; but when there are no arms to repair he does deskwork or mans guns. Lacey originally joined the Marines in February 2002 to help pay his college tu-



Mr. Josh Lacey

ition, but six months later he was shipped to Japan. Nelson has noticed a change in her stepbrother during their phone conversations. She notices that he is more mature and focused on his future.

Isolation

"I can't talk to my mom about whatever I'm thinking like most girls can," said freshman Lauren Bly, whose mother, Master Sergeant Terri Bly of the US Army Reserves, is stationed in Afghanistan.

Terri Bly has been in Afghanistan for about six months. She provides medical care to Afghani people. Men in Afghanistan refuse medical assistance from women. Therefore, most of Terri Bly's patients are female.

Terri Bly and her husband, Dan Bly, recently had their 25th wedding anniversary, for which she was able to come home for. Since she has been gone, Dan Bly works as little as possible so that he can care for his family.

Anxiety

"It's going to be so shocking if

he leaves," said sophomore Coco Owens about her brother, Cadet Sean Owens of the US Army. "But if anyone was made to go over there it's Sean."

Sean Owens is in his fourth year at Central Missouri State University. Since he joined the army in 2000,

both he and his family have been anxious to learn his assignment. According to his sister, Coco, Sean Owens has been preparing for action since he was a kid playing with toy soldiers. But she does not think her parents are as enthusiastic about the possibility of their son going to war.

Despite the distress, aggravation, fear, isolation, and anxiety that these families feel, they continue to stand behind their soldiers. They strengthen our armed forces and our country through their support, their prayers and their love.



Mr. Sean Owens

Family adds new member from Chile

Colleen Owens

Staff Writer

The Sherman's experience with the foreign exchange program American Foundry Society (AFS), has been unusual compared to many cases. At the time, senior Ali Sherman had just left as a volunteer in Panama. The same day she got back, Aug. 13, Carolina Vidal Riquelme flew into Kansas City from Concepción, Chile to live with them. Just three weeks later, Ali's sister Mary Elizabeth Sherman left for college after graduating from STA in May.

"I moved out of my room, Carolina moved into my room, and I moved into my sisters room, Ali Sherman said. "There were boxes everywhere in the house."

In less than a month, the Shermans had gained and lost members in their family almost simultaneously.

"[The experience] helped with the transition of having one daughter leave and welcoming another daughter at the same

time," Connie Sherman said. "We were all excited to open up for the process."

Bill and Connie Sherman agreed that the foreign exchange program was something they had always wanted to try before, but because of lack of space, they could not. With Mary Elizabeth Sherman gone, there was enough room to house the student.

"We wanted to open our home to a student to show how different the American way of life is, that we're not all arrogant and materialistic," Mrs. Sherman said.

To get started Connie Sherman called Katherine Neet, the District Representative for STA. She sent them information about the program and surveyed each member of the family to make sure that the student and the family was comfortable with each other. Once the survey was processed, they offered Vidal. When Vidal's parents asked if she really wanted to go through with this, she replied with a definite "yes."

The Shermans have made plans to spend Thanksgiving in New York and spring break in Disneyland.

Vidal came to America finding a few things new to her: In Chile, the homes and yards are entirely walled off; making it hard to see into the neighbors' yards. Mrs. Sherman thought back to that same day she came to their family. She had prepared a cranberry salad. As the family sat down to eat, she noticed Vidal shoving the cranberries to the side of her plate.

"I don't like cranberries," she said after a long pause. "Strawberries are cool though."

Vidal makes it clear that most American food are to her liking. "She's a peanut butter addict," Ali Sherman said. "I asked her if she wanted a ham sandwich or a peanut butter sandwich and she looked at me like what kind of question was that and said 'peanut butter' with no hesitation."

Upon hearing this, Ms. René



Photo by Colleen Owens

Carolina Vidal Riquelme and Connie Sherman talk as they prepare Sunday night dinner. Blake, her advisor, decided to buy a bag of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups giving Vidal her first one. The entire family was so grateful for how welcoming the STA community has been. She is fitting in well, having been to a Rockhurst football game as well as having a date to Teresian.

"She just jumps right in and is enthusiastic about every encounter," said Mrs. Sherman stated. "She has brought such a wonderful dimension to this family." Vidal summed up the experience by saying it was really cool. She added with a smile, "They are like family to me."

Women possess potential for change

Efforts of suffragettes serve as example for today's voters

A St. Teresa's senior tentatively pushes past the curtain of the voting booth. She scans the names and finds her candidates on the ballot. With the click of a button she casts her vote, fulfilling her patriotic duty. Within minutes her mind wanders to the call she needs to make about Friday night plans. She whips out her Samsung and dials up her best friend and partner in crime. They laugh and plot the coming weekend's adventures.

Does she know that she has just exercised one of her most valuable and hard-won rights as a U.S. citizen? Is she aware of the sacrifices of the women who enabled her to complete this task, or the affect of women voters in the outcome of elections? She should be.

Following the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, where women gathered to discuss their rights as citizens, women struggled for almost 75 years to have their voices heard and acknowledged. Throughout their struggle, these suffragettes faced discrimination and opposition; yet they did not back down. In 1917 the first peaceful protest-a picket staged by women for the right to vote led to the arrest and imprisonment of 33 of its participants. The 40 prison guards at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia tortured these women to near death in an incident known as the Night of Terror. These women were chained to cell bars, beaten with clubs and malnourished, among other forms of abuse. Their food was infested with

worms and their water came from an open pail.

Most disturbing, however, is how few of these women lived to enjoy the benefits of their sacrifices.

This should be a wake-up call to all women. It is a reminder to them that the right to vote is a privilege, and these women suffered not only for themselves, but for us, the women of the future. They faced death so our voices could be heard and influence the direction of our country.

Although American women currently have a higher voter participation rate than men, there is room for improvement.

According to the Center for American Women in Politics, in the 2000 presidential election 56.2 percent of

eligible women voters exercised their right, while only 53.1 percent of eligible men went to the polls. This statistic seems impressive; however, 30% of the eligible women in the United States were not even registered to vote.

Women should be proud of the strides we have made, but what would Susan B. Anthony, a leading suffragette, say to the 30 percent of non-registered, but eligible women, or the active women voters who are allowing them to get away with not voting?

The victims of the Night of Terror did not suffer and sacrifice their lives for modern women to refrain from voting due to busy schedules or bad weather. It is our responsibility to ensure these brave and determined women's efforts were not in vain.

Currently, the population of the United States is 51 percent female. This means, theoretically, that if all eligible women cast their votes, we could decide the next president. This also refutes the belief that men hold women back from controlling political offices such as president. Even if every eligible male voter voted against a female candidate, the votes of eligible women voters could put her into office.

As Nov. 2 approaches, women must recognize and exercise their right. It is time we all acknowledge the power we possess and put it into action. It is hard for us to imagine life without this privilege, so let's wake up and honor the efforts of the women who gave it to us.

photo poll: If you could elect any teacher as president, who would it be?



"Mr. Schroer definitely. I would choose him because he's my best friend. We hang out on the weekends and if he became president, I would get the benefit of hanging out in the Air Force 1 and having my homework completed by Secret Service."
Colleen VanBuskirk, senior



"I would elect Mr. Serridge, because he's the Sir Dog. He isn't biased. He listens to both sides of the story. He plays it real!"
Mary Martha Donaldson, senior



"Dr. Joe because I love him and I think he'll make a lot of good decisions. He's a really great guy."
Catherine Daly, junior



"Mr. Fud because he's a cool teacher. He's against racism and discrimination, so this would make the world more peaceful."
Ciera Trejo, sophomore



"Mrs. Prentiss because she's cool and a lot of fun."
Anna Essmann, freshman

What's **-REALLY-** Goin' On

Suspected serial killings intensify fear

Tyler Yarbrough
Copy Editor



For the past month, fear has draped across the Kansas City area, especially the already decrepit streets of Prospect Avenue. The terror that engulfs our community is based on killings in the same area, during a short time span, but it is all threaded in a string of uncertainty.

Yet we have convinced ourselves, without proof, that there is a serial killer on the loose. The recent discoveries of the bodies of six women in what is called the Prospect Corridor, the area east of downtown, have led police to believe that a single killer is responsible for all six murders. All of the bodies were found in vacant lots and buildings close in proximity.

Sept. 16, prosecutors charged

Terry A. Blair, 43, a paroled killer, with the murder of Sheliah McKinzie, 38, one of the six victims, whose body was found on Sept. 2 in a detached garage on 26th and Montgall Avenue. DNA evidence connects Blair to McKinzie but not the other five victims.

Now we are on edge again, especially after reading explosive newspaper headlines that use phrases like "Serial killer is on the prowl," and "Serial killer could be loose." Those words alone evoke feelings of terror. The ongoing media coverage of the sad street corners of Prospect and the family members of the victims warning the neighbors to watch their backs are enough to instill fear in even the bravest of souls. The police reports simply *suspect* that we have a serial killer on our hands, but it has yet to be confirmed.

We live in such a way that fear is all that we know. It holds

us captive. When we live our lives always looking over our shoulders, it takes away our freedom. When we are conditioned to live with our guard up, when is it safe to put it down? When will we be able to live our lives without the thought that there is danger around every corner? That answer is uncertain since we live in an age where fear is comfort. Fear lets us know that we are alive, but are we really when fear dictates our every action?

I am not promoting that we should wander alone aimlessly at two o'clock in the morning, in an unfamiliar area. I'm not saying that at all. Fear paralyzes, but stupidity beckons danger. We must be smart.

We must find a line between when it is appropriate to simply live our lives and when we should be on edge. But we all must draw our own lines preferably in pencil.

10-second editorials

It is imperative that upperclassmen make it their responsibility to nurture, advise and even protect freshmen. Over the years, upperclassmen have accepted the position as "big, bad bullies." That must change. We live in a society where we

create lines of distinction (which are based on trivial differences like race, socio-economic status and age) between those who are considered inferior, and the superior. Don't lug those imaginary lines to school with you. Leave them at home.

Although gas prices continue to rise, U.S. consumption has remained essentially the same. We continue to pump our cars full of gas, day after day, without a second thought to it's toll on our wallets, or what we'll do after we have

exhausted the entire global oil resource. SUV sales have remained virtually level the past several years. These gas-guzzling vehicles are not the most economical. Consider these concepts the next time you pull up to the pump.

As students file out of the cafeteria every day after lunch, they toss away numerous paper bags, aluminum cans and plastic bottles that could be recycled. Every four feet of

recycled paper saves one tree. By simply having a recycling bin or two in our cafeteria, as a school we could show that we are concerned about the well-being of the planet.

Recent trends don't have to do with what girls are wearing, but what they aren't wearing. Celebrities such as Paris Hilton sport short skirts and low cut tops. As usual, most teen girls follow media trends. Girls don't

need to wear sweaters and pants, but sometimes short is too short and tight is too tight. Why do girls who attend a school that is supposed to place women equally to men degrade themselves by following such trends?

Découpage: Considering a new art form

Sarah Tampke
Staff Writer

The craft of découpage is coming back into style as a way for those who are less talented to show their creative artistic ability.

Don't know what découpage is? According to a random survey of STA students, you are not alone. When asked what they thought it was, students common answers were Latin, a dessert, a work out term or a French sounding word.

Découpage is a decorative technique that involves using paper cutouts and pasting them onto a surface, usually onto furniture. There are two types of découpage: the old découpage, which is most commonly known and now the new découpage.

The origins of découpage trace back all the way to the 12th century. It began with Chinese peasants using paper cutouts to decorate windows, lanterns and other objects. German and Polish artisans have also been using paper cutouts for several centuries. It is however the 17th century lacquer work done on

furniture that is most similar to old découpage today. Drawings from the artists of the day were cut out, glued down and covered with lacquer to resemble original paintings. This became known as *l'arte del povero* or "poor man's art." Later in the 19th century découpage became popular once again. Then in England it was common for women to decorate surfaces such as screens, lamp bases, linen boxes and other household items.

Today's découpage, or new découpage, is not about delicate Victorian or floral images on fancy plates. It's about transforming one's environment, according to Durwin Rice in his book *New Decoupage*. He believes that through découpage people can transform a trinket into an object of art. He suggests being creative and using whatever you like, be it paper or fabric. Rice thinks that designs in today's découpage should include styles that have influenced Western civilization. Rice begins his book with a brief history on découpage; he then goes into the

fundamental techniques of it. Later on he shows and describes both large and small simple projects. Not every découpage project has to be as big as a piece of furniture like a dresser. Rice also suggests that not all of the things cut out are paper images- some are photographs and even fabrics.

Rice is one of the nations leading decoupeurs: his work is sold all over the world. He used to live in New York but just recently moved back to Kansas City. He has opened a studio at 55th and Troost Avenue where he weekly gives workshops. Soon Rice will add a store in the same location that sells supplies for découpage. For more information visit his website at www.durwinrice.com.

Mrs. Willa Raybould has attended one of Rice's workshops. It was 10 hours long and costs \$150. She said découpage was fairly easy to learn, and found that the tricks and technique Rice taught were very helpful.

You don't have to take a class or workshops to découpage, according to STA art teacher Ms. Theresa Wallerstedt. She says

anyone can do it.

"Decoupage is not art, it's... a craft," said Wallerstedt. "People who do this don't have to have natural artistic talent. All it involves is cutting out pictures and pasting them onto other things."

Junior Molly Friend who is an art student has similar views on the craft of découpage.

"[Decoupage] is to country, almost like too stay-at-home-crafty to be considered a form of art," said Friend. "I don't consider someone an artist unless they can back up their work with validity."

On the other hand some see découpage as its own unique form of art.

"Everybody is an artist if they create," said Raybould. "What is art to one person, may not be to another person. Maybe not the work I have done is considered art but if you look something done by Durwin, I mean that is art."

Decoupage has gone in and out of style throughout history. Now the new découpage is a way for people to express their creativity.

HOW TO... Withstand a season of cross-country

Ann Langworthy
Managing Editor-Front Page



Cross-country is not a sport for the weak of heart. It takes courage, determination and Adrenaline to even think

about going to practice. But, once the workouts are over and the meets are finished, you are rewarded with the blissful fact that you never have to run again.

My relationship with cross-country has been brief.

I began running cross-country as a freshman in a feeble attempt to meet my new classmates. Since the season is so early in the school year, practices begin weeks before school. That year there were only about 25 people on the team, practically nothing compared to this year's record-breaking 75.

Sophomore and junior year I took a break. I needed time to rethink my strategy. I knew that the joy of running would become that much sweeter if I spent some time walking.

For my senior year, I have returned to the grass, lacing up my shoes once again. I expected it would be challenging, considering that I had not run for a couple years, but I felt up to the task.

Through my limited experience, I have come up with a system. Surviving cross-country can be broken down into these steps:

1. Don't expect to win unless you're good. This way you save yourself the disappointment.

2. Use your "issues." If you are ticked off at someone, channel that anger into positive efforts, like running faster. This might not be very mentally healthy but before you know it, you're in the chute.

3. Lie to yourself. If you tell yourself the finish line is around the next tree line, your pace will pick up. Once you realize you have two miles left, the anger will set in. (see rule #2)

4. The sticks and holes on a course will begin to look very tempting. Don't stoop to this level. Self-injury is not an option.

5. Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. If you carry a water bottle everywhere you can never run out of water. (Bonus: You look super cool.)

6. Don't wave or talk to your fans. I've seen this happen, a runner stops mid-race to smile and greet a friend/spectator. I understand it can be exciting to see your best friend or a cute boy but it is really worth jeopardizing your performance?

7. If all else fails, visualize yourself in your Teresian dress. The benefits of cross-country are limitless. The team is very close. The hell of the workouts bonds the team together with a common link: everyone is in the same amount of pain.

Plus, you get a cute t-shirt. And always, always remember that when the race is over you can eat whatever you want.

Poker flushes from television to KC

Students dealt a new fad: Texas hold 'em occupies teens weekends

Alex Hercules
Co-Sports Editor

This year, STA students have started watching and playing different types of poker games on the weekends.

The three different types of poker that are on the television are Texas hold'em, seven card stud, and Omaha high low.

"I watch it all the time because it's pretty interesting and everyone else is watching it," said senior Jessie Holbrook.

The poker game that students are playing on the weekends is Texas hold'em. This game consists of only having two cards in your hand. Then everyone goes around and makes bets based on the two cards they have in their hands.

After the betting round ends, the dealer discards the top card of the deck. This is called a burn card and is eliminated to prevent cheating. The dealer then puts three cards down in what is known as the "river." Next the players make their bets and decide whether they want to stay in or fold. Then the dealer puts down another card and another round of betting begins. This happens one more time and then the players make their last bets. Then whoever has the best hand at the end wins.

"I learned how to play Texas hold'em this summer," said junior Lauren Befort. "I played it

about five times. I played with seven of my friends and we all bet \$5."

St. Teresa's girls play this new game on the weekends. It's a way for them to have fun with their friends and even make a little money while they're at it. The tricky part about the poker game is that it's based more on luck than it is on talent.

"It seems like when me and my friends are hanging out and there's nothing to do we always end up playing poker, even though I'm not so great, it's fun to play with the chips," said senior Sara Penaloza.

Other poker games that are being played are Omaha high low and seven card stud. Omaha high low is a popular version of Omaha. In this game, the highest hand and the lowest hand get half of the pot. The low hand must consist of an 8 or better and no pairs. You can use different pairs for the two hands, and in this game, it is possible to win both of the pots.

Seven card stud is one of the more complicated games of poker being played. This game usually consists of eight players and each player is dealt 3 cards. The third card dealt to each player is called the "door" card and is put face up. The player with the lowest numbered "door" card bets

Texas Hold 'em

How to Play:

Two cards are dealt to each player and the first round of betting takes place. Three cards, available to all players, are laid out. These cards are known as the flop. After the flop is dealt, there is a second round of betting. Another card, the Turn, is placed with the flop, and the betting begins again. The last card, the River, is dealt and the final round of betting occurs. Players still in the game turn their cards over and the player with the best hand wins the pot.

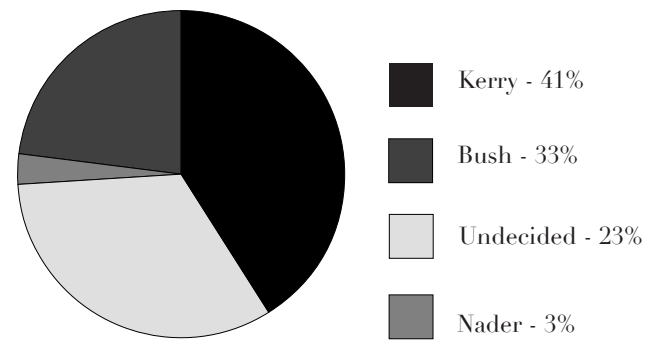
graphic by Maggie Mullane

first. After everyone in the group goes around and makes their bet, they are dealt another card. They go around again and make their bets, and then another card is dealt out to the players. This continues for two more rounds until everyone is out, if there are still players left after the sixth round then the dealer deals out one more card, this card is called the "river." The river card is dealt to the players faced down. Down faced cards can only be viewed

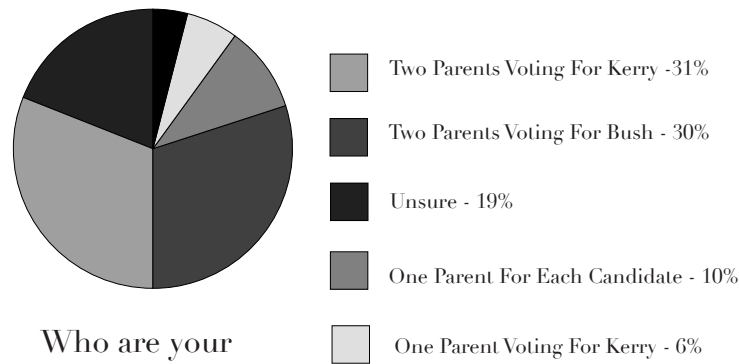
by the person who is receiving the card. This is when the final bets are made and after this round they show their river card to see who has one the hand.

These poker games have brought STA students together on the weekends and given them something to do with each other. "But I really like to play it because I get to talk with five of my friends and we have a good time playing this crazy game," said Holbrook.

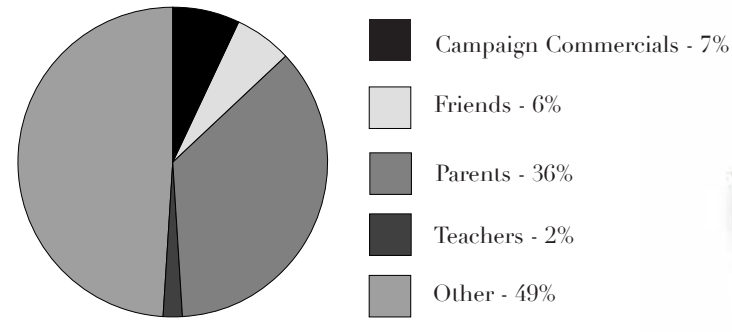
The Dart polled a random sampling of 200 STA students, representing all grades, on the upcoming presidential election. The following are the results.



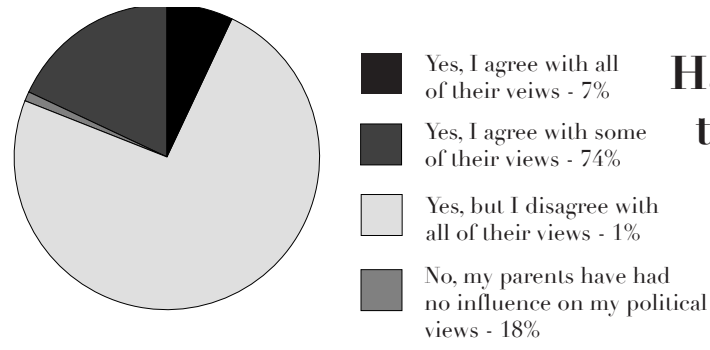
Which candidate do you support?



Who are your parents voting for?

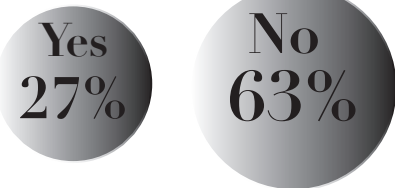


What has the greatest influence on your views?

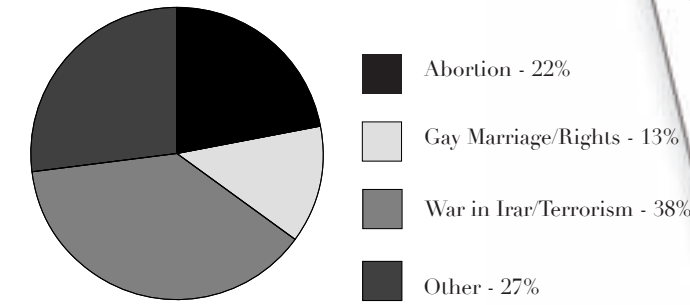
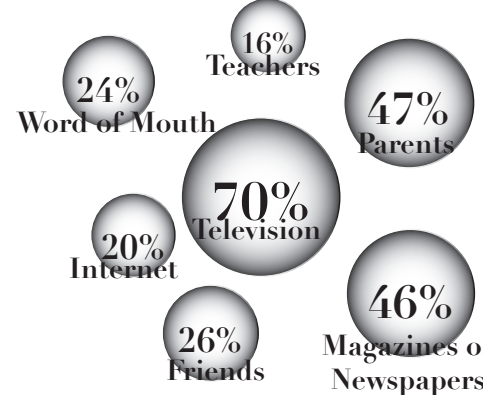


Do your parents influence your political views?

Have you gotten involved in the presidential election?



Where do you get your election info?



What issue is most important to you?

election 2004

Students receive political views from parents at an early age

Colleen Slentz
Staff Writer

"Who does Momma support?" a short, middle-aged woman asked her toddler son at a John Kerry meet-up in Westport.

"Come on, tell me who Momma supports! John...?" she trailed off expectantly, and after a pause he replied with a muffled "John Kerry."

The mother then explained to the other adults at the meet-up that it was a work in progress, but her little boy would soon be approaching potential Kerry voters and telling them quite convincingly: "John Kerry!"

For the majority of people, as in the case of this little boy, their first political experiences come from the home. A positive or negative view of a political object is shaped by the opinions of a child's parents, often before the child has any information with which to form their own opinions.

Mr. Craig Whitney, STA history and current events teacher, said he has noticed parents' influence in his current events class. His students tell him they support a particular candidate, and when he asks for more information, he said that "more often than not, students have no idea why they like [that candidate]."

Whitney said that in high school, he most often sees one of two things: either a student mirrors their parents' views, or follows the crowd of their friends.

A poll conducted by the newspaper staff at STA shows that 81% of students said they share some or all of their parents' political

views, while 18% said they created their views independently of their parents' influence and 1% claimed they were negatively influenced by their parents and now believe the exact opposite.

Many students feel that parental influence is not sufficient to shape their views; they turn to their schools in order to gain a balanced.

Senior Paige Nicely said that she and her peers do not discuss politics very often, except in government class. She thinks her teacher Mr. Patrick Sirridge has definitely had influence on her politically.

"Mr. Sirridge has opened up a lot of ideas and perspectives from both parties," she said, adding that he encourages debate and controversy in the class. "You get a bigger look at it."

Whitney believes that a person's college experience generally has a more profound impact on them politically than their high school experience.

"For most people, college is such a completely different environment, I think out of necessity you become an independent thinker," he says. "It's almost a badge of honor [in college] to be a contrarian, at least it was for me."

Nicely disagrees that college is more influential than high school. Because in college the classes are so large, she says, the professors won't be as influential on her as her teachers now. However, she does feel that college-age students in general take more of an interest in politics than students in high

school, because they will be able to vote and political issues will begin to affect them more.

Sophomore Katie Burns-Yocum does not take much of an interest in politics.

"I don't think about it a whole lot," she says, although her parents do talk to her about politics, especially, she thinks, "since I'm at the age where I'll be voting soon."

She adds, however, that she talks more about politics with her aunt than with her parents.

"I look up to my aunt," she said. Students do not generally question the views their parents hold. Whitney thinks that respect for parents is a major reason why.

"They're not even sure how they feel personally about these issues," he said. He also thinks that parents have such an influence because they have more definite political views, mainly because political issues affect them more than their children.

"As we get older, [my parents] started talking to us more," said Nicely. "My brother is also influential to me, because he's hard-core liberal. I almost learn more from my brother than my parents."

She says that her political view has been shaped more by her home experience than her school experience.

"You learn deeper about one side at home," she said, although "at school, you get both sides, both perspectives."

"I guess that's the key, is to make up your own mind," said Whitney. "I just want to see people start thinking for themselves."

TOPIC:	George Bush <i>Republican</i>	John Kerry <i>Democrat</i>	Ralph Nader <i>Independent</i>
Abortion Is A Woman's Right	OPPOSES: Voted YES for ban on partial-birth abortions. Encourages fewer abortions via adoption and abstinence.	SUPPORTS: Voted NO on banning partial-birth abortions. Resists restrictions on abortions.	SUPPORTS: "No government role, let women privately decide."
Sexual Orientation Protected by Civil Rights Laws	OPPOSES: Called for constitutional amendment to ban homosexual marriage. Does not support adding sexual orientation to the definition of hate crimes.	SUPPORTS: Voted NO on prohibiting same-sex marriages. Voted YES on adding sexual orientation to definition of hate-crimes.	SUPPORTS: Supports civil unions in Vermont. "Get rid of gay discrimination fully, not halfway."
Death Penalty	SUPPORTS: Confident that no inmate on death row is innocent. Supports the death penalty as prevention.	OPPOSES: Voted NO on limiting death penalty appeals. Supports a required DNA test for all federal executions. Opposes death penalty, except for in the case of post 9-11 terrorists.	OPPOSES: Nader supports a suspension of the death penalty. "Death penalty does not deter and is discriminatory."
Decrease Overall Taxation of the Wealthy	SUPPORTS: Voted NO on national sales tax. Supports cutting taxes on income, children, and inheritance.	OPPOSES: Voted NO on prioritizing national debt reduction below tax cuts. Offers tax cuts that will help middle class families.	OPPOSES: Nader supports more taxpayer input into the tax and spending policy. "Stop tax cuts and start dealing with real problems."
Drug Use is Immoral, Enforce Laws Against It	SUPPORTS: Encourages abstinence from tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. Passed a bill allowing \$20 million to be spent on drug testing in schools. Supports tougher drug laws as well as drug education programs.	OPPOSES: Voted NO on more penalties for drug violations. Voted NO on increasing penalties for drug offenses.	OPPOSES: Nader supports the legalization of marijuana and the treatment of addiction as a health problem. Nader believes the solution to addiction is information, not prohibition.

STA students participate in presidential election

Molly Huber
Copy Editor

Although most of the students at STA are too young to vote, many are not letting this fact keep them from getting involved in the upcoming presidential election. Those who feel strongly about voicing their political opinions, or their favoritism towards one candidate or the other, are going out into the community and doing something about it.

As election time draws nearer, more and more teens, even those who have not yet reached the legal voting age of 18, are expressing a desire to participate. The importance of voting has become a prominent issue in American society and adolescents are encouraged by both the media and their peers to go to the polls next month.

"I feel it's imperative to get involved in politics," said junior Amanda Textor. "Teens should [get involved] especially, regardless of what party they affiliate themselves with, to show that there are young people who care about the future of our country."

On election night, Textor will be participating by being a transfer case carrier. All the ballots from Kansas City and the surrounding areas will be transported to 1929 Walnut in the downtown area. Textor's job will be to hand metal cases full of these ballots to people who will be responsible for double-checking the ballots for hanging chads (incomplete hole punches in the ballot) before they are counted.

"Even though I'm not old enough to vote, I think it's really cool that I can still do something to be involved," said Textor. Sophomore Anna Johnson is participating in the election by volunteering for Rock the Vote, an organization that goes to events that draw large crowds, such as concerts and sporting events, and registers people to vote.

"We go to the people instead of having the people come to us in hopes of getting more people to vote," Johnson said. Johnson, in addition to volunteering for Rock the Vote, is also a member of the Youth Volunteer Corps., a volunteer organization for young people, and has participated in political protests in Kansas City. While Johnson strongly encourages teenagers to get involved in their communities in any way that they can, she believes political participation, regardless of age, is especially important.

"My advice to other teens would be to try the best you can to get informed," said Johnson. "We're going to be involved in the next election and we have to be ready; we have to have educated minds."

Despite the propaganda, media incentives and organizational programs, such as Rock the Vote, that have been established to support teen voting, only 30 percent of people between the ages of 18 and 24 show up to the polls. The majority of voters in most recent presidential elections have been senior citizens, who made up over 50 percent of all voters. Senior citizens, who spent the summer participating in political and environmental activist programs, is frustrated that so few of America's youth take voting seriously.

"The most important voters are those between the ages of 18 and 24," said Graham. "It's a strange paradox because [the election] is going to affect our future more than those of senior citizens, who aren't going to be around for much longer anyway. We need to start understanding that our country is our responsibility and we need to voice our opinions, instead of trusting old men in the Senate to decide our futures for us."

Textor, Johnson and Graham agree that no matter how old a person is or what party they choose to support, it is important to participate in any way they can.

"The future is up to us," said Graham.

100% of all STA 18 year olds polled are planning to vote.



Protesters at 62nd Terrace and Ward Parkway support President Bush in his bid for reelection while opposing Kansas City Iraq Taskforce members, who regularly convene one block away.

Art to party with: Barre enhances Kansas City

Ballet

Chandler Domian
Staff Writer

"Art you can party with" serves as the motto to the Kansas City Ballet's young professionals group, Barre. For a \$40 fee, members are given a season ticket and invited to attend social events throughout the year. These events provide an opportunity for members to socialize with the ballet dancers amongst food and beverages. Because alcohol is served at all events, members are typically between the ages of 21 and 40.

Persons under the age of 21 can also get involved with the Kansas City Ballet and attend performances at the Lyric Theatre for a discounted price of \$10 with their student id.

Barre members will meet tonight at the Hotel Phillips at 5:30 p.m. for the season's first of three free happy hours that take place before opening night of Kansas City Ballet performances. Other events such as "Bowling and Beers with Ballerinas," allow Barre members and Kansas City Ballet dancers to spend time together.

"It's a fun way for young people to feel a connection with the company members," said Kansas City Ballet Marketing Associate, Ms. Andrea Blachly. "You get to hang out with art that you love."

Barre was formed last year due to the efforts of Kansas City Ballet Marketing Director, Ms. Lisa Hickok, in a response to the ballet community's needs and requests. By the end of last season Barre gained 60 members. According to Barre Events Chair Ms. Ruth Rostocil, approximately 50 memberships have been purchased for the upcoming season, and will continue to be sold throughout the year.

The Kansas City Ballet is in the process of speaking to area companies about including Barre as a benefit to its employees. Blachly credits Kansas City's popular arts following to the success of Barre and other young professionals groups.

"Main arts associations including the Kansas City Ballet, the Kansas City Symphony and the Lyric Opera have young

friends groups," said Blachly. "You don't see that in a lot of cities."

According to Kansas City Ballet Board Member, Mr. Mark Sappington, programs like Barre not only provide fun social events, but also encourage exposure to and involvement with the Kansas City Ballet. "They create a long term effect, more broadly exposing people to the art form in hopes that children will take the

experiences with them as they age and continue to attend art events and support [art forms]," said Sappington.

Blachly and Sappington agree that there is a stuffiness associated with ballet due to people's approach to the art form or ignorance about the different forms of ballet. Barre helps get rid of these notions by increasing people's exposure to different forms of ballet at the performances.

"Not all ballet is classical," said Sappington. "People are put off by ballet, because they think they need to know history to understand dance, but you can approach it on different levels. You can approach it by knowing the history, knowing the personalities or by watching people move and interact."

Rostocil adds that Barre events that invite both members and ballet dancers make attending Kansas City Ballet performances more personal for the Barre member.

"One night you're hanging out with someone bowling, and the next month you see them on stage dancing," said Rostocil.

For more information on Barre membership and events contact the Kansas City Ballet website at http://www.kcballet.org/involved_barre.html

graphic by Colleen Slenzcrediti

Debate added to STA

Mollie Esposito
Staff Writer

This year, STA added debate to its curriculum. The class, taught by Mr. Phillip Jamieson, is discussion-based and prepares students to compete in debate tournaments. According to Jamieson, debating brings different ideas together and teaches students to explore issues in depth.

"It's not arguing," he added. Jamieson was a student teacher for Ms. Sara Acton's world history class two years ago, and a substitute teacher at STA last year. This year Jamieson teaches full time. In addition to debate, he teaches world history and speech.

According to Principal of Academic Affairs Ms. Nancy Hand, STA had to research before debate became a class. The school looked at the number of area high schools that offered debate, national standards and college requirements. Hand said that all of the classes are added for the students' benefit.

"I like that each day is different," Jamieson said. On Monday, students could be going over debating techniques. On Wednes-

day, they might be reading facts to help them build arguments. And on Friday, they could be playing a debate game.

"There's no one way to do it," Jamieson said of debating.

Jamieson described debate at STA as being a mix between a class and a club. He explained that at most other schools debate is a club. However, a debate club would need to meet more frequently than a normal STA

ren Franco, debate gives her a chance to talk and form opinions about things she is learning in other classes.

Senior Kate Graham feels that speech focuses more on different techniques for public speaking.

Senior DeLisa Harris added that she might have taken forensics, but was unsure about what the class was.

Most students said that they had been waiting for a debate class since their freshman year. Some students joined debate because of their interest in politics. Others chose to take the class to help with future careers. "This is the very best debate class that STA has ever had," Jamieson said. "That's not a lie."

Jamieson hopes that more juniors and seniors will join debate next year. Otherwise it will be similar to, "starting a varsity team with all new players." He believes that if more students take the class for consecutive years, it will help the team mature and build collective experience. Other than junior Juana Summers, all of the debate students are seniors and will graduate this year. Jamieson will have to start over with a whole new team next year.

club to practice and prepare for upcoming tournaments. According to Jamieson, this is why debate became a class rather than a club.

Although STA offers a speech class and a forensics class, most of the six girls enrolled in debate feel that the class offers things that the other classes do not.

According to Senior Lau-

School matches grant, secures renovation aid

Mary Kate Bird
Staff Writer

Last month a \$1.75 million challenge grant from the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation for renovations of the M&A Building was matched by STA.

By matching that challenge grant, the school achieved its campaign goal of \$14 million.

"This campaign will stand out in the 139-year history of the school for the size of money raised and comprehensive scope of the renovations undertaken," Dr. Faith Wilson, STA President, told the *Catholic Key*. "Our students and parents will now benefit for generations to come due to the generosity of over 1,000 donors who made this campaign a success."

According to STA Director of Advancement, Mr. Kevin Flattery, the grant from the GKCCF was the largest challenge to an outside source. The grant was given on the terms that a community school of the arts be built to raise arts awareness.

The GKCCF also extended a challenge grant to Kansas City Young Audiences for \$750,000 to be spent on programming.

"KCYA wanted to open a school and STA wanted to expand community awareness and renovate their historic M&A Building," said Ms. Heidi Nast, Director of Development for KCYA.

Both organizations had a June 30 deadline to match the challenge from the GKCCF. For either organization to receive its grant, both

had to meet their challenge. As a result, the organizations worked closely to ensure they received the donation, according to Nast.

STA will receive \$1.75 million incrementally over the next 10 years. KCYA will receive their grant over five years. Other donors to KCYA and STA were the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation, American Century, Miller-Nichols Charitable Foundation and STA friends, parents and alumnae.

In 1998, the project began by obtaining support of civic leaders and STA's board of directors. In 1999, the first phase began. Over the next five years, STA will complete the renovation of all three campus buildings. Over the next two summers, Flattery said the fundraising will allow for cafeteria and auditorium renovations.

With the changes complete, M&A boasts more office space on the fourth floor; a third of which will be used by KCYA; a new percussion studio and installed heating and cooling.

"I think the cooling has really helped me learn," said sophomore Rachel Janose. "It helps me concentrate and work harder for longer periods of time."

All students will benefit, Flattery said. "Most of the kids coming through [KCYA] are young girls," he said. "She's here fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth grade. Then, when she starts thinking about high school, she might consider STA."

Senior rocks American Royal finals

Tyler Yarbrough
Copy Editor

Senior Carrie Brogan always had the dream of becoming a country superstar. Now that opportunity is right at her fingertips. All she has to do is grab hold of it.

Brogan, along with six other local contestants, was chosen to be a finalist in the second annual American Royal SuperStar Talent Search after a series of auditions.

According to Brogan, she surprised herself by entering into the contest in the beginning.

"I really went out on a limb and tried out," said Brogan. "Before, my mom would have had to force me. But it's country music and that's my passion. So I did it."

For the first audition, contestants sent in a CD of them singing a cappella. Next, the judges narrowed it down to 40 contestants, who then had to sing live in front of the three judges. From there, that number was cut to the seven final contestants.

According to Brogan, the day that she found out that she made the top seven was the best day of her life.

"I got the call that Monday and I was so excited," said Brogan. "I started to cry too."

Brogan's friends have been supporting her passion for music by attending her performances and giving her constructive criticism.

"We push her to stay on task," said senior Kathleen Musgrave.

"We went to her television performance. We also had to give her the support and encouragement to try out; because at first she was a bit apprehensive."

Senior Jessica Hixson was astonished when she first heard Brogan sing at the television performance.

"I was like 'Wow!' She was so amazing and it was like she stood above everyone else with her voice and stage presence," said Hixson. "I look up to her. I would never be able to sing in front of all those people."

Brogan's experience has also impressed Musgrave.

"I like the fact that she has stepped out of her element and the outcome is tremendously amazing," said Musgrave. "It is such an great experience for her at such a young age."

Brogan said that she encourages the entire student body to vote for her during the television showcase, which is scheduled to air Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm on KCWE 29 and Oct. 24 at 11:00 p.m. on KMBC-TV9.

There are no losers in the top seven, according to Lindsay Poe, a



Photo by Rachel Straughn

Senior Carrie Brogan practices for the American Royal Finals performances. Brogan approaches the performance nervous, yet excited.

public relations representative for the American Royal Association.

"All seven finalists will have the opportunity to meet with record executives, they will get lots of exposure on the music scene and they will possibly get a contract," Poe said.

The finalists will perform at

various events sponsored by the American Royal. The schedule of performances is posted online at www.americanroyal.com. At these performances, the audience votes for the artist that they think should win the contest.

The finalist with the most cumulative votes will be announced on Rodeo Finals Night at the American Royal and will get to perform as the opening act for Darryl Worley on Oct. 30.

Brogan is looking forward to the performance. "I'm excited. But I am also a little nervous but that will go away," Brogan said.

TV portrays sex to teens

Nicole Farley
Staff Writer

Teens who watch television shows with a large amount of sexual content are more likely to incorporate sexual behavior into their own lives, say doctors at the RAND corporation in Santa Monica, Calif.

In a study of 1,792 teenagers ranging in age from 12 to 17, researchers concluded that teens who watch shows depicting a sizeable amount of sexual content are twice as likely to instigate sexual behavior in their own lives as their teen counterparts who do not watch much. While many people agree that it is a large figure, they are not surprised by it.

"It's sad that the media can influence that much," sophomore Cecilia Rebeck said.

The RAND corporation, which performs studies and analysis of situations pertaining to various fields, also found that sexual content appears in 64 percent of all TV shows. Of the 64 percent that feature sexual content, only one of every seven (or about 15 percent) includes any type of "safe sex" message. Furthermore, of the 15 percent containing a "safe sex" message, only about one-third of these messages are significant compared to the emphasis put on the original scene.

"I think TV glamorizes lots of things, sex included, and it negates

the complexities of it," said Ms. Robin Good, theology teacher.

Indeed, many teens view TV's portrayal of sex as "glamorized." The study found that 46 percent of all high school students in the US have had sex. However, the study went on to report that most sexually active teens regret their decisions and wish they had waited.

"I think it's really sad," said Ms. Karen Moran, Spanish teacher.

"Kids are growing up too fast. They're not having the true adolescent high school experience that I and people my age had."

Dr. Avery Bratt Ph.D., an area psychologist who specializes with both adolescents and adults, thinks the media has a carefree attitude towards sex. He says that basically everything within the media influences teens to be sexually active.

"If that's what you're operating from and you perceive that it's acceptable in your culture, then you're going to act on it," Bratt said.

When Moran was growing up, prime time included many family-oriented shows, such as "The Wonder Years," "Full House," and "Home Improvement." Shows such as these deemed premature

sex unacceptable, and often, did not mention the subject. However, prime time is no longer considered to be for the family. Moran says she sees the change in the behavior of modern teens.

"I've noticed a difference in teens compared to the past," said Moran. "The way they dress, the only thread running through the entire CD is amazement. All the sounds heard on this album were made by human voices. Björk enlisting beat-box artists, an Icelandic choir and an Inuit throat singer named Taqaaq in place of instruments. Listening is an awe-inspiring experience, just knowing that, as looped as they are, all the beats and every note originally came out of a human mouth."

However, many question why teens are acting prematurely. Are teens ready for such behavior; or is the media forcing it upon them?

"I think it [television] gives some teens, not all some ungrounded teens - a lopsided view of life," said Ms. Bernie Colby, counselor.

As sexual activity among teens continues to rise, many people agree that a change is in order. Colby says that there is a large amount of sexual content on TV because advertisers realize that there is an audience for it.

Moran agrees. "That's what people are watching," said Moran. "Things aren't going to change unless people speak out."

Björk experiments with human voice

Rose Dillon
Features Editor

Björk's new album, "Medulla," is a study of contrasts. Alternately harmonious and dissonant, soothing and rhythmic, excellent and abysmal, the only thread running through the entire CD is amazement.

All the sounds heard on this album were made by human voices. Björk enlisting beat-box artists, an Icelandic choir and an Inuit throat singer named Taqaaq in place of instruments. Listening is an awe-inspiring experience, just knowing that, as looped as they are, all the beats and every note originally came out of a human mouth.

However, the album is not all good. There are some standout tracks, such as the catchy "Who is it?" and the danceable "Triumph of a Heart," but many of the songs are almost un-listenable, especially "Ancestors," which sounds like a house full of people dying.

The album's strength is Björk herself. Her

scratchy voice has limited range, but it's strong and it allows her to really connect with the listener because it makes every song sound naked and personal.

The concept itself is a daunting obstacle. Sometimes the music descends into self-important experimentalism, and the lyrics are usually incomprehensible. There are some limitations to how far one can go with only voices, as talented as those voices are.

Another weakness is the way the songs begin to run together. It becomes hard to distinguish one piece from another. On the other hand, each song is its own island, with no connecting theme besides the concept. It makes for a disjointed but strangely unmemorable experience.

The bottom line is that listeners will either love this album or hate it. But there's more good than bad on this audio trip, so if you like Björk or if you have an open ear, you'll definitely want to check "Medulla" out.



Controversy in Sports Performance Enhancing Drugs

Caroline Findlay
Co-Sports Editor



Sports are now multi-billion dollar industries around the world. Though they have entertainment value and many positive aspects, they have become more competitive and cutthroat than ever before. Every athlete is looking to have an edge on their fellow competitors, so some turn to performance enhancing drugs to better their already incredible talent. Most athletes steer clear of steroids because of league rules, the danger to their bodies, ethics, or other reasons. There are a select few, though, that have chosen to take drugs, which has stained their image as well as their sport's.

During the Olympics last August, there were a handful of athletes that were under suspicion of using or tested positive for steroids. That fact contradicts the values and tradition of the Olympics. The five rings represent the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from throughout the world. The Olympics are supposed to show great human achievement and display inspiration for all athletes and fans. Unfortunately, some of the great triumphs of athletes were overshadowed by drug scandals. One of the most controversial steroid incidents involved Greek sprinter Costas Kenteris. He missed a dope test the day before the games began, and was forced to withdraw from the competition. He stated his innocence in a press conference on Aug. 8, saying he did not know about the test and would have been present if informed. It was a huge blow to Greek society. Many predicted that Kenteris would light the cauldron at the opening ceremonies – a great honor for an athlete – but because of his forfeit, he was ineligible.

Kenteris was not the only person under suspicion for steroid use at the Olympics. US athlete Marion Jones has always denied using any type of steroid, but her former husband and fellow track athlete C.J. Hunter failed to pass at least four tests for anabolic steroids almost three years ago. She has been under scrutiny from the media since it began in 2001.

Not only is steroid use a problem in the US and Greece, but athletes from around the world face the same issue. Russia, Hungary, Ukraine, Belarus, Kenya, Morocco, India, Turkey, Australia and Moldova were all involved in doping-related cases at the Games.

Does the media blow this out of proportion or is this a true problem to be dealt with? If an athlete passes multiple drug tests,

has never been charged and constantly denies rumors, then they should be left alone, right? Or is it the athlete's responsibility to answer the accusations whether they have used drugs or not?

San Francisco Giants' slugger Barry Bonds has been under suspicion for steroid use since spring training began in March. Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, also known as BALCO, allegedly provided many baseball players with illegal performance-enhancing drugs through Mr. Greg Anderson, Bonds's trainer and longtime friend. Other athletes involved are New York Yankees' Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield, and other Giants and Oakland A's players. But Bonds is getting the most attention because of his record-breaking season. April 13, he beat Willie Mays's record of 660 home runs. Bonds has 703 home runs and is now third for most homers behind Hank Aaron (775) and Babe Ruth (714).

Is the BALCO scandal tarnishing Bonds's reputation? Granted he is one of the most powerful hitters of all time, but fans and the media will always ask the question, "Did he take performance enhancing drugs and how, if at all, did it affect his game?" It is a shame that the question has to be asked.

The point can also be made that hitting takes incredible hand-eye coordination, and steroids cannot affect that skill in an athlete.

There are many different forms of performance-enhancing drugs; some are legal, while others are prohibited. Why do authorities make any supplements legal? Why not make them all illegal so there is no confusion? There was one instance when a runner took cold medicine the night before a race, then was given a drug test the next day. Not knowing the Sudafed tablet her trainer gave her had contained an illegal substance, she was banned from competing in the race.

How much of a difference do performance-enhancing drugs really make? Most drugs have been proven to have multiple side effects and can cause health complications, so is it even worth it for these athletes? Are there moral standards in sports anymore?

It is not fair to the fans, leagues, other players or anyone else, for athletes to take any type of performance-enhancing drugs. It may be hard to draw the line between what is legal and illegal, but it must be drawn. The integrity of sports is now being questioned. Sports represent hard work, dedication, grit, talent and honor, but with today's attitude, that money is the only thing that matters, sports is losing all honor that it once held.

A fallen star



photo by Julia McQuenny-Thorp

Senior Eli Medina, from left, freshman Haylie Baywood, junior Michaela Marak, senior Molly Hough, junior Jenna Perry, freshman Erin Vogel, freshman Ellen Jantsch, junior Errin Price, sophomore Michelle Jantsch and junior Molly Wilkerson come together for a pre-game introduction at the Sion game on Sept. 9.

Players line up to fill captain's shoes

Juana Summers
Co-Center Spread Editor

Senior Eli Medina suffered from a partial ACL tear during a volleyball tournament at Lee's Summit North Sept. 18.

Medina, a four-year varsity player and an outside hitter, said that there was nothing abnormal about the hit that caused her injury.

"My knee gave out, and I heard a pop," she said. ACL tears are common in female athletes. The ACL, anterior cruciate ligament, is located in the middle of the knee and, as one of four main ligaments, provides rotational stability to the knee.

Varsity volleyball Coach Amy Carlson said that Medina "went up and landed hard on a hit." Varsity finished the tournament without Medina, placing fifth.

"During the tournament, everyone contributed," said

Carlson. "Everyone picked up their game to compensate."

Medina's injury has affected all members of the team, changing the positions of some players and influencing coaching strategy. Following her injury, the team met to discuss the future, as well as to bond.

"We look at the positive more than the negative," said co-captain junior Jenna Perry.

Though unable to actively play, Medina still contributes to the team, both during practice, and in her free time.

"I still go to all of the practices...spend time in the weight room," said Medina. "It's so hard to be sitting out."

Medina, considered to be an essential part of STA's varsity volleyball team, will attempt to rehab quickly in order to finish out this season with the Stars.

"Everyone has to give 100 percent more to fill all of this,"

said Junior Michaela Marak. "She is the team."

Prior to her injury, Medina took active roles in scouting, and helping outside hitters improve their strategy as well as their game.

"She's excellent...supportive and excited," said Carlson. "She has a really positive attitude and is so mentally tough."

As for the future of the team, Medina believes that the Varsity Stars have a chance to go to sectionals. She believes that they definitely have the talent, but occasionally lack the confidence.

Medina is committed to play at Truman State University, and has been told by her coach to "use the rest." She expects to have a full recovery in five to six months.

"Play every point as if it's your last," Medina said to her team.

Tennis

The varsity tennis team's record is 10-4. They defeated St. Joe Central on Sept. 1 – the team they beat in the last two years to advance to state. Sept. 10 and 11, the team defeated Mary Institute Country Day and John Burroughs in St. Louis.

They competed in the Guilfoil Tournament at Harmon Park; seniors Caitlin Burke and Kelly Connor, junior Kaitlin Dunham, and sophomore Charmaine Willis each won their divisions on Sept. 17. Doubles partners senior Anna Beckett and junior Franny McShane placed second at the Aquinas Tournament on Sept. 28. The team defeated Park Hill South on Oct. 1 at the Plaza.

Softball

The varsity softball team's record is 13-11. The starting lineup includes seniors Michelle Collins, Andrea Dater, Megan Hohl, Amanda Konz, Katie Turney, Monica Welsh, junior Jen Schuler, and freshmen Kristen Bellonte and Sara Lawrence. The team traveled to Columbia on Sept. 3 and played Columbia Rock Bridge. They also broke their home losing streak by defeating Raytown on Sept. 7. The team beat Sion 5-0 on Sept. 23, which was Sion's senior night. They play St. Joe Central tonight and if they win, they will play Park Hill South. The championship game is Friday; the team will go to sectionals with a win.

Dance Team

The dance team, led by senior captain Kate Cofran, participated in the United Dance Association (UDA) camp at Southwest Missouri State. They qualified for nationals, but will compete at state instead. Cofran, senior Jen Koelsch, junior Sarah Tampke and sophomore Alie Fiss qualified for UDA All Stars. Junior Emily Leonard, sophomores Laura Geode and Andrea Johnson will participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. The team will perform during halftime of the Jefferson City/Rockhurst football game on Oct. 8. The team plans to travel to St. Louis in early December for a competition.

Arena to enrich downtown KC

Alison Raybould
Staff Writer

Kansas City expects the Sprint Center Arena to enrich the downtown area, prompt population expansion and provide professional and collegiate athletic prospects.

"Great cities have great opportunities," said Kansas City Sports Commission (KCSC) President Kevin Gray. "Ours is here with the arena."

As for what results the arena will bring, Gray has sky-high hopes.

"I want to make Kansas City a sports capital of the Midwest," said Gray. "The arena will also improve the economy and the quality of life. It will trigger community growth. Hopefully, it will make our community more attractive for kids. I don't want them going off to larger cities, like New York. I want to keep our youth here. I want them to want to stay in Kansas City, and the arena should do all that."

Instead of people leaving Kansas City, the arena will serve as an attraction and project it as a vacation destination, according to Kansas City, Missouri Mayor Kay Barnes.

"The arena will make downtown Kansas City the place to be, not just for residents, but for tourists and conventioners, too," said Barnes. "It should generate hometown pride in Kansas City."

Along with improving the downtown area, the arena will provide a world-class venue for concerts, conventions and family shows. It will also be designed for the NBA (National Basketball League) and NHL (National Hockey League) with anticipation of receiving major league contracts in Kansas City according to Gray.

"We are confident that the NBA, WNBA, NHL or AHL will provide us with a team, but as of right now, there are no specifics," said Gray. "The arena is a golden opportunity, especially with AEG (Anschutz Entertainment Group) as a partner [since they have so many connections], and the timing is good."

Gray also anticipates an agreement between the arena and a professional sports team.

"We are evaluating the opportunities and campaigning to the NBA and NHL franchises," said Gray. "KCSC is doing everything possible to facilitate and encourage them to give us a contract."

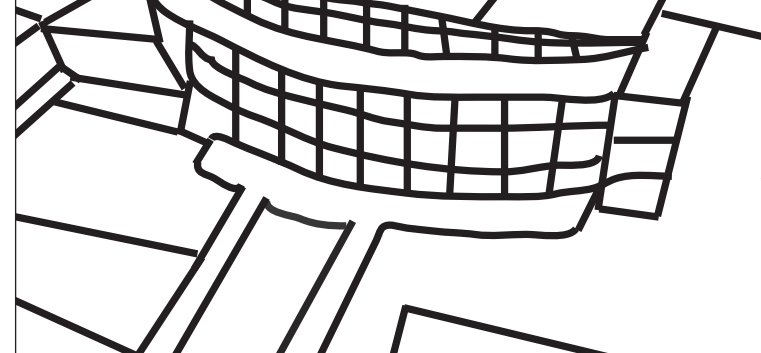
Not only does the arena impact professional sports, but it will also attract college athletics to Kansas City.

"The arena gives us a chance to secure both the men's and the women's Big 12 Conference," said Gray. "The women's Final Four should also be regularly played here. Unfortunately, the men's Final Four is out of the question

because they are always played in domes. NCAA possibilities are endless for Kansas City." According to Gray, the arena will be like a breath of fresh air for the downtown area.

"We have a chance to create the finest arena in the country," said Gray. "The downtown region has been neglected over the years, and now \$2 billion is being invested to make the whole district more lively and vibrant, as well as to create the heart of the city."

Though he worked for three years on this project, Gray gave most of the credit to Barnes.



Graphic by Maggie Mullane

A sketch of the Sprint arena to be built by 2007.

"She is our cheerleader," said Gray. "No, our quarterback. Her support was what passed the tax. She showed us that if we put our energy into something we can do anything."

According to Gray, in a project that took over three years, the KCSC started in 2001 by issuing a community sports bill. With its approval, they moved into phase two, which involved securing finances to build the \$250 million arena.

Included in that budget, the Los Angeles-based, AEG offered \$50 million, while the National Association of Basketball Coaches submitted an additional \$10 million, and the Sprint Corpora-

tion received naming rights with its \$62 million donation. Finally, \$123 million will come from the Aug. 3 vote regarding tax on hotels and rental cars, which had a margin of 57 to 43 percent.

"[Aug. 3] was the most exciting evening I have experienced since I have been mayor, since so many people were involved," said Barnes. "It was such a heated contest with Enterprise [car rental company] rallying against us."

With the budget secured, the architect firm who will design the arena is the Downtown Arena Design Team, which includes Burns & McDonnell and HNTB Cos., both based in Kansas City, and PC Sports of San Antonio. Construction is set to begin in February and will be completed in March 2007.

"We are on a fast track to make the arena a reality sooner," said Barnes. "Our next decision is to select the construction team, who will work closely with the newly selected architect. Sophomore Alexandra Kurth supports the arena, emphasizing its impact on the athletic aspects that will be available to Kansas City."

"I support [the arena] because I am a big fan of basketball, so I would probably attend a lot of the games," said Kurth. "There is nowhere in Kansas City right now where we can do that on a consistent basis."

Kurth not only appreciates the sports that the downtown arena will bring, but she also looks with excitement at the cultural aspect that it is anticipated to provide for Kansas City.

"[The arena] will help develop Kansas City, so it can compete with other regional cities," said Kurth. "It will attract community members to downtown Kansas City and make it more active. It basically will generate life into the city."

Kansas City will become a major destination for regional travelers with the arena.

"We are now in the game," said Gray.

Collins started playing competitive softball in first grade. Collins plays second base and shortstop.

Collins's goal for this year is to win districts and get a banner in the gym.

Collins holds over six records at STA including batting average, hits, runs, on-base percentage, home runs, and doubles.

Collins's former team, the Olathe Rockets, placed fifth twice and fourth once (out of 10 teams) in nationals.

Collins played softball this summer at the 18 gold level, the highest level before college softball. The league is very selective and there are a limited number of teams.

Collins was named All-Metro second baseman in 2003.

Collins was named All-District player both sophomore and junior year.

This summer, Collins practiced five to six times a week and played in over 80 games.

Michelle's goal is to play at the D2 level next year in college.

~Compiled by Katie Hembree

Mark Your Calendar

- Cross Country:**
Oct. 9 vs. Clinton
Oct. 12 vs. Kearney
Oct. 21 vs. Richmond
Oct. 23 Districts @ Blue Springs
Oct. 30 Sectionals @ Blue Springs
Golf:
Oct. 11 vs. Sion and Pembroke @ KCCC
Oct. 19 State @ Silo Ridge
Softball:
Oct. 7 Districts @ Park Hill
Oct. 13 Sectionals
Oct. 16 Quarterfinals
Oct. 22 State
Tennis:
Oct. 8 Districts @ Blue Springs
Oct. 16 Sectionals
Volleyball:
Oct. 7 vs. O'Hara
Oct. 9 @ Francis Howell North HS
Oct. 12 @ Shawnee Mission Northwest
Oct. 14 vs. Harrisonville
Oct. 21 vs. Sion @ Avila
Oct. 25 Districts
Oct. 30 Sectionals
Nov. 5 State
Dance Team:
Oct. 8 Dance Performance @ Rockhurst vs. Jefferson City football game

Star Athlete



Michelle Collins started playing competitive softball in first grade. Collins plays second base and shortstop.

Collins's goal for this year is to win districts and get a banner in the gym. Collins holds over six records at STA including batting average, hits, runs, on-base percentage, home runs, and doubles. Collins's former team, the Olathe Rockets, placed fifth twice and fourth once (out of 10 teams) in nationals. Collins played softball this summer at the 18 gold level, the highest level before college softball. The league is very selective and there are a limited number of teams. Collins was named All-Metro second baseman in 2003. Collins was named All-District player both sophomore and junior year. This summer, Collins practiced five to six times a week and played in over 80 games. Michelle's goal is to play at the D2 level next year in college.

~Compiled by Katie Hembree



photo by Maggie Mullane

Freshman Breanne Sigler warms up for a match against Bishop Meege at The Plaza Tennis Courts Sept. 27.

Sports briefs written by Caroline Findlay, Alec Hercules and Maggie Mullane

beyond



Rose Dillon
Features Page Editor

Because Beyond Cool is concerned with all things pop cultural, we have turned our sights to politics. Kerry v. Bush is one of the most contentious elections in recent memory, and has infiltrated the public's consciousness.

With said election nearly upon us, voters and non-voters alike have started a new trend: political volume. This is when a person is extremely vocal about one political party or the other. It seems that George Bush is either the spawn of Satan, or the best thing to happen to politics since Richard Nixon. Or, uh, Ronald Reagan. I don't really know. Because I'm trying to start a new trend: political oblivion.

Everyone knows that fashion is a pendulum; it swings really far one way until it can't go any farther, and then it returns to the other side. For example, waistlines recently dipped so low that you would be able to see girls' reproductive anatomy if you really paid attention and now they're returning to the ribcage as seen in the 1980s.

But back to politics. Popular opinion follows the same rules of fashion. The pendulum is reaching maximum amplitude of people being informed. Too many people actually care about voting and who's in office. It's not like the US is the only remaining world power or anything. The president doesn't matter.

That's why I'd like to get the American people back to the time-honored tradition of not having a clue. While most Americans still can't locate Kazakhstan on a map, they now know who's running for president! This is a travesty! Even P. Diddy wants young people to vote.

The light at the end of the tunnel is that most people are uninformed about actual issues. They hurl campaign slogans back and forth, citing a candidate's hairstyle or military service record as a reason to vote for him.

"Bush sucks because of the war in Iraq." Luckily, this is simpleminded and without thought. The problem arises with thoughtful statements, such as, "The war in Iraq was wrong because the military is not large enough to succeed." No! There will be none of that "thinking" nonsense in the US political system. Say, "Kerry is a flip-flopper," instead of "Kerry has a tendency to vote one way, and then vote the other, which is indecisive."

Stop thinking, stop reading anything but fashion magazines, and only watch local TV news. It will keep you truly American. We're supposed to be number one in national ignorance; we are definitely slipping to number three or four. Leave balanced, rational knowledge of world events to the Brits, the Russians and the Japanese. I'm going to go watch the "O.C."

Freshman steps into STA with style

Stories and Photos by Caroline Findlay

When Freshman Claire Hickey was in seventh grade, she received a collection of antique earrings from her grandmother, and that one gift—given to her two years ago—ignited her passion for shoes.

"I needed new, funky shoes to go along with my new, funky earrings," said Hickey.

Hickey has shoes lined up on her bedroom wall: blue, calf-high, fuzzy boots; orange mesh stilettos; lime green rubber boots; blue flats with a big yellow button on each toe, orange high top sneakers and many flats. She has flip-flops of all colors and styles tossed around her room—on her desk, the floor, in her closet, and under her bed. Her closet is also full of tennis shoes. Looking at her room, her fashion savvy is quite clear.

Hickey considers her shoes a way to express herself at school and on the weekends with her friends. She started wearing exciting shoes when she was about 13, but felt embarrassed at first about what other people would think. She didn't want to be stereotyped as a certain kind of person like a goth or prep. Then everyone eventually came to know her out there style, so she continued to display originality.

"The guys at school thought my shoes were hilarious," said Hickey. "I was able to be myself when dressing differently, so it was and still is really fun."

She owns between 30 and 40 pairs of shoes, ranging from boots to tennis shoes to stilettos.



Before heading to school, Claire Hickey perfects her look with the right shoes.

She gets most of her shoes from thrift stores, like Arizona Trading Company, and others in Westport, Brookside and Waldo.

"Thrift stores are hit or miss," said Hickey. "Sometimes I don't find anything and other times I find a ton of stuff."

She also gets shoes as gifts from family and friends. Her mother is a large contributor to her style and has a good eye for vintage items.

"My mom knows a lot of good stores and takes my sister and me to shop," said Hickey. "She inspires a lot of my fashion."

Eclectic fashion runs in Hickey's family because her twin sister, Maddie, has her own individual style as well. She can be seen walking the halls of STA with stylish earrings that accent her uniform. Unfortunately for the sisters, they are unable to swap shoes.

"My feet are four sizes bigger than Maddie's, so we can't share shoes," said Hickey.

She also derives some tips from magazines like *Teen Vogue* and *Seventeen* but she doesn't have a specific style icon because she considers her style unique.

Hickey claims not much thought goes into her shoe selection in the morning.

"I pick the shoes that I feel like wearing when I get ready for school," said Hickey. "It's not like I plan the night before."

Hickey sits at her desk, bright-eyed and smiling. She is dressed for school in her plaid skirt and white polo shirt and is close to finishing her look. She still needs the final touch that will separate her from the rest of STA. She grabs a pair of multi-colored sequined flats without thinking twice and is ready to hit the halls.



Left, The toes of senior Sid Johnston's pink Converse are decorated with a line from the unofficial *Rocky Horror Picture Show* sequel, *Shock Treatment*. Right, sophomore Andrea Johnson sports technicolor tennis shoes.



Unique footwear walks across campus

Freshman Claire Hickey may have one of the most extensive shoe collections at STA, but she is not the only girl with a good eye for one-of-a-kind shoes.

Sophomore Andrea Johnson has shoes that she special ordered from customatix-kix.com. It is a website that customizes boots, tennis and skater shoes and many others. Buyers can choose style, color, size, and symbols to be embroidered onto the shoe. Johnson chose rainbow colored tennis shoes that have a pair of red lips on the tongue, a Canadian flag on the side, and a Star of David on the back. She also has the word "Blame" on one shoe and "Canada" on the other.

"The symbols and words

have no significance to me," said Johnson. "I thought it was the coolest website ever, so I picked random stuff to put on my shoes."

The shoes range from \$50 to \$90. Johnson's cost \$70.

Johnson discovered Customatix when she was in St. Louis last year. Her friend's sister got shoes in the mail from the website and Johnson decided she needed a pair, too.

"I just wanted bright shoes that no one else had," said Johnson.

She definitely accomplished that goal.

Another student with unique shoes is senior Sid Johnston. Her shoes started out as normal pink converse low top sneakers,

but she made them different. She put in black shoelaces with white skulls and wrote on the rubber parts of the shoe with a black sharpie marker. On each toe it says, "You need a little bit of ooh shock treatment," from the sequel to the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

For Johnston, it is not about personalizing her uniform, though. She has had them for about a year and wears them because she likes them and it doesn't matter what others think.

"I just think they're cool," said Johnston.

Senior Lauren Hance wears knee-high lace up, black leather boots about three times a week during school and on the week-

ends. People often ask her why she wears such uncomfortable shoes, but she likes the way they feel.

"They are actually comfortable," said Hance. "I have worn them for a year and a half, so they fit to my feet really well."

Hance is sick of looking like everyone else at school and tries to personalize her uniform without getting an SBR.

"I just like to be different from everyone else," said Hance.

There are many trends around school—Nike Shox, Crocs, Birkenstock clogs, and Converse Chuck All-Stars—but these girls choose to step outside of the box and wear shoes that are original to their own feet.