

THE DART

teen hangouts

"What is there to do in Kansas City?" students ask one another with a huff of frustration while planning their Friday nights.

This issue of the Dart student newspaper is our answer. The current Journalism students at St. Teresa's Academy contributed infoboxes, headlines, stories and photographs to describe teen hangouts around the metro area.

Inside you'll read about controversial dance halls and bible studies. You can find out the details about coffee houses and ice cream parlors. The variety reflects the students' interests and the number of things to do around Kansas City.

While the content was created by Journalism students, the Dart newspaper staff edited, arranged and designed the issue including the cover and back page graphic.

This issue can be a kind of Friday night reference book for students. Keep it close for that moment when someone thinks there isn't anything to do in Kansas City.



photo by Jessica Closson

STA Sophomore Bree Bolton reads *The Pitch* on a Sunday afternoon while sitting at Broadway Café. Bolton comes to Broadway Café regularly to buy coffee and hang out with friends. For more, see page 12.

- Arizona Trading Company
- Rhonda's Total Technique and Dance
- Crossroads Art Shows
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- Incared-A-Bowl
- Cure' of Ars Youth Group
- Kemper Arena
- and Noble

AMC Town Center as crowded as ever for teens

Colleen Owens
Staff Writer

The Town Center AMC Theater, located on 11701 Nall Avenue in Leawood, is one of Kansas City's more popular destinations for teens, which brings more economic success to the area, but not everyone seems to be thrilled.

With 2,500 seats, 20 theaters and prices that range from \$6.50 to \$8.50, AMC brings in more business than local tourist attractions.

"About 1,200 people shuffle in and out in a span of an hour and a half," said AMC worker Corbin Craboe.

With all of this success, is everyone happy? Are the teen crowds too overwhelming or are the theater regulations too restrictive? Teenagers often feel like their rights are being taken away by managers and their good time is ruined, even when they have been following the rules. Some people feel threatened by this ambush of youths who can often make too many distractions.

"There has to be a place where teens hang out, just as long as they are not disruptive," said Freshman Andrea Johnson. "Sometimes we go to watch movies and sometimes we go because guys are there and it's hard to see movies at the Plaza because of their strict rules."

Teenagers throughout Kansas City used to flock to the Cinemark on the Plaza but, because of its new rules limiting when teens can come, they have grown accustomed to Town Center's atmosphere. To corral this sudden burst of business, police officers are placed around the scene.

"We have found that the police officers prove very effective when it comes to enforcing the rules we have set," said Craboe.

Craboe seemed rather optimistic, stating that teens will be teens and there is not much to complain about because teenagers are the theater's biggest consumers. Although it is always expected to receive some unwanted crowds, most of it is all in good fun.

On the other hand, many have gotten annoyed because of a handful of loud-mouthed, "angst ridden hooligans" who kept kicking the seat in front of them and tossing popcorn every which way. Freshman Natalie Shepard has experienced these kinds of viewers and agrees they give teens a bad reputation.

"I get just as annoyed as the next guy. Sometimes I feel like turning around and smacking someone," said Shepard.

"There is a difference between having fun and being a disturbance," said Craboe.

The debate will continue until the teens prove that their rights are being taken advantage of or until the theater can prove their actions are nothing more than an attempt to keep everyone safe.

Craboe states that movies are for everyone, the young and old alike and whether the Town Center AMC exudes fairness or not, after a night on the town no one can truly argue about a Saturday night at the movies.



photo by Colleen Owens

Comets games a kick



photo by Nicole Farley

Comets forward Dino Delevski winds up on a restart goal against the Cleveland Force defense. This put the Comets up 3-2 late in the second quarter.

Nicole Farley
Staff Writer

The lights at Kemper Arena dim. An opening video blazes across the scoreboard like the hot new movie preview at a local theater. The electric atmosphere charges the human tunnel on the field. Music blares through the arena so loudly that fans cannot hear themselves talk. Anticipation hangs in the air, as fans bounce in their seats and players jump around behind the goal before entering onto the field. The voice of announcer Mr. Ed Bishop suddenly booms across the speaker, "And now, YOUR Kansas City Comets!"

The Comets are Kansas City's indoor soccer team. Comets fans say they are very well informed and dedicated to their sport, and are excited to spread the word about the Comets and the Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL). Last season, the Comets averaged about 5,400 people per game. In the 1980's, soon after the team's arrival in Kansas City, attendance was more than twice that number.

"It's hard to draw fans out to a sport they're not familiar with," said Mr. Paul Kimmerly, a long-time season-ticket holder. The indoor game is known for having more scoring and being faster-paced than outdoor soccer. High action is something that attracts many first-time fans.

"Have you ever seen human pinball before?" laughed Mr. Nick Vasos, Comets

radio and television announcer of the last eight years.

Incentives to attend Comets games include low ticket costs (prices range, but an average seat is \$12) and promotional nights. Each of the eighteen home games which are normally Friday and Saturday nights at 7:35 p.m. features some type of entertainment or giveaway. The Annual Mascot Game consistently draws large crowds and is a favorite of many fans. It pits various food characters and KC mascots against each other in a faux soccer game.

"It's a lot of fun everybody can get enjoyment out of that!" said Vasos with a smile. "I still crack up and laugh. The Mongolian beef guy runs into the Pillsbury Doughboy."

Ms. Sharon Hom, a long-time season-ticket holder of the Comets and the Wizards, Kansas City's outdoor soccer team, agreed.

"It's just so funny to watch all these characters running around the field when half of them can't even move normally, much less chasing a ball," said Hom.

Vasos said games like the Mascot game which draw larger crowds are good for the team because big crowds energize the players.

"The players are very appreciative of all of the fans [...], and they play for every single one," Vasos said. "And if it's a big crowd, then usually, more times than not,

you see a good game from both sides!"

Comets forward Mr. Jamar Beasley agreed that a large home crowd can help players on the field. However, Beasley said players must learn how to concentrate on the game and tune the crowd out.

"There's some things in the game that the crowd can't help you with," Beasley said.

The Comets' win-loss record has benefited from improved concentration on the field. Some fans feel that the team's 15-19 record is not a good indication of the team's talent. Many of those nineteen losses came at the beginning of the season, when players were injured and the many new players were still getting to know each other.

After games, fans have the opportunity to meet players or to get an autograph. People head downstairs to wait for the team to come out from the locker rooms. Many people consider the accessibility to players unique, and some say this could be an incentive for people to attend games.

While there are many factors and promotions that attract new fans, Beasley uses a simpler approach in encouraging people to be open-minded about the indoor game.

"Well...if you wanna watch 'em play soccer...come and watch us!" he said with an enthusiastic grin. "I have yet to meet someone who has seen a game for the first time that didn't like it."

Panera popular for teens

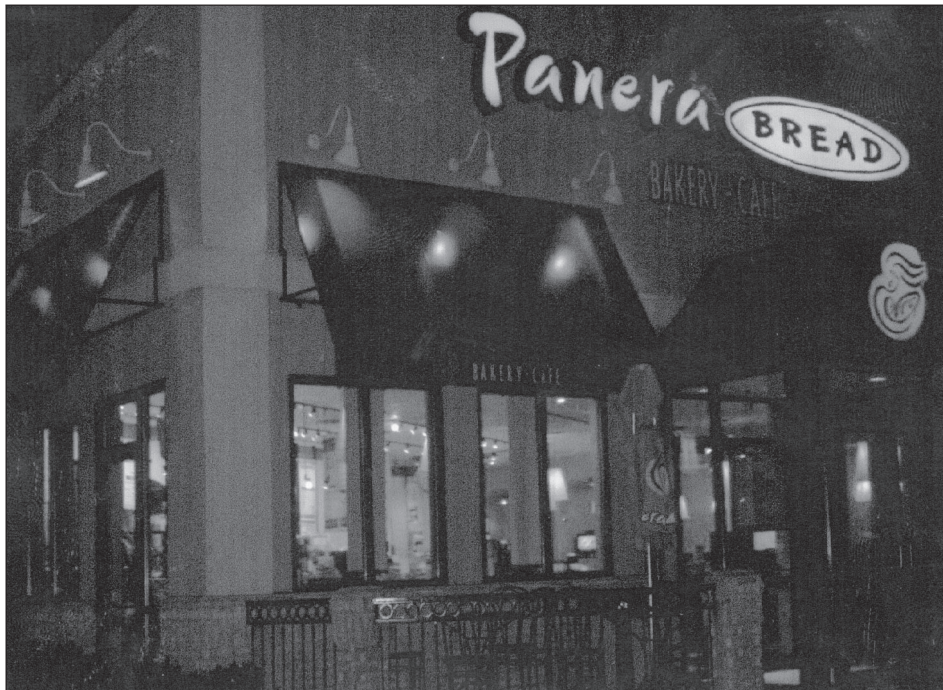


photo by Brynne Lee

Panera at Town Center

Where?
11751 Nall Avenue, Leawood, Kansas
When?
Monday -- Thursday 6:30 a.m. -- 8 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 6:30 a.m. -- 9p.m.
Sunday 7:30a.m. -- 7p.m.

Why?
Teens go here because it is in a convenient location right across the street from the movie theatre. Teens could eat there before or after their movie easily. The attraction is a sit down restaurant which has items like soup, salad, and hearty sandwiches. There is something for everyone. You might even run into someone you know.

Who?
There are no age restrictions to this eating restaurant. Yes, the people here could share interests in taste buds.
Offbeat Fact
They call your name on an intercom to

Juice Stop blends up new ideas to improve hangout

Juice Stop

Who?
Teenagers, who need a healthy snack in the Kansas City area.

When?
Monday -- Friday 7:00am -- 8:00pm
Saturday 8:00am -- 7:00pm
Sunday 9:00am -- 6:00pm

Where?
6974 Mission Road, Shawnee, KS
913-831-1984

Why?
There is outside seating in the summer to sit and have fun. Plus Starbucks and TCBY Ice Cream is next door.

Offbeat Fact
At every Juice Stop there is a folder containing each smoothie and its nutrition facts, like calories and sugars.



photo by Claire Foley

Dillion Baird, 17, from left, Erica Hudfon, 17, and Erin Walker, 16, hang out at Juice Stop on Sunday, March 28. They all attend Shawnee Mission East H.S.

On the road with friends: A look at teen driving

Mallory Castro
Staff Writer

How often do you find yourself in the car? More and more teens get their licenses every week, making more and more of them out driving around with their friends. Teens usually drive the most on the weekends, trying to find something to do or trying to find a place to go.

"My friends and I spend around 5 hours in the car on weekends just hanging out," said Sophomore Margaret Cameron.

Driving is one of the first tastes of freedom. Naturally, they are going to take advantage of it. They can be themselves with their friends without the intimidation of parents. Teens enjoy being with their friends and having a place to talk.

"I guess you just feel more secluded and safe with your friends in the car," said Sophomore Jessie Bukaty.

Being in the car with your friends is

fun, until it comes time to pick who gets to drive everyone around. People can get sick of driving all the time, so some split the driving time. This way, not just one person gets stuck doing all the driving.

"We usually split the time, depending on where we are going and how many people there are," said Bukaty.

Since not everyone can drive or has a car, gas money can be a problem. Even when splitting the driving between friends, gas can be wasted. According to some teens, gas money really is not an issue because everyone is usually willing to pay if they have the money.

"I don't mind paying my friend's gas money because they are the ones spending their time and money driving me around," said Sophomore Sara Petrus.

On the weekends teens often make plans to do something fun with their friends, but these plans sometimes fall through. When this happens, just driving around seems to be one of the first solu-

tions.

When driving around is the main event, people tend to try and find something to occupy themselves. Sometimes showing off your car can be occupying enough, but others that don't have a nice car, or no car, at all don't seem to care.

"My car isn't really that nice, but it's a good car for a teenager I guess," said Sophomore Lucy Duethman. "I have a 1997 Ford Taurus."

Another common thing to do in a car is to look at people walking or to look at people in the other cars.

"We try and drive wherever the guys are," said Cameron.

For teens this is a way to see hot guys and girls.

"Of course, we always like to see hot girls," said Sophomore Josh Smith of Shawnee Mission West.

Driving around doesn't really consist of one set location. Ward Parkway, the Plaza, and around movies theaters are some of the more popular locations for teens to drive.

"We just try and go where the guys are, like to theaters, parks and people's houses," said Petrus.

Parents worry about teen drivers. Parents and their kids fight about trust, along with their high insurance. However, most parents trust their kids enough to let them go driving with their friends. They believe their kids are good, safe drivers.

"All but my son Thomas, 21, are good drivers," said parent John Henggeler, father of four drivers. "Even the insurance company would agree with me on that."

Teen drivers are more likely to get into a motor vehicle accident than adults. This statistic causes parents to worry about their children while they are out. This age group makes up only 7% of licensed drivers, but it suffers 14% of fatalities and 20% of all reported vehicle accidents.

Keeping in contact while out and about is another thing that parents expect their kids to do. This usually cuts down on the worry and raises the trust level between parents and children.

"If they keep in contact I feel more comfortable with them driving around," said Henggeler.

The car has become one of the most common places for teenagers today. It's natural for them to hang out there because it's a simple solution to an un-

Latteland puts unique spin on coffeehouse

Mary Jean Schrader
Staff Writer

Teens are familiar with the feeling of boredom. They have been to the mall and the movie theaters a number of times and want something different than the norm.

Latteland is a different hangout that teens come to get the smoothies that most coffeehouses don't carry. It is located on 4771 Jefferson Street, which is down the street from the Palace movie theaters. Latteland is a place for all ages to buy a wide variety of drinks. This local coffeehouse is different than the popular Starbucks.

Latteland is locally owned with only two small locations on the Plaza. The coffeehouse opens early and closes late for all to come and enjoy. There is outside seating, with many chairs and tables for customers to sit and enjoy.

"I like Latteland because it's open pretty late and I like it better than Starbucks," said Junior Michaela McKenny.

Many said that they are tired of the chains and want a different place to go.

"To me Latteland is a place for different kinds of drinks," said thirteen-year-old Elizabeth Tilson. "I like the different drinks Latteland has, like the smoothies that Starbucks doesn't have."

Latteland offers smoothies along with the coffee drinks. According to Nathan McLeod, an employee at Latteland, these smoothies are the teens' favorite drinks. McLeod said that the Pink Door smoothie is the most popular. The smoothies are one of the things that draw teens to Latteland.

"The Coconut Groove smoothie without coconut is good," said Tilson. "I get it every time."

For most young adults coffee is not their favorite drink. With both coffee and smoothies, it gives young kids more of a choice as to what they want.

So many teens do sports or are active and smoothies can be beneficial drinks.

"I like to go to Latteland, get the Pink Door smoothie and shop on the Plaza," said Freshman Betsy McKenny.

Although the smoothies are very popular and healthy, they can be a little pricey. They range from about four to five dollars which is kind of expensive for young people.

"The smoothies are expensive for me, which means I can't get one everyday," said Tilson. "What I like to do is split them with a friend."

Expensive or not, Tilson says smoothies taste great and Latteland is a good place to hang out.

Latteland is not one of those places where kids are very loud and noisy according to McLeod.

"Sometimes [teens] are a little loud and laugh, but nothing that is a problem," said McLeod. "The most popular time for teens to come is at night."

Latteland offers so much to kids looking for a new hangout. Although, it is not the usual place to find young adults, Latteland is one of a kind in many kids' opinions.

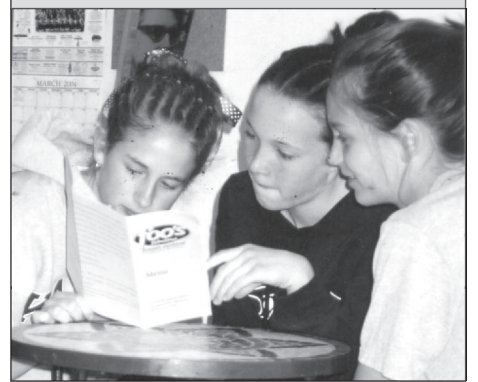


photo by Mary Jean Schrader

New additions lure teens to Incred-a-bowl

Erin Price
Staff Writer

Incred-a-Bowl, a noisy 65,000 square-foot building, was built by former Royals pitcher Danny Jackson and his wife, Jody Jackson, six and a half years ago. It is located at 8500 W. 151st Street in Overland Park, Kansas. Incred-a-Bowl has kept up with the changing interests of its customers by taking the arcade out in favor of Laser Storm, a mini laser tag and Tiki Hutt Mini Putt, a miniature golf course.

"The place changes with the times," said Ms. Nancy Thompson, who has been working at Incred-a-Bowl for six and a half years.

The main attraction is bowling, which is becoming popular for families and teenagers. Incred-a-Bowl includes a variety of activities for customers. It has bowling, cosmic bowling, leagues for all ages, a Pro Shop, Laser Storm, Tiki Hutt Mini Putt, and an area to get snacks. There are restaurants, fast food places, a gas station, and many other stores near Incred-a-Bowl like Burger King, Sonic and CCC's City Broiler.

Thompson sees more mothers and children at Incred-a-Bowl, although all types of people attend.

"We get people from all walks of life," said Thompson.

According to Thompson, Incred-a-Bowl gets large crowds on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Because of the location of Incred-a-Bowl, it has no competition. There are no big entertainment businesses in their area. However, they still advertise their business by giving free game passes through schools, by word of mouth, advertisements on AMC movie screens and on cable television.

Mr. Tom Miller, the manager for five and a half years, keeps Incred-a-Bowl's environment safe and comfortable by making sure the staff is well-informed on important matters for its operations.

"I have to keep everybody on the same page so things don't get lost," said Miller.

Incred-a-Bowl has regular bowling from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sundays through Wednesdays, Thursdays from nine a.m. to 11 p.m., Fridays from nine a.m. to nine p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Cosmic Bowling, where bowlers can play in the dark with neon pins and balls, is offered on Fridays at nine pm to one a.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 p.m. to one a.m. However, times may change due to holidays.

The regular fee for bowling is \$3.85 a game and the shoes cost \$2.70 per person. The price for Friday Cosmic Bowling is \$14 and Saturday Cosmic Bowling is \$16. Incred-a-Bowl offers many other deals.

The price of golfing is \$5.75 per round. Laser tag costs \$5 for 10 minutes, \$42.50 for a 10 game pass and \$75 for a 20 game pass. Occasionally the business has special deals for customers. Incred-a-Bowl allows customers to pay a set price to go laser tagging, and to play miniature golf for a discount. Sometimes the deals change.

"It is a good place to go bowling," said Sophomore Rosalyn Anderson. "They have glow in the dark bowling, prizes if you hit the front red pin, nice computers, and it's newer."

Teenagers hangout at Incred-a-Bowl because it is comfortable, inviting, open late, and it is fun.



photo by Erin Price

Dom Leto, Blue Valley High school student, works Saturday at Incred-a-Bowl.

Mall attracts KC teens

Laura Strickland
Staff Writer

Oak Park Mall has been a popular place for teens and has been serving the Kansas City Metropolitan Area for over 25 years. Oak Park Mall is located at 95th and Quivira and is open daily Monday through Saturday 9 A.M. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 12 P.M. to 6 p.m. According to Social Relations Coordinator of Oak Park Mall Ms. Stacy Sheelk, the mall is the largest in Kansas City. Located in suburban Overland Park, the mall is a year-round indoor shopping destination that has over 185 shops.

Ms. Kathryn Hembree comes to Oak Park Mall because of its variety of stores.

"They have shops that other malls don't have," said Hembree.

Some of these exclusive shops include Club Libby Lu, Arden B, and Build-a-Bear.

The two-story mall offers many departments stores including Nordstrom, Dillard's and JC Penny's. Not only does Oak Park Mall offer retail stores, but it also provides restaurants, a food court, an indoor game park and a soft play area for children.

Sheelk said that the busiest time of the year for the mall is around the fourth quarter, during October, November, and December due to holiday shopping. The heaviest shopping usually begins around the weekend after Thanksgiving and ends approximately a week after New Year's Day.

"Teens come to Oak Park Mall for many reasons.

"[Oak Park Mall] is the biggest mall except for Independence Center," said Sophomore Claire Rachel. "It has many stores that I shop at all in one place."

Rachel likes the convenience of the location. Although she said the mall is not exactly in her neighborhood, she prefers to shop at Oak Park Mall rather than Independence Center.

Sophomores Rachel and Amanda Trouba usually shop at Oak Park Mall once or twice a month for no more than two hours at a time. Although both of them have their own style, they prefer to shop with their friends or mom rather than shop alone. Both shoppers find it a great way to spend time with friends.

Rachel likes the convenience of a vast number of stores in a condensed area.

"All the stores are there and it's easy to get from one store to another," said Rachel.

According to Sheelk, many stores including Hollister Co., Abercrombie and Fitch and American Eagle Outfitters are directed towards teens.



photo by Laura Strickland

People walk into Oak Park Mall between Rainforest Cafe and Panera Bread to shop and dine.

Rachel said that her favorite restaurant in Oak Park Mall is Rainforest Cafe because the restaurant is very appetizing and has great food like chicken fingers. Rachel dislikes the long waits at the restaurant, but usually bears them.

Along with eating at her favorite restaurant, Claire often visits Nordstrom, American Eagle Outfitters and Bath and Body Works because the items in the store appeal to her and fit her style.

Trouba enjoys the atmosphere of the mall. "It's very friendly and a great place to be," said Trouba.

Sheelk said many teens choose Oak Park Mall over the other area malls because it is located in a very safe and secure area and there is a low crime rate at the mall.

She also said many parents feel comfortable dropping their children off to shop on their own because of its safe environment.

According to Sheelk, there are not many disruptions, which is why teens feel safe shopping at Oak Park Mall.

Sheelk also said that teens are a very important part of the mall's income.

"The teens are one of the best buying powers here and are a huge part of our income," said Sheelk.

Oak Park Mall is not just an attraction for teens, but it is also for people of all ages. "I see a variety of people from teens to adults," said Trouba.

Although Oak Park Mall is very popular among teens, some teens continue to shop there but are agitated by the crowds.

"[Oak Park Mall] is really crowded and hectic," said Rachel.

Sheelk said that the few complaints she does receive concern loitering. The mall prefers teens to be shopping, eating and spending money rather than lingering around the mall.

Store targets teen shoppers



photo by Mary-Kate Birt

Freshman Millie Hanger looks at a variety of different styles at Anthropologie.

Anthropologie

Where?
531 JC Nichols Rd. Kansas City, Mo 64112

When?
Mon. - Wed. and Fri.-Sat.
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thurs.
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun.
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Who?
Mainly teens and young adults. The common age would be 15-30.

Off-Beat Fact:
Anthropologie seems to take it upon themselves to provide a different style of clothing for its customers: a natural feel, all the while staying feminine.

Bookstore attracts teens with more than books

Barnes & Noble

Where?
420 W. 47th St., Kansas City, MO 64112

When?
Sun-Sat from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Who?
There are no age restrictions. The people who come to Barnes & Noble share interests in reading and music

Off-Beat Fact:
Barnes & Noble is the only bookstore on the Plaza.



photo by Amanda Morrall

Gossip Girls, one of the hottest chick lit series, can be found in the teen section of Barnes & Noble. Chick lit is becoming more popular among teenage girls.

Cure' of Ars hosts holy teen group on Sunday nights

Abigail Spaniol
Staff Writer

The Catholic Life Center (CLC), a house located across the street from Cure' of Ars Catholic Church, holds many meetings dealing with everyday people and their personal faith lives. The basement of this house has become a teenage hangout, where kids learn about themselves and God. The room is decorated with posters and inspiring Catholic images. Tacked up on the walls are pictures of trips to Chicago, Habitat for Humanity, and other past events.

There are numerous bean bag chairs and a couch to relax on during the intense group discussions. And don't worry, there's more candy, food, and drinks than you could ask for!

"It's a fun and diverse group of kids, we are all very different but we come together to have a good time," said Megan Carmen, a freshman at Sion.

Teenagers from Cure' of Ars Parish gather every Sunday to hang out from 7:15 to 9:00 expecting to learn more about their faith and grow in their relationship with God. They share a unique relationship that allows them to be real with one another and not afraid to be themselves. These teens have a willingness to live out their faith.



photo Abigail Spaniol

Jeremy Heinen, left and Steve Courtney play their guitars while bringing Cure' of Ars' high school youth group closer to God through praise and worship. Loretta Bank assists them.

thing; they're some of my favorite people in the world." He enjoys the relaxed atmosphere where he can be himself.

Jeremy Heinen, Cure' of Ars Youth Director of two and a half years said that different teens react to Youth Group in different ways. For example, some come because it's fun; others come because they learn a lot. However he thinks that Youth Group definitely has a positive impact on their lives. Heinen first felt his call to share the faith with teenagers when he was in college six years ago and started embracing the faith himself.

"The teens realize and learn to recognize that there is more to this world than what meets their eye," said Heinen. "Sex, drugs, and other bad influences are not forever and do not bring you eternal joy like God does."

Seeing the relationships built and how the kids start to change their lives forever are Heinen's favorite aspects of directing a high school youth group.

Heinen also has experience directing the middle school youth group.

"Middle School gatherings are more fun and less learning; there are more interactive games because their attention spans are less," said Heinen. "But there is always a lesson for the night that they can hopefully apply to their everyday lives."

In the group discussions, they make sure to touch on what the Catholic Church teaches on a certain issue. The teens discuss topics like abortion, the Pope, prayer, dating, and issues that they are forced to deal with everyday and need to develop their own opinion about.

"When kids attend Youth Group, they build friendships and relationships with people that they normally wouldn't get at school or any of the other functions they're involved in," said Heinen.

However, some kids only come back every once in a while. Heinen thinks the reason for this is they're busy with homework, family, or they might feel like an outsider at first because they don't know anyone. It might be intimidating to come and see everyone else so comfortable with each other when you don't know anyone.

Jessica Finley, a junior at St. Teresa's says that Youth Group is one of her favorite places to hang out.

"It's pretty cool because they try to include everyone, we all seem to share the same love of God and it's really cool to share something like that," said Finley.

Teens prepare for summer fun at gyms

Riki Allen
Staff Writer

Britney Spears, Jennifer Lopez and Jessica Simpson are on magazines, television, posters and movies, usually baring their perfectly toned arms, legs and stomachs. With these celebrities in mind, many teens flock to the gym, and are seen there sweating and gasping for breath. Local gyms have quickly become a place where teens are seen working hard to grab glances by the pool or perform at their best.

The gym probably isn't the first place one thinks of to go and "chill" on a Friday night. However, there is much to be gained from the gym. It offers the chance to get in physical shape and toned enough to proudly wear a skin-bearing bikini. It allows teens to prepare for sports, enabling them to perform at their peak. With obesity rapidly rising in teens, exercise is important mentally and physically. The gym is a great facility to consider; it is slowly becoming a favorite among today's teens.

"Teens are always hard at work here," said Shane Westione, the General Manager of 24 Hour Fitness.

With summer quickly approaching, teens find that they need the perfect stomach or arms, to look perfect lying out by the pool, according to Anna Beckett a junior at STA.

"I go [to the gym] to get in shape so that I look good in my bathing suit, more than anything else," said Beckett.

Many teens share Beckett's views on the rewards of the gym. Another common motivation for attending the gym is to prepare for the physical strain of sports.

"I usually go to the gym to get ready for sports that I am involved in, like soccer," said STA Junior Alex Hercules.

Though the gym offers teens comfort as well as preparation for their much-cherished sporting activities, it also has many health benefits. According to "Kids Health Magazine," working out at the gym can be a great place to work off the pressures of school, and physical exercise keeps both your body and mind functioning at their peak.

No matter what gym best suits the customer, most have many good qualities. However, there are always aspects to be cautious of. Gyms, like most everything else, are not free. One can decide to pay a fee per visit usually amounting to \$15, or decide to become a member. Depending on which package, membership can be very expensive (especially at large gyms like 24 Hour Fitness) costing \$25 a month for the least amount of privileges.

Gyms may not be the traditional teen hangout in which young people gather around and "party", but they have rapidly grown into a priority for many. Whether the intent is to have washboard abs and toned arms and legs or to perform highly in a sporting event, the gym is a great place to get work done. Attending the gym, though it has many health benefits, is not free. This could lead you astray from your routine.

"I pay about 30 bucks for a membership to my gym, but it's worth it because I just feel good afterwards," said Sophomore Alex Karlsonis of Lee's Summit North.



photo Riki Allen

STA sophomore Jessica Reid works on her abs for summer at Indian Hills Country Club.

Original type of ice cream attracts teens

Alexandra Kurth
Staff Writer

Cold Stone Creamery is a fast-growing teen hangout for the Kansas City area. It is an ice cream shop that serves a smooth and creamy super-premium ice cream, according to their logo. Teens are attracted to Cold Stone because they are able to choose an ice cream flavor, add toppings and then enjoy its taste.

The Cold Stone Creamery in Independence has been open since December. The customers range in age from toddlers to grandparents, according to manager Katie Booth, 26.

Booth has been the manager at Cold Stone since it opened. She is currently working to help get Cold Stone off to a good start.

The Creamery opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m. Teens come most frequently on the weekends according to STA Junior Jessie Holbrook, who was a summer employee of the Cold Stone in Leawood. "A lot of people enjoy our ice cream for different reasons," said Booth. "Adults on the Atkins Diet usually prefer sweet cream because it made without fat and sugar."

Cold Stone is a unique teen hangout because of the atmosphere. The employees mix the ingredients on the "cold stone" in front of the customers.

Holbrook thinks that the hardest part about working at Cold Stone is making the ice cream which is made fresh daily.

"Mixing the ingredients with the ice cream is not hard, but making the ice cream can be strenuous," said Booth.

Blue Valley North Freshman Hillary McCormick thinks the atmosphere at Cold Stone is "one of a kind."

"My friends and I love to go there and watch them smash the toppings into the ice cream," said McCormick. "Then they sing when we tip them, which is hilarious!"

Cold Stone's environment is inviting to teens because the staff works to make it fun, explained Booth. The singing and occasional dancing makes it a unique experience.

Some teens were regular customers at Cold Stone during the summer, according to Holbrook. McCormick remembers going there at least once a week in the summer and tries to go there as much as possible now. STA Junior Eli Medina knows she was a consistent customer.

"I was always at Cold Stone during the summer because my friends worked there," said Medina. "It was convenient to eat ice cream and hang out with them."

Summer is the most popular time for ice cream, according to Booth.

"We hope Cold Stone will really take off and become even more popular by then," said Booth.

Booth thinks Cold Stone has a great atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. She thinks it is comfortable, fun, and inviting.

"The way the ice cream is made and our theme songs are sung is truly original," said Booth.

"Teens enjoy working here because it is fun and laid back," said Booth. "Teens like to come here because of our fun songs, the way we mix our ingredients in front of them, and how our ice cream tastes."



photo by Alexandra Kurth
Employees prepare ice cream for customers at Cold Stone Creamery in Independence.

Diner stays teen favorite

Kathleen Pointer
Staff Writer

Winstead's has been a Kansas City trademark for over half a century, as different generations of teens have come and gone.

"Whenever we pass by [Winstead's], my mom tells me how her sisters took her there when she was my age," said Freshman Emily Ingraham.

Although some of the patrons may have changed over the years the feel of Winstead's has not. The décor remains the same, with the combination of white floors and dusty pink and mint green adorning the rest of the restaurant. There is still a soda counter. The waitresses' outfits still match the atmosphere. The colors are the same as the restaurant's, and the outfit itself looks like it hasn't progressed through the ages of fashion development.

"It's a commercial mom and pop's burger place," said Freshman Katrina Abella. "An old fifties diner with the jukebox and the lights."

Winstead's has been located on the Country Club Plaza since 1940, when Kathryn Winstead opened up one of the first drive-thrus in Kansas City. It created a new, relaxed atmosphere and a new place to eat in the Midtown area.

"I think teens like Winstead's because of the laid back atmosphere," said Mr. Chad Curphy, a server at Winstead's. "They can come in and just sit in a booth with their friends."

Even though Winstead's is a throw back to times in the forties and fifties, teens can still enjoy the nostalgia from time to time.

"I like how it's a diner, with the glasses clinking around on the tables," said Freshman Carolyn Wiedeman.

There is the jukebox, a famed piece of Winstead's, which takes the patron ever deeper into the façade that they are in the fifties.

Then of course, is the food. Winstead's claims that it has the best steak burgers in Kansas City and that they "are ground fresh daily with U.S. choice steak."

Although, Winstead's may be best known for its burgers, other items on the menu can also be appealing to the taste buds.

"Teens love to order skyscrapers, they are definitely a popular item on the menu," said Curphy.

Ice cream is a large part of the Winstead's appeal. It sticks with an early fifties influence with such items as ice cream sodas, malts and shakes.

"Skyscrapers," exclaimed Abella. "Oh my gosh, it's a huge flower vase filled with sugar. They're the best. I love to have skyscraper competitions."



photo by Kathleen Pointer

Winstead's steadfast location on the Country Club Plaza is a familiar sight to many. The restaurant which opened in 1940 still exudes the same 1940's appeal with the original building.

Some teens are not considered independently affluent. Cash can be a much-desired commodity, especially if you are out roaming the Plaza. Fortunately for teens, Winstead's considers its prices fairly reasonable compared to many restaurants in the surrounding area.

To some, going to Winstead's means the continuation of a party.

"After dances and stuff we see a lot of teens drop in," said Curphy.

Both Wiedeman and Abella said that they seem to frequent the Winstead's mostly after dances, plays and games. Teens are able to drop in after their evening events because Winstead's hours run into the late evening.

Monday through Thursday and Sunday it is open 6:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. On Fridays and Saturdays it does not close until 1 a.m. The 1 a.m. is a plus for teens, because according to Curphy, Winstead's sees the majority of ado-

lescents on the weekends and late at night.

So what's the key to maintaining a good business? Some people feel it all comes down to three words: location, location, location!

"[My friends and I] like to go to Winstead's because it's on the Plaza and we are always on the Plaza," said Wiedeman.

With its wide range of shops, restaurants, theaters and space the Plaza can be an enjoyable place to spend an evening. There is one thing about the Plaza that could be a deterrent to teens, that the Plaza is very expensive due to its location and high rent bill.

"Since the Plaza is designed for more mature and wealthy patron, Winstead's is a place teens can hang out at and afford," said Curphy.

So, whether you want a burger, a milkshake or a place to hang out Winstead's, that familiar spot on the Plaza is open late in the evening for customers' convenience.

Club appropriate for teens



photo by Lauren Goudling

Impatient clubbers await their next chance to show off their moves at Orlando's Night Club.

Orlando's Night Club

Where?
126 S. Clairborne Road
Olathe, Kansas, 66062
(913)-393-2582

When?
It is on certain Sunday nights from 7-10 p.m. (It is mostly on Sundays when there is no school on Monday.)

Why?
This is for teens to dance and hang out at a club for teenagers. You can meet new people and your parents will know where you are, and what you are doing.

Who?
The teen nights are for teenagers ages 14-17. Most teenagers that go enjoy dancing.

Offbeat Fact: Orlando's is owned by Louie and Wendy Orlando.

Cruising becomes popular pastime for many teenagers

Riding around in cars when bored

Where?
Kansas City and Kansas Streets

When?
7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Why?
Because kids get bored

Who?
Teenagers with cars

Offbeat Fact: You may think teenagers don't enjoy paying for gas, but on Friday and Saturday night who cares?



photo by Mary Rucker

Junior Rae Lindsey from Lee's Summit, left, and Sophomore Molly Gard from Bishop Miege, dance to "Yeah" by Usher. Both girls go to Quick Trip and then a movie.

Youth group from North Kansas City unites teens using Bible

Delores Hernandez
Staff Writer

When people hear the phrase "teen hangout," they might not think of bible study. But for some teens in North Kansas City, River of Life Teen Bible Study is a place to go to be yourself and grow.

Bible study is only one of the activities that the teen youth group participates in. Other activities include live music, worship and trips to events such as Acquire the Fire and places such as Mexico.

According to Annah Barnett, 16, and Abby Claytor, 15, the first thing they notice when they come to Bible study is the mass of people that crowd in front of the doors.

Barnett said the lights are dull and she often thinks of the Bible study setting as that of a coffee shop.

Bible study is held in two different rooms; an upper room and a lower room. The upper room is filled with empty chairs,

monitors where song lyrics will be displayed and a stage where live music will be played. The room downstairs is filled with large black couches and games.

According to Claytor, Barnett and Chelsey Todd, 17, Bible study at River of Life Church has opened them up and allowed them to be more accountable for their actions and with their faith.

"I think that being with other Christians and having leaders has made me more accountable and it has deepened my relationship with God and is relative to me as a teen," said Barnett.

Claytor has a different perspective of teen hangouts.

"I think that people mainly go to teen hangouts for social reasons and peer pressure," she said.

Barnett agrees. According to Barnett, teens are constantly being bombarded with things that are bad, but they can be them-

selves at church.

The Bible study is monitored by adults, including its creator Mr. Jamie Tanner, 33.

Tanner's view of the bible study is not that it is entirely a teen hangout, but more that it is a place where teens can come to have fun and learn more about God.

"This is a straight Bible study," said Tanner. "We literally go through the Bible verse by verse. It's nothing fancy."

Many teens would agree with Tanner in saying that Bible study is more of a fun place to learn about God rather than being solely a teen hangout.

"There are teens in the group, so I guess you could call it a teen hangout," said Danny Retzlaff, 16. "But I would hope that they came to get more from the Bible."

Bible study is also a place where teens can interact with adults and learn their point of views.

Ali Stout, 16, said that the monitors of the Bible study have a big influence on her and what direction she takes in life.

"I don't think that I could ever say how much effort [the monitors] put in or how much they care for us and I definitely think that each one is a role model in my life," Barnett said.

The first impression of Bible study changes with each person. Some found it to be scary, while others found it to be spiritually filling.

"I could tell that everyone was very close and there was a high amount of respect," Todd said of her first impression with Bible study. "It was very friendly."

Those involved in the Bible study say that they would not be the people they are today without Bible study and the associated youth group.

"I think especially in high school it is very easy to follow the crowd, but being in a youth group helps me to be more accountable for what I do," Barnett said.

Although they feel spiritually complete because of Bible study, members sometimes feel like not attending.

"[Bible study] is on Saturday nights and on Saturday nights I like to hang out with my friends," Stout said. "It gets in the way sometimes."

Guests are always welcome to Bible study.

"I guess the more teens the better," Retzlaff said.

Bible study is held on Wednesdays at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturdays at 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in North Kansas City at 4214 N.W. Cookingham Road.

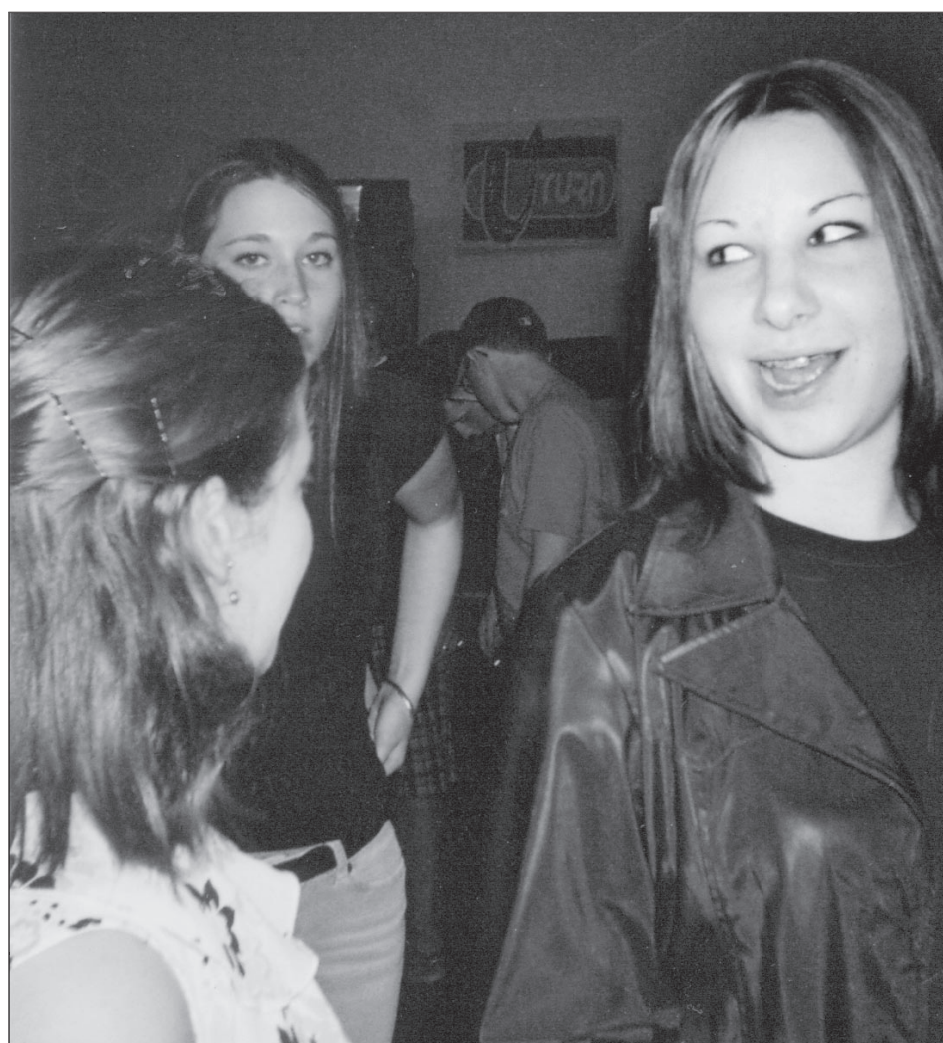


photo by Delores Hernandez

Andrea Martin, right, makes fun and games with her friends before bible study.

Paintball finds its way back to the fields

Katie Kellerman
Staff Writer

Jaeger's Kansas City Paintball is the home of the world's first underground paintball arena suitably set in one of Kansas City's oldest limestone mines. Although not the most popular weekend activity around, paintball is making a turn, attracting more people every day.

"What is better than running around a cave shooting people with fake guns and seeing the look on their faces when paint gets all over them?" said Mr. Thomas O'Laughlin. "It's the greatest!"

Paintball is the newest competitive sport, combining teamwork and strategy. Players are tagged and eliminated when hit by a carbon dioxide powered ball filled with water soluble paint. The challenge of each game is to tag the other players and avoid being tagged yourself.

"You have to run a lot to get away from flying balls that are heading straight for your head," said O'Laughlin. "It is intense."

There are many types of paintball guns used during this extreme sport. The paintball guns used at Jaeger's can either be pump guns or semi-automatic guns.

Jaeger's offers both outside fields and their legendary underground caves.

"Both fields send the same type of exhilarating fun, but for the less experienced paintballer, I would recommend the underground field," said Mr. Mark Jaeger.

The indoor field is typically open at a later hour because of the safety of being indoors. However, as of May 1, 2004, the outside fields that Jaeger's provides will become lighted to allow for night games. Many worry about the pain of paintballs hitting their body.

"Without pads, they hurt a lot, usually breaking the skin or bruising, but with the pads, the pain isn't that bad, and it is just a quick sting," said Mr. Mark Hansen.

Jaeger's recommends wearing two layers of loose clothing, rubber soled shoes or boots and groin protection. Long sleeves and pants are also strongly recommended.

Controversy has aroused inside the Jaeger's facilities about the fact that Mr. Jaeger and employees do not allow players to bring in their own paintballs. They must buy paintballs from the equipment counter at Jaeger's.

"Paintballs vary widely in shell toughness and fill properties," said Jaeger.

"We have tested and selected our paintballs to break relatively easily in order to lessen discomfort and bruising."

Paintball has become a very popular sport, and many people are seen playing this extreme sport at Jaeger's.

"Basically paintball can be for anyone, guy or girl, as long as you don't care about a little pain and a little paint," Hansen said.

"Jaeger's is full of energetic, funny people, and all of my friends go there," said Mr. Sam Smythe. "I was not really interested in the beginning, but Jaeger's made it more fun than I thought it could be, so now I go back all of the time."



photo by Katie Kellerman

A sign welcomes players to Jaeger's Underground Paintball Arena.

Homes provide new alternative to weekend plans

Laura Goede
Staff Writer

Every day teenagers hang out at each other's homes, while parents often wonder what they are doing and how they are behaving.

Mrs. Mary Lou Johnson, mother of Freshman Andrea Johnson, really enjoys having kids over to her home because she knows they are safe.

When her teenagers go out on weekend nights, Mary Lou Johnson always wants to know the facts. Where are they going? Who's going to be there? Who are they going with?

These questions are also directed at Freshman Kelli Hansen before she leaves the house.

"Having a cell phone makes going out easier," said Hansen. "Because if my plans change I can just call and leave a message. It also makes my mom feel better because she knows she can get a hold of me at any time."

Freshman Mary Garcia finds having people over stressful because it is the host's responsibility for everyone's actions, and if it gets out of hand, you are in trouble when they leave.

"Now that we are getting older, my parents are more concerned about what happens while I am out," Garcia said. "They ask a lot more questions when I get home about what happened and if there was drinking going on."

Garcia normally doesn't mind if parents are around when she is at someone's home.

"Parents only make me feel uncomfortable if they are really strict and make you feel as if you're trespassing by being in their house," Garcia said.

Mary Lou Johnson finds that most kids are well behaved when they come into her home, although the one thing that she doesn't care for is the mess that they leave behind.

"During grade school, when Andrea had people over things got pretty messy," Johnson said. "But I have found that things have gotten a lot better as they have grown older."

This is exactly why Hansen prefers going over to someone else's home instead of having people over.

"I like to have people over, but I hate having to clean up after everyone leaves," said Hansen.

Johnson has a few rules that she enforces when her children have friends over.

"Guys shouldn't be upstairs," Mary Lou Johnson said. "I understand that girls are running in and out of Andrea's room getting things, but the boys should never have a reason to come upstairs."

Both Garcia's parents and Johnson feel it is important for parents to be home when guys and girls are together.

"I don't care if a couple of girls come over while I am not home just to hang out, but once the guys start arriving I prefer that I am home," Mary Lou Johnson said.

Johnson finds that talking to kids accomplishes more than screaming at them.



photo by Laura Goede

From left, freshmen Kate O'Flaherty, Kathleen Medina, Abby Fagan and Dae Smith sit chatting and snacking about the days events late Saturday.

KC Culture comes alive

Katie Meyers
Staff Writer

Bored with the average Friday night schedule? The first Friday of every month, the Crossroads District, near downtown Kansas City offers after hours art gallery tours and so much more.

The style of art displayed in these galleries varies greatly. The Dolphin, a gallery at 1901 Baltimore, has everything from paintings to photography. Non-local artists create some of the art, but it is the Kansas City artists that leave the director of the Dolphin Gallery, Ms. Emily Eddins, in awe.

"There are so many great artists in Kansas City," Eddins said. "People think that they have to go to New York or San Francisco to see good art, but they don't appreciate what's in their own backyard."

According to Eddins, the 'First Friday' idea was thought up as a way to expose people to what was available in local art galleries, trying to encourage them to come back and hopefully buy a piece of art during the regular daytime hours. Originally the openings were every six weeks, but people rarely remembered. Even with the change people will call galleries like The Dolphin, to ask if it is a 'First Friday' week.

The different artists whose work is displayed have varying reasons to do so. Some of these artists want to sell their art, while others merely want their art exposed. And yet others just want the visitors to have some fun.

Sion High School Sophomore Madeleine Burkart recalled one of these 'fun' exhibits.

"Once there was a gallery that set out a bunch of napkins, and anyone who wanted to could draw on the napkins," Burkart recalled. "Then the napkins were displayed on the wall so that other people could see yours, and you could see theirs...that was really awesome."

Rockhurst High School Senior Adam Meyers, has been to 'First Fridays' three times already and says that he will most likely continue to go.

"It makes me feel sophisticated," said Meyers. "Yet, allows me to have fun at the same time."

In the relatively small area, where the open galleries lie, are several little shops. Both Burkart, and Sion Sophomore Sarah Stites, are fans of some of these stores.

"I love Birdies," says Burkart about



photo by Katie Meyers

Madeleine Burkart, from left, Tim Martin, Sarah Stites, and Adam Meyers sit to discuss a piece of artwork at the Arts Incubator on 18th street.

a small underwear store. "It's expensive and tiny, but it has some very neat stuff."

Stites spoke about Second Honey-moon, a small thrift store that sells 'cute' second hand clothes.

Stites and Burkart also enjoy the wide variety of people there, from the 'hardcore' skater kids, to the 'hipsters' in their mid 20's, to the interior decorators looking for something new, and the middle aged 'bourgeois' artsy people.

This monthly event is becoming very popular. In September of 2003 some of the galleries decided to have door counts. By the end of the night the number of people that had entered one gallery alone was around 4,000.

While the 'First Friday' regulars like it that more people are becoming interested in this fun event, some are concerned about the growing number of attendees.

"I hope that it does not become too mainstream," said Burkart. "Then it would lose that laid back, friendly atmosphere. That's the reason I like it."

The Crossroads District is contained, roughly, between Troost in the east and I 35, between Truman Road and Pershing.

"A lot of people don't like to come down here, because they think it's a bad neighborhood," said Stites. "But if you stay in the right places you won't have a problem. The Crossroads is one of the good places."

Everyone involved with this event seems to enjoy the location, and its recent growth.

"Downtown was dead when I first came to work there in the mid 80's," said Eddins. "It was filled with cheap property, that's how the struggling artists came to live, and work there. I'm glad that more businesses are moving in. I think people need to take advantage of what's down here."

Many 'First Friday' attendees agree that the downtown location adds immensely to the 'trendy' atmosphere that engulfs those alluring 'First Fridays'.

Teen girls find fun hobby, dance becomes latest trend

Rhonda's Total Technique & Dance
Where?

1901 A. West 40 Highway, Blue Springs, Mo 64015

When?

Monday-Friday 5-9 p.m.

Why?

Teens go to Rhonda's for many reasons. Some reasons are self-confidence, to keep busy, and sometimes to just learn to dance!

Who?

The age limits range from a potty-trained child to a grown adult. People at Rhonda's have all sorts of interests, hobbies and aspirations. Everyone is unique and has different reasons for dancing.



photo by Rochelle Rieger

Harley practices her hand stand with student teacher, Kristen Bryan, 16.

New video game's popularity attracts dancing teenagers

Mary Anna Henggeler
Staff Writer

Walk into Cool Crest Family Fun Center on a Friday or Saturday night and the sound of feet stomping with music will fill the room. This isn't a dance club; it's approximately 20 kids playing Dance Dance Revolution (DDR).

"It's like an addiction," said Ashley Jones, a sophomore at Vanhorn High School. "Once the music starts and my feet get going, I can't stop."

The game originated in Japan in 1998 and was later introduced to the United States in 2001. Since then, over 1,500 machines have been registered in the United States, 44 of them in the Kansas City area. DDR is usually found in arcades, but games and attachments can be bought to allow a person to play from home with a video game system.

In arcades, DDR machines are set

up with a screen and a metal platform. There are four arrows on both the screen and the platform that coincide with one another. When the arrow on the screen lights up, the player steps on the arrow that coincides on the platform with their foot. The game starts out easy for beginners but the better the player, the harder the game, demanding players to twist and turn so that every arrow is stepped on.

"It can make a person dizzy with all the twisting and turning they have to do," said Jones.

Cool Crest Family Fun Center is located on 40 Hwy in Independence.

The center opened about 50 years ago with a miniature golf course. Over the years it has grown to include batting cages, go-carts and an arcade. A few years ago the owners, Jennifer and Frank Licauti, invested in two DDR machines. "The machines seemed like they were a

good investment," said Cool Crest manager Mr. Jacob Rose. "There are always groups of kids at the machines just dancing and hanging out."

Students from Truman, William Chrisman, Blue Springs and Vanhorn High School are among the regulars at Cool Crest.

"A group of teens will come up to Cool Crest on a Saturday night and start playing DDR," said Rose. "The next Saturday night I'll see the same teens but they'll have brought a few more friends to play."

On an average Friday or Saturday night, the DDR section of Cool Crest is filled with teens playing and watching other teens dance to the music. Teens can spend hours playing DDR. There are some who come to have fun and mess around on the machines. There are others who take the game seriously. Competitions and tournaments are held every weekend to see who will be the new DDR champion. Some teens just watch and stare at the regulars who can twist their body and move their feet with the music, making it look so simple.

"It's a great way to meet people," said Jones. "I've come up here with two or three friends at a time. By the time I've left I know about five new people."

Despite the large amount of teens that are at Cool Crest every weekend, employees say that the teens are not in any way disruptive to their business.

"Sometimes the regulars leave a mess," said employee Elizabeth Henggeler. "On busy nights it smells in the DDR area, but there really never are any problems from them. They just mind their own business."

Even with the large popularity of DDR, there are some who are not at all impressed with the game. Vanessa Walker, a sophomore at St. Mary's High School, has been to Cool Crest many times but has only played DDR a couple of times. The game has not impressed her.

"The only thing a person does when they play is step on arrows and they light up," said Walker. "I don't know what attracts people, unless it's the bright lights."

The increasingly large popularity of DDR leads to the question, is DDR a fad or is it here to stay? Walker seems to think that DDR is a fad that people will lose interest in very quickly. New versions of DDR are coming out, which are attracting more players.

"It's like Pac-man," said Henggeler. "People will always love it."

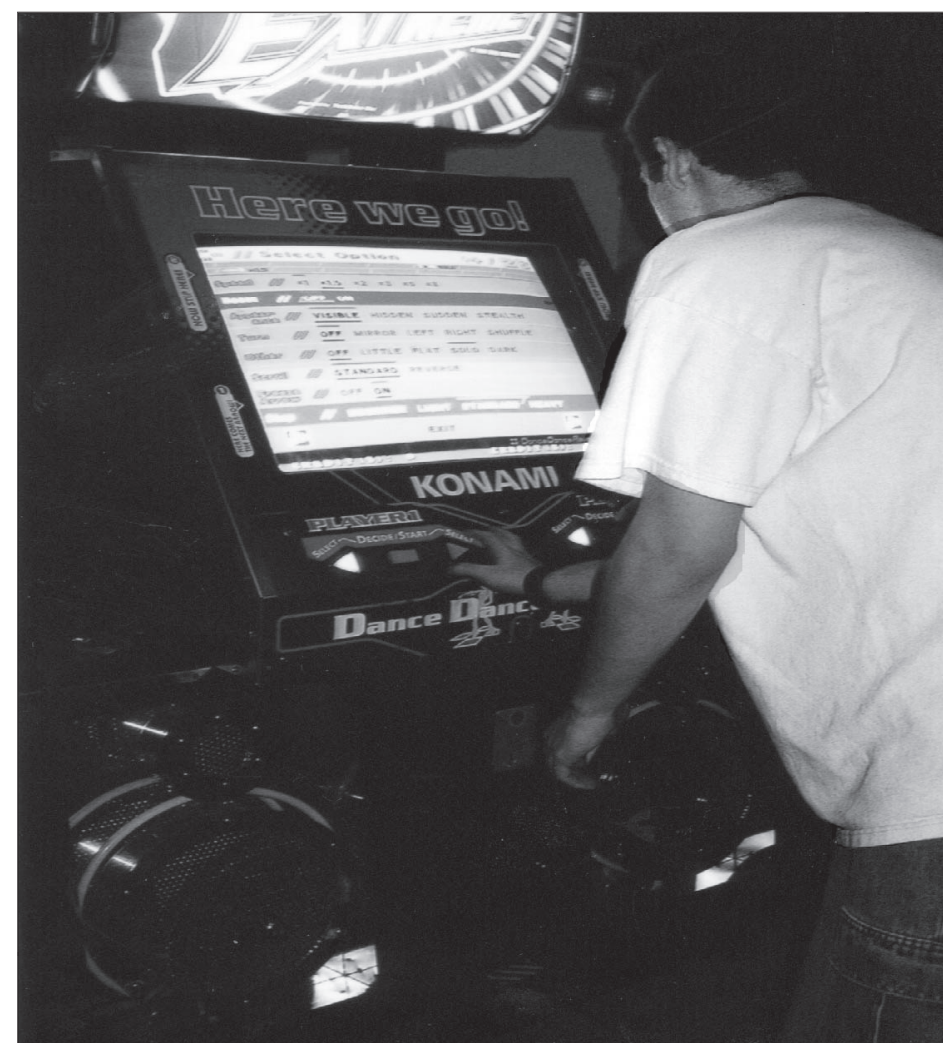


photo by Mary Anna Henggeler

Matt Garcia steps on the lighted arrows while playing a game at Cool Crest.

El Torreon's alternative music is popular

Marisa Henderson
Staff Writer

The El Torreon, located at 31st and Gillham, is a hangout for teens that want to go out and listen to live music.

Most of the kids that go to El Torreon are fans of the primitive rock 'n roll, garage rock, punk, hardcore, emo, indie, rockabilly, broken blues and surf/instrumental.

Many teens are not that familiar with a lot of the music played at the El Torreon; and are more accustomed to tuning to stations like Mix 93.3 to listen to popular music.

"It's the top forty that the audiences like," said Mix 93.3 DJ Mr. Kelly Ulrich. According to Ulrich, being on the top forty makes a band.

"Kansas City pretends to be alternative and liberal, but they really aren't," said Ulrich.

Although Ulrich has no knowledge of El Torreon, he understands what it is about. Many of the bands that play at El Torreon are not widely known but are evidently talented enough to listen to and be enjoyed.

El Torreon has a wide variety of listeners, considering that the establishment accepts all ages. El Torreon is not a place that wants to attract your average crowd of people like at a big concert. They draw true fans and anyone who wants to listen to music and have a good time.

The attraction of the El Torreon is not only the music, but also the desire to get away. It is a break from the rush of people's everyday lives. They get to go someplace where they can listen to good music that artists have put all their emotion into.

El Torreon used to be a ballroom when it opened in 1927. Soon after that it went from ballroom to a jazz club to a supper club. Then in the later 40's it became a skating rink through the 50's and 60's. In the 70's it became a concert venue and then developed into the cowtown ballroom. It stayed that way for a little while before it became a publishing company. Then it became a car museum and is currently a concert venue.

"In order for bands to play, they have to send a promotion and material to Abe Haddad," said El Torreon's building manager Mr. Jay Zastoupil.

"It's just a small venue, but some bands that have played here at El Torreon have later been at Kemper and the Ozzfest," said Zastoupil.

The type of music played includes rock 'n roll, jazz, blues, reggae and folk. It is open to all ages but people under the age of 21 need a legal guardian to get in.

The building has been there since 1912 when it was a brothel. Eighteen years ago Mr. Rodger Naber bought it. Naber is a talent buyer that has been booking and promoting musicians for over 20 years.

Whether you like or dislike the music played at El Torreon, it still continues to



photo by Marisa Henderson

The 1927 building became El Torreon after it was a car museum in the 80's.

Splat city explodes with fun



photo by Jordan Gribble

Lacie Wood raises her gun in defense during a fast paced round of paintball.

Splat City

Where?
1400 West, 13th Terrace Kansas City, MO 64102

When?
Fridays 4 p.m.-10p.m. Saturdays 10a.m.-10p.m. Sundays 12 noon-10p.m.

Why?
This is a paintball location and paintball is fun to play with your friends. Teens have fun recreational enjoyment alongside with supervised safe physical exercise.

Who?
No specific age restrictions but you must have a parent or guardian sign a waiver to allow you to play. People seen here share a love of paintball and the messiness that comes thereof.

Offbeat Fact:
Splat city features an underground practice area in which you can hone your skills before a big match.

Ride forget you? Join the club!

Mollie Esposito
Staff Writer

Hours after the 3 p.m. bell rings, most of the girls have already left school, but a small group of STA students remain. These students have been dubbed, "The After School Club."

The majority of the students who stay after school are there for some school related purpose. This includes sport practices, play rehearsals, projects for classes or meeting deadlines for publications.

However, some girls are there only because they cannot go home yet. Based on the stoop of the side entrance to the Donnelly building, "The After School Club" is a small group of these girls who joined together to pass the time. They have found many ways to achieve this goal.

"How much do you want to bet that I can make it from here to there?" Freshman Sydney Baker asks while waiting in the Goppert Center one afternoon. She balls up a sheet of notebook paper, aims for a distant trash can and lets it fly. The makeshift ball lands about a foot from its target.

"Do you want to join our ballet school?" Junior Samantha Putthoff asks a passing teacher while she waits outside for her ride. "We're starting one right now."

Besides instructing dance classes, members of "The Club" can be found running around, making trips to the school's vending machines, playing volley-wadded-paper-ball, scaling walls and singing.

There are some disadvantages to "The After School Club."

According to Sophomore Alex Farkas, students are "kicked out" of the Donnelly and Music and Arts buildings after four.

Ms. Maryanne Hoecker, Principal of Student Affairs at STA, said that at four the doors to these buildings are locked and the students are asked to wait outside or in the gym. She further explained that because most of the staff is gone at four, the students would be unsupervised if they remained in the building.

"If students were hurt no one would know," Hoecker said.

Robert Wessling, the school's security guard helps enforce this rule by locking the doors of the buildings and asking any students left inside to wait elsewhere.

Some students had precise complaints about their experiences of waiting after school.

"It was terrible," said Freshman Caitly Wallingford of her wait. "It took forever for my dad to get [to the school]."

Although The After School Club is not a real club (while trying to get permission for sweatshirts to be worn on Wednesdays and Thursdays, members of "The Club" were told that they needed a moderator to become an actual club with sweatshirt privileges.)

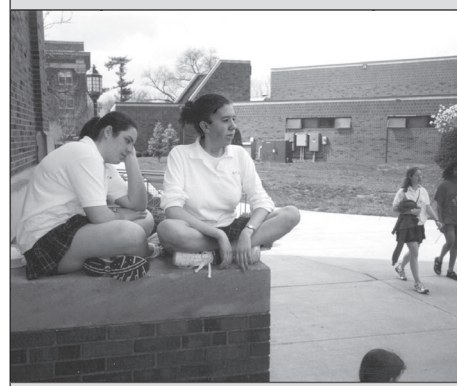


photo by Mollie Esposito

Sophomores Bridget Kelly, left, and Jordan Gribble wait after school for their rides.

Coffee entices teens

Katie Kennaley
Staff Writer

Starbucks, a local coffee house on the Country Club Plaza, entices teens with their freshly brewed coffee.

Starbucks, one of 96 shops on the Plaza, sells coffee, teas, other beverages, food and some kitchen appliances.

"Starbucks is the best coffee house in town," said Sophomore Lucy Duethman. "There is a Starbucks on every other street corner plus they have a huge variety of things you can get that other places don't have."

Starbucks has 45 types of coffee, not counting the frappuccinos and other drinks they sell. The drinks cost between \$2 and \$5.

Ms. Rebecca Schuessler, a Starbucks employee, said most customers are shoppers on the Plaza, many of whom are teens.

"We have a lot of teens, especially on weekends, holidays and breaks," said Schuessler. "But, the majority of our customers are business people on their way to work. There are quite a few teens though. A lot of students come in, drink coffee and study."

Schuessler said that business depends on the weather. The busiest days are the sunny days. The rain causes business to slow down because people do not like to walk through the rain to get into the shop.

Although Starbucks has many older customers, the teen customers do not scare them off. According to Schuessler, older customers buy their coffee between 9-10a.m., on their way to work. Teens purchase their coffee before school, after school or on the weekends. Because of their different schedules, teenagers and older customers do not see each other often at Starbucks.

According to Duethman, Starbucks has a more quiet, relaxing atmosphere than other coffee houses. Although there are couches, lounge chairs and tables where teens can sit, they usually get their coffee to go.

Sophomore Abigail Sosinski thinks Starbucks' atmosphere is targeted toward college students.

"Starbucks has a studying atmosphere, and obviously, high school kids don't like to study," said Sosinski. "It's also quieter, and we don't like to be quiet."

A teen might also be turned away from Starbucks by the high cost of the coffee and parents' disapproval.

"My parents told me that coffee will stunt my growth," said Duethman. "But I'm tall enough already, so I don't mind."

However, not all parents mind their teenagers drinking coffee.



photo by Katie Kennaley

Lucy Duethman sips her tall Vanilla Creme frappuccino at Starbucks while finishing a school assignment at 6:30 a.m.

"My parents approve of my coffee drinking habits," said Sosinski. "They are very, very proud. [My parents] are huge coffee drinkers and are happy that we finally have something in common."

Parents do not only seem to object to their teenagers having stained teeth and stunted growth; they don't like having their teens spend so much money on one cup of coffee, according to Duethman. Duethman's parents, who drink a pot of coffee every morning, do not understand why she must buy her coffee from Starbucks when they are making the same thing, for a lot cheaper, at home.

"My parents don't mind that I drink coffee; they don't like how much money I spend [at Starbucks]," said Duethman. "But it's so good, it's worth paying for."

Some parents turn their teens coffee addiction into a family bonding time. On Sun-

day afternoons, families can be seen sitting in Starbucks, drinking coffee, and having a nice family discussion, according to Sosinski.

"My family goes to Starbucks after soccer games and church," said Sosinski. "It's a good place for bonding. My younger brother gets hot chocolate and my parents and I get coffee. There's something for everyone."

The Plaza Starbucks has an outdoor patio overlooking the Plaza. On nice days, Duethman and her friends will buy a cup of coffee, sit on the patio and talk. Teens also enjoy Starbucks' friendly employees.

"When your stressed out, it's a good place to go and unwind," said Duethman.

Although Starbucks may charge a lot for a cup of coffee, the great taste continues to draw customers in, according to Sophomore Amanda Trouba.

"I go to Starbucks because it's amazing," said Trouba.

Applebee's attracts youth



photo by Sarah Tamplin

Amanda Trouba, left, and Lauren Befort, both STA sophomores, are looking at a word search from the kid's menu at Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill.

Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill

Where?
1046 W 103rd Street
Kansas City, MO 64114

When?
Mon.-Thurs. 11a.m-11 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Why?
Teens often eat at Applebee's because of its fun atmosphere and reasonably priced food.

Who?
Applebee's is friendly to all ages, both young and old.

Offbeat Fact
Applebee's displays local sports memorabilia on the walls of each area restaurant.

Foo's Fabulous Frozen Custard fulfills cravings

Alison Raybould
Staff Writer

Since its opening on October 16, Standard has been viewed by many in a positive light with only one exception: its prices. The new boutique, located on Town Center Plaza, has provided Kansas City with a glance at Los Angeles and New York fashions, but because the store is high fashion, many teenagers feel its merchandise is also high in price.

"Standard is a men's and women's boutique featuring casual classics to high-end fashion and everything in between," said owner and managing partner Mr. Matt Baldwin.

Just as Baldwin hoped, the boutique fits a wide variety of styles. Junior Bridget Moran feels that she finds plenty of garments to fulfill her preppy and classy elegance, while Freshman Mary Garcia shops there for her eclectic and fun taste. Standard's most popular female designers include James Perse, Tracy Reese, and Juicy Couture.

While living in California, Baldwin and his wife, Ms. Emily Baldwin, also the owner and managing partner of Standard, saw this location in Leawood to be a "perfect fit," so they "just went for it."

"There has been such a great response to our store," said Baldwin, who previously worked in the fashion industry as a clothing designer for Jeddah and Volcom, two of Standard's best selling men's lines.

Baldwin sets many goals for Standard's future with hopes of receiving the same feedback as his old ideas.

"It has been a truly wonderful experience," said Baldwin. "I am extremely excited for the future online sales and another boutique in California."

Freshman Shannon VanBuskirk is definitely pleased with the new boutique, often coining it with words such as "amazing, adorable, and awesome."

"I love it all," VanBuskirk said. "I can't put just one word on how wonderful [Standard] makes me feel."

VanBuskirk was originally attracted to the boutique because of the sign and the window display. Currently, the window is filled with mannequins playing tennis, as they show off some of Standard's signature skirts.

"The window displays are awesome from the pink Christmas lights and the newspaper dress to the sailor boy and the dog that actually lives there," said VanBuskirk.

Many teens agree that Standard's outward appearance is alluring.

"I was curious because the store window was decorated really cutely, and the sign has a backwards 's' at the front," said Garcia.

Once past the window display and inside the store, VanBuskirk becomes "overwhelmed with happiness because I just imagine the possibilities. I walk in there and just dream."



photo by Alison Raybould

Mannequins, dressed for a tennis match, model Standard's new bright spring line.

Foo's Fabulous Frozen Custard

Where?
6235 Brookside Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64113

When?
Sun.- Thurs. 11:30 am- 9:00 pm
Fri.-Sat. 12:30 pm-10:00 pm

Why?
The ice-cream is custom made with whatever toppings you enjoy.

Who?
There is no age restriction at Foo's.

Offbeat fact
Foo's is celebrating their 15th-year anniversary.



photo by Ashley Devine

An employee calculates the price of his customer's concrete at the counter on March 28.

Retro styles return to KC with help from stores like ATC

Dae Smith
Staff Writer

For over twelve years, Arizona Trading Company has been a big success in Lawrence, but it was not until May of 1998 that Kansas City had one. Arizona Trading Company is located in Westport and sells everything from clothes to sunglasses. Except for the jewelry, tights and sunglasses, almost everything is used.

People can purchase there and they can also trade. Trading has become a big thing down there. To trade, bring in any unwanted items and store employees will search through those items and pull out anything they think would sell in the store.

Then they tell the trader for how much they are going to sell each of their items in the store. The trader gets to choose from

either 40 percent of the totaled price in cash or 60 percent of the totaled price in store credit. Trading has become so popular people often find it hard for ATC to accept anything.

"I traded once and they hardly took anything," said Freshman Alex Lapointe. "But I would consider trading again because I always have clothes lying around and it's a good way to get money or credit at ATC."

People say that business has been growing ever since ATC opened, but especially so within the last year.

"I have been shopping there for two years," said eighth grader Emily Johnson. "I have stopped going so much within the past year because it's too busy, and I don't really end up buying things there because they don't really have things I like anymore."



photo by Dae Smith

Nora Salle wears an outfit from ATC while gathering with friends on March 27.

Even though some people complain about how busy ATC has gotten, not many people criticize the prices at ATC.

"Typical clothes range from \$3-\$15," said ATC employee Venus.

These prices do not upset the customers; it seems that a lot of the people go there because they think things are so cheap.

"When I think of ATC I think of a bargain and decent clothes," said LaPointe. However, others do have problems with the clothes.

"I think some of their clothes are too dirty and need to be washed," said Johnson. This concern does not seem to be too big among ATC's other customers.

ATC's atmosphere also attracts customers. All over the store outfits, that the employees have put together, could be found hanging from the wall or ceiling. It's very colorful, and they play a lot of music.

"I like the atmosphere of the store," said Lapointe. "It is colorful, there is always good music playing and I think it smells good. Also it just always seems so fun when you go in, like you're on a mission to find some cool clothes."

For a teenager who likes clothes and enjoys being in ATC, working there would make a great job. Some of the jobs that would be available at ATC would be the job of searching through people's trades, a cashier or just a general store helper. For someone who has an interest in fashion any of these jobs could be something they would be interested in. To apply, an applicant must be at least 16 years of age.

"I would consider working there," said Johnson. "I think it would be fun, and I think it would be very interesting to see all of the different types of people and styles that would enter ATC daily."

Arizona Trading Company is open to all and has a very diverse range of customers.

"We do not try to reach out to one group," said Venus. "We want everyone to shop here. That's why we have such diversity in our clothes, because we want to appeal to all groups that would want to shop here."

ATC offers vintage clothes, unique from other clothing venues. Today, styles are heavily influenced from fashions from the 1950's, 60's, 70's and 80's. ATC provides clothing for all of these styles.

"I think it is a creative store and I like how they sell vintage clothes hip things at a cheap price," said Johnson.

Coffee lovers gather at Broadway Café

Jessica Closson
Staff Writer

Enter a room filled with the smell of coffee with a checkered floor and windows stretching from floor to ceiling, and you are in Broadway Café. This small coffeehouse located at 4106 Broadway in Westport is always full of people. Owners Sara Honan and Jon Cates first opened Broadway Café in 1992 in Westport. Sara chose this location because of the busy atmosphere and the view from the windows. At Broadway, over 20 different types of coffee are roasted daily.

For many, Broadway is not only a great place to get coffee, but also a wonderful spot for hanging out or meeting new friends.

"Once I was just hanging out there, and this incredible guy that I had my eye on comes up to me and just starts talking to me like it's normal," said Sophomore Magdalene Vick. "He was hot and he had way cool sunglasses on. And then I never saw him after that. But there is one guy there that goes there often; I call him 'Broadway boy' and he is gorgeous. Sometimes I go there just to see if he's there so I might talk to him."

Broadway Café is open to all, thus attracting a diverse crowd. Many of the customers

are local art students, high school students, teachers, and men and women of older ages. According to Ms. Heather Macintosh, Spanish teacher at STA, even children go to Broadway Café with their parents.

With the diversity at Broadway Café, one can easily find someone with similar interests to their own, therefore making Broadway somewhat of a dating scene. Single customers often wander in and out of the coffeehouse looking for a possible date or someone to talk to. Also, there are plenty of others who already have a boyfriend or girlfriend and go there to spend time together.

Junior Laura Brewer meets with her boyfriend, Brian Noland, RHS sophomore every Sunday. Brewer thinks Broadway Café is a fun environment with good food and coffee that keeps her coming back.

"We went there this past Sunday for our nine month anniversary," laughed Brewer. "We probably went there for our seventh and eighth too!"

Vick and Brewer agree that Broadway not only has great coffee, but that it is also a safe and relaxing atmosphere in which just being there alone or with others is enjoyable.

Mr. Joshua Bogart, a barista at Broadway

Café, knows what goes on in the shop.

"Yeah, I have been here for seven years and I've seen plenty going on," said Bogart when asked if he notices any hooking up or dating at Broadway.

Bogart stated that the teens that go to Broadway are kids who want to get out of the suburbs. Young girls from STA and Sion can often be seen at Broadway, along with a crowd of older people who tend to like the younger girls. Usually the girls ignore the men if they are being hit on. Yet, occasionally the girls will talk to them but soon become annoyed. Bogart can see this from where he stands behind the counter or roaster, and said it disturbs him greatly.

"It sucks seeing it happen, but you can't really do anything about it," said Bogart in regard to the older men's behavior.

Bogart recalled a few years back when things were much worse and a lot of people were banned from Broadway. People lingered in the coffeehouse day after day and did not buy anything. Instead they bothered other costumers or "trashed" Broadway and were kicked out for good, which helped.

However, according to Bogart and other workers, such situations are hard to control.

Unfortunately, things like this are not only prone to Broadway, but also places all over the city. The only advice Bogart has for customers is to stay away from the older men or people who look a bit shady even if they are not being "direct".

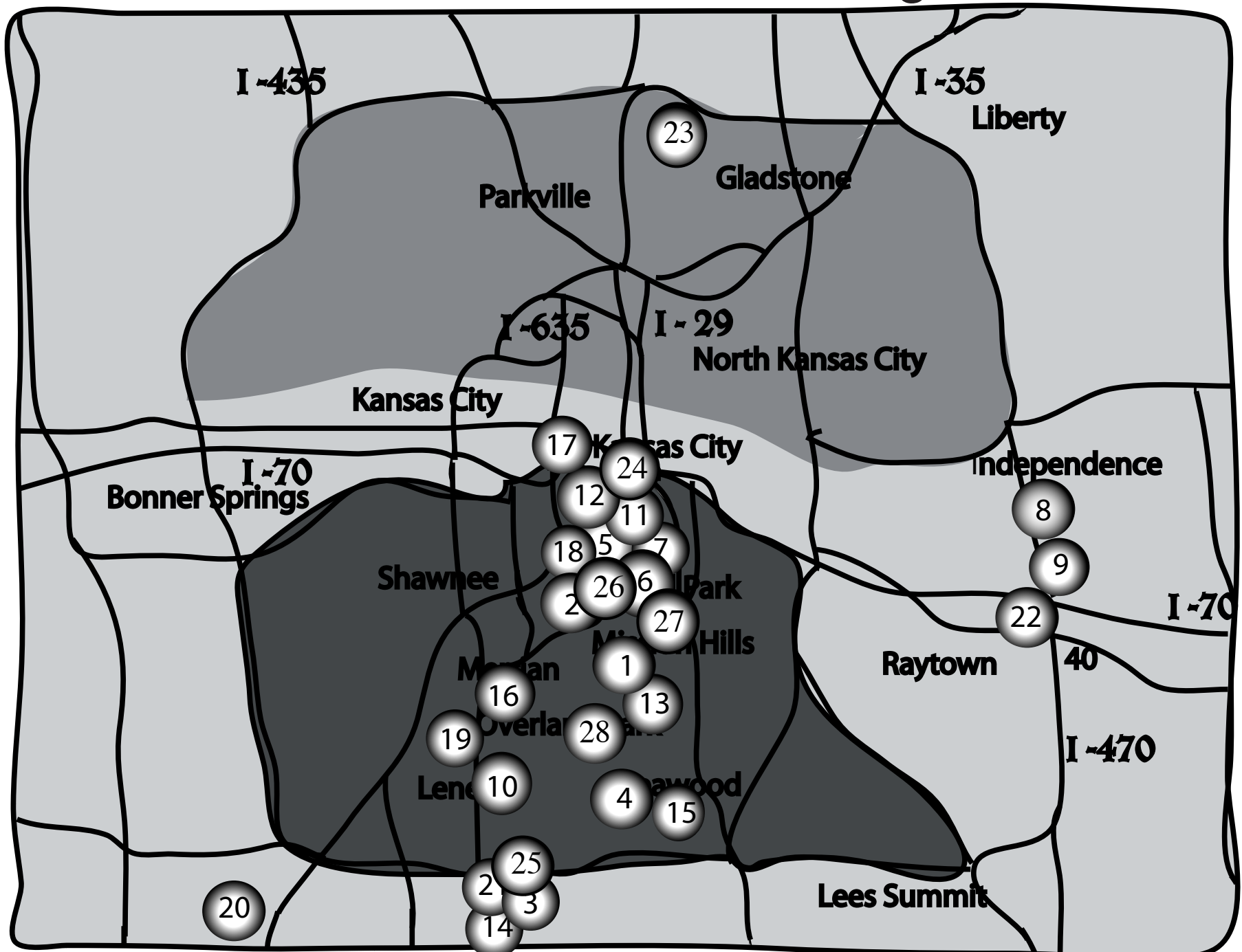
Baristas, however, are not the only ones who witness this type of behavior. Vick agrees that the older men look for dates or some "eye candy".

"There are times when I'm uncomfortable and that's normally because of people, namely guys who are much older, who enjoy staring at younger girls very obviously," said Vick, pointing out that this behavior is distasteful and unwanted.

She also pondered if perhaps they might just have a flirtatious personality, but are really only there to enjoy themselves and to relax like herself.

Although Broadway does pose a threat to some with the issue of older men, the coffeehouse has attracted all walks of life throughout the years, and to this day, it is always crowded. Broadway can be called a dating scene, a relaxing place, a dangerous or sketchy hangout, but most importantly, a "yummtastic" coffeehouse.

Where to find it and how to get there:



graphic by Maggie Mullane

1. After School Club: 5600 Main Street, Kansas City, MO
2. Anthropologie: 531 Nichols Road, Kansas City, MO
3. AMC 20: 1101 Nall Avenue, Leawood, KS
4. Applebee's: 1046 W. 103rd St., Kansas City, MO
5. Arizona Trading Company: Westport Road, Kansas City, MO
6. Barnes and Noble: 420 W. 47th St., Kansas City, MO
7. Broadway Café: 4106 Broadway, Kansas City, MO
8. Cold Stone Creamery: 20140 East Jackson Drive, Independence, MO
9. Cool Crest Family Fun Center: 10735 E. 40 Hwy., Independence, MO
10. Cure' Youth Group: 9360 Mission Road, Leawood, KS
11. El Torreon: 3101 Gillham Plaza, Kansas City, MO
12. First Fridays: Downtown Kansas City, MO
13. Foo's Fabulous Frozen Custard: 6235 Brookside Blvd., Kansas City
14. Incred-a-Bowl: 8500 W. 151st St., Overland Park, KS
15. Jaeger's Paintball: 9300 NE. Underground Drive, Kansas City, MO
16. Juice Stop: 6974 Mission Rd., Shawnee, KS
17. Kemper Arena for Comets Soccer: 1800 Genessee St., Kansas City, MO
18. LatteLand-Smoothie Central: 4771 Jefferson St., Kansas City, MO
19. Oak Park Mall: 11461 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS
20. Orlando's: 126 South Clairborne Road, Olathe, KS
21. Panera: 11751 Nall Avenue, Leawood, KS
22. Rhonda's Total Technique and Dance: 1901 W. 40 Hwy., Blue Springs, MO
23. River of Life Church Bible Study: 4214 NW. Cunningham Rd., Kansas City, MO
24. Splat City: 1400 W. 13th Terrace, Kansas City, MO
25. Standard Boutique: 5076 W. 119th St., Leawood, KS
26. Starbucks: 302 Nichols Rd., Kansas City, MO
27. Winstead's: 101 Brush Creek Blvd., Kansas City, MO
28. 24-Hour Fitness: 8600 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO