



THE DART



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St. Teresa's Academy's *The Dart*

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Da Vinci Code inspires many to discover historical truth



photo by Allison Jaros

Mr. Mike Egner pursues his interest in *The Da Vinci Code* by exploring classical paintings discussed in the book.

Katie Monaghan
Entertainment Editor

With over 4.5 million copies sold, *The Da Vinci Code* is turning heads with its controversial theories dealing with some very touchy subjects. *The Da Vinci Code* is a fiction novel by Dan Brown in which the character Robert Langdon tries to solve the mystery of the Holy Grail.

He follows a trail of clues, all dealing with the hidden messages in Leonardo Da Vinci's famous paintings.

According to the book, Da Vinci was part of a secret society called The Priory of Sion, which was established to protect the Holy Grail. That's not all. According to the book, the Holy Grail is literally Jesus' bloodline. More specifically, it is the child that was born to Mary Magdalene and Jesus.

With an albino Opus Dei-Catholic villain out to stop Langdon and his sidekick, Sophie, Dan Brown creates a fictional novel that has become a *New York Times* Bestseller.

With controversial issues such as Jesus being married to Mary Magdalene, or a bloodline of Jesus still existing today, *The Da Vinci Code* has had unprecedented success among the bestsellers of the country. This bestseller has caught the eye of many readers, including the STA community.

The Da Vinci Code brings up some questions about women in religion. Bringing forth the

idea that Mary Magdalene had more of a role in Jesus' life than previously thought also opens up the idea of women's actual role in religion.

Ms. Anita Reznicek teaches Women's Theology at STA where she is able to teach about that very concept.

to look at the history of the Bible and Catholicism.

"[*The Da Vinci Code*] didn't make me doubt the Church," said Freshman Kathleen Pointer "But it's made me think a lot about what we believe in and how it's evolved through the years."

"[*The Da Vinci Code*] pres-

"After I read the book, I went on the Internet to look at the art to see how the author interpreted Da Vinci's meaning," said Pointer.

As a Western Civilization teacher, Mr. Mike Egner teaches his class about many of the events and time periods referred to in *The Da Vinci Code*.

"I took *The Da Vinci Code* and made notes of all the historiography from the book to use for my class next year," said Egner. "It turned out to be three pages of notes."

Although some parts of *The Da Vinci Code* are historically accurate, it is still a fictional book with fictional ideas.

"I wouldn't recommend people reading it to get the Church's views," said Reznicek.

Although the Catholic Church's views are not present, the book can still be used as a learning tool to get a different view of the Bible and the ideas presented in it.

"I read it for confirmation," said Sophomore Carly Thoma-Perry. "Our group is fairly controversial, so we used it to get different perspectives."

Many believe the book brings forth controversial ideas but is also a good fictional book to read. It grants the reader the opportunity to think a bit differently about some of their previous ideas.

"You have to applaud [Brown] for his ingenuity," said Egner. see *Da Vinci*, page 2

The Da Vinci Code Facts

Although *The Da Vinci Code* is a fictional book, there are several pieces of historical truth among its theories and ideas. The following is a list of the main historical facts relating the book.

- Opus Dei is an actual prelature of the Catholic Church that has been portrayed negatively in the media. (In the book, the "bad guys" were considered to be a bishop and member of Opus Dei.)
- Mary Magdalene, a follower of Jesus, was the first person to witness Jesus after resurrection. (Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the Bible numerous times while following Jesus and his disciples. Brown uses this to support the book's idea of Jesus and Mary having a closer relationship than previously thought.)
- Leonardo Da Vinci is widely believed to have hidden secret messages within his artwork. (Brown creates a connection between Leonardo's ideas and his involvement in a secret society with other well known historical figures by concluding that his ideas were based on or because of his membership in this secret society.)

"It's going to be really important to get people to ask questions about the role of women in religion," said Reznicek. "One thing that was good about *The Da Vinci Code* is that it puts feminist theology into popular reading. It looks at the role of women in religion."

In addition to inspiring others to look at the role of women, the book also challenges the reader

ents theories that I've never read or been exposed to," said Senior Amanda Weber. "If the theories are true, it would definitely change the public's opinion and force the Church to at least recognize the issue of women in religious history."

With different ideas and theories being unveiled from each page of the novel, students and teachers search for their own truth.

Court case influences generations

Cierra Obioha
Staff Writer

This year commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case. Many senior citizens, like 93-year-old Ms. Candise Shelby, see that the case which focused the nation on the issue of racial discrimination in public education has positively impacted many generations.

Shelby recalls a day of classes at a segregated school, and what the experience was like.

Opening the door of Mary Holmes at 8 a.m., eight-year-old Shelby walks into her one and only classroom and takes a seat in the front of the class. Ready to learn, she looks down at her tattered hand-me-down book from which her black teacher taught the other African-American students like herself.

"I was an average student," said Shelby. "I was obedient and learned my lessons. Our books were from white folks who were through using them, but they had good moral stories. We were to memorize them, like the one that says 'Early to bed, healthy and wise.' We never talked about prejudice and racism. Everything seemed normal. We black see Court Cases, page 2

Influenza virus poses threat

Katie Hembree
Staff Writer

This will be a flu season to remember, not because it has been a historically bad one, but because the annual ordeal started earlier this year than in past years. Concern was raised that the supply of the vaccine could not meet demand and might not be effective against this year's strain of virus. With over 50 million cases reported in the United States alone, flu season is at its height.

Typically, the flu season is December through April with the peak of the season beginning at the first part of December through January.

This year, it was predicted that this season's influenza vaccine would fail to protect people against the Fujian strain that has caused most cases.

According to Dr. Thomas Vinton, media attention has focused on the high number of flu cases this year, which has led many people to mistakenly assume they have the flu when, in fact, they only have a bad cold. Symptoms, see *Influenza*, page 2

Court Cases

(continued from page 1)
folks stayed on our territory and [whites] stayed on theirs."

In 1954, a man named Oliver Brown refused to comply with the Board of Education's doctrine "separate but equal." Brown and several other parents sought after equal education opportunities for their children.

With the support of the National Advancement for Colored People (NAACP), they filed suit against the Topeka school Board. The case

was taken to the Supreme Court where they decided unanimously that the doctrine "separate but equal" was a

"Everything has changed. There has been a lot of stuff between whites and coloreds and now my grandkids are able to have an education at those schools. It feels darn good."

—Ms. CANDISE SHELBY

violation of the children's rights established by the 14th Amendment. African-American children and children of all colors would no longer be deprived of an education because of their race.

"If the policy wasn't changed, as an African American I wouldn't have the same education as whites," Senior Erica Rowe said. "I wouldn't be

ready for the real world because the real world isn't just composed of African Americans. I feel blessed to have this opportunity."

Shelby says being in the real world is slightly uncomfortable for her since she isn't used to mingling with whites. Just recently she traveled to get a flu shot and as she was waiting, a white woman greeted her; though she responded, Shelby said she felt a bit "uneasy."

"I think [teens today] appreciate the results of this case," said Shelby. "I never experienced being in school with whites and I see [young people] mingling with people of all color. It's great to see."

Many students here at STA aren't aware of the social changes brought about by this historic civil rights case. Many have the notion that schools have always been desegregated.

"If it wasn't for this case, our school system would not be the same," said Sophomore Mary Anna Hengeler. "I don't know if everyone knows this. Some realize [the effect] and others don't, only because they don't know much about it. We're supposed to be a positive and powerful nation and if schools were still segregated, we would be hypercritical. We talk about countries discriminating against women and yet it would be the same. We would just be using race."

Various people have asked why there couldn't always be an equal opportunity for all races. In an attempt to answer the complex question, many attribute history. Others like Junior Claire Gude agree but take it a step further. "History made it difficult for [Caucasians] to change since racism had gone on for so long," said Gude. "People were scared to learn something new and being separated kept [Caucasians] from getting to know [African-Americans]. Schools would be boring and one-sided without being around many people of different backgrounds. Think of how much students in [segregated schools] back then could have learned from each other."

Although Shelby and others her age never had the chance to experience being at a desegregated school, this case has touched them because of the effect it made on the generations after them.

"I have two grandkids," said 85-year-old Lucille Moore in response to a comment Shelby made. "Everything has changed. The same schools that were just for black folks are now [for whites and blacks]."

There has been a lot of stuff between whites and coloreds and now my grandkids are able to have an equal education at those schools. It feels darn good."

Companies that produce shave products have countless models of razors, have creams, shave gels and even after-shave gels. They attempt to lure prospective customers with catchy names, slogans and commercials.

Schick, an SC Johnson company, urges females to "follow your heart, your intuition, it will lead you the right direction" by purchasing their Intuition razor. This and other marketing ploys are futile, however, due to the

Da Vinci

(continued from page 1)

"He bases his story on fact and integrates that into the story. [It allows] you to see what you want to see."

The "Da Vinci Code" may be a good adventure novel, but it has also gotten the STA community

Influenza

(continued from page 1)

although somewhat similar, are not identical. A cold produces minor aches. The flu produces more severe aches, with a fever ranging from 101-104 degrees. Scientifically, the flu is a respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus, while a cold can be caused by many different viruses, the most common being the rhino and adeno viruses.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that in the United States, more than 100,000 people are hospitalized for the flu and more than 20,000 die from complications every year.

Everyone receives the same vaccine, but children four and under are required to get two doses, one month apart, for the first time they are vaccinated. After the child has been vaccinated for the first time, it is only necessary to administer one shot. With such a large number of people infected with the virus, many people opt to receive the flu vaccine, but wonder if it is accurate and most importantly, safe.

"The [flu] vaccine is very safe," said Vinton. "This year the vaccine was about 70 percent accurate compared to past years where it has been as high as 90 [percent]. It is still not too late to get one."

If getting a shot doesn't appeal to you, there are other preventative measures to avoid catching the flu. WebMD states that alternatives are not always as effective, but different people respond differently to different medications and procedures.

The obvious sanitary methods are still applicable, like washing hands before eating or preparing meals, after using the restroom, after coughing/sneezing/blowing nose or being around someone

who does so and after being outdoors. Hand washing should last 20 seconds using soap and warm water.

There are certain people who are encouraged to get the vaccination more so than others, but everyone has some susceptibility. All children between six and 23 months of age should be vaccinated, along with adults 50 and older. There are also several prescription drugs used to evade a virus. See a healthcare professional for more information.

"We would recommend that people with chronic problems like diabetes and asthma should get the vaccine because they are more likely to have a more severe case," said Vinton.

Many people assume that they have the flu because they are suffering from flu-like symptoms. To be sure, one must undergo either a throat swab or a nose swab. Both procedures are fairly noninvasive, take as little as ten minutes and are performed in the doctor's office.

"I never had a test, I just figured it was the flu," said Senior Lindsee Acton. "I've had it a billion times before and this time was no different from any of the others."

Many schools have closed for several days because of the epidemic, but STA has never had to make the decision. According to Principal of Student Affairs Mrs. Mary Anne Hoecker, school would only be cancelled [because of a flu outbreak] if there were not enough teachers to teach classes. Hoecker has not noticed a dramatic increase in sick days from past years by either students or teachers.

"It would definitely concern us if at least one-fourth of the students were ill," said Hoecker.



photo by Katie Hembree

Two nurses at Dr. Lillian Alderman's office in Liberty display the influenza vaccine before administering the shot to a patient.

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Editorial Policy

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

Unsigned editorials present the opinions of The Dart staff. Signed editorials reflect the opinions of the individual.

Letters Policy

The Dart encourages letters to the editor. All letters are to be submitted to Mr. Eric Thomas in Music & Arts 205. If a letter is to be considered for

Plaza library to open in early 2005

Kathryn Fitzsimmons
Staff Writer

The new Plaza library will offer STA students and KC area residents the chance to enjoy an improved library, complete with a coffee house and views of Brush Creek and the Plaza.

"I think that the library will turn out to be one of the best in Kansas City," said Sophomore Maggie Euston about the reconstruction.

Many STA students use the Public Library system and the new Plaza branch, opening Jan. or Feb. 2005, will offer a convenient alternative to other branches.

"[I think I might go to the new Plaza library more often] since it's going to be all nice and clean and new," said Junior Michaela McKenny. "If it was nice, I might do my homework."

The library will benefit STA girls in other ways as well.

"[There will be] expanded facility, more computer access, a special place for teens, small study rooms, attractive atmosphere, friendly staff and you can even walk down after school, take the bus or even drive," said Kansas City Public Library Branch Service Specialist Therese Bigelow.

STA teacher Ms. Denise

Rueschhoff goes to the library to check out books, videos and attend children's programs with her daughter Anna. Students, on the other hand, tend to use the library more for checking out books and doing research for papers and projects.

Students will be able to do a lot more than check out those books, movies and

lection of materials from the Wolfner Library for the Blind.

Many of these materials, however, were put in storage when the branch moved to its temporary location at 301 E. 51st Street on Jan 14, 2002. The transitory location offers reference services and children's programs along with their collection of books, but at a reduced level.

The larger new building, opening early next year, will also be home to many more programs, an area for teens, a children's center, a 350 seat auditorium and two large meeting rooms.

The Kansas City Public Library system decided to totally rebuild the library because of problems with the building.

"The building was structurally unstable," said Bigelow, although

she insists the building wasn't unsafe.

Students who may not live close to campus can also benefit from the library's decision to start renovating area libraries. The main library will move into the former First National Bank building downtown, expected to open by Mar. 15, 2004. The Library is also discussing plans to redo the interior of the other area branches, including Bluford, Southeast, North-East, Trails West and the Waldo branch.



photo by Kathryn Fitzsimmons

The Plaza library being rebuilt this year will re-open in 2005.

Waking Up Our World: The SUV



Brittany Cummings
Editor-in-Chief



The following article is in partnership with the Peace, Bio-Diversity and Justice club.

Prior to this year, my knowledge about global warming was minimal. My family owns an Expedition, which is spacious enough to comfortably fit the six of us inside comfortably during our numerous cross-country vacations to see sports events and tournaments. Little did I know what kind of damage our car was doing to nature. I understood that the gas mileage in our car was not very good, but what else did that mean?

In 1985, SUVs accounted for only 2 percent of new vehicle sales, according to specific consumer reports. Now SUVs account for one in four vehicles sold. Why this sudden change of heart? Is it because of Sean Paul's music video advertising big cars and bling bling rims? Or is it because we, Americans, have this dream of taking a drive through rough mountain terrain?

I'll be honest with you: I hate driving the Expedition! It is huge. It's so big that I'm always afraid I won't see something scampering across the road and SPLAT! Why shouldn't I be afraid?

If it's the look you are worried about, why not purchase a Volkswagen Beetle? They are cute and easy to maneuver. A person does not need a monstrous vehicle to impress someone. Hello! The Beetle is famously known as the "love bug."

If that does not convince you, let's talk about parking! Whenever I drive, I always find people circling the front of a parking lot for a convenient space. They would rather wait 5 minutes for a close spot than walk 200 feet! With a huge car, how can you ever snag those nice accessible places? It is simple, you cannot.

If current rates of oil consumption continue, the world's remaining resources of conventional oil will be used up in 40 years, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Global warming has become a heated topic as scientists learn more about global climate change. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), since the 1970's, temperatures on the earth have been rising sharply. This "greenhouse effect" emits gases, which traps heat. As a result, the earth warms and large amounts of infrared radiation are prevented from escaping.

Consequently, the IPCC said gasses like CO₂ have increased largely in the past few years due to human activity. The United States accounts for nearly 20 percent of the world's "man-made" greenhouse emissions. Large contributors to global conditions are the SUV and the amount of gasoline burned by such vehicles.

Consider this: today a car that gets approximately 27.5 miles per gallon like a Volkswagen New Beetle emits 54 tons of CO₂ from the burning of gasoline over its lifetime. An SUV that gets 14 miles per gallon, like a Lincoln Navigator, will emit over 100 tons of CO₂ over its lifetime. By simply buying a more earth friendly car, a person could save the earth from 46 tons of CO₂. That is a huge number! A car like the Ford Excursion is estimated to produce 134 tons of CO₂ during its lifetime.

Global warming is a huge problem that should not be ignored. One person's choice can make a big difference in the quality of the air you are breathing.

Save some time, walking distance and the wad in your wallet. Do your bit for Mother Earth and deck out a smaller car for yourself. My family is looking into a different car! Your family should consider looking into a different car too!

Generations of alumnae keep legacy alive

Tyler Yarbrough
Staff Writer

Since 1866, St. Teresa's Academy has cultivated the minds of young women, instilling in them the values now etched into the "St. Teresa's Academy Philosophy" found in our planners on page three.

Since STA was a junior college, it has had such an impact on its students and alumnae that some choose to send their daughters, hoping that they will gain the same experience.

Every hallway, door and staircase of STA may be engraved into the minds and hearts of some families, like the Buchanans and the O'Malleys.

Both Junior Kaitlin O'Malley and Senior Anne Buchanan have grandmothers who attended STA. Moreover, since their

Anne Buchanan's grandmother graduated from STA in 1933. She sent her daughters, Betsy and Mary Bowes to STA. Ms. Mary [Bowes] Buchanan, Anne Buchanan's mother, graduated from STA in 1972. She continues to keep the STA tradition alive.

"[We make it a tradition because] we see good results," said Ms. Mary Buchanan. "We have all turned out to be decent women and we have formed great friendships."

Kaitlin O'Malley, who has had a grandmother and two older sisters attend STA, said that she didn't have much choice when it came to her attendance at STA.

"It was just assumed that I would go [to STA] for high school," said Kaitlin O'Malley. "I didn't really have a choice as to

Bridget O'Malley, who graduated from STA in 2002, it was another story.

"I had a choice, but I wasn't
"We make it a tradition because we see good results."

—Ms. MARY BUCHANAN,

looking forward to [going to STA] because everyone in my family went there," said Bridget O'Malley, now a sophomore at Southwest Missouri State University. "But once I started going there, I began to like it."

Like most families here at STA, the Buchanans and O'Malleys look forward to STA-

Grounded in tradition, fundraising activities at STA were up and moving even 30 years ago.

"I remember in the early 70s, there was something called the 'Father's Force,'" said Ms. Mary Buchanan. "[The Father's Force] was a group of dads that did a lot of fundraising events. I think that my father was a part of it."

Although STA, the oldest school and women's institution in Kansas City, is rooted in tradition, a lot has changed over the years, according to Ms. Mary Buchanan.

"[STA] continues its good tradition of teaching girls to use their potential to better the world," said Ms. Mary Buchanan.

"Now they are reaching out to girls more than they were 30 years ago. There are more oppor-

taught in school are more broad-based."

According to Kaitlin O'Malley, her grandmother played basketball very well, but in the 1940s, when her grandmother attended, sports played at STA were only intramural.

"She was really good, but I didn't know that they didn't play other schools," Kaitlin O'Malley said.

Although Bridget O'Malley is only a sophomore in college, she plans to send her daughters to STA.

"I will definitely send my girls to STA," said Bridget O'Malley. "I would want that for my kids and I want to carry on the tradition."

Ms. Mary Buchanan's hopes are similar.
"I hope if I have granddaugh-

Tensions rise over gay marriage:

Dart staffers explain the decision to voice the opinion of the STA community

Why is it that issues involving homosexuality make many people feel uncomfortable? Mention of the word "gay" or "lesbian" is often greeted by averted eyes, blushing cheeks and fidgeting hands. As a result, these issues are either avoided or completely ignored. Recently, however, one such issue has received national attention.

The Federal Marriage Amendment recently proposed by President George W. Bush states: "Marriage in the United States shall consist of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this constitution nor the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples." In short, this amendment prohibits the marriage of same-sex

couples.

We, as the editorial board of *The Dart*, wanted to present the diverse opinions surrounding this amendment to the St. Teresa's community. We do so in hopes of inspiring debate in the classroom, among friends and at home. Do you know how your peers feel about prohibiting same-sex marriages? What are your parents' views?

We publish this story with the intent of inspiring readers to seek out these answers. This issue should not be sidelined because it makes some feel uncomfortable. It is being discussed on a national level, and so should also be discussed within our community. The following debate

reflects the views of three individuals. We realize that some members of the STA community, especially those directly affected by this amendment, hold more extreme opinions, but because we feel it needs to be discussed.

This story was the collaborative effort of many people: the staff writer, the editorial board and the administration. The editorial board is comprised of juniors and seniors with previous experience on the paper, and is overseen by an advisor.

Prior to publishing each issue of *The Dart*, staff members submit a list of detailed story ideas. The editorial board reviews these proposals, and compiles a master list of stories for the upcoming issue.

The board selects stories based on timeliness, relevancy to the St. Teresa's community, national importance and interest to the student body.

Editors meet with staff writers, and together they determine the angle of the story and discuss possible sources. In regard to an especially controversial story, the editorial board consults the administration.

When a staff writer proposed a story regarding this amendment, we, as an editorial board, decided to present it in a three-part debate. The administration reviewed the story, and supports its publication. The members of the St. Teresa's community hold diverse views, and we hope that this story will bring these views to light. The controversy surrounding the amendment will be resolved only through discussion. It is with this thought in mind that we present the following debate.

Please address your comments to Mr. Eric Thomas in Music & Arts 205.

"Marriage in the United States shall consist of the union of a man and a woman."

—FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

ions, but those views are not represented here. We neither condone nor condemn any of the following views.

Instead, we wish to demonstrate the controversy surrounding the issue, and present a variety of opinions. We chose this topic not for its sensation-

three-part debate

Three Perspectives

One Issue

Federal Marriage Amendment

Alex Hercules

Staff Writer

Scott Wasserman, Lawyer

Kansas City Lawyer Scott Wasserman supports the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA). Wasserman graduated from Harvard and now practices family law in Kansas City from a Catholic point of view.

He is also in charge of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, as well as other Catholic organizations. Wasserman believes the FMA is a good amendment because it deals with family dignity.

"The marriage protection amendment protects human dignity and should be supported by everyone who agrees with family dignity," said Wasserman.

Wasserman also explained that in our Constitutional system, we have a law that states that every state must recognize the laws of every other states.

This means that because Massachusetts and Vermont have legalized same-sex marriages, a homosexual couple could move to Missouri (where same-sex marriages are not recognized) and be recognized because of the laws of Massachusetts and Vermont.

"Why should Massachusetts be able to decide what the other fifty states recognize or not?" said Wasserman. "This is why we need a Constitutional amendment, so we can change whether or not a state can decide on homosexual marriages."

Being Catholic, Wasserman also sees the religious aspects of the Federal Marriage Amendment. He believes that religion should also play a role in whether or not this amendment gets passed.

"I think any person with a good will should be able to support this amendment," said Wasserman.

Maggie Burke, Freshman

Freshman Maggie Burke disagrees with the FMA. Burke has two aunts who live in New York and are married to each other.

"I disagree with this amendment, because I don't see why if [my aunts] love each other, they can't be married to each other," said Burke.

Burke also believes that this amendment may be infringe upon religion and state issues. She doesn't see how God should affect whether or not this amendment gets passed.

"I think that it is in breach of religion and state," said Burke. "I don't think that whether or not God thinks it is wrong should be the reason for it to be passed."

Burke believes that Bush is being a hypocrite. "Bush is doing this based on his own morals," said Burke. "He tells us to love and not hate, except if you are gay."

Burke said that the state should decide whether or not to let same sex marriages happen.

"I think it should be left to the state, because then people would be voting on this law, instead of high power people who base it on their own morals, not the morals of the country," said Burke.

Burke also believes that the FMA should not affect the outcome of adoption policies.

"We have been with my aunts many times and if any of our 15 cousins' parents' die, we would go to [my aunts]," said Burke. So obviously they are thought very highly of. So I don't think it should affect the adoption policies, because who is to say that they would make bad parents?"

Burke thinks that the FMA is not only politically incorrect but religiously incorrect as well.

"I think that this is a religious move that doesn't benefit our country," said Burke.

Father Tom Dolezal, Priest at Holy Trinity Parish

Father Tom Dolezal agrees with the FMA. He believes that the FMA simply defines what God intended marriage to be.

"This amendment is good because God intended marriage to be between a male and a female," said Dolezal. "When two people get married, they love each other and, through that love, they become loving moms and dads. When two people of the same sex get married, they are incapable of creating a child. That is what marriage is for."

Dolezal explained that he does not believe that homosexuality is wrong, but he does believe that homosexuals shouldn't be able to get married to each other.

"I think that if two people of the same sex want to live with each other that is fine," said Dolezal. "They can call it a relationship or a union, but I think it becomes wrong when they want to call it being married, because that is not what God intended marriage to be about."

Dolezal stated that he thinks the benefits should still be decided by the state, not the country.

"I feel as though the benefits that come along with being proclaimed a union should apply to same sex couples," said Dolezal. "I also feel as though it is a state's decision on whether or not those benefits should be given to them."

Dolezal commented that he doesn't want people to think that the Catholic faith believes that the person is at fault for what they do. He stated that we are all children of God and what people do is just between God and them. People who are attracted to the same sex can live the life they want; he just believes that they shouldn't be married. "God will be the last person who judges us," said Dolezal. "So only God can tell us if what we are doing is right or wrong in the end."

photo poll: Who is your ideal Valentine?



"Plan A: my wife, plan B: Alyssa Milano." - Mr. Craig Whitney, teacher



"Mr. Clean." -Amen Iyamu, junior



"Prince Eric [from the Little Mermaid]." -Elizabeth Murray, junior



"Ashton Kutcher." -Enylie Leonard, sophomore



"Chad Michael Murray." -Alison Raybould, freshman

Upcoming Fine Arts Events

Tonight: The Catholic High School Choral Festival will be held in the Rose Theatre at Rockhurst High School. The concert Features students from St. Teresa's, Rockhurst, and Sion. The Show starts at 7:00. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

Today through Feb. 22: The Coterie Theater is producing the world premiere of "After Juliet," a play by Sharman Macdonald. The play shows what happens after the deaths of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. Visit www.thecoterie.com for more information.

Today through March 7: "100 Years of Dr. Seuss" will be displayed at Crown Center. The display shows memorabilia from all of Seuss' most loved books. The exhibit is open every day on the first floor of Crown Center.

February 17-22: The STOMP tour will make a stop in Kansas City. Stomp is a modern combination of music, dance, theatre, and art; all put together for an incredible show. The group will perform at the Kansas City Music Hall. Showtimes vary, and tickets are ranging from \$32.50-\$35.50. Visit www.ticketmaster.com for more information and to order tickets.

February 19- The STA Winter Concert will be held. Come watch the choirs and the orchestra perform songs that they have been working on throughout the year. The performance starts at 7:30 and will be held in the auditorium. Donations will be accepted.

February 29: The Newport Jazz Festival's 50th Anniversary Tour will make its' stop in Kansas City. The tour will feature jazz favorites including James Moody, Lewis Nash, and James Carter. The performance will take place in the historic Gem Theater from 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

March 4-6: The STA Theatre Department will be producing the musical "Quilters." The musical tells the story of pioneer women who quilted. The quilts all hold many special meanings to the women. Watch for posters with show times and prices closer to the event.

Choirs perform off-campus for widespread audiences

Juana Summers

Staff Writer

From the music room on the bottom floor of the Music and Arts Building, you can hear the sounds of the STA Choirs preparing for their upcoming performances.

Ms. Jennifer Benjamin, a three year member of the STA faculty, spends her hours instructing three separate choirs in the art of vocal music.

The Freshman Choir, comprised of approximately forty students, is often the first step for those pursuing vocal arts at St. Teresa's. This year, the freshmen have strengthened as a whole, learning to blend their voices in melody as well as perfecting rhythms.

"We became one," said Freshman Katie Burns-Yocum. Other than practicing their skills vocally, the Freshman Choir also introduces the basics of music theory.

"We learned what 'do, re, mi,' really means," said Freshman Cecilia Rebeck.

The girls in Freshmen Choir also complete listening journals and critique other pieces, making them more capable to make judgments and changes to their personal style.

Freshman Kelly Becker has set her goal in the choir department as getting into A Cappella Choir.

The Concert Choir includes girls in the sophomore, junior, and senior classes. They cover more advanced media than the girls in

the Freshman Choir and many of these girls also share the goal of joining A Cappella Choir. Other goals for students in Concert Choir involve their sextets and for personal achievement.

"I like the music that we do...Ms. Benjamin is a good choir director," said Junior Felicia Ramsey.

In Concert Choir, there are approximately twenty students who devote one class period daily to the study of music with their instructor.

"We're about half the size of either of the other choirs and still have rich sound," said Sophomore Adrian Crump-ton.

Concert Choir's songs for the Rockhurst Music Festival include "Shenandoah," "Praise the Lord," and "The Awakening."

A Cappella Choir, an audition-only group, showcases some of STA's most talented voices.

The girls in this branch of STA's music department give extreme amounts of time to their art and often spend time outside of class perfecting their pieces.

"Everyone wants to be [in this choir]," said Sophomore Tanith Kartman. "It's not just an elective or another class we have to take. We really care about what we do and how we do it."

The A Cappella Choir performed at Osage Beach's Tan-Ta-Ra resort January 22, in Missouri Music Educator's Association's

see Choir, page 8



photo by Rachel Stranghn

Senior, Agie Sparks steps out from the rest of the choir to perform her solo Jan. 17, at Blue Springs High School. The choir later performed at Tan-Ta-Ra for the Missouri Music Educators Association.

British Best Seller Hits America A "zero tolerance" guide to punctuation

Colleen Slentz

Staff Writer

"A book about punctuation?" you think, skimming the title of the book for the book review. "Ha, ha, No, thanks."

"Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation," by Lynne Truss, details the uses and misuses of punctuation throughout the centuries.

You are about to pass on when something catches your eyes. "Hey wait; shouldn't that be Zero-Tolerance rather than Zero Tolerance? It's a noun phrase used to qualify another noun 'approach' so it should be hyphenated! I think..." Remarkably, you're right. There is a punctuation error in the very title of a book that claims to be the 'zero tolerance approach' to punctuation. However, do not fear that this book is hypocritical and presumptuous: the error was purposely put there by the author, Lynne Truss, to illustrate a point.

"What point?" you ask. "What in the world could Truss's point possibly be?"

Her point is that we, as a culture, are gradually spiraling away from our system of punctuation. How many among the STA students know the two uses of the semicolon?

Truss also reviews the history of punctuation. Did you know, in the 16th century, one printer had the marvelous idea to use an upside-down question mark (Spanish students should be familiar with it) to indicate a rhetorical question? It didn't catch on.

While the author laments the lack of knowledge of punctuation marks and reviews the history of them, she never ceases to be remorselessly funny.

She writes, "We have a language that is full of ambiguities; we have a way of expressing ourselves that is often complex and allusive, poetic and modulated; all our thoughts can be rendered with absolute clarity if we bother to put the right dots and squiggles between the words in the right places."

Note the abundance of semicolons. Truss has taken the misunderstood world of punctuation (semicolons and all), explained

it so that anyone can understand. And, she has done so in an entertaining manner. Also, this book has, for me at any rate, influenced the way I punctuate. It amuses, it influences and most importantly, it educates.

As for the title, it stems from a joke about a panda bear:

"A panda walks into a cafe. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air."

"Why?" asks the confused waiter, as the panda makes toward the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder.

"I'm a panda," he says, at the door. "Look it up."

The waiter turns to the relevant entry and, sure enough, finds an explanation.

"Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."

"So, punctuation really does matter, even if it is only occasionally a matter of life and death," the back of the book tells us.

It's right. If you've ever wanted the mysteries of punctuation cleared up, please read this book. Your teachers will thank you (actually, they probably won't, but I'm sure they'll be inwardly glowing), the pandas will thank you and you will thank you.

STA student excels in the visual arts

Megan Kelly

Staff Writer

Art is something that Junior Rachel Duff has been doing for as long as she can remember.

"It's something I've always been interested in," said Duff.

This interest has earned her the Silver Key Award for one of her pen and ink drawings freshman year. The Missouri Fine Arts Academy admitted her into their summer program.

"She is very meticulous," said Duff's teacher of three years, Ms. Theresa Wallerstedt. "She has a high level of craftsmanship and is an excellent draftsman."

Currently, Duff is taking Painting and Portfolio, which are both taught by Wallerstedt, but her practice doesn't stop once she leaves the Donnelly basement. She draws on her own, but "it depends," said Duff. "I have a lot of work for school, so if I have time, I draw."

Duff says that her inspiration for her work can come from anywhere.

"I look around and whatever is beautiful or catches my eye can be inspiration for a subject," said Duff.

[Art] is something I've always been interested in."

—RACHEL DUFF, JUNIOR

Lately, Duff has been focusing on architecture and buildings as subjects because of their intricacy. She goes around the Kansas City area taking photos of different buildings. She then takes these photos and combines different parts of the buildings into one drawing or painting.

"Rachel's work is very detailed," said Wallerstedt. "She is very patient."

As a result of being accepted into the Missouri Fine Arts Academy, Duff will spend three weeks this summer at Southwest Missouri State University working in her areas of interest: drawing and painting. She will also participate in interdisciplinary work, including dance and other areas of fine arts.

Duff doesn't think she will ever quit painting.

"Even if you're so sick of painting because your last project took forever, you always come back to [painting]," said Duff.

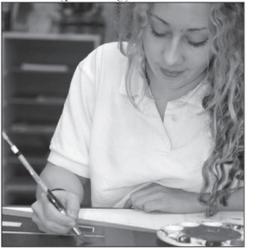


photo by Rachel Stranghn

Rachel Duff works on an painting in the art room during activity period. Duff won a Silver Key Award freshman year and has been nominated to the Missouri Fine Arts Academy.

Girls recognize uniform benefits

Juana Summers
Staff Writer

Students at STA feel that the uniforms they wear impact their perception both at school and out in the Kansas City community.

Aside from the potential style "faux-pas" of uniforms, students value their comfort above all else.

"I would wear pajamas every day if I could," said Sophomore Carly Thoma-Perry.

In their at-school comfort, Sophomores Leah Blake and Lexie Medellin keep warm by wearing their hooded sweatshirts, un-tucking their shirts and having comfortable sweaters to wear.

Students feel that people treat them differently when they wear the traditional plaid skirt and white polo shirt of STA. This makes them feel uncomfortable.

"Ever since Britney Spears' first music video, I've had nothing but positive things to say about white shirts, plaid skirts and knee socks," said Senior Marcus Austenfeld, from Shawnee Mission East.

The Long Beach Unified District in Florida found that "following implementation of the school uniform policy, overall school crime decreased 36 percent, fights decreased 51 percent, sex offences decreased 74 percent and vandalism decreased 18 percent."

In response to this, Freshman Rachel Boyd-Paul said, "The system sucks; I don't feel comfortable in my uniform."

"Students [who wear uniforms] concentrate more on education, not on who's wearing one hundred dollar shoes or gang attire," said Long Beach Police Chief William Ellis.

Many students at STA feel that wearing uniforms makes it easier to arrive at school on time and saves both time and money.

However, other students feel that wearing uniforms suppresses the creativity and individuality of students.

"I think it separates people, because there are still obvious differences in the way some people dress," said Thoma-Perry. "Accessories add to this and the whole 'rebellion.' It doesn't mean anything. They tell us you will find out who you are during high school. You don't get to know people as well when you're all dressed alike"

Blake suggests a uniform code instead of a policy. This would be a "middle ground, still leaving room for individual expression."

"Uniforms are limiting expression for some students, while others benefit from less prejudice," said Tyssa Erickson Shawnee Mission North Senior

Perception

The image portrayed by St. Teresa's Academy is important to the students, the administration and the esteem of the school. Do outsiders perceive the school positively?

Ali Sherman
Associate Editor

Students at STA know the truth about their school. They know about the social activity, or inactivity, of their classmates. They know about difficult classes and late night study sessions. They know the truth about how much money people really have.

Students from other schools might not know the truth about this school. They think private school students all mirror the

"I say 'St. Teresa's' and all the boys come runnin'."

—MEREDITH LINDSAY,
BLUE VALLEY NORTH
SOPHOMORE

few girls they know or the stories they've heard. They believe the rumors about loaded families and active social lives. These rumors have influenced what other students around Kansas City believe about the academy.

From a survey recently conducted by the *Dart*, 40 Kansas City area high school students answered questions concerning their opinions of St. Teresa's. The results were not positive. According to the survey, STA is seen as a relatively difficult, semi-athletic school, full of wealthy socialite snobs.

"I've heard there are some

pretty bad kids at STA as far as partying goes," said Junior Jeanie Cerde from Lincoln Prep.

Some girls from St. Teresa's are known to be socially gifted, but not all. However, one student feels they are more active than students from other schools.

"I say 'St. Teresa's' and all the boys come runnin', kind of like 'my milkshake brings all the boys to the yard,'" said Meredith Lindsay, sophomore at Blue Valley North. "They seem to like to party hard and are extremely cliquy. And not very friendly."

Not all students believe the rumors about excessive weekend activity, but still cling to stereotypes. "Private schools in movies are often very rigid, so I picture it being very strict," said Senior Shawn Bowers of Shawnee Mission North.

The belief that private school families are more wealthy may be a contributing factor to common stereotypes. In the poll, most students believed that private school families are rich, when the reality is that many students at St. Teresa's are not. Of the stereotypes discussed

in the survey, STA students were most annoyed with accusations that they are big partiers.

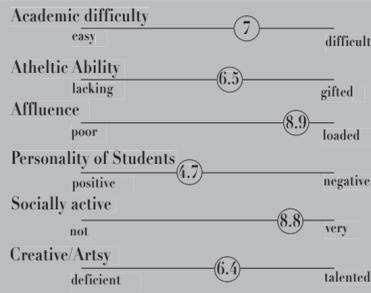
Junior Angela Garozzo challenges students to find a public school with fewer socially active students.

"There are so many students here who focus on school. It's ridiculous for people to stereotype when that's not the majority of the students," said Garozzo.

Even though there is a stigma about STA, and all-girls schools in general, other students agree with Garozzo's assertion.

"I think it's wrong," said Freshman Brynne Lee. "Other people have different perspectives, but you have to experience it to understand. I don't think everyone's like that. I think we portray a good image."

40 students around Kansas City answered questions asking how they thought about St. Teresa's. This poll is unscientific and does not represent the opinions of all Kansas City students but is merely a sample.



Students have positive view of their STA home

Caroline Findlay
Staff Writer

St. Teresa's Academy is not a typical high school. Not only is it an all-girls, college preparatory Catholic high school in the middle of Kansas City, but it is also a school that exceeds other schools' curriculum. Plus the majority of the students enjoy attending school on a day-to-day basis.

"The girls [at STA] are so fun," said Senior Christine Weston, who has attended both STA and Notre Dame de Sion. "We are independent, and I think we have a strong teaching staff."

Christine went to STA the first semester of her freshman year, until her mother decided to transfer her to Sion. Her mother felt that there was more structure at Sion. "I hated Sion the second semester of my freshman year. I made a lot of friends sophomore year, but it still wasn't the school for me."

So after her mother talked to

Christine's teachers, they decided the best choice would be to go back to STA.

Every year, a handful of students transfer in and out of STA, depending on their situation. Junior Anna Stewart had an experience similar to Weston. She attended STA her freshman year, then went to St. Pius X for her sophomore year and was back at STA for her junior year.

"I thought I would like Pius better than STA, but I was wrong," said Stewart. "I missed the all-girls atmosphere and modular scheduling."

There are also many girls that are the only students from their grade school to attend STA. Sophomore Kathleen Heermann is from Grain Valley and makes the 40 minute drive every morning to get to STA.

"I am the only person from my grade school that chose to go to STA," said Kathleen Heermann. "But I shadowed and loved it."

The faculty and administration at STA are always striving to improve all aspects of the school, so students will not only excel in learning, but also enjoy being here.

Ms. Renee Blake, science teacher at STA, is part of the North Central Steering Committee. The Committee's purpose is to improve educational opportunity for the students at STA. Every five years, a new cycle begins and three different pieces of information are compiled. The 2003-2004 school year is the first year of the five-year cycle. For example, the last cycle's three goals were respect, research and learning strategies. That is why advisories make the respect poster every year, there is so much emphasis on MLA format, and there is a test taking skills poster in every classroom. Many other decisions that are made at STA also reflect the Committee's research.

see Students, page 8

Colleges look at St. Teresa's students in a different light

Chandler Domian
Staff Writer

"St. Teresa's Academy" contains a certain amount of clout when placed on a college application.

The STA graduating class of 2003 was accepted to 109 colleges and universities nation wide; 61% of those young women receiving scholarships. STA College Counselor Ms. Steph Hart said that a successful application process depends on the relationship between the prospective student and the college.

"Students who work on their own behalf and contact the schools show initiative," Hart said.

Over the years, STA has upheld close connections with schools such as Creighton University, K-State, KU, Loyola University of Chicago, MU, Rockhurst University and Saint Louis University, due to their popularity among STA students. According to Hart, because of STA's consistent history with these schools, the representatives are familiar with STA students and consider them some of the best applicants.

"Several representatives have commented on how well pre-

pared students are and the good questions they ask," Hart said.

Schools not as familiar with STA are informed of the school through an informational pamphlet sent with every application. The pamphlet includes information regarding academics, students and the school's core values.

According to the pamphlet, of the 123 women in the class of 2004, 29 students have a GPA equal to or over a 4.0. This booklet also touches upon last year's graduating class, stating that 98 percent of the graduates continued their education. Ninety-one percent of those young women now attend four-year colleges.

A significant difference between the admissions process of bigger state universities that of private colleges and universities is that state university representatives who visit and work with prospective students do not review the applications of the students they recruit. Hart remarks that in most cases, the

relationship between high school students and a large college or university is "cut and dry with no special circumstances."

MU admissions counselor Mr. Richard Sonnenmoser said that students from most single-sex, Catholic, non-ranking high schools are evaluated based on different factors than other applicants.

"At Mizou, we typically make admissions decisions based on class rank whenever a student has a composite score below 24 on the ACT," said Sonnenmoser. "In

the case of St. Teresa's students, for those students who are not regularly admissible, we examine their core GPA."

Loyola University admissions counselor Mr. Todd Malone said that he definitely looks at applications from STA differently than he does general applications from many other schools.

"The girls at STA tend to be pretty competitive, so I always take into consideration the academic environment when I

consider a student for admission," Malone said.

Previous encounters with STA students have provided many schools with their overall perception of the student body.

"For the most part, many all-girls schools can be a little catty," said Malone. "But the women at STA seem to all feel pretty comfortable in their own skin."

Creighton University admissions counselor Mr. Dan Butler pinpoints STA student's overall values.

"Generally speaking, students from St. Teresa's are energetic and they value community," Butler said. "Many have been dedicated to service, which we value as a Jesuit University."

STA students continuing their education at MU have upheld the validity of these perceptions and expectations, according to Sonnenmoser.

"Students from St. Teresa's Academy outperform students from many other schools," Sonnenmoser said. "The students at St. Teresa's are, on the whole, bright, motivated and excited about going to college, but they also own a very important sense of humility. For this, they stand out among their peers."

Administrative representatives work to encourage positive stereotypes

Allison Jaros
Staff Writer

Maybe you saw an ad for STA in the paper, maybe someone came to your grade school to talk about STA, maybe your sister went here, maybe you got a letter in the mail, maybe you came to open house, most likely you shadowed; in some way, every student at STA was persuaded to come to school here. In fact, the school employs people to say good things about STA, like Ms. Mary Casey, Director of Admissions and Marketing.

"I try to represent STA in a positive way," said Casey. "I don't just hope but [I] preach it, preach it. You've got to take pride in your school, so when outsiders witness STA girls they're impressed. The most effective form of communication is word of mouth. That is why I don't think the girls realize how much control they have over the school's reputation."

Casey creates ads for the school and plans events to create a favorable picture of STA and to recruit new students. She is in charge of things like the cards with pictures sent out to incoming students.

"Whenever I'm designing an ad, there are four things I always try to include," said Casey. "They are academics, Christian values, extra-curricular activities and something about our wonderful

campus." When advertising the school, Casey tries to focus on the things that STA is strongest in or the things that make our school unique, such as the single-sex environment.

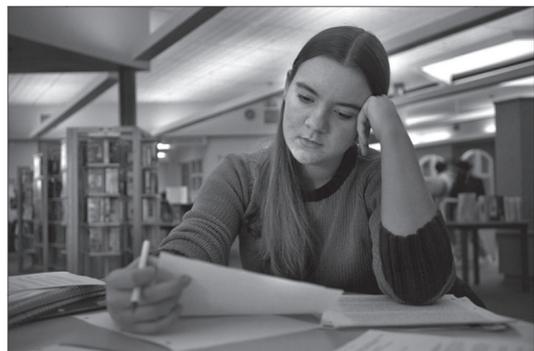
"The single-sex environment gives us a totally different marketing tool for parents who aren't afraid to let their daughter become independent and asser-

tive," said Casey.

Casey, along with the administration, believes that single-sex schools offer many special opportunities to their students that are not available at regular high schools. Ms. Mary Anne Hoecker attended an all-girls high school, taught at both co-ed and single sex schools, and speaks very highly of what single-sex education has to offer.

"My experience is that this is still a patriarchal society," said Hoecker. "I feel like in a single-sex women's school there is an openness in young women to take a look at issues such as sexism. I especially want to promote women as the whole person. Women are in all the offices: class president, vice president; they are the initiators; there is all that opportunity

see Administration, page 8



Junior Samantha Putthoff reviews a case on the Eighth Amendment for AP English, at the Waldo Library. Work for St. Teresa's students extends beyond the classroom.



When the bell rings at 3 p.m. STA students pour out of the M&A building, ready to go home for the day.

Choir

(continued from page 5)

State Conference. The top choirs in the state are selected to perform for music educators.

"Performing always gives me an adrenaline rush," said Junior Samantha Putthoff. "You forget about how much your high heels hurt and the mistakes you made in rehearsal and just enjoy yourself. Concerts at school are predictable; your parents always think you're great, but the opinion of music educators was more meaningful to me."

In preparation for this concert, the members of A Cappella Choir practiced daily during Lunch/Activity Period as well as rehearsals daily during assigned class periods. Included in their repertoire for the Tan-Ta-Ra concert was "Pavane for Spring," "Three Madrigals," and "Poor Wayfaring Stranger."

As director of all three choirs, Benjamin said that her overall goal was "to form a 'musical community' where students perform at a high level and support each other. Overall, the students are nice people who enjoy what they're doing and it shows on stage." "Beyond the details, the choir has a very strong, beautiful sound," said Benjamin. "When you add that to the fact that they care, it shows."

The A Cappella, Concert, and Freshman Choirs participate in the Catholic High School Choral Festival. This festival includes 200 performers from Rockhurst, Sion and STA. This is an all day festival that includes rehearsals and a performance at 7 p.m. this evening. This performance will be held in Rockhurst High School's Rose Theater and is open to the public.



Members of the A Cappella Choir perform "Nada Te Turbe," a song with lyrics written by St. Teresa of Avila at Blue Springs High School. This concert was in preparation for a performance at the Missouri Music Educator's Convention in Tan-Ta-Ra. *photo by Rachel Straughn*



photo by Rachel Straughn



photo by Rachel Straughn

Junior Rachel Cook wears the STA uniform, which often carries a stigma.

Students

(continued from page 6)

One of the pieces of information that is collected is an anonymous survey given to students, parents, alumnae and faculty.

"Each cycle, we try to get a feel for areas that need improving," said Blake. "This year, the overall consensus from the hundreds of people that took this survey ranged from agree to strongly agree."

The survey consists of questions about everything from the mission statement to dress code to academic rigor. Along with Blake, Ms. Sara Acton, Ms. Nancy Hand and Dr. Jo Weller are on the Committee. The Committee gets a rough idea of what the survey and other pieces of information and present it to the faculty. The faculty can then make additions or changes to the survey until they think it can be taken.

"I do not think many students realize the amount of time and energy that goes into this process of improving STA," said Blake. "We are always pushing to make STA better and better."

Stewart has no regrets about leaving STA for a year, because she said it made her realize what she has here at STA. Weston also agrees that STA is where she is supposed to be.

"Ultimately, STA is the best school for me," said Weston.

Administration

(continued from page 7)

for them. I like the leadership that single-sex affords young women."

Single-sex environment is not the only thing that attracts families to STA. The administration feels that STA has a good reputation for academics, athletics, college preparation, catholic values, diversity and extracurricular activities. This reputation comes from the students.

"The student body proves we're getting what we want," said Casey. "People will say to me, 'I was so impressed by one of your students.' Students are more powerful than any ad."

The majority of students answer when applying to take the placement test that they heard about STA by word of mouth.

"The student body proves we're getting what we want. People will say to me, 'I was so impressed by one of your students.'

Students are more powerful than any ad."

—**MS. MARY CASEY, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND MARKETING**

"I thought it would be less clique-ish," said Junior Cara Wallingford who transferred to STA this year from Shawnee Mission East. "My cousin

went here and graduated in 2001. She just said a lot of good things about it."

The way STA students participate in the community through service, work,

"One of the things I have heard many times is that people like to hire our students. They are responsible and trustworthy."

—**MS. MARY ANNE HOECKER, PRINCIPAL OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

church, athletics, academics or a variety of other ways is what gives incoming students and families a good view of the school.

"One of the things I have heard many times is that people like to hire our students," said Hoecker. "They are responsible and trustworthy people."

Neighborhood shops, like Brookside Toy and Science have employed many STA girls over the years.

STA's reputation with organizations like Brookside Toy and Science is the result of personal experience with STA students.

Students are the best way to spread a good reputation, according to Casey.

The work that Casey and Hoecker do to mold people's perceptions of the school is based on their own belief of the schools values and on their personal faith in the good of the student who go here.

"I couldn't sell something that I don't believe in," said Casey.

'Globes' hint to Academy nominees

Leslie Herring
Staff writer

The award show season began with the airing of the Golden Globes on Jan. 25. The Academy Award nominations are now out and the ceremony will be shown on Feb. 29, 2004.

The Golden Globe for best dramatic film went to the third installment of the "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King." Best picture comedy or musical went to "Lost in Translation." Best dramatic actor and actress went to Sean Penn in "Mystic River" and Charlize Theron in "Monster." Other big winners included Sophia Coppola, Renee Zellweger, Tim Robbins, Peter Jackson, Diane Keaton and Bill Murray.

In previous years, the winners of the Golden Globe awards have been a good indicator of what is to come during the Academy Awards.

In 2003, 80% of the Golden Globe winners in the top ten categories went on to get nominated for an Academy Award. 30% went on to win the Academy Award.

According to Good Morning America's Entertainment Editor Joe Siegel, because many of the Golden Globe awards have two categories, the odds of the winners getting nominated are much higher.

Siegel also notes that seven out of the last ten times the best picture drama winner of the Golden Globe has gone on to win the Academy Award for Best Picture of the Year.

"The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" and "Lost in Translation" were the big winners at the Golden Globes, but Siegel also notes that the Academy may surprise everyone.

Maggie Mullane
Staff writer

"I'm so tired." "I hate school." "I can't make myself work." "All I want to do is crawl back under the covers and go to sleep."

Sound like anything you've said recently? Chances are, you probably have. These quotes can often be associated with the monotony and seemingly never-ending days of the winter months.

"It's so hard to get out of bed in the morning," said Junior Emily Lodigensky, one of the many students at STA who suffers from the winter blahs. "My dad makes me go outside ten minutes earlier to start my car, so I have to get up earlier. All I want to do is sleep."

The months between Christmas and Spring Break seem to drag on and on. The days are shorter, the weather is usually cold and there is an inadequate amount of sunlight shining on us. The lack of light throughout the winter months is where all the trouble starts.

Since it is currently summer in the Eastern hemisphere, the sun is shining much brighter there than on the western half of the world. This insufficient amount of sunlight is the main cause of Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD.

When the seasons change, a person's circadian rhythm, or biological processes that occur at 24-hour intervals, alters due to the changes in sunlight patterns. The most trying months for those who are afflicted with SAD are

The Studio meets individual criteria

STA finds expression through the "new yoga" of knitting

Julia McQueeney-Thorpe
Staff writer

On Jan. 15th, STA held its very first knitting club meeting. However, the club is still tentative and informal.

Twenty or so students and teachers met in the art room during activity I and II and did all things related to knitting.

Due to the huge influx of teenage knitters, there couldn't have never been a more opportune time for a club dedicated to knitting.

From National Public Radio to enthusiastic teenagers, knitting is suddenly cool. It's been dubbed the "new yoga" and has psychologists speculating that it's part of a trend toward cooing since September 11.

But why are so many people flocking to needlework?

"It's very relaxing," said Ms. Bernal, Spanish teacher. "Once you start knitting, you concentrate on the color, the pattern, or what you are going to do next."

Senior Cathy Anne Mashburn also finds it relaxing, but isn't sure that's what does it.

Sophomore Jackie Navarre said that when she finishes a piece, she gets a sense of accomplishment.

"Knitting is like making friendship bracelets," said Navarre. "Except it takes a lot longer and is more rewarding."

Another huge part of knitting is the choices. Debbie Stoller, author of *Stitch 'N Bitch*, speculates that so many people enjoy knitting because of the freedoms and the lack of limitations. Additionally, she said that teenagers specifically enjoy choosing different fibers and materials, because it's an expression of individualism.

With the seemingly high demand on individualism and knitting supplies, there are only a handful of stores that meet the criteria.

The Studio is one. Located six blocks east of 47th street, The Studio is a hidden goldmine with an overwhelming selection, tolerable prices and very accommodating staff. The Studio is more than a positive experience.

The walls are covered in

Winter 'blahs' make for some creative thinking

Season brings misery, stress, and need for sunlight?

January and February; coincidentally, the same two months that lie between Christmas and Spring Break.

A few of the symptoms that are related to SAD are unnecessary eating, cravings for carbohydrates and starchy foods, weight gain, excessive sleeping and a full rebound from this depression when the spring rolls around.

"I really feel like I have been struck with this disorder," said Junior Angela Garozzo. "Surprisingly, all of the symptoms seem to directly apply to my lifestyle at this point in my junior year. It seems like all of my classes are getting harder and all I want to do is sleep. This is putting a huge strain on my productivity level."

While food cravings and exhaustion are two fairly common symptoms, students also find it hard to concentrate during class and, as a result of that their schoolwork suffers.

"I feel like I have to work harder for my grades because I'm so tired all the time," said Garozzo. "I don't get enough sleep. I don't have time to get enough sleep. I do all my work and I work hard, but since I'm so tired while I'm doing it, the outcome of my studying doesn't reflect the time and effort I spend on it. What makes it worse for me is that I work harder to try and compensate for it, and although I'm really tired all the time, I end up sleeping less. So then it's a mixture of sleep deprivation and SAD, which poses a big problem

for me academically."

Though not everyone suffers from this disorder, almost everyone goes through what some call "rhythms." Rhythms are different moods that students and staff feel during the school year.

"The lack of light throughout the winter months is where all the trouble starts."

Ms. Nancy Hand, Principal of Academic Affairs, recently attended a workshop where she learned about these rhythms. For each month, there are tasks that need to be accomplished, goals, moods, behaviors and consequences. The task and goal for February is for students to endure. The mood is often low, dispirited and students seem depressed, irritable and upset. Relationships suffer, and stress is often blamed as the culprit.

The faculty's tasks are to sustain and maintain the goal is to survive. The moods are sick, tired, irritable, stressed, overworked and unappreciated and behaviors are unpredictable, acting out, impatient and combative. The consequences are high stress, depression, gray mood, fatigue and strained relationships.

While it is often easy to see how students are feeling during

these tough months, it is somewhat difficult to understand how teachers are feeling.

"Teachers' behaviors are their feelings," said Hand. "They are often able to move beyond that in the classroom, but with their peers, spouses and at home you will see the rhythms coming out and the consequences."

Some remedies to help relieve the misery of the longest two months of the year could be to go outside and get some fresh air, exercise, plan your week-end on Monday, get a massage, pedicure, manicure or facial, pick up a new hobby, take advantage of the things you can only do in the winter like ice skating, take advantage of the warmer days or even use a light box which allows you to get the same amount of light that you would on a clear spring morning. Lodigensky relies on the smaller things to help get her through.

"I obsess over my weekends," said Lodigensky. "It's the only free time I have to sleep in. Looking forward to lunch at school also really helps. Those 26 minutes a day I have to just be with my friends are amazing."

So even though you may be feeling down in the dumps, remember that you are not alone. The days may go by slowly and you may feel like these months are never ending, but cheer up. Spring is approaching, sunlight is coming, flowers will be blooming and before you know it, summer will be here.



Photo by Julia McQueeney-Thorpe

Seniors Emily King, Cindy Cameron, Cathy-Anne Mashburn and Caitlin Corcoran practice knitting skills in the art room. STA's first knitting club meets every Thursday during activity.

Examples of scarves hang on the wall with simple patterns for inspiration.

If you are having trouble with blinding off a scarf, or casting on, you can bring your questions

to the staff, who will sit down with you and talk you through knit 1, purl 2, ribbing or teach you a yarn over.

The Studio offers knitting classes and has a newsletter. To be put on the list, or if you have

questions, The Studio's direct line is 816-531-4466.

The Studio's hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Thursday and 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Practice Makes Perfect New coach proves worthy

Kelly Woodward
Sports Editor



My heart is racing and my palms are sweaty. I can't sit still.

The score is tied with four seconds left on the clock. We have the ball. I think to myself, "Is four seconds really as much time as everyone thinks it is?" I am doubtful.

Every girl is guarded and it will take some work to get the ball in bounds. The ball is bounced in and then thrown down the court. Two seconds left...the ball goes up and swishes at the buzzer.

You would think I was actually in the game myself. However, I'm just a small person in a crowd of over 200 people.

The girls are defined by their skills and ball handling. The crowd is defined by ability to yell and how long we can stay on our feet. However, both are two very important aspects in a game.

I've always thought of basketball practices as this grueling workout. I was completely wrong.

Imagine my surprise when I walked down the stairs to the gym only to see Jenny Jantsch wearing dribbling goggles. (The bottom of the goggles is covered so you can't see the ball.) "I know I look like a tool," she said. I didn't disagree.

The girls started their dribbling and sprint drills. After that, they stretched.

The girls laughed and joked while practicing and doing the work they needed to. They were having fun.

After stretching, the girls started a weave with five people and then again with three. They were up and down the court four times passing the ball and shooting. The drills seemed pretty repetitive, but at the same time, I could tell that it was working.

They ran plays and went through the process of being game ready. There were never any moans and groans. I could tell these girls truly love the sport.

Changes were made since last year.

"Mr. Wilson has really worked hard to get us all together," said senior Elizabeth Sherman. "He uses a lot of encouragement."

Although getting a new coach can sometimes be detrimental to a team's well being, Mr. Wilson has proved to be a "good remedy" to these STA stars.

Snow activities keep STA skiers

Megan Kelly
Staff Writer

Frigid conditions, unflattering clothing, uncomfortable footwear, and altitude sickness. Add onto this unappealing list a minimum of a 900-mile trip, and some might wonder why anyone from the Kansas City area would enjoy skiing.

However, STA students don't let these negative aspects deter them from hitting the slopes.

For some, skiing is a passion; for others, there is a simpler reason for loving to ski.

"I have fun," said Sophomore Anna Olson of skiing. "It's not serious for me."

Olson has been skiing for ten years and only recently tried snowboarding. Olson likes to ski in Beaver Creek, Colorado with friends and family.

Senior Gina Lauricella is, like Olson, a veteran skier. She first learned to ski at age 12 while living in New Jersey. Lauricella skied with her school ski club every weekend.

Recently, Lauricella made the switch from skiing to snowboarding.

"I saw some of my guy friends [snowboarding] and it looked like fun," said Lauricella.

Now, Lauricella returns to the East to snowboard with old friends during Christmas break.

She goes to Camelback, a ski resort in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains.

Unlike Olson and Lauricella, Junior Mattie Littig just recently took up snow sports.

"I was with my friends who ski and when I went to rent, there weren't any skis left," said Littig. "So, I had to snowboard."

Littig had so much fun snowboarding that when she returns to Telluride Ski Resort in Colorado for Spring Break, she plans on taking professional lessons, as well as buying her own board and bindings.

However, it's not always fun and games for these STA skiers. "I fell down the side of a trail and mountain patrol had to come and get me," said Littig.

Lauricella broke her wrist the first time she tried snowboarding. When people ask why she continues to snowboard, her answer is simple.

"I like it so much that I keep doing it," said Lauricella. These Academy athletes don't let the drawbacks of snow sports keep them from frolicking in the mountains. According to their testimonies, all you need to enjoy a fun-filled day on the slopes is friends, fervor and a little bit of fleece.

"I have fun. It's not serious for me."

—ANNA OLSEN,
SOHPHMORE

MU vs. KU

Leslie Herring
Staff Writer

MU vs. KU. The rivalry is long standing and now that the college basketball season is underway, the squawking and roaring of the two rivals has officially begun at STA. Many thousands of fans for both teams stand behind them each year to cheer them on, especially in their game against their rivaling team. English teacher Mr. Mark Fudemberg, a KU fan, believes the rivalry between MU and KU goes back a century in a half.

"It goes back to the Civil War and the border war between the state. Missouri being a slave state and Kansas being free," said Fudemberg.

History teacher Mr. Jack Garvin, and MU fan agrees that the rivalry started long before him. He believes that the rivalry is fueled by the fact that the two states are adjoining and that they used to play in the Big 8 which used to be held in Kansas City.

This season, KU hired a new head coach, Bill Self. Shannon VanBuskirk, a KU fan, is skeptical of his talent as a head coach.

"Normally I would say that KU had the better coach, but since we lost Roy last season, I think Quin [Snyder] is probably better," said VanBuskirk. "But it is a little too early in the season to tell."

Garvin agrees that Quin Snyder, who has been at MU for four years, is the better head coach.

"Missouri's coach is much better," said Garvin. "He is more handsome, he has a law degree and he lets his players play. However, I

grudgingly admire Bill Self, grudgingly."

On Feb. 2 at Lawrence, the two teams will be matched up. Garvin believes that MU has the better players.

"Missouri has great players, this season especially," said Garvin. "They just haven't been playing well."

Missouri has lost six out of their last ten games.

Fudemberg is a little unsure about which team has the better players.

"It's hard to tell which team has the better players," said Fudemberg. "We'd have to go to the county jail house to find out."

Fudemberg is referring to Ricky Clemons, an MU starter who was accused of assault last season.

As for the rest of the season, all fans are optimistic about their teams' futures.

"I think KU won't go as far as last year, but we're still going to put on a great show," said VanBuskirk.

Garvin is very encouraged after Missouri's win over Oklahoma on Jan. 17. The game went into overtime with Missouri winning by 4 points.

Fudemberg is very excited for the rest of the season, but worries about how he will be treated by the MU fans at STA.

"Because of the things I said, I think I will have to get someone to test my food," said Fudemberg. "But I won't mention any names."

After the two teams play, the argument will be put to rest, at least for a day. But until then, "Rock chalk Jayhawk" and "Go Tigers!"

STA dance team makes competition

Rose Dillon
Business Manager

The Stars Dance Team received two superior ratings, a judge's award for jazz, and best overall presentation at the Kansas Spectacular dance competition at Olathe East on Jan. 24.

The recognition was an encore to the second place prize the team won for jazz in St. Louis at the Lindbergh High School competition on Dec. 6.

The team entered both competitions with two team dances, jazz and pom and a duet and a trio at the Kansas Spectacular. The duet, performed by Senior Amber Hix and Junior Jennifer Koelsch, was awarded first runner-up out of 12 teams.

To prepare, the girls bought new leotards and STA warm-up pants and jackets and put rhinestones on their costumes.

"Part of the dance's total score is appearance," said coach Ms. Megan Savage. "The girls had to get some new cos-

tumes that were appropriate for competition."

They also practiced more. "The girls have worked really hard," said Savage.

The competitions were a good experience for the team.



photo by Rose Dillon

Drill Team poses with their trophy and plate won in their competition.

"They were a lot of fun," said Abby Fagan, a freshman. "It was new for me because I've never done it."

The competitions were also

a chance to show the world how much the team has grown.

"There were lots of teams we knew from camp and it was fun to show them we were better," said Sophomore Emylie Leonard.

Leonard noticed a new tightness in the team's moves while watching the tapes of the performances.

"It was incredible how put-together it looked," she said. "You don't feel that energy when you're practicing."

The team has also changed sponsors. Ms. Katie Dolan no longer coaches the team. New coaches are two Chiefs cheerleaders, Savage and Ms. Laura Ehling.

According to Leonard, Dolan "made the atmosphere a lot of fun. It's different. This is a lot more professional."

Though the Kansas Spectacular was the last competition for this year, the team hopes to do more competitions next year, possibly adding another dance to their repertoire.

"I personally would love to do more," said Fagan.

Roles for female coaches improve

Molly Huber
Staff Writer

Although women have gotten more opportunities and have been allowed more participation since Title IX was implemented over 30 years ago, many believe that women are still significantly under-represented in sports coaching, especially at the high school and college levels.

Title IX was put into effect to insure that women play a bigger role in coaching athletics, and women's sports received more, if not equal, attention and funding as men's sports, which previously had completely taken the spotlight.

"I was one of the pushers for Title IX, and I was coaching at the college level at that time" said Ms. Ann Bode-Rodriguez, former STA volleyball coach.

"Thank God it changed things. It not only equalized athletic opportunities for women, but also brought women's athletics to the forefront."

Title IX has had some negative effects as well, explains varsity cross-country coach Ms. Karen Moran.

"So many people perceive [Title IX] as being the reason that some sports are cut from universities," said Moran. "They've cut smaller sports out of the picture, like swimming and golf and many of the small sports like that."

According to the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, an Australian-based organization, women often do not participate in sports coaching because of a lack of confidence and support and the perception that men are more suited for such work. Many women simply feel that they do not have the time.

"Many athletes turn to coaching after retiring from sport[s]," says NSW. "Females, however, tend to focus on areas outside of sport[s], such as concentrating on a career or raising a family."

Bode-Rodriguez agrees that raising a family is a large contributing factor in the reason why there are more male coaches.

"Traditionally, women really raise children and take care of families, which is why not many become coaches," said Bode-Rodriguez. "Then, add to that the fact that coaching takes an

incredible amount of time and energy."

A survey conducted annually by sociologists R. Vivian Acosta and Linda Jean Carpenter concluded that the 'trend toward proportionally fewer women-led teams was generally true for all sports.' They also found that the overall percentage of women's teams' coaches who are female is 45.6 percent as of last year. This percentage is the lowest it ever has been since the annual study began in 1977, when 90 percent of women's teams were coached by a female. Men, however, have obtained 90 percent of head coaching jobs that have been offered over the past two years in Division I, Division II and Division III institutions.

From this study, Acosta and Carpenter were able to gather a list of sports most likely to have women coaches. Synchronized swimming has 100 percent pro-

has always been an acceptable sport for women to play," said Nancy Harris, who was named men's tennis coach of the year by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in 1997. "Tennis isn't a strength-dominated game like football and boxing. We are definitely ahead of most sports."

Donna Lopiana, executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation, agrees, saying that "tennis is the first sport to break out of the box" because of the high exposure women have had to the game, especially at the professional level.

Acosta and Carpenter's study also suggests that the athletic director's gender makes a difference in whether women's teams have female head coaches.

Last year in Division I sports, 44.4 percent of head coaching jobs went to women when the athletic director was male,



photo by Juana Summers

Coach Carlson looks on as her basketball team plays against Bishop Ward on Jan 21 at Bisohp Ward High School. portions of female coaches, field hockey has 96.8 percent, lacrosse has 85.9 percent, equestrian at 81 percent and softball has 80.2 percent.

It is very rare for a woman to coach a male team — only two percent of men's teams are coached by women today, the same as 25 years ago. The exception to this lies in high school boys' tennis, where female coaches significantly outnumber their male counterparts.

"I think it's because tennis

whereas 53.4 percent went to women when the athletic director was female. Carpenter proposed that the reason for the increased likelihood of women getting hired by a female athletic director is because, "There is better networking, and there is a greater sensitivity to the need for female role models for women, as well as a greater understanding of women's résumés, vitae, and experiences."

According to Bode-Rodriguez, men currently dominate

"I'm not sure about football and rugby though."

Bode-Rodriguez believes that coaching abilities lie in the person's athletic background.

"I think it's important that you have background for the sport you coach, and obviously women aren't going to have a background in baseball or football or other sports like that," said Bode-Rodriguez. "But I believe that if they did, they would be just as capable as coaching those sports."

Medina helped lead the STA basketball team to first place titles in the Basehor-Linwood tournament her freshman and sophomore years, a volleyball district championship her freshman year and a volleyball sectionals title this past season and her freshman year. Medina was also named to the all-tournament team last year for basketball.

In addition to school sports, Medina has played basketball and volleyball club teams since she was young. She has been with her basketball club team, the Kansas City Chicks, since the fifth grade. She has also played for the volleyball club Power and is currently playing with the MAVs (Middle America Volleyball) club.

Medina said that a major influence on her athletic career has been her father, who has helped her achieve all of her goals over the years.

"Since I was little, he always pushed me to be the best that I can be, and he's done everything possible to help me get better," said Medina. "He got me on the best teams, talked to my coaches and helped me improve my shooting. He's really competitive like me."

Other influences of Medina's are friend and musician Reid Martin and teammates. Medina plans to continue playing for STA her senior year, and hopes to advance to the college level in the future.

Medina is averaging 13.1 points per game this season, is known by her teammates for being very aggressive on the court, but always maintains a positive attitude.

"During the games, I'm trying to play really intensely but it's important to stay positive," said Medina. "I play my best when I'm having fun."

Medina's hard work and dedication to sports have gained her three varsity letters in basketball, a starting position the past two years and the respect of her teammates and coaches.

"Eli is very athletic and she always wants to win," said teammate Senior Jenny Jantsch. "I like that...I also have no doubt that she could play for Division I if she wanted to."

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Star Athlete

Eli
Medina

Molly Huber
Staff Writer

Ask anyone where you would be most likely to find Junior Eli Medina and they would probably tell you, "On the court." And they'd be right. Since she began at STA in 2001, Medina did not waste any time in showing our school that she has something to offer the athletics program. She made varsity volleyball and basketball that year, and has played on both teams ever since.

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Campaigns woo teen voters

Ann Stacy
Page Editor

On Jan. 19, the Iowa caucuses marked the beginning of the 2004 presidential election. These, however, were not the start of work by candidates who have been campaigning to gain support from voters throughout the nation for over a year. One group of voters that candidates have targeted is teens.

"It's not just about who can get their face on MTV, it's about who can really listen to people our age and who can really try to get young people involved," said Michael Whitney, a worker for the Howard Dean campaign.

Despite candidates' campaign efforts to gain teens' attention, the steps of the United States' electoral process sometimes confuse and bore teens, causing a lack of interest in the topic. In fact, United States has the lowest adult voter turnout rate of all the democracies in the world.

Americans age 18 to 20 have had the lowest voter registration and turnout rate in federal elections

since 1972. Mr. Craig Whitney, history teacher, recognizes that students at STA have varying degrees of interest when it comes to the electoral process of the United States.

"I sort of feel like it's a smaller percentage of students that are really serious about learning about [the electoral process]," he said. "The majority of students are really relatively uninterested. I try to get them somewhat into it so they won't be turned off forever. I can make it fun because I love it, and I try to convey that and hope it rubs off on [students]."

Senior Caitlin Corcoran, however, is not one of these students. She is excited to vote in the 2004 presidential election and has been staying informed on current events and various candidates.

"I've been following a lot about Howard Dean and other Democratic candidates," said Corcoran. "I also make sure to listen to Bush's talks so I can stay up-to-date and make informed decisions so I just don't go along with whatever my parents say at the dinner table."

As the co-founder of the PB&J

(Peace Biodiversity and Justice) Club, Corcoran has taken an active role in getting fellow STA students registered to vote and involved in the election. PB&J publishes a monthly newsletter; brings speakers to STA and organizes different activities. Earlier this year, they brought someone to STA to register students to vote, and over 30 girls registered.

"We try not to make [PB&J] too skewed one way or the other because the problem with past clubs at our school that have been like [PB&J], is that people haven't been interested because they think [the clubs] are slanted," said Corcoran. "So we didn't really want to support any candidate, we just wanted to promote registering to vote and [students'] awareness that the election's coming up."

Although statistics show that the majority of American teens are uninvolved in elections, there are still many teens, like Corcoran, who are informed and involved. According to Michael Whitney, teens have greatly contributed to the Dean campaign.

"[The Dean campaign] had phone bankers who were freshmen in high school who were phone banking in Debake, Iowa and other places in the state," he said. "In Virginia we've had freshmen and sophomores in high school coming to volunteer at the Virginia headquarters."

In the opinion of Michael Whitney, the actions of these teens are very important for not only the Dean campaign, but for the teens' future.

"A lot of people think that 'oh ya know, if these kids can't vote they have no stake in the election,' but that's not true because issues like No Child Left Behind effect high school students and even those who are younger," he said. "Even if [teens] can't cast their vote on election day they can still effect the process up to this day of voting."

Corcoran also considers teens' efforts and involvement in the electoral process to be important. According to Corcoran she is angered when teens do not exercise their right to vote.

"It makes me really mad because

ReclaimtheVote

I registered six months before I was 18, as soon as I could. [Voting] really makes a difference," she said. "I don't think you can complain about anything that goes on if you aren't a registered voter and you don't vote."

This week, registered voters of Missouri had the opportunity to vote in the presidential primaries. At this time Missouri teens had the chance to break the voting participation statistics from the past 31 years. Registered teen voters in Kansas will have the same opportunity when the Kansas primaries are held in March.

This opportunity is one that Michael Whitney and the rest of the Dean campaign have been focusing on for the past several months. They hope teen voters will realize the importance of their power to shape their future and the future of America.

"[The Dean campaign] looks at who deserves a stake in their future, who deserves a chance to get involved right now," he said. "[Young people] are going to bare the most of the effects of the policies that are made today."

Candidates' Corner : A glance at Senator John Kerry and why he wants your vote

Ali Ryan
Page Editor

The Bio:

John Kerry is a Democrat who currently serves as a Massachusetts senator. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War and

received three purple hearts for his service. In college, Kerry attended Yale University, where he earned his B.A., and then Boston College, where he earned his J.D. He is married with three children and two step children to Teresa Heinz Kerry and is the richest member

of Congress with a net worth of \$675 million. Kerry is active in the fight against AIDS in Africa, once sponsoring a bill which committed \$100 million yearly to the cause.

The Issues:

- Kerry believes that foreign allies should be brought in to Iraq

to help reconstruct and to aid American troops.

- One of Kerry's campaign promises is to strengthen the federal loan program in order to permit all students to be able to pay for and attend four years of college.

- Kerry does not believe in gay marriages, but wishes to provide homosexuals with the same rights as heterosexual families.

- Kerry is fighting for health insurance for all children. He believes that good health care helps in all aspects of children's lives.

beyond cool a myriad of muppets

Katy Corogenes and
Rose Dillion
Page Editor and Staff Writer

Muppets. To paraphrase Homer Simpson, "Not quite a mop, not quite a puppet." And yet, they are so beguiling.

Something about their soft, foamy bodies, silly expressions and fun voices calls us back to memories of Sesame Street and the Muppet movies. Not only that, but they have great names. Kermit, Grover, Elmo, Ernie ... the list goes on.

And they're funny. Did you ever see "The Great Muppet Caper?" Because there's a baseball diamond. Like, really, a diamond that's as big as a baseball. Rock!

But to be completely accurate in our representation of the awesomeness of the Muppets, we have to break them into groups.

Group 1: Sesame Street Muppets. Our personal favorites include Bert and Ernie (who, contrary to popular belief, are NOT gay, they're brothers), Grover, Oscar the Grouch and his worm Slimy and Cookie Monster. Come on, Slimy dances. How wicked is that? And remember those conjoined twin monsters that always argued over which way to go? Priceless.

Group 2: The Muppets from their movies (and TV show). Kermit is the only crossover Muppet,

although Big Bird makes a cameo in "The Muppet Movie." Great ones include Janet (the blonde with the big lips who has a tendency to say things like, "If I want to lie on the beach naked, that's my choice" right as the crowd quiets down) and Sam the Eagle, who tells people, "You are all weirdos." Because he's not a blue bald eagle living in a rundown hotel or anything.

Then there's the Swedish Chef, who speaks no English and seems to have no cooking skills either. We could go on, but y'all know what we're talking about.

Group 3: "The Labyrinth." This is a classic combination of pop culture icons. David Bowie meets the Muppets in a rock fantasy musical extravaganza. The film includes such classic songs as "Dance Magic" and "As the World Falls Down."

You might cringe at the thought of David Bowie in leather pants surrounded by deformed puppets, but let us tell you this is one movie not to be missed. It's the tale of a girl who is trying to save her half brother from becoming a goblin forever while the entire time she is being stalked by David Bowie. She makes her way through a labyrinth making friends and avoiding the bog of eternal stench. So what have we learned?

David Bowie + Muppets raised to the bog of eternal stench

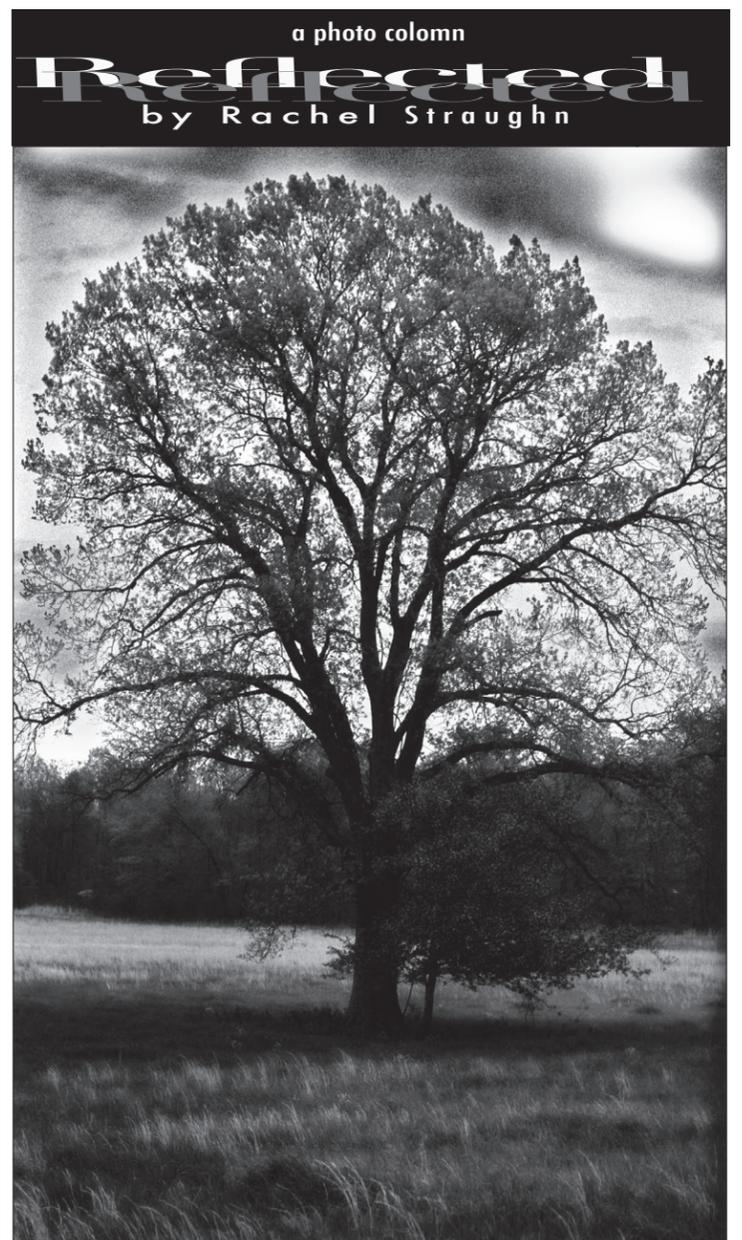
power= movie classic.

Group 4: "Dance your cares away down at Fraggle Rock." The Fraggles are a different breed of Muppets who are more concerned with relaxing than working. They eat towers built by busy dozers and steal radishes from the Gorgs' garden. They seek wisdom from a trash heap and avoid the silly beings in outer space (humans).

Fraggle Rock was built upon the idea that everything is dependent upon everything else and if they cannot peacefully coexist then the world will crumble. Maybe if we were all just a little more like the Fraggles we could live in peace.

Group 5: Yoda. Yeah, we said it, Yoda. But only old school Yoda ("Impatient you are"), not the new computer-generated "fake" Yoda from the prequel. More a Muppet by association, he was voiced by Frank Oz, who was also the voice of many other famous Muppets, like Fozzy Bear. Can you imagine Fozzy as a Jedi, using his light saber to fend off the rotten tomatoes being through at him for his bad jokes?

As a generation of Muppet followers we were raised and taught by these friendly puppets. We may be too old for them now but we should take a second to reflect on what an important part of our life they are. Really, how could you not love a group of characters that appeared in a Weezer video?



Digitally altered tree in Southern Missouri.

photo by Rachel Straughn