



# THE DART



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

March 11, 2004

## U.S. Government to be required course

**Chandler Domian**  
*Staff Writer*

Beginning next year, U.S. Government will be a required course for graduation at STA. This addition has been in discussion for about as long as a term of office for a member of the House of Representatives.

"We began discussion two to three years ago," said Ms. Nancy Hand, Principal of Academic Affairs and curriculum chairperson. "It usually takes an entire academic school year to research standards and come to a decision."

According to Hand, the process of adding any course to the STA curriculum usually begins with discussions in department meetings. After researching other high schools in the area, as well as

college requirements, the department writes a course rationale and presents it to the Curriculum Council for approval.

Current Social Studies teacher and former lawyer Mr. Patrick Sirridge wrote the rationale for the U.S. Government course.

"U.S. Government is required in all public high schools in Kansas and Missouri and in many private schools," said Sirridge. "Government affects all aspects of life. All citizens should begin to understand their rights and responsibilities as U.S. citizens."

According to Sirridge, American History classes are not able to adequately cover all aspects of American government.

"There is not enough time to emphasize the Bill of Rights

and law related developments you need to know as citizens," said Sirridge. "American History is just able to skim the surface."

The course will now be required primarily due to colleges requiring this course upon acceptance.

"The radar screen came up when students could not get into the college of their choice," said Hand. "Several schools require U.S. Government if the student does not have proper ACT scores."

According to Sirridge, many colleges are now requiring the credit in U.S. government because of the growth in popularity of Political Science classes.

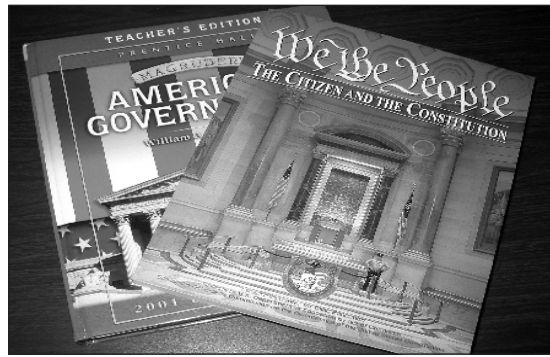


photo by Chandler Domian

Students will use two text books next year in U.S. Government. Beginning next year U.S. Government will be a course requirement for STA graduation.

"You are at a disadvantage if you take Political Science and haven't taken Government," said Sirridge. Sirridge will be the sole teacher

of the U.S. Government class next year; teaching three sections first semester and three second semester. The class will utilize the U.S. Government textbook of previous years along with the national program "We the People."

"The program is just getting started in Kansas City," said Sirridge. "The textbook is provided through the government free of charge."

The final assessment in this class might be a mock legislative hearing.

"Students write a paper for each unit based on questions given by 'We the People,' said see Government, page 2



photo by Rachel Straughn

STA students buy food from vending machines in the cafeteria during lunch. The prices of food from the STA vending machines increased by 10 cents last month.

## Vending machines raise prices, health concerns

**Cierra Chuly Obioha**  
*Staff Writer*

The doors of the STA cafeteria lead to girls huddled around the vending machines. When the bell rings, it is ignored as many scrounge for a quarter. Although students consider vending machines convenient, frequently purchasing from them can cause health risks.

In the past three months, prices have mounted and for many students like Freshman Kate O'Flaherty, buying from vending machines is not smart.

"I have noticed an increase in prices," said O'Flaherty. "I used to buy a lot from the vending machines until I realized places like Costco [give] me a lot more for my money. I now buy a drink or chips to add to my lunch. I never replace my lunch completely [with items from the

vending machines]."

In the last 20 years, teen obesity has doubled. According to William Dietz, director of the division of nutrition at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), snacks and drinks from the vending machines do not cause health problems such as obesity.

This routine causes a greater chance of developing diabetes, heart problems, increased cholesterol and obesity than a complete balanced lunch.

About twenty states have restricted student access to junk food until after lunch.

"I announced last month that the [prices of] snacks have increased by a dime," said Principal of Student Affairs Mary Ann Hoecker. "It's not a school decision but the venders. And in my opinion, [encouraging

students to eat healthy] was not the intention of the venders. I believe they have increased their prices because their costs have risen."

Many have the notion that the school controls vending machine prices to provide scholarships and lower tuition. But venders and companies like the Coca-Cola Company control the prices and receive the profits. In return, they give a percentage of their profits to the school, which puts it towards the operation of the school.

"It's better to make your own lunch rather than purchase one," said Senior Laura Munoz. "I don't think it's healthy for you or your body if all you're eating is candy bars and chips."

Buying nutritious snacks such as yogurt, cheese sticks see Vending Machine, page 2

## Ammended SAT planned for 2005

**Ali Ryan**  
*Associate Editor*

Beginning next year, students will be faced with changes when taking the SAT. The test will undergo a redesign, with more math topics than on the old SAT, the elimination of analogies and the addition of an essay portion.

The changes are being made in order to make the test more compatible to current high school curriculum and practices. The writing section will allow colleges to make better decisions in both admissions and course placement. It will also enforce the importance of writing in education.

The new SAT will consist of three parts: math, critical reading and writing.

The math section will be expanded to include more topics, up to the level of a third year college preparatory math class, or the level at which a typical junior in a college prep school would be. Quantitative comparisons will be eliminated, and a wider variety of modern terms will be used.

"I think [the changes] will improve scores because our girls traditionally do well in writing," said Ms. Pat Dunlay, STA English teacher.

The critical reading section is the equivalent of the current verbal section. Analogies will be eliminated from the section, and more short reading passages will be added. Longer reading passages, however, will remain.

Lastly, the writing section is the completely new addition to the test. It will consist of multiple choice questions and an essay. The multiple choice questions will deal with grammar, usage and word choice by improving sentences and paragraphs and identifying errors in sentences. The essay will be a

question which requires students to take a stance on an issue and support it. No previous knowledge will be required to successfully answer the question.

"I think the essay is really positive because it focuses more on people who can interpret thoughts more philosophically, rather than having text book knowledge," said Sophomore Maggie Vick.

Teachers also feel that the new essay section will allow students to show a wider variety of knowledge.

"It will give colleges one more piece of information on students," said Dunlay. "It will give students a chance to show writing, which is a great skill."

Due to the new section, SAT scores will be based on a scale of 2400 points, 800 for each of the three sections. The essay portion will be scored by two professionals. They will give a score ranging from one to six, six being the best, based on the quality of the student's essay and demonstration of writing skills.

Some feel that the new changes to the test are unfair to many students and will create a decrease in teaching quality. They feel that since teachers will now be expected to teach a wider variety of subjects to prepare students for the SAT, they will not go as in-depth in the subject as they previously would.

"I don't think the changes in the SAT will make a huge difference in how people teach," said Dunlay.

Also, some believe that the essay portion will be unfair to students with more uncommon opinions. These students may be forced to either accept more typical views or to take a lower score because the reader finds their views questionable.

see SAT, page 2



# March Madness hits Kansas City

Ann Stacy  
Associate Editor

March Madness will hit Kansas City when the road to the NCAA Final Four begins Mar. 19 through 21 at Kemper Arena. The first and second rounds of the Midwest Men's Division I regional are being brought to Kansas City and hosted by the Kansas City Sports Commission and the Big XII Conference.

According to Mr. Kevin Gray, President of the Kansas City Sports Commission, The Big XII and the Sports Commission responded to a request for proposal from the NCAA and were successful in their bid to bring the tournament to Kansas City.

"Typically you need a conference or a university or some sort of component like that to host these kinds of events," said Gray. "The Big XII has been certainly generous with their interest on behalf of Kansas City."

According to Gray, The Sports Commission and the Big XII did not have to pay to bring the tournament to Kansas City, but the city and its sponsoring businesses work hard to ensure that Kansas City does a good job of hosting the tournament.

"There is really no fee

associated with this particular event, but there usually are commitments that a community will look at in terms of what we can do as a metropolitan area to really roll out the red carpet and really embrace the fact that not only is this a marquee event, but also we want to make the visitor experience here very productive and very positive," said Gray.

**"This particular March, it really is hoops month or March Madness here in Kansas City, because we have four tournaments that Kansas City will be hosting."**

—MR. KEVIN GRAY,  
PRESIDENT OF THE KANSAS CITY SPORTS COMMISSION

According to Gray, due to

the short notice as to which teams will be playing in Kansas City, it is difficult to plan events such as fan-fests and parties in collaboration with alumni or other groups to coincide with the tournament. Because of this, he said that there will not be a lot of festival activity during the time of the NCAA tour-

of one of the teams that will be in town for the tournament, which will stay at the hotel, as well as its fans.

"We will be getting one team which should be the second seed," said Pistilli. "Whoever that might be we won't know until the Sunday prior to the tournament. Hopefully

for us we get a team that's located here in the Midwest so that we get fans to come along, because the team will just be a minimal amount of rooms. The big impact for us is getting the fans that travel with that team."

According to Gray, due to

the short notice as to which teams will be playing in Kansas City, it is difficult to plan events such as fan-fests and parties in collaboration with alumni or other groups to coincide with the tournament. Because of this, he said that there will not be a lot of festival activity during the time of the NCAA tour-

nament. He does, however, predict that the atmosphere of the city will be exciting since Kansas City will also be hosting the NAIA, MIAA and Mid-Continent basketball tournaments in March.

"This particular March, it really is hoops month or March Madness here in Kansas City, because we have four tournaments that Kansas City will be hosting," Gray said.

Although the Sports Commission will not be hosting many parties at the time of the tournament, many fans and alumni groups will host their own parties to support their teams. According to Mr. Jeff Briley, the President of the Kansas City Chapter of the Kansas Alumni Association and a KU basketball fan, he would enjoy if KU played in Kansas City, but is unsure of their chances.

"It would be very exciting if KU played in Kansas City," said Briley. "I don't know that there's any guarantee of that happening, but just the possibility gets people excited. I'm a very optimistic KU fan, but I really think their chances of getting to Kansas City are pretty slim."

However, no matter where KU plays in the NCAA tournament, Briley said that the Kansas City Chapter of the Alumni Association see **March Madness, page 11**

## At a Glance . . .

### Local News

UMKC hosted nationally known media literacy expert Jean Kilbourne to speak at the University's presentation "What is the 'Secret'? Media Literacy for Women and Girls." The presentation was a part of the University's 2004 Women's History Month events. Sponsored by the University's Women's Center and Women's Council, the event was held in Pierson Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Kilbourne's presentation addressed the media's negative portrayal of women and the affects that this portrayal has on women. This presentation complimented a slide show of magazine ads from Kilbourne's personal collection. Following the lecture, attendees were encouraged to participate in the Community Roundtable Discussion groups, each of which focused on a specific women's issue.

To learn more about the event, or to get the University's complete schedule for Women's History Month events, visit [www.umkc.edu/womenc](http://www.umkc.edu/womenc).

### STA News

The Science Knowledge Bowl Team placed third in physics, third in Earth science and fourth overall at the Avila Women of Science Competition. Two teams competed in the Official Science Knowledge Bowl, and both placed in upper third of the 125 teams participating.

The Math Team won 16 awards at the Kansas City Area Teachers of Mathematics (KCATM) Competition. Allison Jaros won third all-around Junior and Meredith Lynch won awards in all categories. At the Mathfax Competition, the Algebra I Honors team won first in the Nation. The Advanced Math Honors team won third in the Region. The team will participate at the Pitt State Math Relay on April 13.

# Students work on being present during Lent

Caroline Findlay  
Staff Writer

For many Christians, the season of Lent is considered the holiest time of the year. Lent is the forty-day period that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a season of soul-searching, repentance and reflection. Lent is observed to emulate the fasting that Jesus partook in when he withdrew into the wilderness of the desert.

The St. Teresa's Campus Ministry team, comprised of Ms. Robin Good, Ms. Betsy Hansbrough and Ms. Mimi Harman, is encouraging the entire STA community to be present during Lent.

"I want to stir up awareness about Lent," said Harman. "Lent is a time when we can let go of our distractions and become closer to God."

The teachers are paying attention to this subject during their classes and have already noticed the great depth of discussions. Instead of students discussing how they have failed at what they tried to give up, Hansbrough has heard students talking about what Lent means to them.

"I am pleased to hear conversations of Lent in the hallways," said Hansbrough. "Students take this subject seriously and there is more meaning behind their sacrifices."

The liturgies and daily prayers during announcements will focus on Lent and invite each person to become closer to God. There was a mass on Ash Wednesday for freshmen, sophomores and faculty while the juniors and seniors

were at service projects. There will be a prayer service held on Holy Thursday, and a parent-daughter liturgy on March 11.

Freshman Leia Darden said she relates to what Father Matt Ruhl said at the mass.

"He came up through the aisles and told us to shout our prayer out loud," said Darden. "People around me shouted for patience, love, kindness and suf-

Good focuses on maintaining hope, even in the "ugliness and messiness" of the world around her.

"The concept of Lent allows me to step back and see the big picture."

Junior Joelle Mack agrees with the teacher's perceptions.

"I gave up pop for Lent, not just because I am expected to, but because I think it shows my commitment to God and Jesus Christ. It is a small action that makes a big difference."

Mack was surprised to encounter discussions about Lent during her service project.

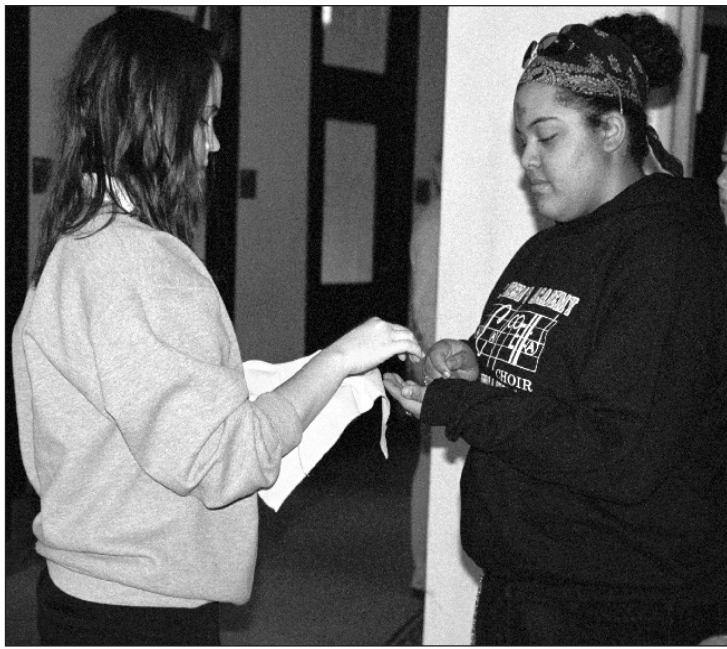
"I went to Our Lady of Angels and the teachers said that Lent means waiting for Jesus and being patient during this fasting period."

Harman has simple advice for both students and adults that are trying to become more present during Lent.

"I encourage people to take something on they normally would not," said Harman. "Add more prayer time, reach out to the community or volunteer at a soup kitchen."

There will be a series of group studies held on Mondays at 4:00 p.m. during Lent. The curriculum will be based on the course "Violence Unveiled," which Harman teaches.

"I am excited to make an impact on others through teaching about Lent," said Harman. "I hope everyone takes advantage of this time not only reach out to God, but to each other as well."



Sophomores Molly Friend and Ashley Bender participate in the Holy Eucharist during Ash Wednesday Mass.

photo by Juana Summers

fering family members. I think that gesture by the priest brought us, as students, closer together."

The three women have their own take on what Lent is all about. Hansbrough's daughter, Margaret, was diagnosed with cancer on Ash Wednesday when she was four years old.

"I felt as if I was in the desert," said Hansbrough. "Dealing with Margaret's situation, I lived a death to resurrection experience. Lent reminds me of that time and I try to pay attention to people that are ill, especially during Lent."

Harman tries to get rid of the distractions that take away from her relationship with God. She thinks Lent forces her to look at what is important in her life.

## Waking Up Our World Cruising over Cairo

Brittany Cummings  
Editor-in-Chief



As she prepared for adventures through the pyramids and treks toward the Sphinx, she never expected to be exposed to any type of danger.

The vacation was off to a rough start immediately when the couple realized his passport was nowhere to be found. She sat on top of a new television set for his mother in the middle of Cairo's International Airport waiting anxiously for his arrival on the other side. Yet, she was excited for the experiences to come as she watched the people melt into the intense summer day.

When arrangements were finally made, the two began their journey. After a few nights of exploring, she felt comfortable enough to leave the house alone. Naive to other cultures, she woke up early to take a stroll along the Nile. Shipping on her new sundress, she prepared for her day.

As she was walking, she noticed large groups of people staring in her direction. She felt flattered as her sundress swung around her thighs, and she moved further down the path. As she moved, the people came in closer. Eventually, she was surrounded by a mob of men and women.

She felt uncomfortable and afraid when they began shouting high-pitched phrases in Arabic. A few minutes later, two brother-in-laws fought through the crowd and came to her rescue, but had she been alone, she would have been stoned to death.

Can an American girl even fathom being stoned to death for baring her calves and shoul-

ders? Probably not until she has experienced such persecution. Since the beginning of time, the woman has been placed in domestic roles because of her size and shape.

While many countries have progressively improved their treatment towards women, the world is still a predominantly androcentric society. Most countries have not accepted "modern" views.

Different countries, religions and cultures practice different equality methods. Women in the United States are near equal to men. It is important to recognize how lucky we are.

Moreover, women need to take pride in one's bodies and gifts. Over the years, I have been known for subtly expressing my love for boys throughout different points during the day. (Well, I will admit that Jude Law, Jack Sparrow, and Rockhurst are all frequently inserted at least once into my conversations per 10 minutes. I'm sorry, I'm working on it!)

Maybe by limiting those thoughts from once every millisecond to once every second, I will in some ways, be better embracing the female race. Maybe by limiting my kind words about boys and using that extra time to think about how wonderful it is to be a girl, I will be doing my part for women everywhere. Hopefully, through raising awareness and refining parts of my daily routine, I will make a difference. You can too. But honestly, it is healthy for me and other girls to consume ourselves around the beauty of the opposite sex?

In really working on pinpointing the blessings of being a woman, girls will be much better off. Don't be afraid to feel comfortable being who you are.

The harder you work and the more success you achieve, the more likely you will be to influence other girls and eventually the rest of the women around you.

# “OVER HEARD” Student Cleanliness

Ann Stacy  
Associate Editor



Cleanliness: to me, there are very few things on this glorious earth that exceed it in excellence. I take at least one shower a day, sometimes two or three. When washing my hair, I lather, rinse and of course, repeat.

Heck, I even have separate brushes for when my hair is clean and when my hair is dirty.

Upon learning of these habits, people often give me puzzled looks and ask me, "Why?" My response, "I just like being clean."

In fact, my love of cleanliness is so strong that I am willing to sacrifice some of my credibility and identity as an STA girl for it.

This is because where the average STA girl doesn't seem to place a large emphasis on personal hygiene throughout a normal school week, I go slightly over the top.

"I'm pretty sure I didn't take a shower today, or yesterday," a girl informed her classmates. "But I'll take one tonight...maybe."

"Ummy yea, I haven't taken a shower in two days," a girl said casually, without shame or remorse.

On the outside, people might think that the cleanliness and personal hygiene levels of STA girls would exceed those of students of a co-ed or all-boys school. However, the all-girl atmosphere is perhaps what harvests the carefree attitude of many STA girls toward their cleanliness during the week.

Even if a student does appear to be freshly showered, or have Pantene Pro-V hair-hair so healthy it shines-it is important to keep in mind that looks may be deceiving.

"You look so clean and fresh," a teacher told his student. "It's like you're face is glowing today." "No," the student corrected him, "that's just grease." "If you ever

think my hair's wet, there's a good chance it's just greasy," a girl stated simply.

In addition to the all-girl atmosphere, a key reason for many students to go on shower strikes is that they lack the time and energy that is required for participation in the cleansing process.

Also, many students just don't care.

*"By the way everybody, I'm not washing my hair for the rest of the week," a girl announced to her class. "Why not, someone questioned. "I'm fasting," she responded. "No, not really, I'm just too lazy."*

*"Ya know, sometimes I get home from practice, eat dinner, do my homework and think, 'I'll take a shower in the morning.' But then, the next morning, do I? No," a girl confessed.*

Although the number of STA girls that disregard cleanliness during the week is quite staggering, there are some girls who have discovered the wonderful world of Monday through Friday hygiene and thus contribute the fresh smells of Herbal Essence and Dove Moisturizing Body Wash to the halls of STA.

*"I washed my hair last night and I took a shower this morning, too," said a girl with a sense of accomplishment. "That's good for me." "I woke up this morning and took a shower," a student said proudly. "It was amazing."*

Time will only tell if STA girls will ever embark on the journey of showering during the school week. But considering the situation of the present, that time of embarking is likely in the far and distant future.

Even if that is the case, there is always the promise of the weekend and interaction with boys to pull students into the world of good 'ol fashioned soap, shampoo and showering.

*"I need to take a shower before we go out tonight."*

## Government

(continued from page 1) Sirridge. "A panel of knowledgeable people in the community would then ask the students questions related to the paper or unit."

Sirridge is considering having students perform four out of five civic activities as an assessment.

These activities might include attending council meetings or a participating in a night ride-a-long in a police car.

Since U.S. Government is now a required course, the social studies department had to drop the Economics class from the course offerings for next year.

Hand said that, eventually, she would like to add the class to the curriculum options again.

According to Registrar and Academic Scheduler Ms. Roseann Hudnall, the de-

mand for the U.S. Government course will not cause any more scheduling conflicts than in previous years. SASI, the STA scheduling program, fits all other classes around required courses.

"There will be no more conflicts because of all of the sections of the class offered," said Hand. "The more classes offered, the easier it is to schedule; it's not a singleton class like Theology."

Because the majority of next year's senior class have not taken U.S. Government, the class will only be offered to seniors next year.

In future years, however, Hand hopes the class will be available to both juniors and seniors.

"I am most looking forward to people realizing the responsibilities they have and their rights to protect themselves under the constitution," said Sirridge.

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### Editorial Policy

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

### Letters Policy

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

# Community unveils its biggest fears

Katie Monaghan  
Entertainment Editor

The only thing to fear may be fear itself, but most people fear more than what is quoted by Mr. Frank Roosevelt.

From creepy crawling creatures to painful deaths, the STA community shares their fears.

In an informal poll, STA students' main fears have been related to sudden or painful deaths, including being buried alive, drowning and dying in a car crash.

Runner up was the fear of creepy crawly creatures such as spiders, snakes and rats.

Other prominent fears among STA students include the fear of heights and the fear of rejection or loneliness.

"I'm really afraid of heights," said Sophomore Clare Cummings. "I've been afraid ever since I was

little."

Mr. Sirridge, psychology and history teacher, shares Clare's fear, even though he spent quite a lot of time flying in his life.

"I don't like high balconies outside," said Sirridge. "They make me nervous. I probably have a

**"All the news reporting adds to people's fears and the media creates fear for safety."**

—MR. PAT SIRRIDGE,  
HISTORY, PSYCHOLOGY TEACHER

fear of heights which is unusual because I used to fly a lot."

It has been established that every one has fears, but the question is, what makes people have fears?

"They see movies that have crept them out or they pick them up from family environments," said Sirridge. "All the news reporting adds to people's fears and the media creates fear for safety. Propaganda especially plays on people's fears."

With scary movies such as "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" or "Seven," it is no wonder so many people are afraid of painful deaths or the dark.

"I used to be afraid of the dark," said Senior Loren Jevons-Lee. "Now I sort of am because I tend to run into things."

Some fears are particularly odd. English teacher Ms. Wanda VanLeeuwen once told her Honors World Literature students what she thinks would be the worst way to die. She described being buried up to the neck, and then run over by a lawn mower.

## Can you name your biggest fear?

- Acrophobia: fear of heights
- Nyctophobia: fear of the dark or of night
- Odynophobia: fear of pain
- Autophobia: fear of being alone
- Paraskevidekatriaphobics: fear of Friday the 13th
- Logizomechanophobia: fear of computers
- Zoophobia: fear of animals
- Alektorophobia: fear of chickens
- Androphobia: fear of men
- Arachibutyrophobia: fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of the mouth
- Arachnophobia: fear of spiders
- Bogyphobia: fear of bogeys or the bogeyman.
- Chorophobia: fear of dancing
- Coulrophobia: fear of clowns
- Deipnophobia: fear of dining or dinner conversations
- Epebiphobia: fear of teenagers
- Hemophobia: fear of blood
- Optophobia: fear of opening one's eyes

Visit [www.phobialist.com](http://www.phobialist.com) for a complete listing.



# Stabbing leads to question of self defense

**Jen Vogel**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The recent stabbing of 19-year-old Richie Restivo in the Rockhurst High School parking lot caught the attention of area residents, and raised concern among many. Since the incident, a number of stories have been circulating; each one gives a different account of the events that took place on the night of Feb. 6.

Some argue the teen who stabbed Restivo acted in defense of a friend, and therefore should not be charged. This, however, would set a dangerous precedent for future cases.

The Kansas City Star published a brief summary of what

the police department believes to have occurred that night.

According to the Star, Restivo, a graduate of Rockhurst High School, and his friends arranged to settle a dispute with another group of teens in the school parking lot. Both groups came armed to fight: Restivo and some of his friends carried baseball bats and two members of the other group wielded a knife and a set of brass knuckles with a blade attached.

Using a bat, Restivo began fighting another teen. A friend of this teen stabbed Restivo in the neck, fatally wounding him.

Now the question arises: was this an act of self-defense?

Jackson County prosecutors must decide if they will press charges.

If charges are not pressed, that suggests that any time two armed groups come into conflict with each other, an "unintentional" murder can be overlooked as an act of self-defense. The context of the situation should be taken into consideration when issuing the teen's punishment, but should not be used to exempt the person from all consequences.

As evidenced by their choice of weapons, both groups arrived at the parking lot with the intent to fight. Though the person who stabbed Restivo did so to protect a friend, the murder

cannot be so easily dismissed. The two groups knew someone could get hurt, and the teen wouldn't have had to defend a friend if the situation had been entirely avoided.

Currently, the suspect's hearing has been postponed until March 25, so that the Public Defender can review the evidence. Previous to the stabbing, the suspect had already been placed on probation after pleading guilty to stabbing a sibling in the arm on Jan. 3.

According to this probation, the suspect was not supposed to be carrying a weapon at all.

Taking these facts into account, charges must be pressed against the teen responsible for

Restivo's death. This murder affected many people in the Kansas City area, and a similar recurrence must be prevented.

Issuing a severe punishment conveys the message that such acts of violence will not be tolerated. Confrontations in a high school parking lot are unacceptable, and the teen that stabbed Restivo must accept the consequences. This incident must be used as a tool to discourage other teens from making the same dangerous decisions. Prosecution will serve not only as a punishment for the guilty teen, but as a method to promote a peaceful means of resolving conflict among other teens.

## HOW TO... survive a tooth extraction



**Ann Langworthy**  
*Associate Editor*

My dear STA sisters, it is my sincere wish for all of you that you do not grow wisdom teeth.

However if the issue arises I hope that you will learn from my experience. Beware, if you have a weak stomach, read no further. At times it becomes quite gruesome and gory, but I assure you this is not a work of fiction. Here is my story:

I was informed of the operation several weeks before it was to take place, when I went in for my consultation at the UMKC School of Dentistry. Yes that is correct, I was a live cadaver.

The surgeon told me that the procedure was nearly painless, I wouldn't remember a thing and that if my wisdom teeth were not removed my life span would be shortened by 12 years. How comforting.

Under legal obligation, the doctor told me of the dangers and risks involved. "If we accidentally hit a nerve, half of your face may be paralyzed," the surgeon chuckled. The tears began to form. "Oh not to worry, that has only happened to one of my patients. Don't cry, sweetie. I have been doing this for years." I began having hot flashes and the anxiety attack set in.

Before I knew it, the day had come. I have to admit, I handled it like a pro. Thanks to various painkillers, the operation flew by quickly. When I awoke several hours later, my mouth was full of a lovely combination of cotton balls and blood. I spent the remainder of the day sleeping.

The next day my face had swollen into the shape of a gigantic pear, needless to say I didn't leave my bedroom. I was so grateful for the painkillers that I managed to handle

the ugliness factor. Word to the wise: don't plan on being seen in public for a few days, unless looking like a piece of fruit doesn't bother you.

Two days later, tragedy struck. My gums felt as though someone had shoved daggers into my jaw. My parents dismissed my cries as "wimpy" and handed me a bottle of Advil. Due to the daggers, I spent the entire night moaning with pain as I lay on the kitchen floor.

The next day my mom decided to take me back in to see my surgeon. After a quick examination, he concluded I had four dry sockets. "Ann, the blood clot has been lost from the extraction site prematurely. The excruciating pain was due to air hitting the exposed bones." In other words, dry sockets are the most painful condition in all of dentistry and I was the lucky one who got them.

My surgeon relieved my pain by stuffing the sockets with gauze soaked in oil of cloves-tasty. At this point in time I didn't think the pain would ever go away and I was reluctant to trust the man who had inflicted this torture on me. However, to my surprise the cloves did the trick. Slowly, I began to feel more normal. Every other day for a week I had to go get new cloves inserted. On the last day, my surgeon gave me a little water squirting apparatus that looked a little too much like a syringe. (I don't handle needles or anything resembling a needle very well.) I was horrified. He expected me to stick that squirter in my sockets? I literally almost passed out in the waiting room. Needless to say, I decided to stick with my toothbrush.

As the days passed the pain subsided and my swollen face deflated. Soon I was back to my normal ways, painkiller-free. Yet the emotional scars of the grisly operation will stay with me forever. Remember, you too can survive the agony of a tooth extraction and come out almost as good as new.

# What is Aspartame?

### Exploring the chemical's threat in diet sodas, foods

**Ann Langworthy**  
*Associate Editor*

Diet Coke has become a staple for many girls at St. Teresa's. Girls can be spotted with the silver can on any day of the week during Activity. But is this high demand beverage slowly poisoning the unknowing consumer?

Diet sodas all contain a chemical known as Aspartame, a low calorie sweetener found in over 6,000 products. Over the past several decades this ingredient has become the subject of much controversy.

There are countless Internet sites that attack Aspartame, claiming it is detrimental to one's health.

These sources accuse the chemical of causing numerous diseases, including multiple sclerosis, systematic lupus, diabetic coma, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, memory loss and others. While these sites might look professional, most are personal sites posing as scientific fact.

Several well-known institutions stand by Aspartame. Approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1981, it's safety has been reaffirmed 26 times over a period of 23 years. Aspartame has been approved in more than 100 countries.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) conducted a study that concluded that Aspartame was safe for the general public.

Subjects received either Aspartame or sugar in doses of up to 45 milligrams per kilogram of body weight—the equivalent of 17 to 24 12-ounce diet beverages for males and 14 to 19 12-ounce drinks for females.

The subjects then underwent physical and physiological testing. Although some experienced headaches, fatigue, nausea and acne, the same number of incidents were reported among those ingesting sugar.

Recently scientific and governmental committees have



Seniors Kelly Shuss and Jess Ponnath kiss their 32-ounce cup full of Diet Coke during one of their regular visits to QuikTrip after school.

reviewed some of the online allegations against Aspartame, determining they are false and confirming Aspartame's safety. Moreover, organizations such as the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, the National Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, the National Parkinson's Disease Foundation, Inc., the Alzheimer's Association, and the Lupus Foundation of America have reviewed the claims and also found them to be false.

The debate surrounding Aspartame has not swayed many STA girls from indulging in diet beverage products. Senior Jess Ponnath says she usually drinks about 64 ounces a day.

"I know supposedly it is bad, but until I see some kind of conclusive scientific study done on this topic I refuse to believe it," said Ponnath.

QuikTrip on 72nd and Wornall has become somewhat of a hotspot for many STA students.

"It's so close to school," said Senior Kelly Shuss. "When I have a free 15/16 I head over to QT. A lot of seniors do."

Jared VanBuskirk has been an employee there for a little over a year.

"St. Teresa's girls are very committed to QuikTrip," said VanBuskirk. "They come in at least once a day, usually several times. They're cool, very friendly. They are fun to talk to."

According to VanBuskirk, about 95% of the time the girls are there for fountain drinks.

"QuikTrip has the best selection [of fountain drinks] and you can mix and match," said Ponnath. "I am a big believer in the 'half and half' because it offers a balance of the delicious Diet Dr. Pepper and the healthy plain Dr. Pepper."

QuikTrip also offers competitive prices.

"The same size glass at 7-Eleven is about \$.99," said Ponnath. "At QT it is \$.72 and refills are only \$.61. Plus, the employees are great."

Van Buskirk thinks that drinking Aspartame products should be up to the individual.

"It's the person's right to get what they want, but I think medically it might not be the most healthy choice. It is their own priority if they want to drink it," said VanBuskirk.

Yet the medical evidence is not enough to convince STA girls to give it up.

"If it was as bad as they say, there would be a Surgeon General's Warning on the cup," said Shuss. "It can't be that bad. You never hear of anyone dying of throat cancer because they drank too much Diet Coke."

## photo poll: What did you give up for Lent?



"Chocolate."  
Melissa Richardson, freshman



"When's Lent?"  
Jessica Clossen, sophomore



"Surpees and bubble tea."  
Marcie Conway, junior



"Hmm...I'm going to try and stop procrastinating."  
Andrea Horn, senior



"Coke."  
Ms. Kathy Walters, receptionist

Three Perspectives  
One Issue

# Antidepressants

### Are they pushing teens to suicide?

Juana Summers  
Staff Writer

### Opposition of antidepressants for teens

No prominent individual has come forward in the defense of the statement that SSRIs, or Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors, could possibly prove dangerous when prescribed to those under the age of 18.

SSRI's are feared by the Food and Drug Administration and the Committee on Safety of Medicines in the United Kingdom to cause increased "suicidality" in teenagers.

According to the Committee on Safety of Medicines, three commonly used antidepressants—sertraline, citalopram, and escitalopram—have more risks than benefits and should be contraindicated, or not used in children or adolescents.

"There has been an increased rate in...insomnia, agitation, weight loss, headache, tremor, loss of appetite, self harm, and suicidal thoughts."

Floetine, commonly known as Prozac, is licensed in the United States for use in children under the age of seven as the benefits seem to outweigh the risks.

The FDA released a public health advisory recognizing the possibility of dangerous antidepressants in October of 2003. Following these claims, the FDA proposed a meeting for February 2nd in order to discuss possible risks of antidepressants. Since that meeting, which included members of the Psychopharmacologic Drugs Advisory committee as well as the Pediatric Subcommittee of the Anti-Infective Drugs Advisory Committee, other countries including Canada have reached similar conclusions and released health advisories to their citizens.

"Close supervision of high-risk patients should accompany initial drug therapy," said the FDA's Public Health Advisory. "Prescriptions for Drug X should be written for the smallest quantity of tablets consistent with good patient management, in order to reduce the risk of overdose"

### Dr. Laura Dill, Physician at Menorah Medical Center

Doctor Laura Dill, an emergency room physician at Menorah Medical Center disagrees with the belief that those under the age of eighteen should be removed from antidepressant usage.

However, she does feel that children are often over medicated for their depression or other clinical-behavioral disorders.

"A lot of parents jump to medication instead of counseling," she said.

The FDA has advised caution to those who are taking Paxil, Zoloft or other antidepressants.

"The bigger problem is depression in teens," she says. Dill feels that since she was a child, the pressure exerted on adolescents has slowly gotten more complicated.

"There is more child-on-child stress," she said. "Children are very mean to each other. It's much harder to grow up these days." According to Dill, there is a certain "disparity" in the adolescent lifestyle, related to socio-economic status as well as pressure from parents.

"Parents would rather put kids on medications to 'fix' their problems instead of helping with their emotional needs," she said.

Dill couldn't imagine medications being abolished and replaced with "barbaric" treatments such as shock therapy.

As for the accusations that antidepressants are causing suicide in teenagers, Dill feels that increased depression is the cause, not the treatment for these disorders.

She feels that teenage depression used to go unrecognized; this would account for the great numbers of teens on antidepressants.

According to Dill, a common misconception among teenagers is that antidepressants help with pain. "They could give [teenagers] a perceived relief due to serotonin release," she said.

### Leah Blake, Sophomore

Sophomore Leah Blake disagrees with the FDA's claim that antidepressants are linked to the recent increase in teen suicidality.

According to the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, SSRIs, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors including Zoloft and Prozac, are both safe and effective for use in children and teenagers.

"The reason why teens are committing suicide is because they're depressed," she said. "It's common sense. If more who have recognized depression go on pills, it will make the suicide rate stand out more"

Blake says that though suicide rates in teenagers are prevalent, there is a need to look at more than one factor when determining a cause.

"You can't just pinpoint a factor or cause of suicide," she said. "There are so many tools used that would have to be removed for accuracy."

Blake believes that teens are among the most emotionally unstable demographic and benefit from the use of antidepressants.

"Sometimes, [American] society doesn't look at options before pills," she said. "Try 'talk therapy' and limiting teenage stress. Has the FDA ever looked at the senior citizen's suicide rate or are they just singling out teens? Have they looked at the good effects of antidepressants on teens?"

Blake believes that with every medical breakthrough such as that of SSRIs, there are certain "hypes" when they are first opened to the public. However, beyond this, she feels that the lives of teens are aided, not ended by their prescribed antidepressants.

"Not just prescription drugs are responsible; depression is the main factor," she said.

# STA discusses new, desired class choices

**Leslie Herring**  
*Staff Writer*

History, English, foreign language, math, and science are a few of the departments in the curriculum at STA. There are numerous classes offered in each department that STA students can choose to take.

While some students and faculty believe that STA has a sufficient amount of offered courses in the curriculum, others think that STA could add a couple classes and maybe take a few away to please more of the student body.

"In the eight years that I have been here the school has opened up more and listened to the requests of the parents and students [in regard to the curriculum]," said Counselor Ms. Roseann Hudnall. "The Cur-

riculum meets the current trends."

Hudnall explained that US government was being added to the list of required classes for seniors because it was becoming a prerequisite for more and more colleges.

"STA is pretty good about its classes," said Freshman Allie Fiss. "We could get more in the art department, more of a variety of classes."

Many students would like to add a few classes so that they can take them while they are here.

"I want to study creative writing in college," said Junior Laura Brewer. "But, STA does not offer a class like creative writing that I could get involved with."

In a poll of STA students the most popular classes that

are yoga/pilates, film, photography, and pottery.

"I would love to see pottery at STA," said Fiss. "I am really interested in it and I think it would be fun and really easy for people to learn."

**"The Curriculum Council really works to meet the current trends."**

—Ms. ROSEANN HUDNALL, COUNSELOR

The process for getting a new class added to the curriculum long and starts with an individual teacher. The teacher

ment and suggests the idea for the new class.

It is then discussed among all the teachers in the department.

After they have discussed it, the head of the department presents the idea to the curriculum council and they decide whether or not it should be a class offered here.

Next year debate will be in the curriculum and a couple of computer classes will be dropped.

Popularity and the needs of the students determine when and what classes will be dropped or added.

"The most popular classes change from year to year," said Ms. Hudnall. "Last year psychology and sociology were among the most popular. Art

and surprisingly the theology classes are very popular too."

Hudnall says that one class she would like to see offered here at STA is business law.

"The class could give information on legal rights and issues involving the legal system," said Ms. Hudnall. "Just a really good business law class. Mr. Sirdridge would be a great teacher for that."

Brewer was undecided about what classes other than creative writing she would like to see at STA.

"Yoga or Pilates would be really nice," said Brewer. "It would be a great destresser in the middle of the week after a huge chemistry test, but film would be really cool too, it could be made to be a really original class."

## five-second editorials

Spring break has come to be the saving grace of high school students. Nestled in the mist of March, this weeklong retreat offers students a moment of sanity.

The seniors create an hourly countdown to their moment of freedom, announcing the current standings in every class. Their thoughts are consumed with jetting off to the Bahamas, Puerto Vallarta, or some other exotic locale. The amount of money tanning beds make from St. Teresa's students alone could pay for a year's tuition at everyone's favorite academy.

The rest of the student body listens patiently, knowing that spring break in Kansas City can be just as exciting as Cancun.

Lent is the perfect time to improve yourself. Instead of giving up some sort of candy, why not try to make yourself a better, friendlier person?

Pledge to do one nice thing for someone else every day. Help someone with their homework or maybe say hello to someone you have never talked to before.

If you want to take a different angle, improve yourself on the outside. Try to exercise everyday or eat healthier. Take up yoga or join a spring sport.

Yes, Lent began several weeks ago. But rejoice, it isn't too late, it's never too late, to make the world a better place.



# Fashion statement creates problems

**Katie Hembree**  
*Staff Writer*

High heels can be painful and dangerous, but they are fun, unique and fashionable. Heels remain on the rise as an expressive accessory to the perfect outfit, but they can cause many foot problems. So how do we choose between fashion and health?

"It is very important that a shoe fit properly, and the best kinds of shoes are round, in the shape of a foot," said Debbie Dubinsky, a shoe-fitting expert at Footworks Prescription Footwear, a retailer for orthotic shoes. "Pointy shoes do not fit properly because they are not the shape of a normal foot."

This description of the "safe" shoe can be hard to comprehend for fashion gurus like Sex and the City's Carrie, and her fans who prize their "fabulous" Manolos. However, Dubinsky feels strongly that the stylish "pointy, high-heeled" shoes are hard on the foot if worn for more than three hours at a time.

"When I wore [heels], we didn't have much to choose from," said Janet Rufien, 66, a woman with chronic foot problems resulting from high heel

are not aware that the problems they are experiencing are directly related to improper shoes," said Robert Haas, an orthopedic surgeon. "We occasionally see knee problems where the wearer falls off the shoe and twists the knee as well."

According to Dr. Haas, the majority of patients encountering foot problems are female because of the extensive wear on feet caused by high heels. Some of the most painful injuries include pump bumps, bunions, calluses, hammertoes and metatarsalgia. Pump bumps are elevated patches of tissue on the back of the heel caused by incessant rubbing of the heel on the back of the shoe. Bunions are painful areas of inflammation and swelling of the bursa (fluid filled sacks around joints) at the first joint of the big toe. They are characterized by the enlargement of the joint and the lateral displacement of the toe.

Calluses are areas of thick, localized tissue and hammertoes are

of the foot is only going to get worse."

A survey conducted by the American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS) found that of 356 women ages 20 to 60, 90 percent wore shoes that were too small for their feet.

With vanity always in fashion and shoes reaching iconic cultural status, women are having short toes made longer and long toes made shorter hoping to fit into the latest Manolo Blahniks and Jimmy Choos.

The fee for toe shortening or



lengthening runs \$2500 per toe, but for some women who spend between \$400 and \$3200 for one pair of shoes, the surgery is well worth it.

abuse. "They were pointy and very tall, usually with a three to four-inch heel."

Since her extended high heel wear, Rufien has had several surgical procedures requiring months of recovery.

"If I could do it all over again, I definitely would not have worn those kinds of shoes, at least not for the amount of time I did," said Rufien.

Like many women her age, Rufien felt that as a working woman, it was only appropriate to wear pantyhose and heels to work. She recalls having to wear dresses, skirts and heels everyday to work. Rufien taught at an elementary school that followed a strict dress code.

"I loved wearing heels," said Rufien. "They made me feel good about myself. But after wearing three and four-inch heels for eight hours straight, my feet were very tired by the end of the day."

Podiatrists and orthopedic surgeons are confident that such problems are often caused by wearing the wrong kinds of shoes for extended periods of time.

"I see patients suffering from shoe-related problems very often and many of these patients

the hyperextension of the toes caused by pressure placed on the toes by the descending arch of a high heel. Metatarsalgia is pain on the bottom of the foot near the ball. This occurs because the weight of the body is balancing on the ankles and balls of the feet without even distribution.

To treat calluses, a minimal procedure to remove the hardened skin is performed using a scalpel blade or pumice stone. For other conditions like bunions and hammertoes, patients can expect serious surgery followed by extensive recovery time, often beyond two months. *Women's Health* Orthopedic Addition reports that 75 percent of the foot problems that necessitated these operations were caused or aggravated by women's fashion footwear.

Sometimes it can be hard to differentiate a comfortable shoe from a potentially uncomfortable one during the brief try-on before purchase.

"You want the shoe to be comfortable when you leave the store," said Dubinsky. "Don't leave thinking that the shoe is going to stretch out because it won't, the pressure on the ball

# CLOSURE

## Plaid not stifling students' style

**Rose Dillon**  
*Business Manager*

In a sea of red, black and plaid, everyone can begin to look the same. Despite, or maybe because of the uniform, STA girls find ways to express themselves through clothes.

"The uniform makes me appreciate clothes I have that are not plaid," said Junior Clare Lapping.

Just because they are in uniform does not mean students can't express themselves.

"The school allows for individual expression within the uniform," said Mr. Matthew Bertalott, a theology teacher. "It's not as if there's no wiggle room."

Another option is to be slightly out of uniform, but in such a way as to avoid detection.

"I always change up the polo shirt, or wear tube socks with stripes to mix it up," said Junior Mattie Littig.

Hair, on the other hand, is not regulated by uniform code, so students can dye it or style it however they want.

"Because I can't express myself through clothes at school, I'll express myself through my hair," said Littig.

Teachers notice this form of

## Kansas City misses fashion bandwagon

**Julia McQueeney-Thorpe**  
*Staff Writer*

The Midwest is not a known center of fashion. Actually, the fashion industry points its finger at us, and laughs. So how does Kansas City stay up to speed when trends don't travel at mach one?

"We do what everybody else does," said sophomore, Lyndsey Zapien. "It's just always two months late."

The central location is to blame. As hackneyed as it sounds, Kansas City is known for its Barb-B-Que, and not its fashion.

Thanks to MTV's *Rich Girls* Kansas City and surrounding locations have all been stereotyped as cargo pant wearing farmers. This stigma, however, is not entirely true. Take into consideration Kansas City born and raised fashion designer Jeremy Scott. Scott has designed clothes for musical artists such as Christina Aguilera, Kylie Minogue, Madonna, and Björk, and is now based in New York.

Not even Scott has compassion for the Midwest though. His designs rarely leave the east coast.

More recently teens have decided to stop following the latest fashion trends, and clothe themselves in what sophomore Molly Friend describes as the "rebel-punk-alternative" look. A style that

is a knock off of circa 1987 punk minus the teased and crimped hair, and replaced with t-shirts adorning clever sayings.

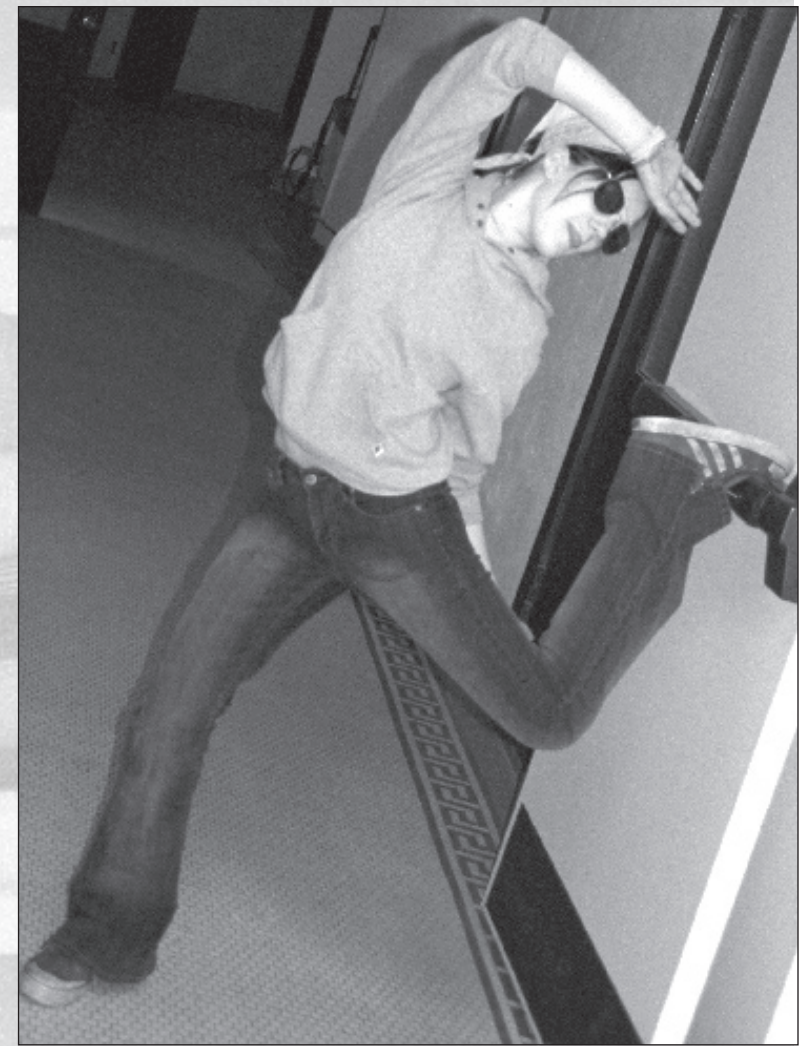
Friend also recognizes a movement known to few as "fashion-core." Fashion-core is an accepted underground style. Boys wear girl's jeans and tight t-shirts, and tease their hair. Meanwhile, the girls alter their shirts, and skirts hang low on their hips.

"Fashion-core allows boys to express their interest in fashion without others questioning their sexuality," said Friend.

A similar view is taken with metrosexuals. Metrosexuality, like fashion-core, allows males to express their need and opinion for fashion. Metrosexuals practice fashion etiquette and spend more time than the average male on their appearance.

"Metrosexuals are the type of guy that'll get pedicures and manicures," said sophomore Claire Foley. "They probably spend more time shopping than me."

Kansas City is not known for its overwhelming metrosexual population, or even its one famous fashion designer, but rather grilled food and jazz. Maybe it should stay that way. At least our roots are deeper than the first layer of textiles.



Junior Clare Lapping poses for the camera to reflect her personality as well as her style.

photo by Cierra Obiaha

## Women's swimwear changes through time

**Tyler Yarbrough**  
*Staff Writer*

Spring break is just around the corner, and for those planning to spend time at the beach, it is imperative to have a swimsuit that is in style. The styles of swimsuits have changed drastically over time, progressing in order to make the woman feel comfortable and to turn more heads.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone, young women went from wearing wool jersey tank suits to the two-piece thong bikinis.

The swimwear that is acceptable today, women of the 1920s would have considered more than a bit risqué. Contemporary styles of swimwear encourage women to emphasize their cleavage, flaunt toned abs and high-light hips and thighs.

In contrast, the women of the 1930s wore overskirts to hide their legs. The phrase change is good has, throughout history, sparked innovative trends in fashion. But in terms of the changes in swimsuit styles over time students have different opinions.

Senior Rasheedat Yahaya believes that today's swimsuit fashion distinguishes this generation from

those of the past. "I think that it is good that we have made our own style," said Yahaya. "The styles worn today are what this generation likes."

Junior Betsey Birt has a different view about how swimsuit fashion has changed.

Although this generation has developed its own style of swimwear, according to Yahaya, there are swimsuits that may be too sexy for teenage girls.

"I think that certain swimsuits, like the thong bathing suits and the low-cut cleavage swimsuits, are a little risqué for girls our age," Yahaya said.

Today, young women are embracing the "barely-there" bathing suits that would have caused much controversy 50 years ago.

"Some girls take it too far," said Birt. "They think that the more skin they show, the better they will look...and it reflects negatively upon our generation."

Birt believes that the media is to blame because it sends false messages to young women about what they must wear in order to be beautiful.

"Girls should know that they can be just as sexy without showing as much skin," Birt said.

As time progresses, the fashion industry changes as well. This generation is unique in terms of the different trends that are accepted, but the ideals of self-confidence and comfort have remained the same.



Women's swimwear has gradually become more stylish, and more skimpy, as the decades have progressed. Above are three drawings taken from *The Chronicle of Western Fashion* by John Peacock, to demonstrate this "barely there" trend over the 20th century.

"I think the progression of swimsuits was all about women being more comfortable," said Birt. "I don't think that the change in swimsuit styles was either good or bad, it's just fashion."

Teachers notice this form of

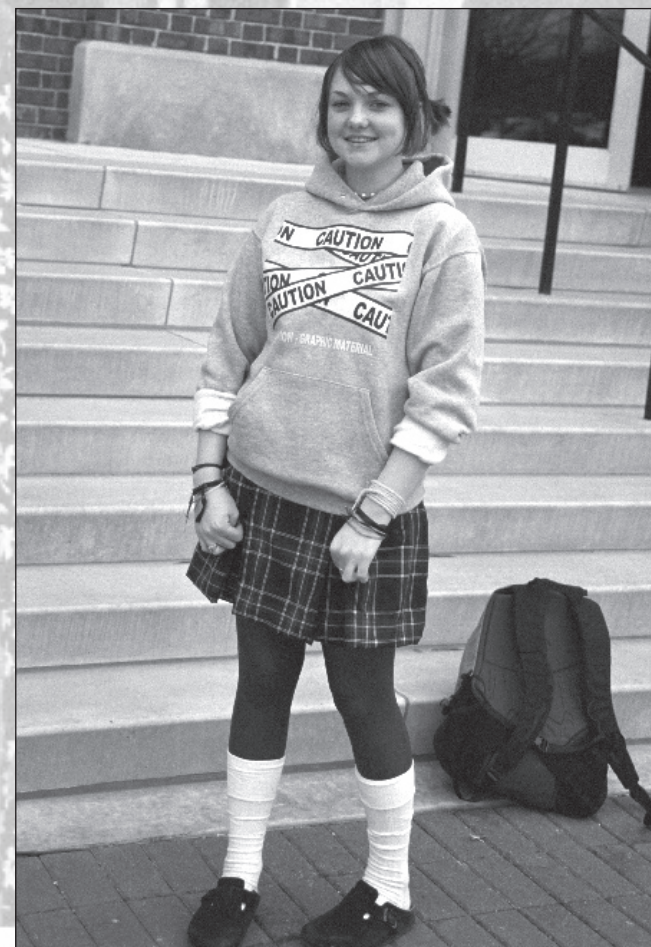


Photo by Cierra Obiaha

Junior Mattie Littig models her stocking and knee high apparel, worn to accommodate both her image and style.



**Upcoming Fine Arts Events**

**Today through March 26:** The 18th Street Studio, located in downtown Kansas City, will be displaying "Through Her Eyes." This display will feature the works of six local female artists using a variety of medias including painting, drawing, and textiles. Call Pat Jordan at (816) 842-2364 for more information about this event.

**Today through March 28:** The Coterie Theater is producing "Breath of American Spirit: SACAGAWEA" and "Everyday Heroes" in repertory. Repertory theater means that the plays will be performed during the same period of time and have almost identical casts. "Sacagawea" is written by a Kansas City native and tells the story of the Lewis and Clark story through the eyes of Sacagawea, their guide. In "Everyday Heroes," a nationally acclaimed playwright tells the story of two brothers who are caught in the media due to a lie.

**March 25-March 27:** The Rockhurst High School Theater department will be presenting their student production of "12 Angry Men." The show will take place in the high school's Studio Theater at 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.

**April 15 through May 16:** The Coterie Theater will be producing "The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)," based on the novel by Roald Dahl. Tickets and showtimes vary. Visit [www.thecoterie.com](http://www.thecoterie.com) for more information.

**April 16 through April 17:** STA will be holding their annual student productions. Seniors have directed and produced these five short comedies. Watch for ticket prices and show times around school closer to the performance.

**April 21 through April 25:** The Rockhurst High School Theater department will be presenting "You Can't Take It With You." The show involves STA students. It will take place in Rockhurst's main auditorium, the Rose Theater. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. on the 21st through 24th, and at 2:30 p.m. on the 25th. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students. Reservations are strongly encouraged.

# STA students choose Rockhurst plays

## Theater departments offer decisions for thespians

**Alex Hercules**  
*Staff Writer*

Every year STA students choose to participate in the Rockhurst plays, rather than the STA musicals. Some students think it's because Rockhurst has a better choice in shows than STA does. "Rockhurst has better shows than STA," said Junior Mary Martha Donaldson "They just have a better program than we do."

This spring, Rockhurst will be putting on "Macbeth" and "You Can't Take it With You." STA's spring musical was "Quilters."

Some students choose Rockhurst plays over the STA musical simply because they do not want to be in a musical.

"I chose the Rockhurst play over STA's musical because I can't sing and I didn't think I would make it," said Sophomore Lizzie Beier. "I'm just not a great singer so I think

it's good that Rockhurst has a play at the same time that STA has a musical. It offers a choice between a play and a musical."

Mrs. Shana Prentiss, STA drama teacher and director of spring musical, fully supports the student's decision to be in the Rockhurst play.

"Rockhurst has a fantastic program," said Prentiss. "I think it's great that [students] are involved in the Rockhurst program. They have a great director; I just love her."

The STA students that are involved in the spring play at Rockhurst have also been involved in STA productions in the past.

"I was also involved in lots of STA productions," said Donaldson. "I was in 'School House of Rock' and the student production. So I'm pretty involved in the STA productions. I am also helping choreograph the STA musical this spring. I'm just trying to stay in-

cal and plays done by STA. "St. Teresa's will always have a special place in my heart," said Donaldson.



STA Sophomores Christine Farris (far left) and Erica Houglund (far right) and Sion Sophomore Emily Cooke (upper right) portray witches in Rockhurst High School's presentation of Macbeth.

# Novel 'My Heartbeat' provides a new view

**Rachel Straughn**  
*Photo Editor*

"It's after midnight when I hear James leave. The summerhouse in Maine is old and full of misleading noises, but it his leaving that I hear. Since I am listening for it, I wonder if it counts as eavesdropping. I get out of bed and cross to the front window. I see James walk down the path, open the gate, and turn right. Toward town. Without my brother."

"My Heartbeat" by Garret Freymann-Weyr is the 2002 Michael L. Printz Award winner. It is a book about a fourteen-year-old girl who struggles with her relationships with the people she loves.

The book deals with issues of sexual orientation, relationships, love and family life.

Ellen spends most of her time with her older brother, Link, and his best friend, James, with whom she is "totally madly in love." The threesome spends their time together watching subtitled foreign movies and discussing classical literature. Link and James have a relationship so close that James is the only person that Link will let see his artwork. Ellen's deepest desire is to understand the two boys and their relationship.

The title of the book comes from a favorite saying of Ellen and Link's father. "Geeky people often have that which is most valuable in this life. A mind with its own heartbeat." Link and Ellen both spend the

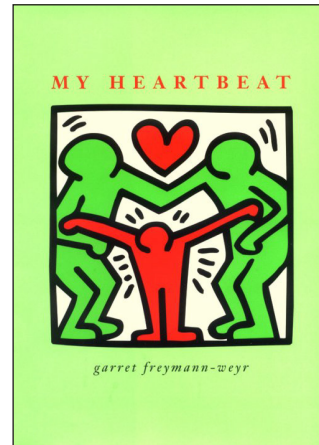
book looking for their minds' "heartbeat."

When the question of Link and James' sexuality comes up, Ellen struggles with the different ways she can love them. Link refuses to acknowledge the possibility that he could be homosexual. He stops talking to James and gets a girlfriend. In his absence, Ellen seizes the opportunity to become closer to James.

Ellen and James go to hospital cafeterias to "people-watch," and in the process come to better understand the way they see the world, and how they think. Ellen has a hard time dealing with knowing that she loves James and James loves her brother, but she stands by him anyway.

Link is causing havoc at home. He has abandoned his parent's academic hopes for him by turning in all of his semester exams blank and quitting his advanced college math classes. His father has a terrible time understanding why Link would do such a thing. In the midst of the turmoil, everyone finds out that Link's father bribed him to keep his girlfriend and not explore his sexual orientation.

"My Heartbeat" is cleanly written and highly relative to the problems that many teens face today, such as dealing with relationships and living up to parents' expectations. Especially in our STA community, where so many girls have high expectations at home, this book can be a great comfort.



# Senior follows family tradition in visual arts

**Megan Kelly**  
*Staff Writer*

Senior Madeleine Hill has been taking art classes since she was 5 years old, but surprisingly, she is relatively new to the STA art scene.

"Because both my parents are artists, I was always around art when I was little," said Hill.

But Hill didn't take a school art class until her junior year, when she took Calligraphy. Currently, Hill is in Portfolio and took Painting last semester.

"The interesting thing about Madeleine is that she didn't take Drawing I or any of the other base art classes," said Hill's teacher, Ms. Theresa Wallerstedt. "She really just blossomed in the last year."

Hill's father, Mr. Steven Hill, watched his daughter's gradual transformation from preschool doodler to serious potter and painter.

In the Hill family, art is valued; Hill's father and mother, Mrs. Susan Hill, have run their downtown gallery, Red Star Studios, for five years.

"As a younger child, [Madeleine] was always hanging around art in our studios and was always seeing art happen," said Mr. Hill. "Her earliest art media was found objects, such as sticks, masking tape, rocks and things of this sort."

To this day, Hill still practices various forms of art. Hill received three Scholastic

Awards for her art this year. She was awarded a Gold Key Award and was a National Finalist for a self-portrait that Wallerstedt said was only the second painting Hill completed. One of Hill's ceramic bowls earned her a Silver Key Award, and her three-dimensional portfolio received a Certificate of Merit.

Hill attributes inspiration for her work to her father. However, Mr. Hill, a potter himself, says his influence has been more "indirect than direct."

"Madeleine's been around art all her life," said Mr. Hill. "Her mother and I never forced her art but we always supported it."

Hill's early introduction to art gives her a broader base from which to work. "Madeleine's greatest strength is her curiosity and her wanting to learn more," said Wallerstedt. "She really wants to be taught. She asks questions and is very approachable."

Mr. Hill thinks Madeleine's strengths are her persistence and her diligence. He says that she finishes every project she undertakes.

While Hill most enjoys pottery and painting, she hopes to broaden her artistic scope in college. She has applied to and wishes to attend NYU's film school in the fall.

Although she's been around art her whole life, Hill doesn't get tired of art. She practices both in and out of school.

"I like art, because I'm a creative person in general, but also because it is a good outlet to express my feelings and emotions," said Hill. "It feels good to let things out in my art."

# Music Review

## British rock band believes in 'a thing called love'

**Ali Sherman**  
*Associate Editor*

The Darkness's *Permission to Land* has dropped on American soil, welcomed with open arms by MTV and radio stations alike.

Though it took a few months for Americans to catch on to the British rock band, (their album was released Sept. 7 by Atlantic Records) their album has now reached quadruple platinum status. Featuring the popular and catchy, yet completely un-singable single "I Believe in a Thing Called Love," lead singer Justin Hawkins pays homage to his inspiration, Freddie Mercury of Queen, with complicated, high-pitched vocals and flamboyant performances. With complex guitar riffs and classic rock sound, the band is attempting a musical "regression."

If you look at bands from 25 years ago, people have smiles on their faces. We're bringing a bit of that back," said Hawkins of his music. More extravagant than the music is the band's showmanship and rock star energy.

Anyone who has seen the music video for their first single will either be confused or get the joke. What's funnier than a British guy with bad teeth in a spandex jumpsuit fighting aliens?

The band is still relatively new, and though talented, many of the songs are more haphazard than crafted like their 1970's predecessors. The Queen influence is evident throughout the album, and The Darkness is excited about their music. Although the lead singer is what first drew attention to the virtually unknown group, the music is what will impress listeners.

The album is taking a step back, in a good way. One listen through is not enough to full appreciate the band's talent: after listening a few times the random lyrics are less obvious than some of the great guitar segments each title features. One track outlines the daily extracurricular schedule of a high school overachiever, while most are simply mock love songs. True musicianship is making its

**Artist:** The Darkness  
**CD:** Permission to Land  
**Rating:** ★★☆☆

comeback in this band. Prediction: in a year or two, after touring the world and perfecting their sound, The Darkness will release their second album, shaming the first in comparison. Overall, to enjoy "Permission to Land," have an appreciation for good guitar and high notes.

# 'The Passion' reveals brutal message of Jesus' death

## Gruesome effects show new reality to faith

**Brittany Cummings**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

**Starring James Caviezel, Mattia Sbragia, Sergio Rubini, Claudia Gerini, Luca Lionello, Monica Bellucci, Maia Morgenstern, Rosalinda Celentano, Hristo Shopov, Hristo Jivkov. Directed by Mel Gibson. (R, 126 minutes).**

★ ★ ★

**The Passion of Christ**

• Directed by: Mel Gibson  
• Released: February 25, 2004  
(In Arabic, English Subtitles)

Recently, many reviewers expressed their disgust at the escalation of crude torture throughout the film. "The Passion of Christ" released into theaters across the country Feb. 25, 2004. Prior to the film's debut, reviewers worried that Gibson's depiction of the Last Supper through Jesus' crucifixion, would cause a riot of anti-Semitism towards the Jewish race.

Some students seemed to

agree with reviewers' post-reactions, while others were simply afraid to view the movie after such reviews.

"The movie added no new interpretation or twist to the Bible story," said Senior Alcyon Bucklew. "It was just unnecessarily violent and grotesque." But what was Mel Gibson working towards? In an era where violence was at its extreme, why shouldn't Jesus' death be depicted in such light?

Father Rush of St. Peter's Parish said, "Perhaps, the only way to feel the true nature of Jesus' sacrifice is to expose it to such terrible violence." But here is my opinion: In regards to anti-Semitism concerns, the movie focuses more on the bitter death of Jesus than any one community condemning him to death. In fact, Gibson's portrayals of Jesus' cries for forgiveness of the people nearly erase the betrayal of the men and women around him.

To me, particular scenes, such as the vision and sound of the first nail in Jesus'

hand, exemplify the excruciating pain Jesus was willing to experience for the human race. Moreover, the Arabic language brings the story closer to reality.

While it is important to keep in mind that this version is merely Gibson's interpretation of Christ's suffering, it is also important to appreciate Jesus' inner strength which Gibson so clearly displays. I believe that message lies past the violence and brutal nature of the film.

Even while gruesome and heart wrenching, the film demonstrates respect for Jesus' character and role in the Christian faith. This film, more so than others, illustrates Jesus' deep devotion towards the people.

Each interpretation, however, is up to each viewer. Ignore any pre-conceived ideas about the film and make your own judgment. The message will be different for each person who sees it. *Recommendation: Bring tissues.*



photo courtesy of Icon Productions  
Roman soldiers taunt Jesus as he carries his cross to the mount.

# Brookside to host annual parade

## Floats, families to parade through Brookside March 13

**Kathryn Fitzsimmons**  
*Staff Writer*

Many area residents are excited for the 24th annual Brookside St. Patrick's Warm-Up Parade at 2 p.m. on Saturday March 13.

"My favorite part about organizing the parade is the parade day itself...if it's a sunny, warm day," said Parade Coordinator Jennifer Leon. "There are so many happy, smiling people just seeing everyone having so much fun is the best part for me."

The Brookside St. Patrick's Warm-Up Parade was started in 1981 by the Brookside Business Association. About 5,000 people come to watch the parade each year, with another 3,000 in the parade.

According to Leon, about 90 entries will participate in the parade including local schools, families, companies, local businesses, and organizations.

"We have the Ararat Shrine Clowns, several groups with horses and/or dogs, the Army National Guard and our most popular group, the Mid-America Basset Hound Rescue group with many costumed basset hounds," said Leon.

St. Peter's School is incorporating the reduce-reuse-recycle idea with the myth about celebrating St. Patrick's Day to thank him for running the

snakes out of Ireland. While the St. Peter's School's addition to the parade is a golf cart instead of a float, the school is asking students and parents to walk behind the cart with recycled, homemade noisemakers to drive the snakes away.

When the day of the parade finally rolls around, people start to fill the Brookside streets by noon. The best spot of viewing is arguable for many parade goers.

"I'm not sure about the best place to view the parade, as I don't really get to see it," said Leon. "The people that live on Main between 63rd and Meyer have parties out in their front yards. I think they probably have the best spot."

No matter where each parade viewer decides to watch, Leon is sure that each person will enjoy the procession because it is a fun, family kind of event.

"I don't know if I can think of one particularly 'crazy' float," said Leon. "The family entries always have good floats but the basset hounds, while not a float, are pretty hard to beat."

Leon added that St. Teresa's does not have a float in the parade. Maybe next year, students will try to give those basset hounds a run for their money.



photo by Kathryn Fitzsimmons  
St. Peter's School seventh grader Eric Buckley, 13, and fourth grader Kirby Buckley, 10, create noisemakers with toilet paper rolls, tape and beans in preparation for the Brookside St. Patrick's Warm-Up Parade.



The Brookside St. Patrick's Day Warm-Up Parade will start at 65th and Wornall Rd. The parade will then make its way to 65th and Brookside Rd., following the path shown on the map.

map by Julia McQueen-Thorpe



## Practice Makes Perfect Swim and Dive

Kelly Woodward  
*Sports Editor*



It was the middle of February and the smell of chlorine lingered in the air. Over fifty swimmers sat anxiously on the bleachers waiting for directions. Mrs. Stacie O'Rear's voice echoed through the building at the swimmers who were about to begin their season.

Girls talked, showed off swimsuits and quietly discussed how embarrassing it was going to be when they were finally forced into the water. Some of the more experienced swimmers and seniors stood off to the side and talked quietly as the freshmen and beginners listened to every word coming from the coach's mouths.

Mrs. O'Rear and Mrs. Kellee Hercules talked for a few minutes and before long every girl was in the pool. The more advanced swimmers took the far left lane and the beginners stayed in the far right lane. Everyone in the middle filled in the gap.

Every girl started out with a 500 meter swim to prepare for the workouts to come. A 500 is hard, especially on the first day, and girls were beginning to feel the pain. Some stopped every so often to catch a breath and get a drink of water. Others reviewed the strokes just to make sure they were doing everything right.

On the opposite side of the pool the divers began their preparation. Keep in mind that there are no tryouts for swim team, so some girls were just coming on the team to have fun, not because of their amazing talent. It was so entertaining.

Things started off slow with some step jump moves along with some stretches, before even entering the pool. Then, Sophomore Katie Adair stepped to the board. She approached perfectly and jumped straight into the air. Her body bent in at the waist so she was practically touching her toes. She straightened out and went head first into the pool. I do have to say that it was beautiful.

The other divers gasped in amazement and tried to gain dignity to do the same. All of them did well, although it is hard to get started. Belly flops were done and bruises were made, but every girl at least tried each dive. I was impressed.

The swimmers finished with a separate work out and cool down. Every girl excitedly exited the pool. The coaches talked for a while and then told the girls to go home and get some sleep. I think many of them left thinking, "What did I just get myself into?"

# Superstitions provide faith



photo by Rachel Straughn

The dance team members join hands in prayer circle before the STA vs. Sion game on Feb. 20. This is the dance team's own superstition.

Maggie Mullane  
*Staff Writer*

"Mary Queen of Dance, Pray for us!! Break a leg!"

Before every performance, the STA Dance Team gathers in a huddle, with their right arms over their left and their left feet in the circle. Then they recite the "Hail Mary," ending with the above quote. Will all of this really bring the team good luck?

The Dance Team isn't the only group that has superstitious rituals.

"I once had a volleyball player who had a lucky pair of underwear," said Mrs. Bode-Rodriguez. "She'd wear them to every match, even if we had them two days in a row."

Other STA girls have been known to draw stars on their socks or wear different shoes for basketball practices and games. Some even eat the same meal (chocolate chip pancakes

and eggs over easy) before every swim meet.

Sports superstitions have been around for generations and don't only exist within our STA community.

In 1920, the Boston Red Sox sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees, thus the beginning of the Curse of the Bambino. Since then, the Red Sox have not won a World Series and the Yankees have won 26 of them. In 2003, the Red Sox had a 5-2 lead against the Yankees in a game in the American League Championship Series, but ended up losing the game 6-5.

In 1945, William "Billy Goat" Sianis wanted to bring his pet billy goat into the fourth game of the World Series at Wrigley Field. The ushers wouldn't let him in with the goat and to get back at them, he went home and put a curse on the Chicago Cubs. The Cubs ended up losing the World

Series to the Detroit Tigers and haven't been to World Series since.

The Sports Illustrated curse hit close to home recently. Theoretically, whenever a famous athlete is put on the cover of this magazine, they will start performing poorly. This past season, when the Kansas City Chiefs' record was 9-0, they were put on the cover of Sports Illustrated. Everyone thought they were going to win the Super Bowl. They then proceeded to lose their next game to the Cincinnati Bengals, making their record 9-1. They never made it to the Superbowl.

Aside from these curses, famous athletes have some of the more interesting rituals. Michael Jordan always wore his blue North Carolina shorts under his Bulls uniform. New York Mets pitcher Terk Wendell brushes his teeth and eats licorice between every inning. He also jumps

over the first and third base lines every time he enters or leaves the field. Baseball player Wade Boggs only ate chicken on game day and drew a symbol meaning "To Life" in the dirt before every at bat. Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra gets dressed the same way everyday, steps on each dugout step with both feet and always sits in the same spot in the dugout.

Some well known superstitions in sports today are that wiping the soles of your shoes during a basketball game or tapping the goalie on his shin pads before a hockey game will bring good luck.

Whether you eat chocolate chip pancakes and eggs over easy before every meet, dance to a CD in the bathroom stall before every race or just have a lucky piece of clothing, remember, you are not the only one who does it and it's OK to believe in these things, whether they really work or not.

## Unusual sport makes student unique

Leslie Herring  
*Staff Writer*

Tennis, softball, golf, volleyball, basketball, soccer, cross country, track and field, and swim and dive are all sports that are offered at STA. Rowing is not and has never been among these sports, and Senior Stephanie Hardacre would like to keep it that way.

"It sound really mean, but I like that rowing is not offered here," said Hardacre. "I think if it was offered here then it would become popular and I like that it is something unique that I can do that is separate from STA." Rowing is the sport where

a team uses oars to propel themselves to race down a body of water. The first two college teams to compete in rowing at the varsity levels were Harvard and Yale in 1898. The first women's team was at Wellesley College, however it was offered as an intramural sport. Rowing was long considered a "man's sport." But, in the 1976 Olympics, women were allowed to compete in the rowing races.

Although the sport itself has been around for a very long time, women's rowing really caught on after the 1976 Olympics. Since 1996 the number of colleges in the US that offer women's row-

ing has doubled. However, it is not only a college sport.

Hardacre has been in the Kansas City Rowing Club (KCRC) for three years. She enjoys the team aspect of the sport.

"The team is so important in rowing," said Hardacre. "You really have to be in tune and be aware of your teammates. If you're not all there, the team doesn't work and everything falls apart."

Hardacre's team members are always changing.

"There are two parts in KCRC," said Hardacre. "The juniors and the masters, so people are always going back and forth

between the teams."

Hardacre practices down on the Caw River Monday through Saturday. In the summer they practice from 5:30-7:30 and during the school year the team practices after school. Hardacre is the only St. Teresa's girl on her team.

"People come from all over," said Hardacre. "There's people from Park Hill, Shawnee; all over the city."

Most of all Hardacre really enjoys participating in the sport and being unique because of it.

"I like rowing because it is unique," said Hardacre. "And I think it is just really fun."

# State champs back in action

Allison Jaros  
*Assistant Photo Editor*

The day after Presidents Day STA students celebrated their state champion soccer team with a day off school. But the big question on everyone's mind is whether the team can do it again in 2004, especially after loosing ten varsity players.

"It's going to be really, really hard to step up this year," said Senior Megan O'Donnell.

Despite the difficulties the soccer team has an optimistic view of this year's season.

"There is a lot of potential in the team," said Freshman Lauren Fowlkes. "Expectations should be as high as previous years."

But they do recognize the difficulties they will have to work through. They even seem to be excited about it.

"It will be a lot of fun because it will be a challenge, definitely" said Fowlkes.

Fowlkes is looking forward to her first year on a high-school team. She expects it to be fun, since she already knows a lot of the girls like Junior Katie Kelly who plays on a club team with her.

"It will be difficult, but I think we're all talented enough to make up for what we lost," said Kelly.

These difficulties include filling in the huge hole in the offensive and mid-field since the ten seniors that the team lost were mostly in forward or mid-field positions.

"We lost our forwards basically, and the heart of our team, our center-mid," said O'Donnell.

To help fill these gaps new players will have to be added as well as reshuffling the returning team. For example, Kelly expects to be playing forward this year, even though she was an outside mid-fielder last year.

Coach Scott Segal is the man in charge of guiding the team through these changes and selecting the new players.

"I don't know what he has up his sleeve, but we'll see how it pans out," said O'Donnell.

His plans do include choosing new players for the team, like Freshman Lauren Fowlkes and other students from the JV team. "There are some really good players on JV that I think should fill those spots," said Kelly.

The team will be working on coping with the changes in other ways as well, such as, changing formation and creating a new attacking pattern.

"There'll be difficulty in getting used to the new attacking force," said Kelly. "But we'll be focusing on offense and the ways in which the new formations will help us score."

And scoring is what they have to do if they want to live up to last year's season.

"[This year's season] will be more difficult because people get pumped to play us because they know we won," said Kelly. "A lot of teams will play their best game against us."

The schedule for the soccer team this year is very difficult since they will be playing the best schools in the Kansas City area

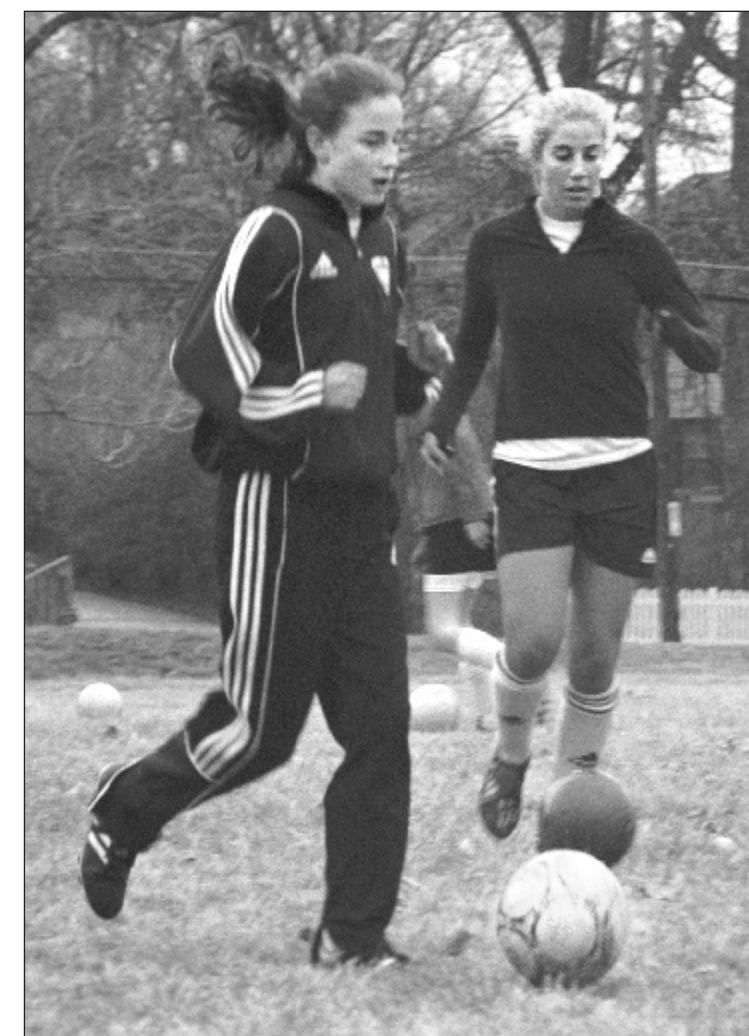


photo by Allison Jaros

Varsity and Junior varsity freshmen Lauren Fowlkes and Rosemary Neenan warm up on the first day of practice, and even making a couple of trips to St. Louis. All of these schools are preparing their best game to face the state champs.

"It seems like all the other teams around here will be out to get us," said Fowlkes.

The team's experience, in areas like their strong returning defense, should help them in facing these

challenges.

At this point, how the team's reputation, experience, and changes affect the season can only be speculated. But as O'Donnell says, "everyone expects it to be harder."

So their game plan? Just to play as a team, according to O'Donnell.

## March madness

(continued from page 2)

will have events such as pep rallies, luncheons and watch parties to show support for the Jayhawks.

"Wherever KU plays in the tournament the Alumni Association superceded by the Alumni Association in Lawrence will put on a great supportive show," said Briley.

To add to the atmosphere of the NCAA tournament in Kansas City, Pistilli, as a businessman, has plans for the Marriott to provide fun and excitement for fans and the city.

"We're working on some

surprises. We definitely want to build some excitement," said Pistilli. "We're going to take a look at some of the uniforms that our staff wears to get into a basketball theme. We'll look at some other things for downtown that will hopefully put Kansas City on the map as far as basketball, so we're looking to have some fun."

Both Gray and Pistilli are excited to have the tournament in Kansas City and are considering it to be an opportunity for the city to do a good job in order to show the NCAA that Kansas City is capable of hosting events like it in the future. Both view these events as prime sports and business

opportunities for Kansas City. "The NCAA first round regional that we have is a very prestigious event for Kansas City to get," said Pistilli. "Anything involving the NCAA is good and with the basketball tradition that Kansas City has and the many years of success that Kansas City has had with the NCAA, we are very fortunate to get this first round tournament in Kansas City."

Gray also considers the success of plans for a new downtown arena that would be larger than Kemper Arena, to be an important factor for Kansas City to get events like the NCAA and Big XII tournaments in the future.

"It certainly is getting much more competitive and there is a lot more at stake for these kinds of events," said Gray. "We're continuing to work very hard on our new downtown arena which we think we have to have in the future to be able to bid and participate on these kinds of events and activities."

Gray and Pistilli hope that Kansas City's role in this year's NCAA tournament will advance Kansas City's greater sports agenda and opportunities.

"March is basketball month in Kansas City and we want to keep up the tradition and thank the NCAA for choosing Kansas City," Pistilli said.

## Star Athlete

Laura Prather

Molly Huber  
*Staff Writer*

She has been dancing for almost 14 years. She practices ballet upwards of 15 hours a week, and goes through a pair of \$60 pointe shoes every two. Her friends at the Kansas City Ballet call her "Fierce Ballerina" because of her intense dedication to ballet, but her classmates at STA know her as Senior Laura Prather.



Prather was enrolled in Priscilla and Dana's Dance School at the age of five. She danced there until about five years ago, when she transferred to the Kansas City Ballet, and she now works on improving her ballet and jazz skills there six days a week. Prather also assists in teaching a pre-kindergarten ballet class and is a student apprentice within the company. She is on a full scholarship, meaning she does not have to pay tuition at Kansas City Ballet. In addition, Prather gets paid for her performances and is able to rehearse with the company.

Prather said that it was originally her mother's decision that she become a dancer. Her career began with tap, jazz and ballet lessons, but she fell in love with ballet and decided to stick with it.

While with Priscilla and Dana's School of Dance, Prather danced in national competitions annually. In the fifth grade, Prather got the opportunity to travel to Texas, where she and approximately 20 other girls performed a jazz routine to "Chicos y Chicas" and won first place overall.

Prather has performed in the Kansas City Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" for the past five years in the Flower and Snow Corps and has danced in Chinese and Spanish variations of the play as well. She also planned to perform in a production of "Giselle" last fall, but she sprained her ankle dancing and was unable.

"Dancing is really demanding and very intense," said Prather. "Dancers have to work really hard and push themselves, but take care of themselves as well so they don't get injured like I did."

In the future, Prather plans to attend college at University of Missouri-Kansas City or Butler University to major in dance performance. She then hopes to join a dance company.

"During college I'm going to work really hard to become a professional ballerina," said Prather. "That's what I aspire to be, so that's what I'm going for. I can't imagine doing anything else."

Prather's next performance with the Kansas City Ballet takes place in May and it will feature the students within the company presenting various pieces.

## What's been going on in the world of sports

### Varsity Basketball

• STA varsity basketball players finished 2nd in districts, losing against Sion on Feb. 27, at Raytown high school with a score of 67-53. The team record was 18-10.

### Soccer

• 3/25- Miego 4:00  
• 4/5- SME 4:00  
• 4/6-Olathe East 5:00  
• 4/12- SION- 4:00  
• 4/16- St. Joseph's Academy TBA  
• 4/20- Maryville 4:00  
• 4/22- BVNW 4:00  
• 4/26- Olathe South 4:00  
• 4/28- St. Pius 4:00

### Swim/Dive Team

• 3/23-SME 4:00  
• 3/25-SMN 4:00  
• 3/26-BSS 4:00  
• 3/27-BSS 4:00  
• 3/30-Center 4:00  
• 4/2-Park Hill 4:00  
• 4/3-Park Hill 4:00  
• 4/13-Washington 4:00  
• 4/16 & 4/17- MO/KS Invitational TBA

### Track & Field

• 3/27- Liberty 9:30 a.m.  
• 4/2- Wyandotte 3:30  
• 4/6- Turner 3:30  
• 4/9- Miego 3:30  
• 4/13- Belton 4:15  
• 4/14- O'Hara 3:30  
• 4/20- Raytown South 3:30  
• 4/24- Lee's Summit 12:00  
• 4/27- Platte County 4:00



# Beyond elephants & donkeys

## A look at America's underdog parties

Colleen Slentz  
Staff Writer

Most Americans are fairly familiar with the two main political parties (the Democrats and the Republicans), but few can name one or more of the major third parties.

Three of the most prominent alternative political parties in America today are the Green Party of the United States, the Libertarian Party and the Socialist Party USA.

The Green Party is a grassroots party that has grown in press coverage ever since they convinced consumer advocate Ralph Nader to run as their candidate in 2000. They are an environmentalist, non-violent, leftist confederation of state Green Parties.

The Libertarian Party believes in complete individual liberty and supports total economic freedom. Their philosophy: "That government is best which governs least." (Jefferson)

The Socialist Party is a party of democratic socialists, almost indistinguishable from the left-wing faction of the Democratic Party.

While the Green, Libertarian and Socialist Parties are similar in that they all must fight for recognition, many of their views are very different.

Here are three examples:

### Education

The Green Party proposes tuition-free post secondary (college) public education. They also support funding for art education and activities in every school curriculum.

Libertarians believe that government control is causing the poor quality of education in public schools. The Libertarian Party seeks to eliminate the



Department of Education and transfer the control of education to parents and teachers.

The Socialist Party wants fewer students per teacher and opposes tying teachers' pay to their students' performance. They also support public childcare starting from infancy and public education starting at age three. They, like the Green Party, call for tuition-free post secondary public education.

### Health Care

The Green Party endorses national health insurance with universal access for all. The Greens believe it is the responsibility of the individual to focus on preventative care, including wellness education, diet and exercise. Supporting a wide range of alternative medicine, such as herbal therapy, homeopathy and acupuncture is also a part of the Greens' plan.

The Libertarian Party plans to privatize Medicare and Medicaid. Libertarians believe that the Medicare/Medicaid system needs drastic reformation, to give patients more flexibility when choosing private health care. They also plan to replace the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with voluntary certification by a private-sector organization, thereby correcting the harm done to health care costs by the FDA.

The Socialist Party calls for a health care system that emphasizes preventing diseases, full funding of AIDS research and a publicly funded National Health Program that has both standard and alternative treatments for all.

### Foreign Policy

The Green Party proposes that military spending be cut by 50% over the next ten years. They support the abolition of nuclear weapons and propose that the United States abide by World Court (the UN's principal judicial court) decisions.

The Libertarian Party proposes that America stop acting as the world's policeman, and resist efforts by the United Nations (UN) to use America's forces in 'peace-keeping' efforts around the world. Libertarians advocate that America not assist any other country with the financing of that country's military.

The Socialist Party would demand that America end its 'dominion' of the UN, for an end to veto power in the UN and an end to permanent membership on the Security Council. They would also call for the disbanding of NATO and the closure of all overseas military bases. Abolishing the CIA and the National Security Agency are also part of the Socialist agenda.

These third parties, along with many others, receive less coverage by the media than the Democratic and Republican Parties receive. They don't get the same national attention.

There are, however, exceptions. The Reform Party, for example, gained attention when Ross Perot ran in 1992, as did the Green Party when Ralph Nader ran in 2000.

Without such attention from the mainstream media on a regular basis, the third parties' leaders, agendas and positions tend to be overwhelmed by those of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

## Bright Ideas beyond cool



Katy Corogenes and  
Rose Dillon

Page Editor and Staff Writer

*Watching a lava lamp, I am astounded and mesmerized. My eyes glaze over, I don't do my homework, I don't eat dinner, and I don't go to sleep. I just - whoooooa.*

Lava. Lamps. Rock. Hardcore. They are amazing. The very idea that someone would figure out that wax floats when it's hot and sinks when it's cold is awesome. And then, they bottled it and put a light bulb underneath it so hippies and yuppies alike could watch, hypnotized. Pure genius.

As we were saying, lighting has a huge effect on mood. If there's not enough light in the room, your eyes get tired and you get depressed. But that problem is easily solved with ... track lighting!

With track lighting, you just slide the lights along the track and position the light to draw attention to your favorite macaroni picture. It makes shadowy corners obsolete, which is great, if that's what you want.

However, if mood lighting is what you're going for, twinkle lights are perfect. They make the room pleasantly dark. You can still see well enough to get around, but your date will never see that huge zit that appeared an hour before he showed up. Plus, some of them come in cool shapes, like hibiscus, chili peppers, or hula girls.

And then there's the black light. Absolutely psychedelic. Nothing livens up an event like a black light. Its virtu-

ally universal. Have you ever played black light chess? Trust us, you aren't a true nerd until you have experienced the thrill of claiming checkmate with your electric blue queen. Your teeth glow, your clothes glow and white looks blue. It makes me want to grab a strobe and throw a rave right there in my bedroom.

Which brings us to the strobe light. It's crazy blinking changes my brain chemistry and makes me want to throw another rave. Plug in a fog machine and you've just entered another party dimension. Hand me my glow stick!

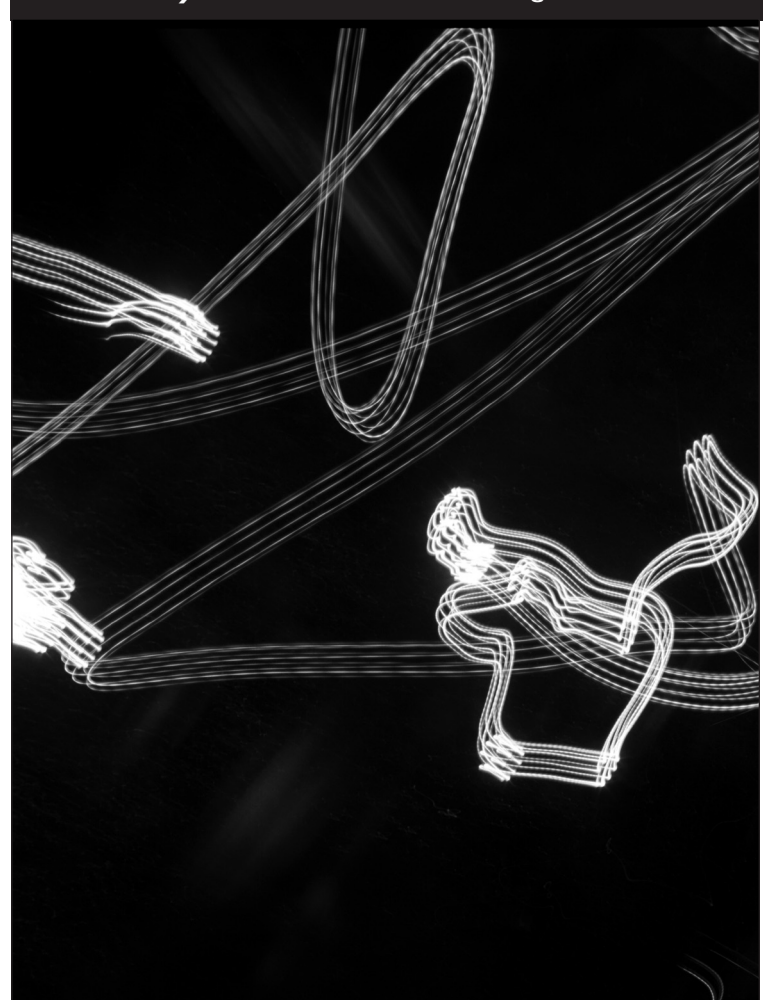
Light fixtures come in so many different shapes and sizes, but when choosing your next piece of illumination, keep in mind the genius of the light switch. Should it have dimmer options, or would you rather clap on, clap off? Of course the pull cord is a classic. We here at Beyond Cool prefer the rolling switch. It takes a little work to get it started, but after a few seconds you are basking in the warm glow of an incandescent lamp. Of course, for those lazy bums there is the no-hassle and portable tap light: just a slight flick of the wrist and then there was light.

Just think of where we would be without the light bulb. Imagine doing your homework by firelight, like Dr. Joe did. So next time you snuggle up to sleep under your Hello Kitty sheets with the glow of your teletubbies night light, say a little prayer for ol' Thomas Edison.

a photo column

## Reflected

by Rachel Straughn



Dancing lights

## Candidates' Corner : Nader goes it alone for 2004 bid

Colleen Slentz  
Staff Writer

Ralph Nader was born in Connecticut on Feb. 27, 1934. He earned magna cum laude honors from Princeton University and a Bachelor of Law with distinction from Harvard University.

Nader is best known for his position as a consumer advocate. He also worked as a lawyer for years, and has authored and co-authored many books.

Nader was a presidential candidate in 2000 for the Green Party. He received 2.7% of the

national vote, falling short of the 5% needed to gain government funding for the Greens in the 2004 election. However, he did stronger than the average third party candidate's.

Many blame Nader for the win of President George W. Bush, claiming that he drew votes away from Al Gore, the Democratic nominee.

Nader has decided to run as an independent in the 2004 presidential race.

He chose not to be a Green Party candidate this year, because the Green convention is held in June. Nader feels that

is too late to start a campaign.

Nader now faces the challenge of getting his name on the presidential ballot. He must get a total of about 1.5 million signatures to get on the ballots of all fifty states.

The same democrats who blame Nader for tipping the scales in favor of Bush urge Nader not to run for president this year. Nader will run despite this criticism.

He is convinced that, even as an independent, he can rescue the White House from the corporate interests that he says dominate both parties.