

Teens cheat death in choking game

Nicole Farley
News Editor

It's Friday night, and one of your friends is hosting the party that everyone wants to be at. Laughter and shouts clog the air as a group of teens cluster, screaming excitedly "Pass me out! Pass me out!" Someone steps forward, "Alright, fine. I'll do it." The girl that sits behind you in algebra class every day bends over and begins to hyperventilate. The crowd watches as her blood stops circulating properly. Then she passes out. The group remains unaffected. They were expecting her knees to buckle.

But then she doesn't come out of it. It's called the choking game, and according to an NBC news report, the most common age for players is 9-14 years old. Some refer to it as "blackout," others "flat-liner," and some just call it "suffocation roulette." Many play it for a high, some because of peer pressure, some to see the reactions from their friends. An STA sophomore, who for fear of embarrassment wished to remain anonymous for this article, said that people's reactions were her motivation for playing. The source said that she played the game herself three times, and also "passed out" another person twice.

"I always wake up on the ground, and at first you're like 'Hey guys!'" she said. "You're kind of dreaming, and then you're like, 'Oh my God! I just

passed out! That was crazy!" And that's it. Teens play the game with the intent of passing out, doing so by choking one another with their own hands, bike chains, belts, ropes and ties. The ultimate goal of the game, to pass out, is induced by a condition called hypoxia, which, according to the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine's "Flight Surgeon's Guide," an Air Force manual, is an "oxygen deficiency in the blood, cells, and tissues sufficient to cause impairment of function."

Junior Maggie Burke has never played the game herself because of fear, but has witnessed it.

"It's just kind of weird, because all of a sudden, they pass out and everyone freaks out, but then they wake back up," said Burke.

The STA sophomore believes that the game is bad for the health of the participant. However, she feels that most teens do not feel the game is very dangerous.

"It cuts off the oxygen going to your brain," said the sophomore. "It's supposed to be really bad for you and kill a bunch of brain cells, is what people say. But then other people say that they've talked or asked people about it and they say it's not bad at all."

The five-to-ten-second high that teens experience is a result of the oxygen rushing back to the brain. The danger increases

See CHOKING, page 2

“\$52 billion Congressionally-approved funds. \$968.5 million in disaster assistance. \$653.4 million in gifts and pledges. 92,000 Red cross workers. 48,500 rescues. 30,000 volunteer medical personnel. 2,600 lost or missing children. 895 shelters. 25 states willing to help. *countless lives that have changed forever*”



Sarah Tampke

STA sophomores Caroline Gernhauser, left, and Erin Davis eat lunch with new friends in The Commons Sept. 21. The two girls recently fled the New Orleans area due to the flooding of their school and homes after Hurricane Katrina.

Bishop Finn, STA share faith

Julia McQueeney-Thorpe
Editor in Chief

Friday Sept. 9, STA students and faculty gathered in the Gopert Center to welcome the newly installed Bishop Robert Finn, who succeeded former Bishop Boland as the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City St. Joseph. The night before, the same bleachers were full of high school rivalry and painted faces chanting, "We've got spirit! Yes, we do!"

In the week leading up to the mass, students were asked to evaluate their reverence during masses in the past. Faculty stressed the importance of reverence through announcements and newsletters through advisory. However, the behavioral expectations were not in place to impress the Bishop.

"We've always put an emphasis on reverence at mass," said Ms. Robin Good, theology teacher. "We already decided to focus on it before his visit was scheduled."

Although it was never the intention, the newly implemented standards did just that.

"As a former principal, I used to hold my breath at times to make sure everyone behaved during mass," said Finn. "But it looked like that was well in hand."

Finn served as the principal of St. Dominic High School in O'Fallon, Missouri from 1989 to 1996. In those 13 years, Finn always said mass in the school's gymnasium in addition to surrounding parishes.

"[Saying mass at STA] brought back good memories," said Finn.

In the years before his coadjutor Bishop appointment, Finn edited the St. Louis Archdiocese newspaper, directed the Continuing Formation of Priests, a spiritual group involved in following those entering the priesthood,

and received the title "Chaplain to His Holiness."

On May 24, Finn automatically succeeded to the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph upon the Vatican's acceptance of former Bishop Boland's request for retirement.

As the newly appointed bishop, Finn possesses several ideas for the Diocese as a whole.

"My goals are long term and short term," said Finn. "Long term: to grow in holiness and have a close unity with each other and the Church throughout the world."

His plan to execute these goals begins with an elementary step.

"First, I need to observe and listen to the needs the people have," said Finn.

He also expressed a need for lay people to answer the call to consecrated life. He described the Universal Call to Holiness as a reminder to participate in a faith filled life.

"Everyone is called to be a saint not just a priest or holy person," said Finn. "You are to live that out according to your station in life."

Finn also noticed the need for different roles for women in the Diocese. He made several appointments in his first months as Bishop. Finn named Sr. Connie Bouch of Independence the Director of Consecrated Life, a primarily male-dominated field, and appointed Ms. Katie Fusz as Director of Youth Ministry.

"I'm honored he gave me this position," said Fusz. "I have worked in this field for a long time."

Finn nominated Fusz with hopes that she would energize the youth in the Diocese. Fusz is the youngest Director of Youth Ministry the

See BISHOP, page 2

Hurricane Katrina sweeps Gulf Coast

Katrina sinks two students' sophomore year and sends them to Kansas City for a fresh start.

Sarah Tampke
Lifestyles Editor

Caroline Gernhauser, a sophomore at Dominican High School in New Orleans, helped out at her back-to-school mixer on Aug. 27. She spent the night dancing with her friends, unaware that within 24 hours almost all of her town would be deserted and her friends would be traveling to cities throughout the whole country.

"Y'all [Hurricane Katrina] is still in the water; just chill out," said Gernhauser to her worried friends the next day on the phone.

Gernhauser had heard that Katrina was headed for New Orleans but she was not worried because the hurricanes always seemed to turn at the last moment. She went to all her normal activities Saturday morning assuming everything would be fine. First she met up with a friend from school; they attended a leadership training camp and then in

the afternoon, went to work on her church's CYO newsletter with another friend. A few hours later, her friend's brother came in and

said that they had to go because their family was headed to North Carolina.

"Good luck with the hurricane," he said as they walked away. "I'll see you next week."

The rest of the day Gernhauser heard more people tell her the same thing as they called to say they also were evacuating the city. That night she attended church with her mom and the congregation consisted of fewer than ten people. Ms. Andree Gernhauser told Caroline after mass that they too would evacuate. This time it was serious.

"My family never evacuates,"

friend, was already in Fort Worth, Texas by the time the Gernhauser family decided to leave. Her family did not run into bad traffic because they left earlier that day. The family boarded up their house and moved all expensive belongings onto the second floor. This was the third time Erin had to evacuate.

"My parents aren't from New Orleans so they aren't as used to hurricanes," said Erin. "We always leave if there is an evacuation."

Back in Riveridge, Louisiana Caroline cried as she put her important belongings on high shelves and packed clothes. She expected to be home in a few days and go back to school by the next week.

"My family made fun of me for all of the nice clothes I was bringing," said Caroline. "But I couldn't stand to see those nice things wet."

On Sunday around noon, Caroline got into her car with her Mom, Dad, older brother and other important belongings like her parents' wedding

pictures. The ride to Orange, Texas normally takes about three hours but they spent over 14 hours in the

See KATRINA, page 2

Funding relief holds key to disaster assistance following two deadly Southern hurricanes

Juana Summers
Managing Editor

\$52 billion in Congressionally approved relief funds. \$968.5 million in disaster assistance. \$653.4 million in gifts and pledges. 92 thousand Red Cross workers. 48,500 rescues. 30 thousand volunteer medical personnel. 895 shelters. 25 states volunteering aid and 2 natural disasters later; victims of Hurricane Katrina, and more recently Hurricane Rita, remain in need of food, shelter, supplies and financial assistance for rehabilitation after destruction on the Gulf Coast several weeks ago. Local, national and global efforts have begun to fund relief and to reshape lives, as well as efforts here in the STA community.

Nationally, countless government agencies have become involved with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. President George W. Bush petitioned Congress for relief funds that total over \$52 billion. The bill was passed unanimously in the Senate and by the majority in the House and awaits presidential signature to become effective. These funds, according to the White House website, would support the recovery efforts of federal relief agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), the Department of Defense and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The American Red Cross has also reached out in order to provide food, shelter and reha-

See RELIEF, page 2



Courtesy of FEMA
The American Red Cross provides support to residents of D'Iberville, Miss. Hurricane Katrina caused extreme shortages on the Gulf Coast.

said Caroline. "Like during Ivan last year, we just sat at home, but Erin's family evacuates all the time."

Erin Davis, Caroline's long time

September 29, 2005



Kathleen Pointer

Bishop Finn waits for mass to begin along with sophomores, from left, Stephanie Chapman, Maureen McMahon and Sarah Hylander. The mass on Friday, Sept. 9 was the first time the Bishop visited the STA campus.

BISHOP: Reflections on Diocesan vision and community

Continued from page 1

Diocese has had. She first met Finn at a Fellowship for Catholic University Students (FOCUS) conference last year.

"We both share common views for the Diocese and youth," said Fusz.

Fusz has already planned several events to get youth involved in the Church, including leadership and training camps for Catholic High schools and a Campus Ministry day of training at Rockhurst College. In November, 600 delegates from the Diocese will participate in the National Catholic Youth Conference. Fusz also hopes to organize a leadership and vocation rally for high school seniors this summer.

The new youth activities are part of Finn's plan for the Diocese. According to Finn, the youth are important because they will be leaders in the Church some day.

However, Finn's foremost mission is to create a unity. His idea revolves around

the sharing of faith and gifts from God.

"Faith is an integral and necessary part of every person's life," said Finn. "Don't be alone in it."

Finn was not alone in sharing his faith on Sept. 9. STA sang "Bring Forth the Kingdom" as Finn made his procession and, for the next, hour everyone in the Goppert Center shared their faith in one way or another.

Finn nominated Fusz with hopes that she would energize the youth in the Diocese. Fusz is the youngest Director of Youth Ministry the Diocese has had. She first met Finn at a Fellowship for Catholic University Students (FOCUS) conference last year.

"We both share common views for the Diocese and youth," said Fusz.

Fusz has already planned several events to get youth involved in the Church, including leadership and training camps for Catholic High schools and a

Campus Ministry day of training at Rockhurst College. In November, 600 delegates from the Diocese will participate in the National Catholic Youth Conference. Fusz also hopes to organize a leadership and vocation rally for high school seniors this summer.

The new youth activities are part of Finn's plan for the Diocese. According to Finn, the youth are important because they will be leaders in the Church some day.

However, Finn's foremost mission is to create a unity. His idea revolves around the sharing of faith and gifts from God.

"Faith is an integral and necessary part of every person's life," said Finn. "Don't be alone in it."

Finn was not alone in sharing his faith on Sept. 9. STA sang "Bring Forth the Kingdom" as Finn made his procession and, for the next, hour everyone in the Goppert Center shared their faith in one way or another.

RELIEF: Natural disasters motivate local youth to contribute time, money, energy

Continued from page 1

bilitation for the victims of Hurricane Katrina who are now scattered across the country in homes of family and friends, or in temporary shelters. In Kansas City, over one thousand evacuees were housed at the Gregg/Klice Community Center downtown. The center, according to the Red Cross Website provides temporary relief, shelter and money for food to those residents from Katrina affected areas. Two weeks ago, the Red Cross moved its relief headquarters for Katrina victims to the third floor of the Greater Kansas City Chapter.

"It was time to make Gregg a recreation center again," said Ms. Kathie Edwards, spokesperson for the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Edwards says that while things are still not stagnant, the numbers of inbound victims have slowed enough to allow for relocation. The new shelter has individual rooms in which doctors and nurses can practice privately with their patients and space for caseworkers to meet, whereas the Gregg center offered only a one-room gymnasium.

Donations to the Red Cross from the Kansas City area total \$1.4 million dollars, with numbers still climbing, according to Edwards.

"We will continue to work towards helping as much as we can with what we have," Edwards said. She expresses concern about Hurricane Rita, which came onshore September 24 near Port

Arthur, Texas. The effects of Rita included the reflooding of communities previously destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Damage from Rita, as assessed by major insurance corporations, is between \$3 billion and \$7 billion

Many nationally recognized corporations with businesses in Katrina-affected areas have become instrumental in the relief efforts. Arkansas-based Wal-Mart donated over 100 trailers or products and water to Katrina affected areas as well as the use of 18 vacant facilities for shelters at no cost to relief agencies, according to a press release found on the company's website. The company also donated over \$18 million to various relief agencies.

Kans as City based movie corporation AMC donated all proceeds from its theater chain on Sept. 15 to the relief effort, according to the company's website. AMC had several facilities affected by the hurricane, the majority of which are still inoperable.

Internationally, regardless of their political relationships with the United States, countries across the world have expressed their concern for the victims of Katrina and their desire to help. Among these countries are Nigeria, which pledged \$1 million, Cuba, which offered 26 tons of supplies and the services of over 1,500 doctors and Sri Lanka, a victim of the South Asian Tsunami that offered \$25,000. Kuwait petitioned its parliament to authorize a \$500 million package of humanitarian aid and petroleum, according to CNN.

Apart from organizations and countries, individual citizens have contributed millions to hurricane relief. According to *US News and World Report*, individuals

donated over \$500 million to the cause, which is more than was donated in the ten days following the terrorist attacks of September 2001.

In Kansas City, young adults across the metro area have banded together in order to aid Katrina victims.

At STA, Seniors Mollie Esposito and Trenisha Ford organized a care kit drive on campus. Esposito came to Ford with the basic idea of sending care kits with the basic idea, and they began to work with Ms. Robin Good, theology teacher, to make their idea a reality.

"It's really important [for young people to get involved] because it reflects on their life if they help someone," Ford said.

Students donated 144 care kits to the cause; the care kits contained soap, a washcloth, a comb, toothpaste; the basic necessities. They also collected \$187 in cash donations from the student body following the first pep rally.

"Being involved with the community around us is just a great experience," Ford said. "It gives students here something to think about."

Notre Dame de Sion middle school students Hayden Fudemberg, daughter of Mr. Mark Fudemberg, English teacher, and Maddie Kramer spent the Saturday following Katrina's impact baking and buying both bottled water and lemonade to sell at Brookside Market. They advertised their sale and developed the idea with little to no parental involvement, Mr. Fudemberg said.

The school conducted a campus wide relief effort in which students were invited to donate money. In total the campus raised \$5000; Maddie and Hayden's contributions were 10 percent of that amount. The donations of the campus were then matched by a private donor.

"[Hayden and Maddie], like everyone else, saw the news footage and were touched," Fudemberg said. "They wanted to do something."

Hayden continues to work to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. As she watched Nickelodeon, she saw a public service announcement asking youth across the nation to donate new or gently used backpacks filled with school supplies to benefit the youngest victims of Katrina. Hayden then wrote a proposal for the principal of her school, Ms. Catherine Butel; she wants to get other students involved in the effort.

Fudemberg expresses pride in his daughter's achievements, not only because she is his daughter, but because she has allowed herself to be touched by this disaster. Fudemberg's family religious convictions also helped shape their response to the disaster.

"Tzedakah' is the Hebrew word for charity, and in Judaism it translates to justice," he said. "I grew up with the idea that giving was just."

Fudemberg recognized the supposed social, class and racial divisions in the state and federal response to the devastation on the Gulf Coast. However, he said that despite this, the people affected were Americans.

"Americans came because other Americans were in need," he said.

"Tzedakah' is the Hebrew word for charity, and in Judaism it translates to justice. I grew up with the idea that giving was just.

-Mr. Mark Fudemberg
English Teacher

CHOKING: Lack of control, stress signify high risk of choking

Continued from page 1

when addictions begin to develop, and teens attempt to play the game alone at home, where there is no one present to make sure they come out of the state of unconsciousness.

"Usually something like that [a case of addiction], kids are dealing with issues that are around control, and being able to control the things that happen in their lives," said Ms. Karen Sinco, Personal Counselor at STA. "They don't always use the most appropriate coping mechanisms."

In August, 15-year-old Kimberly Wilson of Veritas Christian School in Lawrence, Kansas, was found hanging from a dresser drawer with a bicycle chain lock around her neck. Her father, Mr. Tim Wilson, told The Associated Press that his daughter died while playing "the pass-out game," and that it was not a case of suicide.

The STA sophomore said that she originally learned about the game from two friends while at her house, and that she has seen people play it "everywhere," from parties where people played up to five times in the same night, to country clubs like the Carriage Club. While incidents at schools nationwide have been reported, the sophomore said she has never seen the game played on the STA campus.

Chelsea Dunn, a thirteen-year-old girl from Idaho, was found hanging from a belt and shoelace outside of her bedroom closet. According to USA Today, this followed the suspension of six girls at Dunn's school, after the seventh-graders were caught on a security camera choking one another in the hallway.

Doctors say there are warning signs of the choking game that others can look out for, including bloodshot eyes, unusual

marks on the neck, headaches, or belts and ropes with unusual knots found in the bedroom or tied to furniture.

Sinco mentioned changes in areas such as grades, physical appearance, or relationships with family and friends as possible emotional signs that there may be a problem.

"A high risk student would be somebody who has the same high risks for eating disorders or anything else, just a lot of stressors, and feeling lack of control," she said.

The STA sophomore said that the process generally takes several minutes a couple minutes to cause the person to initially pass out, and then a few additional minutes while they are actually out.

"The scariest part is before you pass out and you start to feel like you can't breathe," she said. "And then you just go."

KATRINA: Two lives relocated to STA

Continued from page 1

car that day.

"We couldn't even go into the rest stops," Caroline said. "People were just lying on the floor in there because they had no place to go."

Caroline spent the ride listening to music, watching movies and looking at other cars slowly drive by. Some cars were packed with all kinds of things while others appeared to have brought the bare minimum. Finally late that night they arrived at Orange, Texas where they stayed for most of the next week, watching the aftermath of Katrina unfold. On Tuesday, Ms. Gernhauser told Caroline that they needed to start looking at schools because her school in New Orleans was under six feet of water.

"Everything had changed within 24 hours," said Caroline. "My life would not be the same."

Caroline started talking to her friends to make sure they were okay and to ask where they were.

"The conversations had changed," said Caroline. "It used to be 'What's up?' now it was more like 'Where are you living?' 'What school are you going to?' and 'I'll see

you in January."

Erin and Caroline were talking on the phone that week when Erin informed her that she was going to live in Kansas City at her grandparents' house and wanted Caroline to go with her. At first Ms. Gernhauser was reluctant to let her go, but decided it was best for Caroline.

The next Saturday, Caroline got on a plane and traveled to Kansas City to meet up with the Davis family. Erin's older brother Matt, a senior, also invited his friend Luke Pardus to live with them. The Tuesday after Labor Day the girl's shadowed STA and the boys shadowed at Rockhurst High School.

"The people are very welcoming," said Pardus about the students at Rockhurst High School.

They are now adjusting to their new home and new school. Erin and Caroline were very confused by the STA schedule and buildings at first, but feel more comfortable now. They plan on getting involved in school activities and maybe even joining a club.

"[STA] is nice," said Erin. "We're just trying to get through this."

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

Julia McQueeney-Thorpe
Editor-in-Chief
Center Spread

Juana Summers
Managing Editor:
News/Front Page

Molly Huber
Managing Editor:
Copy/Business

Mary Kate Bird
Opinion Editor

Nicole Farley
News Page Editor

Colleen Owens
Feature Editor

Mollie Esposito
Copy Editor

Kathleen Pointer
Photography Editor

Alison Raybould
Sports Editor

Sarah Tampke
Lifestyles Editor

Katie Meyers
Entertainment Editor

Mr. Eric Thomas
Advisor

Staff Writers/Photographers: Emily Becker, Alexandra Bojarski-Stauffer, Aly Brownlee, Libby Conwell, Sarah Cooper, Mikhala Lantz-Simmons, Claire McInerney, Carina Murphy, Rosemary Neenan, Elizabeth Nelson, Kelly Nelson, Kate Rainey, Rachel Schwartz and Breanne Sigler

Ownership and sponsorship: *The Dart*, a monthly newspaper, is written, designed, and typeset by student members of the newspaper staff. Students enroll in the newspaper class after completing Introduction to Journalism during freshman or sophomore year. *The Dart* is published with funds from the St. Teresa's Academy general operating fund and advertising revenue. St. Teresa's Academy is a Catholic, independent college preparatory school, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Editorial Policy: In cases of potentially controversial material, the students of the editorial board will meet to resolve conflict and reach

decisions. However, the administration of St. Teresa's Academy reserves the right to restrain news and editorial content based on Catholic values and respect for the educational environment. Unsigned editorials present the opinions of *The Dart* staff editorial board. Signed columns reflect the opinions of the individual, and not necessarily the staff or school community.

Letters Policy: *The Dart* encourages letters to the editor about topics covered by the paper or other issues. Letters can be sent to the staff in the following ways: In person to Mr. Eric Thomas in Music & Arts 205; by mail to St. Teresa's Academy, Attn: Eric Thomas, 5600 Main Street, Kansas City, 64113; or by email to ethomas@stteresasacademy.org. Letters should be limited to 300 words. *The Dart* staff reserves the right to edit or shorten letters for publication.

Gas prices drive conservation efforts

Rosemary Neenan
Staff Writer

Gas prices have risen about a dollar per gallon over the last year, according to KCGasPrices.com, causing teens to find new and different methods to conserve fuel.

Some of these methods include shopping around for gas, changing where and/or how often they go out, and how they cool off their cars in the heat.

"I turn the air conditioner off, and roll down my windows to save gas," said junior Alyson Russell who lives 20 miles away from STA in North Kansas City.

Sometimes in order to save money

on gas, teens choose methods that are, in fact, myths. Many teens believe that rolling down the windows in their car helps them save gas, because they are avoiding using the air conditioner. However, this has been proven incorrect. In their scientific experiment, Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman, hosts of the Discovery Channel show, "Mythbusters," concluded that due to the amount of drag that is created when the windows are down, keeping the windows up and the air conditioner on saves more gas.

One way for teens to help save money is to take advantage of the Kansas City public transportation services.

The KC Metro bus, for instance, travels all around the metro area, and costs one dollar. Junior Alexa Scharig who lives 31 miles away from school in Lone Jack, Missouri, and Russell agreed that if there were a form of public transportation that went from their houses to somewhere near school, they would use it. Ms. Mary Rietbrock, chemistry teacher, agreed with Scharig and Russell.

"I know using public transportation isn't always socially acceptable, but if it goes where you need, then it's good to use it," said Rietbrock, who lives in Warrensburg.

Teens can find the cheapest gas prices by going to websites that com-

pare the prices in their area, such as KCGasPrices.com. Sponsored by GasBuddy.com, the website compares the highest and lowest prices in town, and allows users to search for prices by country. By shopping around for the lowest gas price, teens can save a few dollars on their gas for the week.

"I usually look for the lowest gas price near my house on my way to school," said Scharig.

However students pay for their gas, many still agree that the prices are too high.

"It's ridiculous. I am paying way too much, and it's not worth it," said Russell.

Gulf Coast preps for more storms, still recovering from Katrina and Rita

Nicole Farley
News Editor

According to a Tuesday afternoon update on the Weather Channel's website, "a tropical wave sweeping WNW through the central Caribbean is being monitored for further development...conditions are becoming more favorable for additional strengthening of the system as it pushes toward the northwest Caribbean."

The death toll for Hurricane Rita is

seven. The Category 3 storm hit shores near the Texas-Louisiana border on Saturday morning with wind speeds reaching up to 120 mph. Death tolls for Hurricane Katrina, a Category 5 storm, are over 1,000. Katrina hit Louisiana on August 29, with winds reaching up to 140 mph.

Initial estimates from insurance specialists put the damage from Katrina at \$35 billion, while the damage from Rita

was estimated at about \$5 billion.

According to a recent Reuters news release, after more than a dozen refineries along the Gulf Coast shut down as a result of Hurricane Rita, US retail prices increased for the first time in three weeks. On Monday, President Bush said that about one third of the refining production that was shut down by Rita (1.8 million barrels per day) should be back online soon.

A survey from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported that the national price for regular unleaded gasoline rose to \$2.80 per gallon last week, which is up 89 cents from last year.

As of press time, the five closest gas stations to STA were selling unleaded gasoline for an average of \$2.71 per gallon, while the national average was at \$2.79 per gallon.

Distinctive backgrounds seen at STA

Aly Brownlee
Staff Writer

Tatiana Ambrose sat on the airplane, frightened. It was her first time flying. Her new mother reached over to comfort her, but the eight-year-old Ambrose didn't understand what she was saying.

"When I came from Russia to the United States, I didn't know any English," said Ambrose. "Everyone was nice though, and it was very easy to adjust."

Ambrose is a freshman, and is one of several students to come to STA from a diverse background. Another student is Saphaphon Tachawatcharapunya, also known as BB, a foreign exchange student from Thailand.

"I think [STA] is a great school," said BB, senior. "I've made a lot of new friends."

STA permits one foreign exchange student to attend per year. The student must be an upperclassman, who stays for a year with another STA student. BB is living with another senior, Anna Johnson.

"It's very important for them to stay with another student," said Ms. Nancy Hand, Principal of Academic Affairs. "That way they can adjust to life here, and be brought into the school community. They have a better experience, and adapt to the way things work in the school."

The school receives many of its students from a cultural exchange program called American Field Service (AFS). Yearly, AFS places more than 2,700 students in the United States.

"When I talk with my friends from home, I get to tell them about the United States," said BB. "It's different than in Thailand. In Thailand, we studied a lot. The homework here is much less than [the amount] we got back home."

Foreign students have certain requirements they must meet in order to be enrolled in a school. The Missouri school district periodically admits students participating in foreign exchange programs. These students are required to have a student visa in order to study in the country.



Ambrose

STA, however, has its own set of prerequisites.

According to Hand, not only do students have to have a visa, but they must also be able to speak the English language fairly well and present transcripts of their previous school records.

"We don't really know until they get here and we interview them," said Hand. "But generally, the girls we talk to have a good grasp of the English language. The slang sometimes throws them off, but they understand most of everything else."

However, becoming an exchange student is not the only way for foreign students to enter STA.

"I was in an orphanage," said Ambrose. "I remember that I didn't like it very much because there was a bully that all the other kids would obey, and all the kids got picked on."

Ambrose also said that upon coming to the United States, everyone was friendly, and although things changed, they were better than before.

"I remember that I used to have to walk through the woods to get to school," Ambrose said. "It's very different being here. I have a lot more of my own things, and I get to ride in a car everyday to school. The language was so much easier to learn here, especially when I was surrounded by it."

Missouri requires that any foreign students be able to speak fluent English, or be enrolled in classes that teach the English language.

"We put students in classes that help them to learn about and understand our culture," said Hand. "We want them to learn how our country works, and how we interact with other countries."

Hand said that they rely on the students of the school to help the girls become accustomed to everything. However, she said that she does not feel adjustment is a problem. Ambrose agreed.

"Everybody is so nice here," said Ambrose. "They're all really friendly, and anybody will help you out when you have a problem. That's what makes STA great."

Walking on "Common" ground



Emily Becker

Students dine and converse in the cafeteria, recently named "The Commons." For approximately \$900,000, the cafeteria underwent summer renovations including the addition of a kitchen area, the redesign of the columns, and the raising of the floor in the space that was formerly known as the "pit."

Renovation completions introduce new design, official name for cafeteria

Emily Becker
Staff Writer

For the first time in 23 years, the cafeteria began the school year with a fresh coat of paint, along with a brand new name. For around \$900,000, the floor of the cafeteria was raised, the columns were redesigned and a kitchen area was added.

While the major renovation of the cafeteria, now officially named "The Commons," began at the end of last school year, smaller changes had been

happening for the past few years.

"We have had a long term plan for our renovations and a lot of what we did had to do with infrastructure," said Dr. Faith Wilson, President of STA.

According to Wilson, the changes were "part of completing the stuff that's in the wall that's not very interesting." This included the 1984 removal of asbestos from the ceiling.

In accordance with the administration's decision to work on the renovations only in the summer, the company

in charge of the project, A.L. Huber, finished their work a few days before the eating space was needed during activity periods.

"I was really lucky that we were able to stay with the same company," said Wilson. "It was the same supervisor all six summers of construction. I always felt informed."

The Commons' last major face-lift was in 1982, with the building of the Gopert Center. The Commons was then renovated from a part-time gymnasium

and cafeteria to a full-time eating area. Contrary to popular belief, the area was never used as a pool.

While The Commons had no official name before, according to Wilson, the now official name was made by ballot. Students and faculty who happened to be on campus one day during the summer voted on a selection of names, and "The Commons" came out on top.

"I wanted it to be called 'The Dining Hall,'" said Wilson. "But really, I just wanted to get away from 'The Pit.'"

DIVERSITY: Student challenges racial perceptions

Continued from page 4

we perpetuate hurtful stereotypes in society. We laugh at racist jokes and mockingly play to clichés.

But who's really laughing?

The faces on the other side of stereotypes are human, they're not just characters on television. Racial stereotypes have become an entire consumer enterprise that we buy into every day. The supposedly humorous accents, the slants of eyes, ebonics and culinary preferences are more than just a spread on mass media; they're parts of our combined culture.

Since when was culture a bad thing?

It's heart wrenching when my younger cousins fight in protest; they don't want to be black, or have an ethnic identity. It hurts more to know that I was once the same way, resistant and unassociated with anything racial. I wanted an identity, but not the one I was given. I was discontent and scared of being part of the minority, of being different.

But in the end, though it is our differences that separate us, it is also our differences that will bring us together and ultimately make us whole.

Sion death

Notre Dame de Sion junior Jessica Dehan was killed in an ATV accident last Friday. According to *The Kansas City Star*, Dehan was involved in many activities including Girl Scouts, cheerleading and softball. Funeral services for Dehan were held Wednesday at Cure of Ars Catholic Church in Leawood.

The thoughts and prayers of the STA community are with the Dehan family.

Seniors recognized

STA seniors Molly Huber, Katherine Schilling and Colleen Slentz have been nominated for the National Merit Scholarship Program. They were chosen alongside 16,000 other students, for receiving high test scores on the PSAT.

Huber, Schilling and Slentz will compete in the semifinal round to qualify for the final round. The National Merit Scholarship Program is a competition for students to receive scholarships and recognition for their academic success.

PHOTO

How are you helping the Hurricane Katrina relief effort?



"My family donated money to the Red Cross."
-Cecilia Rebeck, junior



"I gave a care kit and donated \$50."
-Martha Tillmon, freshman



"I gave money to help the relief and helped pack care kits with Hansbrough."
-Maureen McMahon, sophomore



"I helped my sister with a bake sale to raise money for victims."
-Hannah Girardeau, sophomore

What do you think about Judge John Roberts's pending appointment to the Supreme Court?



"I think he's kind of one-sided, I would have preferred Sandra Day O'Connor."
-Caitlyn Crawford, junior



"He's a great guy!"
-Shauna Muehlbach, freshman



"I don't agree with him on the death penalty, but he seems like a very intelligent man."
-Katherine Kuhn, sophomore



"Judge Roberts is our best choice, given the situation our President has put us in."
-Kelley Seitter, senior

compiled by Mary Kate Bird

Advisories promote involvement

STA has long prided itself on being a haven of originality. It boasts a unique atmosphere and claims characteristics and practices all its own. Modular scheduling, the quad and 100 percent acrylic sweaters are only a few contributing factors to the mystique of the Academy. There is one aspect of our school however that makes it truly outstanding. It is a place, one students come to each day seeking comfort, solace and motivation. It accommodates a tight-knit group of girls who, by the end of four years, we consider our sisters, and one advisor who bestows motherly affection on nearly 25 people. Within the enormity of the STA campus, it is a place we can call home: our advisory.

Between parties, contests and service projects, advisories are a source for many community-bonding activities. Frequent parties involve every student in the advisory; they

provide an hour in which this "family" can sit down together and talk about anything and everything they like. Frosh Fest is a prime example of this involvement-- it helps to acclimate freshman to advisory rituals. Where else but at STA can it be socially accepted to come to school looking ridiculous? Frosh Fest is the activity that remains with students throughout their entire high school career and beyond. The administrative ambitions that fuel Frosh Fest are consistently and undoubtedly achieved. Coming into a new school and having to make new friends is a hard adjustment. Advisories help to ease the inevitable anxiety, allowing freshmen and new students to have a place and people to count on.

The goals the administration hoped to accomplish when it introduced the theory of the advisory have been overwhelmingly achieved. Entering

the ten-minute advisory period on the first day of freshman year, one may have few friends. But by 3:00 that afternoon, they walk off campus with at least 25 new friends in their peers, and one mentor and friend in an advisor, who will help to guide them through their years at STA. The transition into high school is made that much easier; knowing you have a posse of protective advisees watching your back.

Advisories also help to promote community involvement. Students learn about sports, clubs and intramurals through members of their advisories. Annually, advisories take part in Christmas projects helping support those less fortunate than themselves. Most recently, advisories have collected care packages to help with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. Nearly every upperclassman in each advisory is involved in the

school in some way, and possess the know-how and the energy to get other advisees involved. Students learn the importance of becoming involved in the STA community and are motivated to do so with the support of their advisory-mates; students within advisories support one another to pursue an activity they are passionate about, and continually provide one another with support in all endeavors. There is an abundance of roles advisories take on, and ongoing support is at the heart of them all.

An advisory is a group of people who come together to help each other through thick and thin. It is a group of people who care about each other, despite any differences they may harbor. Advisories define the mystique of STA, and continue to encourage girls to develop into self-confident, motivated Academy women.

Diversity, tolerance lacking locally

Juana Summers
Managing Editor



When I drive down the street on my way home from work, the complexion of the metro area gradually changes. As I drive from College Boulevard to Red Bridge Road, the color of the faces I see changes from light to dark, and at some points meanders in-between the extremes. It's something I've always subconsciously monitored, but I never believed there was any credibility or statistics to back up my claim. In literature distributed by my service agency, the National Conference for Community and Justice, I learned that the racial segregation in Kansas City today mirrors that of the 1940s.

Statistically, more people of color live in urban areas, the parts of town that we deem less desirable, and try to avoid. We say we're in search of better service, or we'd feel more comfortable going elsewhere. I'm guilty too. I work in suburban Johnson County, rather than in my own neighborhood in South Kansas City. Why do I drive twenty minutes out of my way? The truth is that my neighborhood is predominantly lower middle class and black, and the closest shopping center is Bannister Mall, hardly the kind of place I'd want to frequent with my friends. I won't go to some of the grocery stores by myself or walk around in a skirt because I'm scared.

But is there really anything to fear? Or is it just perception?

We all walk into the same school each day. We wear nearly identical uniforms, yet we're from countless different ethnic backgrounds. Beyond plaid skirts and 25 pound backpacks, we're all unique; our differences run deeper than race.

Our school has taken so many strides to embrace diversity. We host programs like Unitown through NCCJ and hold the Cultural Awareness Assembly so that all of our students can feel welcome. But is one week or one month out of the year enough?

While we have institutionalized ways to celebrate diversity, it shouldn't have to be that way. We have building blocks right in front of us to combat stereotypes and prejudice, however we seem to be apathetic to the cause. Have we just lost sight of what's important?

What's important are the conversations we have about race in our English classes, no matter how redundant we think they are; if there wasn't a problem, we wouldn't emphasize it. The blend of music we listen to at school dances that defies any one racial identity is important. The parallel lines and stereotypes we seem to force ourselves into, however, are not.

It doesn't take much to change the complexion of society. There are little things that we can do every day. It only takes one kind word, one smile, one display of concern for another person. Too often we swim downstream, following the latest trend or stream of conversation. Every day

See DIVERSITY, page 3



cartoon by Carina Murphy

Bush not to blame for disaster

Elizabeth Nelson
Staff Writer



Hurricane Katrina was a devastating natural disaster that left thousands of people homeless and dead on the Gulf Coast. Politically motivated, people have been bashing President George W. Bush. Bush did make some mistakes. His choice for the head of FEMA, Mr. Michael Brown, was a poor one. Bush came out and apologized for the relief effort on Sept. 13. Why did he apologize? Looking at the facts, the local governments of the Gulf Coast region are to blame.

People have been blaming Bush for every aspect of the hurricane, including the hurricane itself. The fact is that there is nothing we could have done to stop the hurricane. We could have built better levees, but when it comes to stopping an actual hurricane, we have no power. So what do people do? They blame Bush's energy policy. If he had a policy that was environmentally friendly, we wouldn't be in this situation. They just leave out the fact that hurricanes have been occurring for hundreds of years. It's sad that when people can't support their opinions with facts, they make every attempt to strengthen their dying causes with propaganda. The thing is, these same crazy environmental groups like The Sierra Club actually sued the federal government and the Army Corps of Engineers to have work on the levees stopped back in the 1970s and 80s. And they won. Would the barrier that was being built have saved the city?

"If we had built the barriers, New Orleans would not be flooded," said Mr. Joseph Towers, the retired chief counsel for the Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans district.

When Bush went to survey the damage, he was doing his job, but did that stop people from complaining? Not exactly, since people like Mr. Howard Dean have been complaining that these visits are just another way for Bush to get publicity. If Bush hadn't gone down what would people be saying? Maybe that he's a horrible person and doesn't care about anybody but himself? Some people have said that Bush's actions were racially and economically motivated. If New Orleans had an upper-class white majority, Bush would have acted faster. People like Mr. Kanye West, Mr. Danny Glover, along with politicians including Ms. Hilary Clinton have said this. The truth is, the majority of people in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, the three states most affected, were white. While the majority of New Orleans is African-American, New Orleans was not the only place affected, and that's something people tend to forget. The city of New Orleans (as of 2000) had about 136,000 whites, versus 326,000 blacks. That's not that big of a difference. Of all the affected areas listed by FEMA, 67 percent of the people where white and 30 percent were black. So the conclusion that could be gained from these facts is that Bush is also racist toward whites, since he didn't work any faster to save these people either and many of them were left homeless or dead. People are going to criticize Bush. The real responsibility, however, should fall on the mayor of New Orleans, Mr. Ray Nagin and the governor of Louisiana, Ms. Kathleen Blanco. Nagin had hundreds of buses that were supposed to be used to evacuate the people of his city. They're now underwater in a huge parking lot, so why aren't people yelling at Nagin? If Nagin cared about African Americans, wouldn't he have used those buses to get everyone out of the city? Of course we can't criticize him for that; only Bush can be criticized.

On Aug. 30 Blanco ordered that all of New Orleans had to be evacuated. This was two days after the hurricane hit, and two days after the levees broke and flooded the city. Would it not have been better to evacuate everyone, say, before the hurricane hit? New Orleans had an evacuation plan, but when it came to actually using it, they failed. According to the plan, "The authority to order the evacuation of residents threatened by an approaching hurricane is conferred to the Governor by Louisiana Statute," which would be Blanco. "The same power to order an evacuation conferred upon the Governor is also delegated to each political subdivision of the State by Executive Order. This authority empowers the chief elected official of New Orleans, the Mayor of New Orleans, to order the evacuation of the parish residents threatened by an approaching hurricane." That's where Nagin comes in. "Special arrangements will be made to evacuate persons unable to transport themselves or who require specific life saving assistance," that's when Nagin was supposed to use buses and other forms of transportation to help the elderly, the sick and the people who didn't have the means to leave. This is part of the evacuation plan for New Orleans which could have been accessed at the City of New Orleans website, until they banned public access of this page (between Sept. 15 and Sept. 19).

In the future, hopefully people will think about their responsibilities. Maybe the levee committee will use their money to fix the levees and make them better, instead of on casinos. Maybe the mayor will help the citizens of New Orleans, as opposed to standing around blaming everyone in sight. Finally, maybe people will leave when they are told to leave. If they have no means, then the mayor and the governor should do their jobs.



Above, women from a native tribe in Kenya perform a tribal dance. The Hickey twins witnessed this performance on their trip to Africa.

School choice to affect 33rd School District

Sarah Cooper
Staff Writer

Current efforts to implement a school choice program in Missouri are raising questions on their affect in the Kansas City area. The proposed tax credit program would lower taxes for approved families, allowing them to use the saved money to send their children to the private school of their choice.

Though school vouchers were legalized nationally in a 2002 Supreme Court decision, they have yet to be implemented in Missouri. The Missouri House of Representatives debated Bill 639 on April 11 for many hours but never came to a vote. Bill 639 "establishes the Betty L. Thompson Scholarship Program and authorizes an individual and business tax credit for contributions to certified nonprofit educational charitable organizations."

Mr. Pete Hutchison, father of STA sophomore Mary Clara Hutchison helped draft the bill. He defined school choice as giving families the option where to send their children to school and ability to use public money in that decision. Hutchison is vice president and general counsel of Landmark Legal Foundation and represented low-income families in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He said that Bill 639 was designed so that low-income families could apply for scholarships and use them at any private school.

"[The scholarships] would enable students to escape failing schools in which they are trapped," said Hutchison.

According to him the bill did not pass because Missouri's State Constitution includes the Blaine Amendment, which outlaws public funding of parochial schools. Although a voucher program, in which the government grants individuals a pre-arranged sum is impossible, a tax credit program would work. A bill similar to 639 will be presented to the House in the next year.

The bill would effect the Kansas City 33rd school district which is currently provisionally accredited, meaning that if it meets requirements in the given amount of time, it will reclaim its title of "accredited."

Ms. Kimberly Myers teaches pre-kindergarten at Douglass Early Childhood Center in the Kansas City, Missouri school district. She does not think the proposed vouchers would affect her students because she doubts the vouchers would cover pre-kindergarten as it is not required in Missouri. However, when she taught first grade in Kansas City public schools, vouchers were a topic of conversation.

"I know a few of [the parents] are saying they would love to use vouchers," said Myers.

She thinks that vouchers are a good idea but the rules and restrictions would be complicated.

"In theory, [school vouchers] are a great idea, but it would be difficult to implement," said Myers.

STA principal of academic affairs Ms. Nancy Hand thinks vouchers could have a positive effect on STA.

"We could see more students try to test into STA, which is a good thing," said Hand.

According to an article in the *Kansas City Star*, the average scholarship from the tax credit would be \$3,800. STA tuition totals \$7,800. Hand said that STA has a "neighbor-to-neighbor without distinction" policy, meaning that the school does not discriminate against students applying and voucher students would still be allowed to apply for scholarships.

"Everyone is entitled to a good education," said Hand. "If this would help in strengthening public education, than it would be a good thing."

Both Myers and Hand are concerned that upon receiving government money private schools would have to change some elements of their policy. Hutchison said that if school choice was enacted, no new requirements would affect STA or any private schools. Also that 639 was designed so it would not change a school's religious mission or curriculum in any way.

The main argument against school choice in Missouri is that it would take funding away from the public school system that is needed. Hutchison doesn't think that's a negative thing.

"The public school system is the only thing in America where you get rewarded for failing," said Hutchison.

He also said that a school choice program in Missouri would give disadvantaged children access to educational opportunity they wouldn't have otherwise.

"Middle class and wealthy people have school choice," said Hutchison. "Politicians have school choice. Teachers have school choice. The only people who don't have school choice are the people who need it the most."

SUMMER SPENT IN SERVICE

Compiled by Mikhala Lantz-Simmons



Above Ms. Heather Macintosh, left, holds an orphan from Capetown, South Africa. Macintosh was in Africa for over seven months. She worked with the HIV/AIDS program that is funded by the South African government alongside other teachers and helped give seminars that taught AIDS prevention techniques in the classroom.

"One in four people are infected [with AIDS]," said Macintosh. "It's everywhere, even on the billboards, yet the numbers are still increasing."

Sophomore Shannon Curry right holds Natalie, a six year old Guatemalan girl. In the background is the San Andres Convent where Curry stayed for eight days while working alongside 18 fellow church members. She helped paint classrooms in a local school that her church built several years ago and also volunteered at El Centro, a center for abused women and children. Curry said that the trip was very self-changing.

"It just shows how much you take for granted," said Curry. "[The kids] don't care about brand names, some don't even have a chance to pick what to wear. There are bigger problems."

Sophomores Maddie and Claire Hickey above spent two and a half weeks in Nairobi, Kenya this summer. They worked in the Sisters of Charity orphanage, founded by Mother Theresa. From 7 to 12 a.m. they played with disabled and mentally handicapped kids from the orphanage.

The trip was a birthday present from the girls' father, Mr. Dan Hickey who is the founder and director of Transformation Journeys, a company that organizes service trips to developing countries. The girls have been on nine mission trips, seven outside of the country.



Junior Amanda Wilson, above, paints with her workgroup at the Catholic Heart Workcamp in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Wilson worked for a week at the Potawatomi Nation Child Development Center. She was placed in a group of six kids and one adult from all over the nation. Together they helped paint all of the bathrooms in the school and cafeteria and cleaned out the pool.

Teens amazed by maize

Libby Conwell
Staff Writer

As Friday night approaches, many students ask themselves, *what is there to do on a Friday night in Kansas City?* The answer is usually hanging out at someone's house, going to a movie or the occasional trip to the bowling alley. However, some students are taking advantage of the agriculture of the Midwest and heading out to the cornfields.

In these corn fields are mazes that people walk through. Farmers cut paths into their cornfields and to make it challenging. They make loops and dead ends so that people will get lost in the corn that stands higher than their heads. Often times these mazes are cut to look like some design or picture. At the Liberty, Missouri corn maze, the field is cut into a giant NASCAR race car that stretches 25 acres and takes about one to two hours to complete.

According to Tyler Akey, a two year employee of the Liberty corn maze, it is one of 500 corn mazes in America, which is five times as many as there were in 1998. Junior Megan Isom went to see what the corn maze was all about.

"My friends and I went to the corn mazes because we heard people saying how cool they were," said Isom. "We wanted to go see for ourselves and it was a really nice way to spend a Saturday afternoon."

Other students do not know what it would be like.

"I was really excited," said junior

Kathleen Medina. "I didn't know what to expect. The corn was so high; I wasn't really sure how we would find our way out."

The field owners often provide the customers maps of the mazes to help guide them but many still get lost.

"I got lost from my group probably three or four times," said Isom. "We finally had to designate a meeting place."

Medina and her friends decided to not use their map and tried to get lost as part of the fun.

"We wanted to get lost," said Medina. "But it really didn't work because eventually we would find our way out without trying."

The corn mazes are also a popular places to get spooked, which is why the fields are set up around Halloween.

"The corn maze we went to was haunted," said Medina.

"There were guys dressed up as zombies chasing us and we would get stuck in dead ends. It was kind of scary."

Movies such as "Signs" and "Children of the Corn" remind Isom of the creepy happenings that can occur in corn fields.

"We went during the day," said Isom. "But it was still scary because of all those stories about people jumping out of the corn fields to kill you."

There seems to be something that's bringing people back for more.

"I would definitely go again," said Medina. "It was kind of weird at first, but once we got into it, it was fun and crazy. I mean, how often do people get to wander around in a corn field?"

Despite unsafe conditions students work hard to keep money flowing

Carina Murphy
Staff Writer

For most teenagers, being held at gunpoint is not part of their job description. However, some STA students have found themselves in the face of grave danger or other unusual circumstances.

Junior Lauryn Howard has worked at 7-Eleven, located at 63rd and Oak Streets, for the past three summers. She admits that it can be a dangerous job but also fun and interesting.

"I meet a lot of different people and I get to see a lot of interesting people, like the people who buy lottery tickets," said Howard. "They'll stand there and scratch off tickets for hours, and they'll never win a damn thing."

Howard has never faced a gun or weapon while cashing at 7-Eleven, though she has called the police several times during robberies. Once, she was stocking products in the back cooler when a burglary occurred, but she claims the numerous robberies she has witnessed have not been as serious.

"We have drunk people come in all the time and they try to steal stuff and we have to chase them down," said Howard. "And we've gotten robbed a couple of times. I had to call the police, but we'd done everything by the time they came. I had to do it just to tell them. It was kind of fun."

According to Howard, her parents are not thrilled by such dangerous occurrences, but the price is right. She returns to 7-Eleven every summer, despite claims from her parents that she could get hurt.

Senior Jen Schuler quit her job at At the Beach Tanning Salon in Shawnee, Kansas, due to pressure from her parents and her fear that she might be held at gunpoint again.

"He came in and started flirting, and

I was just going along with whatever he said," said Schuler. "Then I dropped some money or something, and I came up and he had the gun at my head, right in front of my face."

According to Schuler, the incident was out of the ordinary for the otherwise safe, suburban, Johnson County neighborhood. At the Beach even had a security camera, but it was not on at the time of the holdup.

"Well I kept working because I made incredible money \$10-\$15 an hour," said Schuler. "But I quit a few months after I got held up because I'd come in to work and always go in the back and let someone else work the desk because I was scared something would happen again."

Junior Mary Garcia faces a different kind of heat at her job. Tagging clothes at Leawood Village Cleaners is not as common as cashing, nor is it especially dangerous, but Garcia claims the customers are often angry and impatient, and the laundry room presents several safety hazards.

"It's not really dangerous, but it could be," said Garcia. "Sometimes the conveyor goes fast and I'm afraid that I'm going to get my hand chopped off."

Garcia has worked at the cleaners for about two years, though she believes it is not a fitting job for a teenage girl like her.

"I wish I had an ordinary job, something like retail, but I stay at 'the sweatshop' because I can call my own hours," said Garcia. "I can work whenever I want."

According to Garcia, convenient hours and pay are her main motivators. Like Howard and Schuler, neither discontent nor danger can stand in the way of her paycheck.

"It's a very dangerous job actually," said Howard. "But it's fun and someone's got to do it."

Open weekends until Oct. 30
Friday 5-10 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Cost: Adults \$9
Children (5-13) \$7, (0-4) Free
(816)781-9196

Photo by Kathleen Pointer

Makeup, manicures and
students battle or embrace
materialistic im

Materialistic Girls

A comparative shopping spree

Here is a look at possible shopping expenditures at various stores. Target, Urban Outfitters and Nordstrom represent the various spending attitudes at STA.



01. Freshman Anna Krugh answers a call on her cell phone at the Friday Sept. 9 Rockhurst football game. 02. Juniors, from left, Kelli Hansen and Alexa Scharig, take a moment to talk in front of a bathroom mirror at the Sept. 9 Rockhurst game.

Spending habits differ among teens

Katie Meyers
Fine Arts & Entertainment Editor

At STA, girls have a variety of shopping personalities. It's possible to find girls who shop for logos, girls who shop for style, girls who shop to find something unique and others who just want something cheap. Walking into a random classroom, one could find a student with a \$250 Coach bag, another student with a \$10 purse from Wal-Mart and, yet, another with a purse she made in fibers class.

"There's four weeks in a month and I go shopping like once a week," said junior Katie Pfeffer. "So, I probably spend about \$2,500 a month on stuff. Wow! I feel bad for my parents."

"Stuff," for Pfeffer, includes: food, clothes, makeup, accessories, manicures, tanning and other shopping expenses. Pfeffer enjoys shopping with her friends

and her boyfriend, but prefers shopping with her mother because it broadens her shopping options.

Both Pfeffer and senior Katie Calhoun admit to having weaknesses for accessories.

"Purses and shoes, that's the stuff that I really don't need," said Calhoun. "But I buy anyway."

Recently, Calhoun says, her monthly shopping budget is less than \$100, most of which is spent on CD's, Starbucks coffee and going movie tickets.

"The big thing that I've been doing lately is paying for trips that I'm taking," Calhoun said. "I'm going to New York for Thanksgiving and on a cruise after graduation."

Calhoun is making the money to pay for her trip and other expenses by working at Presentations in Waldo. Calhoun says that her parents don't pay for anything except

gas and education related expenses, such as supplies, or test fees for the SAT and ACT.

"On average, I'd say [that I spend] about \$180 on stuff and \$120 on gas," said senior Clare Cummings. "So, I guess about \$300 a month."

Cummings pays all of her expenses. She has been a babysitter for years, and started working as a nanny as soon as she could drive. She earns approximately \$6 an hour, and spends about 80% of that. A lot of that money, however, goes to gas and food.

Pfeffer has a job as well, but, thus far, she has not paid the shopping bills. Over the summer she worked as a life guard at Meadowbrook Country Club, and after modeling for Hemline, a boutique on the Plaza, she received a job there.

"I'm working there because I get \$10 an hour and a nice discount," said Pfeffer. "My mom basically said that if I wanted to keep

buying as much as I do, then I needed to get a job at one of the stores I shop at."

Pfeffer believes that her modeling affects her spending habits, as well as peer pressure.

"With my friends, it's kind of like we all have to have the cuter outfit," said Pfeffer. "You also need to fit in, so you have all the same stuff."

Calhoun, on the other hand, says that she doesn't often buy clothes unless she needs them. When she does need to shop, Calhoun prefers places like Target where she can get a wide variety of items in one place.

Cummings seems to share Calhoun's opinion of shopping for clothes.

"A closet can only fit so much stuff," said Cummings. "If you're not going to wear it, then there's no point in buying it. That's just wasteful."



and couture:
embrace a
image

ial



o1.



o2.



o3.

Queen for a Day: A glimpse of what it's like on the other side of the mirror

Molly Huber
Managing Editor

Each morning during the school week, junior Jovana Mirabile of St. Thomas Aquinas High School slips out from under her feather comforter, soft, thick and fit for a queen, when her mom enters her bedroom to coax her awake at 6:30 a.m. She washes her face, brushes her teeth and straightens her hair. She carefully applies her concealer, bronzer and mascara. She then throws on her uniform skirt, uniform shirt and BC moccasins with a wedge heel, then marches down the stairs and into the red, black and green-tiled kitchen of her Leawood home. She eats a bagel atop a kitchen bar stool to start her morning off right. She throws her books into her backpack, her mother wishes her a good day at school and Mirabile is out the door. She drives to Aquinas in her light blue 2005 Jeep Liberty and a seven-hour school day of study and interaction with friends commences.

Mirabile may seem like any other teenager; but she will be the first to admit that she's not. She recognizes how fortunate she is, but also acknowledges the fact that there are other girls who are not as fortunate. They do not get the opportunity to feel beautiful when they go to school in the morning, or to hear their mothers wishing them a good day. They have not had a chance to feel like a queen.

Mirabile lives that chance. She competed in over 20 beauty pageants in the last seven years, including the Miss Kansas Teen America pageant and Miss Kansas Teen USA pageant, and is familiar with the feeling of beauty and royalty. She realizes how essential it is for teenage girls to feel pretty and important. Mirabile wanted to help other girls gain the same sense of confident self-esteem she possesses.

"I want to let other girls know that they need to be proud of who they are," said Mirabile.

To accomplish this goal, Mirabile began a program with her friends three years ago called Queen for a Day. She read an article in a pageant magazine during her eighth grade year about a young woman who had established a similar program for cancer patients. Mirabile decided she wanted to found one of her own in her area. She expressed this idea to her mother, a former special education teacher, who suggested she take her idea to the Marillac Center, a treatment facility for children with emotional and behavioral disorders. The Center supported her cause. Since then, Mirabile, along with a few friends and sister Niki, 15, has held a two-hour long session of the program each month, speaking to girls 13-16 years old at the center about self-esteem and having confidence in the face of peer pressure.

"Society puts pressure on teens, especially women, to look a certain way," said Mirabile. "I want to tell them how to overcome that. We bring up how important it is to take care of yourself to feel good about yourself, and to treat yourself with respect."

Ms. Kerry Stein, manager of special events and volunteers at Marillac Center, is grateful for the program and Mirabile's message.

"She has become a significant, positive role model for a group of girls struggling to fit into the mold of this day and age," said Stein. "Jovana has been a wonderful addition to the many volunteers that serve Marillac."

The sessions consist not only of valuable information on confidence and self-perception, but also of facials, manicures, makeovers and hair styling.

"Some of these girls live at Marillac and don't have the stuff we are fortunate to have," said Mirabile. "We try to make all of

them feel like princesses."

When the make overs are complete, Mirabile and her friends hand each of the girls a rose, place a crown on each head and everyone does the "queen wave." According to Mirabile, this part is the most gratifying for her because she is able to see an increased level of confidence in the girls.

"When they first walk in, you can tell some of them are sort of tomboyish," said Mirabile. "They're about to laugh at you and your crowns and makeup, but they end up loving it. They feel so good when they walk out. It brightens their day because, basically, it's just like hanging out with your girlfriends and having 'girl talk'. Every girl, Goth or sporty, has a girly side and the Queen program really brings it out. It's really cool to see."

Stein agreed.

"If you could see these girls, and the smiles they wear as they leave the group room; their heads held high and the glow on their faces is something we don't see here everyday," said Stein. "We have Jovana to thank for that!"

Each girl comes away with her own care kit, composed of makeup, a hairbrush and nail polish. These items, along with the roses, crowns and skin care supplies, cost Mirabile anywhere from \$100 to \$200 per session. Since expenses were high, Mirabile decided she needed to raise money somehow. She began making dresses over winter break of her eighth grade year from designs she has created over

the years. She featured these dresses in a fashion show, the admission cost to which was donation only.

"When I began making clothes, I didn't really know how to sew," admitted Mirabile. "I pinned and glued the dresses together. It wasn't the best show, but it raised \$400."

After her first show, Mirabile's grandmother Josephine helped her learn to sew and she also took a sewing class at her high school.

"Sewing is still not my strong point," said Mirabile. "I'm very impatient, and I'd rather draw a design and have someone make it for me, but I'm still learning."

Mirabile continues to design clothes, make dresses and hold fashion shows to raise money for the Queen for a Day program. Her most recent show was held Aug. 29 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Overland Park and featured 40 dresses that Mirabile designed, and sewed with the help of her grandmother and several seamstresses. Thirty girls modeled her formal wear, semi-formal/cocktail and T-shirt dress lines. Male models were also featured in the show, strutting Mirabile's new line of mens' boxers studded with rhinestones and printed in colorful stripes. T-shirts emblazoned with Mirabile's Queen for a Day logo were also sold at the fashion show. The event raised over \$5,000 for the Queen for a Day program.

Mirabile's dream is attend Parsons' School of Design in New York, obtain an internship with Betsy Johnson, Oscar de la Renta or Versace (her three favorite designers) and open her own store or boutique in the Soho district of New York City. She later hopes to own a design house and make a big name for herself, producing clothing for every occasion.

"I want to have everything and reach out to as many people as I can," said Mirabile.

Mirabile also plans to make the Queen for a Day program nationwide.

"I want all girls to know that there's no such thing as perfection, nobody can have the perfect body or face," said Mirabile. "Everyone is made in their own unique way, and they should be proud of who they are."

I want to let other girls know that they need to be proud of who they are.
-Jovana Mirabile,
Queen for a Day founder

Photographs by Kathleen Pointer
o3. Sophomores, from left, Stephanie Chapman and Claire McFarland, use the bathrooms in the Rockhurst stadium to check their appearance.

Lights, camera... junior tells stories through film

Mollie Esposito
Copy Editor

A nurse pushes a wheelchair-bound patient down the halls of a hospital as the opening credits flash across the bottom of the screen. She wheels him into a room, and announces to the other patient that the two will be roommates. The nurse introduces them as Taylor and Jamie. Both are wrapped from head-to-toe in bandages. After helping the patient out of his wheelchair and into a bed, she explains that they've had to double up in some of the rooms. The nurse tells Taylor and Jamie not to worry and motions to a calendar that hangs on the wall.

In two weeks their bandages will be removed.

The nurse places a bottle of juice into one of the patient's hands. "Try to get along, okay," she says before she turns to leave.

One patient fumbles to get the straw to his bandaged lips as the other watches. Their eyes meet their pain seems to connect them. They reach their hands over the sides of the beds toward one other and the camera turns to the window before fading out.

A dream sequence follows. The two are out in the park on a picnic. All of their bandages are gone except those wound around their heads. They fly a kite, try to feed each other grapes, and run across an open field into one another's arms as music plays in the background: *When a man loves a woman*.

Two weeks pass and the nurse returns with a doctor who announces that it is time for the bandages to come off. The doctor removes one patient's head dressings while the nurse works on the other's bandages. When they are done they step aside so that Jamie and Taylor can see one another's faces for the first time.

They stand still for a few seconds in silence as each begin to realize that the other is a man. Like old lovers they give their response in unison:

"What the..."

And the movie ends.

Love, mistaken identities and people in full body casts come into play in this film, but don't look for it in any box office. This short film is the work of STA junior Kathleen Medina.



Rachel Schwartz

Junior Kathleen Medina, above, attended a directors camp over the summer. She has made some short films including a the story of "Taylor" and "Jamie," two hospital patients who fall in love.

"It's so weird to explain," Medina said of her movie. "It sounds dumb but it's really funny."

Medina began making films three years ago when she was invited to attend the US Performing Arts camp at Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, Calif. by her friend, former STA student, Natalie Shepherd. She has returned for the weeklong program each summer since.

This summer, Medina took classes on editing, she also produced this short film

with a group of her classmates. They started by picking a genre for their film.

"We wanted something weird and artsy," Medina explained. "Something that nobody's ever done before."

One person wanted a love story. Another wanted a comedy, and a third thought a story about people wrapped in bandages would be interesting.

"We build our ideas on one another," said Medina.

After they came up with their idea,

they made a storyboard and began filming.

The students in the group took turns directing, editing and acting. (Medina played the girl in the dream montage.) The final product was this short film.

Medina does things a little differently when she is at home. Instead of what she called the camp's "high tech" filming equipment Medina uses a normal home video camera. She practices her editing skills with footage from family gatherings,

and by making short "trailers" like the mock commercial she made for Lucky Charms Cereal.

"That was a dumb one," said Medina. "It was just my friends eating Lucky Charms and talking about how great it is."

Medina plans to continue what she's started. She is taking editing classes at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and plans to return to Los Angeles for another session of camp this summer.

New teacher makes transition, hopes to direct choir to success

Kelly Nelson
Staff Writer

As the 24 girls of choir director, Ms. Shauna Moore's Tuesday, Mods 5/6 A Cappella Choir class entered the music room they began their warm-up with a scale of melodic "la's" and "fa's" to the tune of Moore's piano. As class continued, the choir sang different selections from sheet music Moore provides. In between songs, juniors Leia Darden and Laura Welch discuss other music they enjoy singing with Moore. And the three laughed together while attempting to sing the songs from their foggy memories in accompaniment with Moore's piano. After a few minutes of the haphazard singing, a smiling Moore got the attention of her class and they resume rehearsing music for their upcoming concert.

Moore is one of this year's new additions to the St. Teresa's teaching staff. Moore is a recent recipient of a Master's Degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and attended the University of Oklahoma City.

Before moving to Kansas City last year to attend UMKC, Moore taught at a middle and high school in Oklahoma for three years. According to Moore, teaching at a co-educational public school is different from the mood at STA.

"The overall atmosphere is a lot more laid back [at STA] than in public schools," Moore said. "The biggest thing I have to get used to is hearing all the higher voices of girls in the hallways. It's noisier here."

Although the girls of STA are louder at school, Moore chose to teach here for another reason.

"I heard them sing for the first time last fall and I was impressed," she said. "I always have heard good things about the choir here."

Not only is Moore new to the teaching staff, but to the advisory scene also. She shares an advisory with drama teacher, Ms. Shana Prentiss. Prentiss believes that Moore is adjusting to the STA community well.

"I think she's doing great considering

the stress level of her position," said Prentiss. "She fits so wonderfully here and I'm just so happy to have her."

Junior Melissa Rhodes, a member of both A Cappella Choir and the STA Singers, also believes Moore is a positive addition to the music department.

"She is very excited about working with us and is eager to share her ideas," Rhodes said. "She seems dedicated and brings a positive attitude to the table."

Moore has high aspirations for this year's choir and hopes that she is able to fill the shoes of the previous music director, Ms. Jennifer Benjamin.

Last year, Benjamin guided the choirs through a successful year with high ratings in district and state competitions and a trip to the National Association of Choral Directors Conference in Los Angeles, Calif.

After last year's successes, Moore feels the pressure to do well in competition.

"At this school there's pressure because when you're doing something visible that people can hear and see, it's a reflection upon your teaching," said Moore. "I feel pressure from myself to do well mostly, but the students and faculty have been so supportive."

Though there is no trip to L.A. planned this year, Moore strives to do well.

"I hope to continue the strong music tradition here," Moore said. "I also want to get good grades in competition."

Rhodes shares this attitude.

"I want to be as successful, if not more successful this year, although it's hard to beat nationals," Rhodes said. "I'll be happy if we make a smooth transition into this year with new people and a new teacher."

Now that the school year has begun, the choirs' first concert is approaching. The Concert Choir, A Cappella Choir, STA Singers and members from the instrumental class will all perform Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. The theme of the concert is folk and spiritual songs.

"We've been learning songs everyday," Moore said. "We're just trying to memorize the music and get ready."

Recent writing clubs create interest among STA students, teachers

Elizabeth Nelson
Staff Writer

In the past, students interested in writing have felt that the STA community lacked an outlet through which they could share and expand their talents.

"I showed what I wrote to some people," said senior Caitlyn McFarland of a piece she submitted to last year's *Windmoor*, the STA literary magazine. "They didn't think I could write like that. They thought I just played sports."

This year, with the creation of two new clubs, The Dead Poets Society and the Writing Club, students are gaining forums in which they can express themselves.

The Dead Poets Society focuses on writing and reading poetry, and the Writing Club focuses on several forms of writing.

"It's nice to see that a couple of clubs are incorporating [writing]," said English teacher Ms. Megan Filipowicz. "The focus in DPS is on celebrating the fact that people write, and not so much on how to do it. It should be a lot of fun."

Filipowicz also said she believes many girls have always had an interest in writing, but this year there is an outlet for it. She said although STA has *Windmoor*, these clubs take the idea of communal writing a step further.

Sophomore Aly Brownlee developed the idea for Dead Poets Society last year and her friends, sophomores Amy Hymer and Elizabeth Kindscher,

became involved. This year Filipowicz helped put it into action.

"Last year my friends and I loved to write stories in our free periods," said Hymer. "We didn't really feel comfortable in our clubs, so we decided to start a new one."

Junior Chelsea Burton, a member of Dead Poets Society, said that poetry is a huge part of her life, and she has been writing it for years.

"It's a great way to express my emotions," said Burton.

Burton also enjoys writing fiction,

and has completed a book that she plans to publish.

New students are involved in the writing scene as well. Freshman Erin Andres is a member of Writing Club

and enjoys playwrighting.

"I was interested in screenwriting, so I took a class," said Andres. "It turned out to be a playwrighting class, and I realized [playwrighting] was something I was interested in."

Andres's friends do not share a similar enthusiasm for writing, but she does not let that stop her. She also enjoys writing poetry and hopes to make a career out of playwrighting.

Art teacher Ms. Theresa Wallerstedt moderates the Writing Club.

"The goal is to have kids who like to write have a forum to write without worrying about grades," said Wallerstedt. "I was asked to do a club, and I wanted to do something different from art. I want to emphasize the joy of writing, not the drudge of writing."

I want to emphasize the joy of writing, not the drudge of writing.

-Theresa Wallerstedt,
art teacher



Kelly Nelson

New STA choir teacher Ms. Shauna Moore works with the A Cappella Choir. Moore was a choir teacher in an Oklahoma public school for three years before coming to STA.

For sale by owner: Kansas City Wizards

Claire McInerney
Staff Writer

Mr. Lamar Hunt, owner of the Kansas City Chiefs and Wizards, decided to sell the Wizards last winter. The team will either find a new owner who will keep them in Kansas City or they will be moved. His decision was made after the vote to renovate Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Wizards, using Missouri tax money was denied.

"I don't know of any possible owners," said Mr. Chris Klein, midfielder for the Wizards. "There are two options: for the Hunts to find a local group and we stay in Kansas City or the Hunts see a better possibility and we move. I really hope it is the first."

Wizards General Manager Curt Johnson knows of possible owners but is unwilling to discuss it.

"[The Hunts] are looking to sell to a few different groups that are communicating their wishes to purchase," said

Johnson. "Mr. Hunt has a good idea but I can't say specific names."

Major League Soccer (MLS) was started in Oct. 1995. The Wizards were one of the first teams in the league. The team has been successful since then and won the MLS Championship in 2000. The Wizards, who have been playing in Arrowhead Stadium, are hoping to build their own stadium in Johnson County.

"I don't think we can play long term in Arrowhead," said Klein. "We need a smaller atmosphere, the size that soccer needs to be successful."

Johnson agrees with Klein and realizes the cost it takes to own a team.

"The MLS reality and any other team to be viable and prosperous need facilities that have 20,000 seats and fields for adult soccer and other sports," Johnson said. "We have a business model that brings sports to where it needs to be. It's survival of the fittest. It's expensive to build and maintain stadiums. But if not,

soccer will go to places that are willing to provide them with these aspects."

Hunt tried to pass a bill in May to allow the sports complexes to be renovated with Missouri tax payers' money. The House of Representatives, however, denied the bill and Hunt decided to sell the Wizards.

The chance the team will be moved is real for everyone. Johnson said that the Hunts are looking to keep the Wizards in Kansas City. He also said the players are hopeful the team stays here.

"The players understand the business," Johnson said. "This is a business; it happens to everyone; it isn't unusual. It is a little different though because of the media interest. That's the biggest challenge. We are hopeful for it to be good for all."

With a wife and two kids, the decision affects Klein in a major way.

"I'm not worried about the team," he said. "The only thing I'm scared of is if

we don't stay in Kansas City. It doesn't do me much good to worry, it's a good job."

The Hunts have a few different support groups. One of the major groups is Challenger Sports, who organizes many different camps, sponsors tournaments, and provides coaching aids directed mainly at soccer. According to CEO Ron Matsch, they have supported the team since their arrival in 1995.

"Challenger Sports is all about soccer," said Matsch. "We have supported the community for 20 years. We are doing everything we can to try to support Kansas City and to keep the Wizards here."

While both Johnson and Matsch are legally bound to a confidentiality agreement, fans can take ease in Johnson's comment about one prospect.

"A local ownership group has been interested in buying," he said. "There are certain hurdles. We are looking into the viability of Johnson County in a soccer study. There is local interest though."

Star Athlete Senior Jen Schuler



Alison Raybould

Jen Schuler, practicing Sept. 9, is a four-year varsity player and is the only senior.

History

- Has been playing for 11 years
- Plays summer club for the KC Pack
- Plays outfield and first base mostly, but also pitches for STA

Accomplishments

- Has appeared at Nationals ten times
- Has traveled all over the country to Florida, California and New Jersey for tournaments

Goals

- "The softball coach [Don Lang] has taught me more in four years of playing for him than all of my years combined," said Schuler.

With goals set, Stars pursue state

Alison Raybould
Sports Editor

Ranked fourth in the Kansas City area with a record of 13-3, the STA varsity volleyball team has one goal in mind for the season.

"We really want to make it to state," said captain Michelle Jantsch, junior. "We have had it in our mind set since the beginning of the season, but we are taking it one game at a time and improving after each game."

According to coach Amy Carlson, the team needs to work most on defense, especially on having "an aggressive and never scared attitude."

"On defense, our main focus is to never let the ball drop," said sophomore Hailey Caywood. "We also have to be really aggressive and go for everything. If we have a strong defense, everything else will click together."

Along with Jantsch, captains seniors Michaela Marak, who has verbally committed to Baker University, and Jenna Perry, who is being recruited by Rockhurst University and Central Missouri State University, are leading the Stars in their pursuit of both state and a stronger and more composed defense.

"All three captains are very committed," said Carlson. "Along with them, the core of our team is returning from last year. We really only graduated one starter, so we can build off last year. Everyone is not just older but also used to the way we play."

According to Carlson, because of the team's experience they are "really exciting to watch," said Carlson. "We have one of the best setters [Jantsch] in the nation."

Although Jantsch is being recruited by top 20 volleyball programs, such as the University of Minnesota and Arizona University, she focuses more on the team's needs and embraces her responsibilities as captain.

"To be a leader for the team means to set the example of how we are supposed to act on and off the court," said Jantsch.

Having beaten two strong opponents Bishop Miege High School and Notre Dame de Sion and placed second in the Lee's Summit Tournament, Carlson said the Stars had a lot of potential to be a top competitor in the state.

"I am not overly concerned or caught



Kathleen Pointer

Junior Michelle Jantsch, left, and senior Molly Wilkerson jump to block a ball. The Sept. 8 game against Sion was one of two home games.

up with the rankings," said Carlson. "It's all about how well we play."

For Perry, everything the team does is progress for state.

"Each game is another opportunity for us to prepare for districts and state," said

Perry. "It is all about having that desire to pass, good communication and not letting the ball drop."

Jantsch also defines standard of play by how their defensive performance because that is the key to their game.

"As long as defense picks up everything, our serves are on, I set well and we just play our game with the mentality that we have nothing to lose, we will have a really good chance of winning districts," said Jantsch.

Athletes raise weight on bar, toughen up

Alexandra Bojarski-Stauffer
Staff Writer

Grunts, scuffling feet, aching muscles, moans of pain and the command "Faster!"

It sounds like a war zone but really it is STA athletes at work. Blurry vision, dry mouth, dizziness, every ounce of strength left in the body is used to sprint past the other girl to the finish. Screaming parents and fellow athletes erupt in a deafening roar that follows behind the runner like the sonic blast of a jet plane.

Increased competition and standards are driving STA coaches to push their Stars harder and athletes to push themselves even further.

"Each team, each year, decides what goals they are going to have," said athletic director Mike Egner.

He explained how this year's teams

are setting higher standards with tougher goals. "Team unity" is one of the Dance Team's new goals this year. The dance team now participates in outside competitions, including state instead of just performing for STA games. Thus, they spend more time practicing routines and more money on new costumes.

"[Coach Meghan Savage] can see how much potential we have as a team, and it makes her push us," said STA dancer junior Allie Fiss.

Other teams are also working harder to keep up with the competition. For the first year, cross country coach Karen Moran-Redlich held time trials for her runners in order to make the team.

"She wants cross country runners to be in better shape when they start," said Egner.

Moran hopes that each runner meets

her own personal goals.

"I think runners put more pressure on themselves than I ever could," said Moran.

Moran emphasized that cross country is a self motivating sport.

"The greatest competition is myself," said cross country runner senior Julie Shuss. "Mostly I just want to beat my own time."

Shuss talked about pressure from coaches as well.

"I think there is pressure the day before the meets, when you have to fill out the goal sheets," said Shuss. "You have to set your sights on what you hope to do good in the next meet."

But she understands why the coaches push her.

"They wouldn't pressure me as much if they didn't think that I could do it," said Shuss.

Other runners feel the pressure to perform as well.

"We had such a good team last year,"

Each team, each year,
decides what goals
they're going to have.
-Mike Egner,
athletic director

GOLF

Golf's first match of the season against Liberty was rained out. The Stars lost to Blue Springs South, the reigning state champions Aug. 30, but Junior Mary Kate Bird won individually. On Sept. 7, they placed sixth out of 17 teams in the Richmond Invitational with a score of 389. Bird was the tournament champion with a score of 75, tying her school record. Three matches were rained out, until matches with Lee's Summit North and Sion. They beat LSN, but lost to Sion. They competed in the Sion M-Kan Invitational Monday, placing 12th out of 15 teams. Their record is 19-17. JV and varsity will play at Richmond tonight, their last match before districts Monday.

SOFTBALL

The softball Stars are a young team comprised mostly of underclassmen with one senior. According to coach Don Lang, they are disappointed with their record of 1-15 but are looking to improve for next year. Their win was against Grain Valley. They will play at O'Hara tomorrow and at Oak Grove Tuesday before districts begin Thursday.

DANCE

The dance team attended the Universal Dance Association Dance Camp July 14-17. They received 3rd place in the large varsity category for their jazz routine. They also received "On the Ball" Award, which was voted on by another dance team recognizing STA's team chemistry and punctuality. At the end of the camp, all the teams and the staff voted STA as the winner of the Leadership Award.

CROSS COUNTRY

The varsity cross country team placed sixth in the Liberty Invitational Sept. 3, led by senior Jessica Reid, who placed 19th. On Sept. 10, the Stars placed 4th out of five teams led by sophomore Elizabeth Keaveny who placed second. At Hazelwood Central Invitational Sept. 17, Keaveny finished third leading the Stars to place 6th out of 22 teams. Varsity placed 7th out of 21 teams in the KC Metro Meet on Saturday; Keaveny placed third. Tonight the cross country team will race at Longview.

TENNIS

Coach Bob Riley said the Guilfoil Tournament, a six-team contest, was a particularly good showing. On Sept. 16, the Stars won the tournament as both doubles teams won gold medals; both singles teams won silver. Riley said tough losses included Barstow Aug. 30, Blue Valley North Sept. 1 and Pembroke Hill Sept. 17. They competed Tuesday in the Aquinas Tournament, which included the best 16 teams in the Kansas City area. Senior Franny McShane and freshman Maddie Keller lost to Sion for fourth place. Freshman Jenny McLinney won the consolation bracket. Tomorrow, they play Park Hill South, their last match before districts begin Thursday.

STA celebrates 140 years



Archive photos

Emily Becker &
Coco Owens
Staff Writer & Features Editor

While the United States was celebrating its 90th birthday, a sisterhood of French nuns were planting the seeds of education for one of the first Catholic schools west of the Mississippi.

"It's important to me to be a part of a really rich tradition," said English teacher Mark Fudenburg. "I think it really gives us a sense of identity."

A Major Milestone

During this school year, STA will honor its founding 140 years ago on the Quality Hill campus. While some aspects of the anniversary will be celebratory, the major goal of this year will be commemoration.

"140 years is mostly a reminder to us and a reminder to those we deal with of the nuns and the history," said Dr. Faith Wilson, president of STA.

No major festivities are in the works, but annual events, like the auction, are likely to center around the theme of 140 years of STA. Wilson hopes to be able to integrate this theme with campus ministry and school year theme of "Spirit."

According to Wilson, the administration is focusing on contributions for financial aid during this year by asking 140 people to donate \$140 to the scholarship fund.

"We're trying to focus on the students," said Wilson.

Growing Alongside History

Established a year after the end of the Civil War, STA has existed during much of the history that can be read in textbooks.

"The first graduates of St. Teresa's were celebrating their 10-year reunion down at Quality Hill at the same time Chief Crazy Horse was killing George Custer down in Montana," said Dr. Joe Grantham, math teacher, who has taught at STA for 22 years.

Through the course of history of STA, many parts of the campus, including the M&A building and the Windmoor step, have withstood floods, ice storms and the infamous wind the campus is named for. According to Grantham, if Mother Evelyn O'Neill saw the school today, she would be "pleased M&A is still intact."

Throughout the years, STA has established itself as Kansas City's earliest school. Located on Windmoor, the campus is named after breezy plains the school grounds stand upon.

Being Part of History

In four years, the students that began this year as freshman will graduate STA as the 140th class.

"I can't believe that a school has been around that long," said freshmen Amanda Backer. "I can't believe they still have the pictures of the graduating classes of the 1800s. It doesn't even seem real."

Although they have not been here as long as 140 years, many members of the faculty have lived through the changes and growths made at STA.

"Many years ago here, there was a field with nothing but a rock on top of a rock and me," said Grantham.

Members of the staff like Wilson, Fudenburg and Grantham, have been at STA for over 20 years. These members have attended graduation outside on the quad, driven up to the front of Goppert, and calculated their grades by hand rather than on computers.

Many of the teachers stayed at the school for the opportunities STA offered that many other schools in the area did not.

"I came to love teaching in a single-sex environment," said Wilson. "It was a great connect to the philosophy of the school and my personal philosophy."

Others have been amazed at the way time flies.

"I used to be a basketball coach, you know," said Grantham. "I used to tell my friends, 'I'll be there a few years and then I'll find another coaching job.' Well, it's been 22 years now and I'm still here. I guess there's just something special about this place."

The first graduates of St. Teresa's were celebrating their 10-year reunion down at Quality Hill at the same time Chief Crazy Horse was killing George Custer down in Montana.

-Dr. Joe Grantham
Math Teacher

Few television shows dare to be different

Kate Rainey
Staff Writer



I watched an episode of "So You Think You Can Dance," and something inside me snapped.

Of all the spin offs on TV, this is the worst. They've taken American

Idol and inserted the word 'dance' instead of 'sing.' The performances are barely 30 seconds long and the rest of the hour program is filled with one Botox-injected, scantily-clad host and commercials. And as if that wasn't enough, they have faux-celebrity judges. The most memorable and infuriating is the token British guy. He's a disgrace to British judges everywhere. He isn't bald enough, his accent isn't thick enough and he isn't mean enough.

I'm tired of watching shows that are

exactly the same as everything else. I'm tired of "CSI" and "Law & Order" spin offs, reality shows, and glorified soap operas like "The O.C." and "Desperate Housewives." I want shows that have substance and creativity. Here's my list of the top five most original shows on TV.

1) "Late Night with David Letterman" reruns: Sadly, reruns are the most original thing on TV, no matter how ironic. The Trio Network shows early "Late Night," when the production value was low and the jokes were good. When the show first came out, it was under the radar, so it did things that other shows couldn't; Letterman was unscripted, childish and interviewed people who were out of the limelight, like Tom Waits, R.E.M. and the man who refused to observe daylight savings time.

2) "Adult Swim": Cartoon Network, starting at 10 p.m., plays cartoons not suit-

Kate Rainey's pick of unique shows:

"Late Night with David Letterman": Trio at 9 p.m. and midnight daily

"Adult Swim": 10 p.m.- 4 a.m. on Cartoon Network, Sunday-Thursday

"Arrested Development": Monday at 7 p.m. on Fox

"MythBusters": Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on the Discovery Channel

"Medium": Mondays at 9 p.m. on NBC

able for kids. I like these cartoons because they're not as raunchy as "South Park," but they're funny, smart and current. The net-

work features such shows as "Family Guy," "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" and "Robot Chicken."

3) "Arrested Development": This family comedy can be hard to follow if you haven't watched it from the beginning, but it's original and hilarious. If you want to get caught up, do what I did: lock yourself in your bedroom with the shades drawn so it's pitch black and watch a 12-hour marathon of the first season. This show stars David Cross, Henry Winkler and Jeffrey Tambor. It's also narrated by Ron Howard. Most importantly, it has a unique story line and the dysfunctional characters hit dangerously close to home, at least with my family.

4) "Medium": This psychic and crime drama has something that separates it from the rest: no love triangles or sexual tension! Patricia Arquette plays a happily married woman struggling to juggle her job and

family. Rather than wondering whether actor A and actor B are going to hook up next season, you can focus on the scary dreams and creepy suspects.

5) "MythBusters": Ultra-science nerds testing urban legends, what could be better? The two redheaded hosts, Jamie and Adam, and their dummy, Buster, test myths, like if you leave your toothbrush too close to the toilet you can get fecal matter on it and whether jumping in a falling elevator will save your life. Best of all, Buster is disfigured in nearly every episode and they blow things up whenever possible.

So now when I turn on the TV and come across "So You Think You Can Dance" I no longer pull my hair and get into a screaming match with my TV. Instead, I turn the channel and search for something worth watching. And when that fails, I turn it off and do my homework for once.