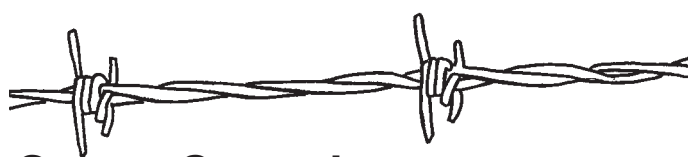




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THE



DART

VOLUME 64 | ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY | FEBRUARY 3, 2005 | KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | ISSUE 4

# Students emphasize cultural diversity

Mary Kate Bird  
Staff Writer

STA delivered its annual Cultural Awareness Program Friday, 14 student presentations demonstrated a variety of different cultural backgrounds that took aim at enlightening students on the diverse cultures at STA.

The program opened as the school stood for the 23 student choir dressed in black as they sang out the words to the Black National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." The song, written by James Weldon Johnson in 1899, is a tribute to the struggle and accomplishments of African-American people in the past, present, and future.

Cheers then erupted at the mention of senior Carolina Vidal's name. Dressed in traditional Chilean clothing, Vidal spoke about her homeland of Chile and the American Free Services exchange program, urging fellow students to participate if given the opportunity. As her presentation wound down, Vidal received a standing ovation from many of the students and friends she has made at STA.

Led by senior Laura Brewer, who filled in for an absent Ms. Jennifer Benjamin, the A Cappella choir sang a rendition of "Svatba." The Bulgarian folk song tells the wedding story of a young girl arranged to be married to a



Rachel Straughn

Junior Christine Farris and alum Andrea Minton flamenco, a style of dance originating in Spain, during the Cultural Awareness Assembly in the auditorium Friday.

man she doesn't love. The peasants in the village were angry with the family as a result of taxes being raised to pay for the wedding. Thus, the squealing noises heard during the song were the voices of angry peasants protesting the wedding.

The program ended, yet again, with senior Rachel Wilson captivating her audience with a rendition of the song "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from the musical "The Wizard of Oz."

Participants of the program hoped to inform others on the diverse cultures at STA through their presentations.

"Many of the girls in our school don't really know anything outside of their own culture," said senior DeLisa Harris, "[The Cultural Awareness Program] gives people a chance to educate others in our school about how much diversity there is."

Harris, who has participated in the program since her freshman year, participated in the "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" choir and has also been instrumental in the furthering of cultural awareness at STA. She works with the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), through which she has helped encourage Uintown, Anytown and PeaceJam in the STA

See CULTURE, page 2

## TSUNAMI

### Did critters predict quake?

# Scientists speculate animals' sixth sense

Through the ultra-sensitive pads on the bottoms of their feet, elephants are able to sense subterranean tremors, allowing them to seek safer ground in the event of a natural disaster, such as an earthquake or a tsunami. The fatty tissue inside their feet acts as a type of shock absorber and helps the elephants detect vibrations in the ground.

Information from KRT Direct, International Fund for Animal Welfare, World Wildlife Fund, National Geographic, BBC.  
graphic by Maggie Mullane

Hours before the Dec. 26 tsunami hit, elephants along the western coast of Thailand began trumpeting incessantly while giving tourist rides. At about that same time, the 9.0-magnitude quake fractured the ocean floor, sending gigantic waves in the direction of the elephants. The elephants reportedly grew frantic and began howling an hour before the waves crashed into the resort area. Breaking free from their chains, they rushed to higher ground only minutes before the tsunami struck.

Tales of strange animal behavior and their flights to safety have resurfaced in the aftermath of the tsunami, once again triggering questions of whether animals can predict natural disasters.

According to forest officials of Point Calimere Sanctuary, flamingos left their breeding area and moved farther inland well in advance of the time the disaster pounded India's southern coast.

Despite damages to the rest of the Yala National Park in Sri Lanka, wildlife officials were shocked to discover that hundreds of elephants, leopards, tigers, deer, water buffalo, monkeys and smaller mammals and reptiles escaped the tsunami unharmed. According to the *National Geographic*, over 21,000 people died in Sri Lanka alone, but very few dead animal bodies were found.

"In general, animals are going to have a fear response

when they can sense something is wrong," said Ms. Tricia

Hanska, school and outreach coordinator with the education program at the Kansas City Zoo. "They will do one of two things: run and hide or stand and fight. In the case of the tsunami, they fled for higher ground."

Though seismologists can measure the magnitude of an earthquake after the fact, no one can predict exactly when one might hit. According to *The Washington Post*, some scientists, who believe that certain mammals have a sensory hard-wiring that can detect earthquakes before they strike, hope to one day duplicate this into a man-made device.

"Watching animals can give us a lot of information," said Hanska. "They pick up on changes in weather and react to things that we don't notice."

Centuries worth of reports suggest that animals have a sixth sense in perceiving natural disasters before the earth even begins to shake, according to *National Geographic*. Rats scurry out of buildings prior to a quake; dogs howl before disaster strikes. But evidence shows that this is not a mere coincidence.

"I am not so sure that animals have a 'sixth sense' so much as they are equipped to detect certain

changes," said Hanska. "They are just more sensitive to environmental cues. For example, elephants can hear low frequency that humans cannot pick up on. In relation to the tsunami, they could probably hear the pitches created by the earth shaking and the waves moving as well as feel them."

Animals are supersensitive to sound, temperature, touch, vibration, electrostatic and chemical activity and

See ANIMALS, page 2

### STA donates without incentive

Julia McQueeny-Thorpe  
Entertainment Editor

On Dec. 26, an estimated 228,600 people lost their lives due to a 9.0-magnitude earthquake about 100 miles off the western coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. A violent movement of the Earth's tectonic plates displaced an enormous amount of water, sending powerful waves in every direction.

Within hours, tsunami waves radiating from the epicenter struck into the coastline of 11 Indian Ocean countries, sending people out to sea, drowning others in their homes or on beaches and demolishing property from Thailand to as far as Africa.

It was the strongest quake since the March 28, 1964 rupture of Prince William Sound in Alaska. It is the fourth strongest since recordings of magnitude began in 1899, equivalent to a 1952 quake in Kamchatka, Russia. The amount of energy released from the earthquake was equivalent to 23,000 Hiroshima bombs.

The waves left 500,000 injured and five million displaced and lacking basic needs. However, as of Jan. 18, international pledges of emergency relief for tsunami victims now stand at more than \$7 billion. The US alone has raised \$350 million through financial aid funds and emergency relief funds. Across the country, fundraisers to benefit the victims were organized, websites were built to direct those with help to those who need it, and drives for necessities like blankets were set up.

One month later, numbers continue to surface. Last Friday, Theology teacher Ms. Hansbrough, and junior Molly Friend counted money from STA's tsunami relief drive. At the end of an hour, around \$550.00 had been sorted and tallied. Approximately 94 percent of the proceeds will go to the afflicted areas.

Along with the fundraiser in January, Project Heifer, the most

See INVOLVEMENT, page 2

### Art department recognized for excellence

Leslie Herring  
Staff Writer

The STA art department received three more awards this year than last year with a total of 26. Six seniors, two juniors and seven freshman received one or more, with seniors Claire Gude, Emily Lodigensky and Rachel Straughn leading the way with four each.

According to the Scholastic website, the Scholastic Art Awards have recognized the achievements of young artists across the United States since 1923. Of over twelve millions participants, two million have been recognized and scholarships have been handed out totaling more than \$20 million. The awards also have a history at STA.

"When I first came here, Dr. Wilson talked about how in recent years we hadn't won very many and encouraged us to enter the competition," said Ms. Teresa Wallerstedt, art teacher. "The first year was pretty disappointing, we only won maybe five awards. Then as [former STA art teacher Ms. Jennifer Martin] and I developed new curriculum and became more comfortable in the art department we saw improvement which was reflected in the amount of awards we received."

According to Wallerstedt, the process by which works of art are selected, judged and awarded is very long. Wallerstedt spent the first week of Christmas break photographing the works of art and making slides, labeling and measuring the works. The slides are then taken to the Indian Creek Tech Center be sorted into their respective categories and judged locally. They are returned to schools with notifications of the awards that were received.

The art works are judged in 12 different categories: animation, ceramics and glass, computer art, design, digital imagery, drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking sculpture and video and film. STA

See ART, page 3

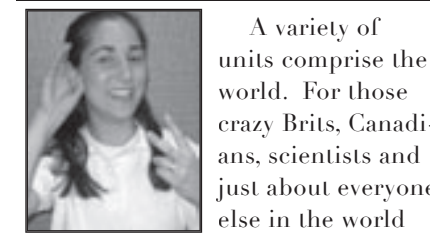
CULTURE: Students benefit from diversity opportunities

Continued from page 1 community. "The administration, through allowing STA to have Unitown and programs that sponsor cultural awareness, makes STA a culturally aware community," Harris said. Nearly 50 Stars participate in Unitown annually since its inception at STA in 1994. "A diverse school offers an opportunity for cultural enrichment and understanding and [is] a forum for practicing valuable skills," said Ms. Felicia Meddlin, the program director of NCCJ's Greater Kansas City region. Nearly 70 participants of STAs

Cultural Awareness program hope that through the program students will be aware of their differences and the reality of the world. "From personal experience I know that I wasn't very aware of other cultures until I came to STA and found out about others nationalities and races and the differences that other people have," Harris said. The cultural diversity group at STA meets every Monday with Mr. Mark Fudenburg and Mr. Craig Whitely, who are the advisors for the group. Harris hopes that they will have a culture fair sometime in the future and are bringing another "Mix It Up" to STA in April.

OVERHEARD: Round II Parents

Ann Stacy Editor-in-Chief



A variety of units comprise the world. For those crazy Brits, Canadians, scientists and just about everyone else in the world other than Americans, there is the metric unit. When we don't know if we are working with inches, feet or miles while solving math word problems, we put our answers in units. For rap fans, it's difficult to think about 50 Cent and not have another important unit, G-Unit, come to mind. And for every person who has ever been born, there is (cue Beethoven's Fifth Symphony) dan dan dan dan...the parental unit.

For many teens, the parental unit, like the driver in a set of golf clubs, is the ultimate power source. When a golfer sets a ball on the tee and removes the head cover from the driver, you know things are serious. The same goes for when the parental unit steps in to regulate. And regulate it does, particularly its high school child's life.

"One time my mom told me if I didn't clean my room she'd move all of my stuff into the garage," a girl told her class. "Once mine said she'd throw all of my things away if I didn't clean my room," her classmate commiserated. "It's so stupid," a frustrated girl asserted, "It's not like my dirty room causes problems."

A traditional part of "Overheard" is never using individuals' names. So for this example I'll invent one. Let's say it's A. Stacy. Apparently A's parents once told her if she didn't break her habit of leaving late for school and speeding during icy weather, they would confiscate her car keys. And she sounds like to walk to STA. It sounds severe, but this is just another example of parental authority.

INVOLVEMENT: STA reaches out to tsunami victims

Continued from page 1

recent Community Service Club drive, raised \$4,000. This will assist in buying a water buffalo and llamas for the countries.

Community Service Club is not the only part of STA immersed in the redevelopment of the Indonesian countries. Without school-related incentive, students have donated money to drives and fundraisers. Freshman Marian Nguyen gave money to a collection at her parish.

"I didn't need [money] as much as they would," said Nguyen. "The tsunami was a totally devastating thing, and I would think it's just a naturally good thing to do."

Senior Marcie Conway and her family bought T-shirts that read "I fought the Tsunami" from the Feed the Children organization. The income from the T-shirts will provide food and clothing specifically for children of families without homes after the waves.

"If something like this were to happen to the United States we would rely on other countries as well," said Senior Heather Coakley, speaking of her incentive for donating



Julia McQueeney-Thorpe Junior Molly Friend (left) and Ms. Hansbrough count money from the tsunami relief drive. The fundraiser provided students an opportunity to donate without reward.

money to a relief collection. There are several ways to become involved. "You can donate," said Friend. "You can pray. Just do something." To find a list of organizations specifically for tsunami relief visit: www.google.com/tsunami\_relief.html or www.tsunamihelp.blogspot.com for updates on the money collected, and standing needs. "You don't know how much a difference you make until you actually try to help out," said Nguyen.

ANIMALS: Strange behavior raises questions of instincts

Continued from page 1 magnetic fields, so they might know of the disaster days before it actually reaches them, according to The Washington Post.

Although it may seem animals' instincts can predict natural disasters, this theory cannot be tested in a laboratory.

"It would be impossible to recreate the situation of a natural disaster," said Dr. Bruce Baker, veterinarian of the Leavood Animal Hospital. "Animals might have the uncanny ability to sense a storm, and they might exhibit abnormal behavior from panting and howling to anxiety-like reactions and alertness, but as of right now, there would be no way to test their instincts.

The theory of them having a sixth sense is all in speculation. Besides, any study would be after the fact."

Even if it could be analyzed in the laboratory, plenty of logical explanations refute this hypothesis completely.

"Not every animal in the area foresees the danger," said Hanska. "But animals are constantly watching one another as predator and prey. If one animal reacts in a certain way, the others will follow it."

Animals could have detected "infrasound" and heard the tsunami coming as soon as the earthquake erupted in the ocean, said psychobiologist James Walker, director of the Sensory Research Institute at Florida Uni-

versity, to the Kansas City Star. Even though they are domesticated, cats and dogs can sense electromagnetic changes, which generally precede a quake.

"Domesticated animals' dependency on humans factors into their natural instinct," said Baker. "While domestication might breed out their instincts, animals are born with the ability to sense things like barometric change, movement of air, and the ground shaking."

Even though plenty of animal traits can sense disaster, without consistency in their abnormal behavior or the ability to test it in a laboratory, scientists cannot conclude this theory to be anything more than a theory.

CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. 9th issue of The Dart the word "A cappella" appeared misspelled several times on page 8 and once on the front page. We apologize.

In the Dec. 9 issue of The Dart sophomore Kate O'Flaherty's name was spelled incorrectly. We apologize for this mistake.

Star Athlete Jennifer Koelsch traveled to London over Christmas break, and will not be going there this summer as earlier stated.

As of press time for the Dec. 9 issue, the Junior Varsity Basketball team's record was 4-1, not 1-4.

As of press time for the Dec. 9 issue, the Freshman A basketball team's record was 2-4, and they had beaten Pembroke Hill 52-23 on Dec. 7.

In the Dec. 9 issue on page 3, the "Auction of a night of fun to remember" photo caption read that Ms. Denise Rueschhoff was one of the faculty members on stage receiving donations. However, it was Ms. Shana Prentiss. Our apologies.

A Cool Place to Party! Ice Terrace always something cool! The Crown Center Ice Terrace is not only great fun - it's a great deal. Introducing Two-for-One Tuesdays. Every Tuesday after 5 pm, pay one full price admission and receive a second for free. Skate rental not included. Plan a trip to the Ice Terrace - one of the coolest places in town.

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STA students linked to fame



Maggie Mullane Senior Angela Garozzo is linked to the Garozzo's Risorantes.



Maggie Mullane Franki Belfonte, from left, Kristin Belfonte and Anna Stewart are linked to the Belfonte Ice Cream, Inc.



Maggie Mullane Amanda Textor is linked to KCTV 5 weatherman Mr. Ted Textor.

Jessica Closson Staff Writer

Lifestyles of the rich and the famous are hard to imagine. Unless, of course, if you are rich and famous. Several STA students are related to the famous of Kansas City. Senior Angela Garozzo, junior Amanda Textor and sophomore Franki Belfonte are famous only by association and they carry the secret ingredient for opening closed doors or impressing people. Each girl has the power residing in their hands; all they have to do is choose what they wish to do with that power.

"My friends will try and get me to say who I am when we are waiting a long time [at a restaurant] so that we will get special treatment," said Garozzo. "I don't like to use my name for that though."

Garozzo's father, Mr. Michael Garozzo, is the owner of Garozzo's Risorantes located throughout Missouri. The first location was opened in 1989 in Kansas City's Columbus Park area. Since then, many other locations have opened and are well known among Kansas City Italian connoisseurs. The Garozzo family is known for its award-winning food all over town. Most of the Garozzo fans however are not family friends.

"When people find out who I am, their usual response is 'Oh my gosh!' and they ask me all these questions about my dad," said Garozzo. "Lots of people will ask me if my dad's voice is really as raspy as it sounds on the radio or if my dad is mean to me. People even ask 'Is Mike in the mob?' Come on, do they even know what the mob is?"

Garozzo also encounters many people who claim to be family friends, but in reality they are just trying to pull some strings that do not really exist.

"When people don't know that I am Angela Garozzo and I am working at the hostess desk and there is a two-and-half hour wait, some people say 'Well me and Sam Garozzo are close friends, I even know his daughters and wife,'" said Garozzo, obviously aware that these people do not know the family, especially since her father's name is Michael.

Random people also often approach the well-known and try to engage in conversations with them. "Random people will come up

to me and say 'Guess what happened to me today? I bought one of your products!' and I'm like, okay, congratulations!" said sophomore Franki Belfonte.

Belfonte Ice Cream, Inc., like Garozzo's, is a Kansas City native company born in 1985. Belfonte's grandfather, Mr. Sal Belfonte, started the business in Kansas City in 1969 and opened the ice cream and dairy products production plant in December of 1985. Belfonte products can be found in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma, and in many grocery stores, restaurants, schools and hospitals. Belfonte ice cream is one of the major brands on the market today.

"People take [our fame] as if we have lots of money," said Belfonte. "They make comments about my parents giving me everything, but they don't. I have a job [at Rancho Grande in Liberty]; if my parents gave me everything I wanted, why would I have a job?"

So maybe parents aren't the ones who suck up or spoil their offspring. Often times the famous are harassed or begged for attention by fans. Sometimes people even change the way they act towards the famous after finding out that person's true identity.

"Once I was at the Waldo library and this librarian, who had been really snotty to me, scanned my card and saw that my last name was Textor and all of a sudden she got really nice and asked me if I was related to the new weatherman on KCTV 5, my uncle," said junior Amanda Textor.

Mr. Ted Textor became a weatherman for KCTV 5 last June after working in several other cities such as Las Vegas, Detroit, Miami, Buffalo and Topeka. Now, back in Kansas City, Ted does the weekend news weather forecasts alongside Ms. Katie Horner. Ted's family is very supportive and helps Ted get through his tough days at the weather station whenever they can.

"One time during the last snow storm we had, it was a snow day and my uncle called me at 8:00 a.m. and asked, out of breath, where Suicide Hill was," said Textor. "It was really early so I gave him the address and turned on the TV and he said, 'I have a niece and nephew here at Suicide Hill...' I thought that was cool because I was just talking to him and I turn on the TV and there he is saying what I just told him."

Teens depend on cell phones



Rachel Straughn Freshman Madeline McGannon talks on cell phone while eating candy.

Cierra Chuly Obihoa News Editor

Many teens today are dependent of their cellular phones. For some, it's an additional limb. Cellular phones are becoming more versatile, and as a result, they have become a big part of society.

Because of technological advances, cell phones can be used for not only for communicating with others, but also in capturing photos, recording events, and researching information. These multipurpose additions being made to cellular phones have assisted in the growing number of cell-phone users under 18.

According to American Demographics, about 82 percent of 15 to 19-year-olds own mobile phones, versus the 17 percent of young adults 15-25 that owned cell phones in the 1990s.

In the 1990s, cellular phones were used more for business/purpose purposes. Today, there is a greater percent of cell phones being used more for convenience and emergency purposes. However, many teens see their cell phones as more than just a tool to talk into. Cell phones are seen as cameras, watches, phone books, computers, text messaging machines, and many other devices.

"I was 14/15 when I received my first cell phone," said sophomore Lizzy Duff. "My parents got it for me because I went out a lot and they needed a way to get a hold of me. Now, my cell phone is my life. If my phone was taken away, I would be lost because it's always with me. It's like an addition to me and when I don't have it with me, I feel like I'm missing out on something."

A number of teens feel the way Duff does. After using their phones to replace many traditional tasks, they become dependent on them. Most teens can use their cell phones to play video games, check their e-mail, as well as calculators

or to surf the Web. However, with fun and games come rules and responsibilities. Such responsibilities include learning how to stay connected without incurring major billing charges.

"One of my biggest problems in having a phone is making sure the bill is not too high," said senior Sarah Snyder. "When I first had my phone, I would always use 2000 minutes instead of the 200 minutes I was supposed to use. Now I have a better plan through T-mobile where I have 3000 minutes for only \$50. It doesn't have any special features, but the original purpose is to communicate. A lot of the advances are unnecessary."

The costs of cell phones can be costly considering a teen's income. But, according to the Yankee Group, a Boston-based research firm, teens are making wise decisions when it comes to controlling their billing contracts. 45 percent of teens that own cell phones are on a family plan and about 22 percent of teens are on a prepaid plan. However, the actual phone is more. Camera phones are more expensive - generally \$99 to \$250, compared to \$29 to \$99 for non-camera phones. Yet younger age groups are owning phones.

"I laugh every time I see 12-year-old girls walking through the mall on their camera phones," said senior Amen Iyamu. "They have nicer phones than I do, and they don't even drive."

The vast majority of cell phone users 12 and under are growing every day. American Demographics says that just 1 percent of 5- to 9-year-olds own cell phones this year, but by 2006 it's expected to reach 32 percent of the 5- to 9-year-old population. With all of its new advances and responsibilities, cellular phones are becoming more a part of not only how teens interact with others but also who they are.

Briefs

Dance Club to bring Alvin Ailey The Dance Club raising \$500 to bring Alvin Ailey to STA. They began their fundraising last month with a pizza and bake sale. Alvin Ailes will come to STA to perform for Black History month. The performance will be open to the entire school. The club hopes that by inviting the dancers the school will build a partnership with Alvin Ailey and eventually the Kansas City Ballet.

Choir gone to Los Angeles This week 36 students from the A Cappella choir and one student from the orchestra will participate in an interest session in Los Angeles. An interest session is when someone researches the research into a speech. The choir will be singing "Magnificat" by Vivaldi, the focus of the session to accompany the speech. The choir was chosen to participate after a different choir dropped out. They left yesterday at 8:15 a.m.

Censorship in Blue Valley District 500 parents of students in the Blue Valley school district have signed a petition to ban 14 books from the district's required reading list. Janet Harmon, a mother who helped start the petition, told the Star in an interview last month that she believed alternative books, such as The Scarlet Letter and The Holy Bible should be offered as alternatives to the 14 required books she feels contain vulgar, violent or depressing content that is inappropriate for her child to read.

The 14 books are I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, The Awakening, Lords of Discipline, Stotan!, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Animal Dreams, The Bean Trees, All the Pretty Horses, Fallen Angels, Beloved, Song of Solomon, Hot Zone, This Boy's Life and Black. ~briefs by Mollie Esposito

Art: How contest work is judged

Continued from page 1

received 10 gold key awards, the highest honor; eight silver key awards, and eight certificates of merit. "Receiving these awards is a huge honor," said Wallerstedt. "These works are being judged along with big works from the bigger school districts with huge budgets and state of the art facilities. For us as a smaller school, it is a huge honor."

The competition is judged locally by Kansas City artists. "Some years [the judges] can be flukey," said Wallerstedt. "Others I agree with them completely."

Senior Claire Gude received a Gold Key award for a dress made out of laminated paper dots.

"The gold key award for my dress meant a lot to me because it took a lot of work," said Gude. "I was really excited about the project, even though punching out all the dots was a little stressful."

Senior Cara Wallingford is a first time award gold key winner for two of her paintings.

"I've never received an award like this before," said Wallingford. "So, it means a lot. But, art doesn't play a huge role in my life. Sometimes I just sit down and sketch to help me relax."

All the works of art that won awards will be on display at Penn Valley Community College in The Carter Art Center Gallery through next Thursday on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays from noon to 6 p.m., Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. Admission is free.



Rachel Straughn Claire Gude sketches to begin an art project.

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## Young women unknowingly experience date, acquaintance rape

Chandler Domian  
Staff Writer

Misconceptions and denial. Self-blame and fear. Concealed from friends, family, and maybe even her own awareness, is a teen girl's realization that she was raped. Silence.

The Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) in Kansas City reports that women, ages 15-25, along with children and developmentally disabled individuals, constitute the majority of victims of sexual violence.

"Although college is often seen as the environment in which acquaintance rape flourishes, high school and even junior high girls are being raped by boys they know," wrote author Ms. Robin Warshaw in the book, *I Never Called it Rape*. "Perched in the emotionally shaky middle ground between childhood

and adult life, teenagers are ill equipped to fend off these assaults."

Research finds that some teens have misconceptions about what differentiates healthy sex from sexual assault. In a study appearing in Warshaw's book conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles, 42 percent of the girls surveyed had distorted views of rape, agreeing that forced sexual intercourse was acceptable if a female sexually arouses a male.

According to MOCSA coordinator of education and outreach Ms. Nicole Littler, sexual assault is any sexual act without consent. Rape is a form of sexual assault that can appear as acquaintance rape, where the perpetrator and victim know each other, or date rape, where the perpetrator and victim are dating.

"Rape is sexual intercourse without consent through force, fear, and intoxication coercion," said Littler. "Coercion is if someone is talking, begging, pushing, passing sexual boundaries, and threatening."

The majority of rapes that occur are classified as either date rape or acquaintance rape.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, intimate partners committed 70 percent of the rapes and sexual assaults that occurred in 2003. Littler said that rape occurs more often by a person the victim knows because there is more opportunity for the perpetrator to be with the victim.

"[The perpetrator] gets to know secrets and insecurities to use against [the victim]," said Littler. "They know patterns and what would work."

Despite the overwhelming occurrence of rape, only a small percentage of all cases are reported to the police.

As stated by the MOCSA website, 16 percent of all rapes are reported. Littler said that victims are reluctant to admit they've been raped because they are either embarrassed or they blame themselves. Many teenagers do not expose their rape because they are afraid of getting in trouble for decisions that preceded the rape, such as drinking alcohol or doing drugs.

"[Teenage girls] believe their parents will blame them for what happened, rather than offer support and love," wrote Warshaw.

In her book, Warshaw also explains that teen girls are afraid of being alienated from their peers for reporting a peer for rape.

Littler said that some teenagers don't even believe they

have been raped. In her book, Warshaw includes a reflection of a research subject's definition of sex when she was raped at age 17.

"There was a part of me back then that thought that the way 'it' was done. Guys pounced on you, you struggled, then forgot about the whole thing."

According to executive director of Intermountain Specialized Abuse Treatment Center in Utah, Ms. C.Y. Roby, societal influences can also impact women's reluctance to report rape.

"From the time a child is very, very small, we're teaching that they're responsible for the things that happen in their life both positive and negative," said Roby in an article written by Mary Dickson on the PBS website. "So when a rape situation occurs, usually what I see going through a victim's mind is what did I

do that was wrong?"

Young women who are raped experience different repercussions. Littler said that a lot of women experience self-blame.

"[Victims] have a very hard time trusting people, they question their own judgment, and feel that they deserved it," Littler said. "Some become promiscuous. They try to have complete control by becoming overly active."

Littler emphasized that regardless of the situation, rape is never the victim's fault.

"Sex, just like physical abuse is still about power and control," Littler said. "[The abusers] are really cowards because they pick on the elderly, young, or intoxicated. [Rape] is not about being sexually aroused, it is about being in control."

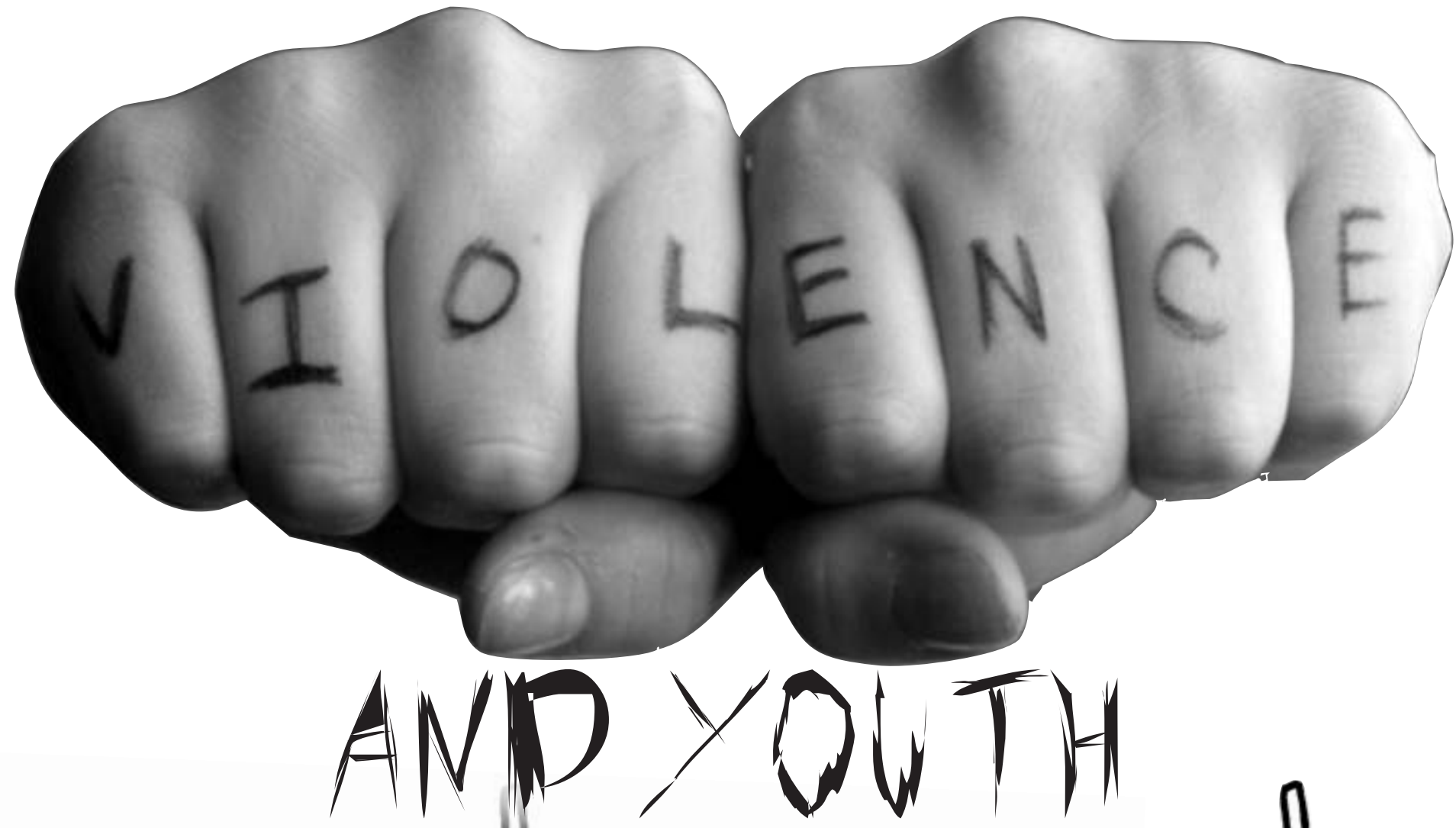
According to Littler, there isn't a uniform profile of sex abusers. In order for

women to identify a friend or boyfriend as an abuser, they first must establish boundaries and then determine whether the boyfriend or friend is respecting those boundaries.

"Sometimes perpetrators feel out victims through sexual harassments to see what they can get away with," Littler said.

Littler also said that women should never disregard a gut instinct about a boyfriend. Littler believes that women are conditioned to ignore gut feelings in order to avoid being labeled as silly or stupid.

"If you know someone has been an abuser in the past it will not be different with you no matter what," Littler said. "Speak out even if somebody promises it won't happen again. It will. Unless they accept it and acknowledge that they need help, it will happen again."



## Teenage girls make decisions that kill

Ali Ryan  
Managing Editor

We were in fifth grade, Yasmine was in seventh. She was the cool older sister of one of

my friends and everything we wanted to be. She was pretty. She had long, shiny, black hair and clear, olive skin. She had already entered the glamorous world of middle school, bringing with her an air of sophistication wherever she went. She always seemed to know all of the latest trends before they happened. Her clothes were always matched, not like how we dressed at our lowly elementary school. She even had a nose piercing; a tiny little stud that we whispered about enviously. We lived for the days when she would come into our school to get her sister. She would always take a few seconds to say "hi" to us, and just that made us feel so important. We hoped that someday, somehow, we would be that cool.

Then, Yasmine was murdered.

It all started when another girl suspected Yasmine of having something going on with her boyfriend. The girl decided that this couldn't be happening, and the only way to solve the problem was to get rid of it. She killed Yasmine in a McDonald's parking lot one night.

I remember finding out the news. I was shocked, and not really sure of what to think. Yasmine was gone, and would never come back, all because of such a trivial reason. A simple misunderstanding led to such horrible results which created so much pain for so many people.

Every day we face trivial reasons to get angry. Someone may cut us off in traffic, bump into us in the hall or even flirt with our boyfriends. But is that really any reason to get violent?

The increase in violence among girls is shocking. It is easy for us to hear about kids getting in fights and pass it off by saying, "boys will be boys," but what do we say now?

According to CBS News, only one generation ago the violence among teenage boys outnumbered teenage girls 10 to 1. Now the numbers have reached 4 to 1.

What has caused this change? Why is the same generation of teenage girls whose motto was "Girl Power" (thanks to the Spice Girls) now living the exact opposite?

Some blame the change on the demoralization of the country as a whole. Girls are seeing more and more problems in society and are changing their behaviors as a result. Just take a look at the backgrounds of violent girls.

According to a study by a professor at the University of Hawaii based on arrest statistics, 20 percent of violent girls have been physically abused at home. One in every four violent girls has been sexually abused, compared to one in ten non-violent girls.

These girls are picking up on what they have witnessed, and are now carrying on the trend. As in Yasmine's murder, the learned behaviors are coming out in horrible ways.

I'm not giving an excuse or standing up for any type of violence, but the fact that trivial arguments are causing this violence among teenage girls is ridiculous. A simple conversation could have led to the conclusion of the argument, and Yasmine would still be alive. One quick decision made out of anger is one that many people will never forget.

Yasmine's story is not the only one like it. Every day thousands of girls are both becoming and creating victims of such violence. CBS News recently reported a story where a twelve-year-old girl was beaten into a coma after another girl's boyfriend kissed her on the cheek. Girl gangs are on the rise in major cities across the country. It is an issue that can't be ignored.

So what can we do to fix it? Communication is key. Words are more powerful than actions, and their results are less permanent. We need to realize that violence is never a solution, but rather a quick reaction that leads to even more problems.

## Class explores violence through film

Ann Langworthy  
Managing Editor

According to Ms. Betsy Hansbrough, theology teacher, St. Teresa's is the only local high school to offer a course specifically designed to educate students about violence. This is the second year Theology in Film: Violence Unveiled has been offered as a semester-long religion elective for juniors and seniors. Throughout the semester, students watch specifically selected movies and analyze them based on the elements of violence.

The entire course is based on the book "Violence Unveiled" by Gil Bailey, Hansbrough read the book 11 years ago and became fascinated with the theory.

"It was such a powerful book, truly life changing," said Hansbrough. "I became friends with the author and [Bailey] and I put on a retreat for the students and teachers at O'Hara High School."

That retreat introduced the philosophies to Ms. Mimi Harman, STA religion teacher who formerly taught at O'Hara. Harman sat down with Hansbrough and they came up with the idea of creating a course that used popular movies to apply Bailey's violence philosophy and equation to everyday life. The course was brought to St. Teresa's by Harman, who now teaches the course.

"I became interested in

teaching the course because I think it's at the core of Jesus's message," said Harman. "His life, death and resurrection says so much about violence but it has become watered down. It has never really been examined as an issue of peace and nonviolence."

Bailey's philosophy centers around two main ideas. The first is Jesus' message of the Third Way, or using active nonviolence to restore the dignity of the victim. Secondly, the violence equation, which consists of mimetic envy, a scandalized offense and an accusation combined to cause violence. The equation works as a template; students can apply it to any movie or violent event.

"The class helps students understand scripture," said Hansbrough. "It uses the power of the Gospels to break things open."

The movies featured in the class include "Lord of the Flies," "Spitfire Grill," "School Ties" and "American History X." Due to ratings, parental permission is required for every student at the beginning of the semester.

In class, students look for particular themes in the movies: jealousy, scapegoating, mob mentality and redemption.

"Once you are acquainted with these ideas, they change you," said Hansbrough. "You see it in other people and you begin to see it in yourself."

Students learn to analyze the violence they see, instead of simply accepting it.

"It's interesting," said Al-lie Brown, senior who took the class fall 2003. "I see things on the news and I can apply the equation. [Harman] told us that everything would fit in the equation and at first I was timid about that, but it does. I find myself looking for the victim or scapegoat."

That is the teachers' hope: that students will learn to examine violence on a human level, not on the level of entertainment.

"There hasn't been a time when violence wasn't the center of people coming together," said Hansbrough. "The media gathers a mob through coverage, but doesn't do anything to change the situation. It just creates new victims."

Ms. Robin Good, theology teacher, agrees.

"Entertainment" is a billion dollar industry," said Good. "Violence sells."

Harman and Hansbrough hope that through educating students about violence they will learn to notice the patterns and see through glamorization in the media.

"It's really the fear of the other, or unknown, that sells," said Harman. "Fear is a common tendency and when people unite around fear, the entertainment industry feeds off it."

## School safety remains concern for parents

Nicole Farley  
Staff Writer

Since 1989, over 40 states and Canada have hired Mr. Kenneth Trump, President of National School Safety and Security Services, as a consultant for school security issues. Trump has worked in school security for over 20 years, and has been sought out for interviews

by over 90 media outlets nationwide. The catalyst for such public attention and emphasis on violence, though brought

on by several events, was essentially the 1999 incident at Columbine High School, in Littleton, Colorado. On April 20, students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold brought bombs and guns to school, planning to kill at least 500 other students. When they were finished, they had injured 23 people and killed 15 - including 12 students, a teacher, and finally, themselves.

Despite the heightened state of awareness since Columbine, rates of school violence have not decreased significantly. A 1998 study by the Center On Juvenile And Criminal Justice, located in San Francisco, California, reported that in the five-year period ending in the 1998 school year, 171 people died as a result of school shootings (an average of about 34 people per year).

National School Safety and Security Services reports that in the five-year period ending in the 2004 school year, 146 people died as a re-

sult of school-related violence. To put those numbers into perspective, that equals about 29 people per year. There have been 13 deaths in the current school year from Aug. 1 to the present.

"Students cannot learn at their maximum capabilities and teachers cannot teach at their maximum capabilities if they are distracted with concerns about their safety," commented Trump, via an e-mail interview with *The Dart*.

Kim Thomas, a sophomore at Lincoln College Preparatory Academy and former STA student, agreed. Thomas said that while violence is not much of an issue at Lincoln, she ran into some outbreaks of violence at Paseo High School, where she attended summer school.

"It's scary," said Thomas. "You've got that pressure on you, and you've got that fear, and it's harder to perform, because you're watching your back."

According to "Connecting With Kids: A Violent Age," a television special aired locally by ABC on Jan. 14, violence is the second-leading cause of teenage deaths. The program also noted that one out of three teens have been in a physical fight in the last year.

Thomas believes it is easier to perform in an atmosphere where violence is not present. "At some of the more inner-city schools, there's more violence," she said. "Thankfully, I haven't had to experience much of it."

Trump says that when thinking about school safety, National School Safety and Security Services believe that people need to be conscious of violence, whether it is currently present or not.

"Students, staff, and parents should be aware and prepared, but not scared," said Trump. "We do not want people paranoid or alarmed about school violence. We do not want students and staff to come to school in fear. We do want to address school safety through education, communication, and preparation. This reduces the risks of violence and it reduces fear."

Some schools use metal detectors in the entryways as a means of violence prevention, others have in-school police officers. Some utilize both. However, Thomas says, tools such as metal detectors are not always completely effective.

"They're really more for visuals, because they make visitors feel more safe," said Thomas. "There's so many ways to get around them."

Trump agrees that single-strategy approaches are not useful.

"These strategies [training of school staffs; written emergency plans] should be combined with school climate, disciplinary procedures, prevention and intervention programs, mental health support, and collaboration with school public safety officials to contribute to an overall comprehensive safe schools plan," said Trump. "Any single-strategy approach, such as a 'prevention only' or 'security only' approach will not be successful."

Another means of prevention advocated by National School Safety and Security Services, is that of looking for stress factors in an adolescent's life that may trigger violent behavior. According to the organization's web-site, some of these stress factors include "lack of order, structure, and discipline," "pressure to succeed academically," as well as the adolescent "fear of the unknown, fear of rejection, and fear of failure."

However, while his web-site mentions stress factors as a cause of school violence, Trump says that violence can not be attributed to just one thing.

"There is no single cause of school violence, nor is there a single solution," Trump said. "A variety of social, psychological, and economic factors come into play when we consider why crime occurs in our communities. The same is true for crime and violence which occurs in schools."

Administrative assistant Marion Chartier, and receptionist Kathy Walters, would be the ones to contact the police. Both faculty members have attended a workshop and know how to best and quickly relay useful information to the police.



Metal detectors stand by the door at a local high school. Students go through security every morning before school.

Kathleen Potter

Between 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 there was a **40% decrease** in school-related violent deaths. However, there was a **49% increase** in people who feared the possibility of a school shooting in their community.

-Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice



The Kansas City Police Department patrols a local school in the interest of student safety.

Kathleen Potter

## Crisis plan depends on police

Colleen Slentz  
Staff Writer

Were an incident of a violent or threatening nature to occur at St. Teresa's Academy, the school's plan would be to first contact the police. Upon their arrival, they would be in command and the administration would follow their directives.

"I think they're pretty capable," said Mr. Ben Casey, who spent 27 years at the police department retired in 1997.

Ms. Mary-Anne Hoecker, Principal of Student Affairs, said that she is confident in the police department's ability to handle the situation, although they have not informed her or any of the administration as to what their exact plan is.

"Here's the thing," said Hoecker, Principal of Student Affairs. "If we had an incident, the police would be contacted. Once they enter the premises, they take control. They have our blueprints. They know where shut-off valves are and things like that."

Administrative assistant Marion Chartier, and receptionist Kathy Walters, would be the ones to contact the police. Both faculty members have attended a workshop and know how to best and quickly relay useful information to the police.

According to Casey, said that the police department's plan of action is dependent upon the situation is. In the case of a bomb threat, "probably the most common issue the police would deal with," the building would need to be evacuated. In the case of something similar to the Columbine High School shooting, he said the school would most likely have a lockdown.

"There's less likelihood [of that happening] because it's a single-sex school," said Casey. "Males are typically your suspects in these types of situations."

Hoecker said that students would hear the following announcement over the intercom: "Go to the nearest classroom and remain there," or some variation thereof.

According to Hoecker, if Chartier were unable to reach the intercom, "We would simply do the best we can to inform as many people as we can. In a situation like that, it'll be chaotic and we'll do the best we can. But mostly, we want the police there."

Junior Katherine Patke believes in the police out of necessity.

"I guess I'm confident in them," she said. "I don't really have any choice."

Patke said that calling the police and then locking down was the best plan.

"What else would we do?" she said. "A lockdown is probably the best option."

Hoecker said that although the statistics are against anything like that happening to our school, the important thing was to have a plan just in case.

"It's one of those things you hope you never, ever have to deal with," she said. "But you still have to have a plan."



Courtesy of KRT Direct

John Heder, left, made his cinematic debut in the 2004 cult hit "Napoleon Dynamite." Napoleon, now a household name, was relatively unknown until MTV Films added the film to its list of productions. Like many cult film predecessors, "Napoleon Dynamite" fans incessantly repeat one liners and find room for Napoleon-isms into their vocabulary.

Leslie Herring  
Staff Writer

On the surface, "Napoleon Dynamite," "It's a Wonderful Life," "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "Donnie Darko" appear to have nothing in common. However, they are a type of cult film.

According to <http://www.filmsite.org/cultfilms.html>, a cult film is strange, quirky, offbeat, eccentric, oddball or surreal with outrageous, weird, unique and cartoony characters or plots and garish sets.

There are three forms of cult films: well-regarded, camp films and music based. They are usually made under narrow budgets and have limited means of advertisement.

Cult films contain new or unknown talent and don't follow rules of Hollywood blockbusters. They stretch boundaries and go against the norm when it comes to the style.

"When I think of cult films, I think of a movie that is not the cheesy love story that comes out every other weekend," said senior Elizabeth Rogers. "I know that [cult films] are going to be different and very unexpected when it comes to the plot."

Camp films, the least common form, are poorly made with unusual plotlines or style. These types of films are often considered extreme.

Well-regarded cult films are praised by critics but rebel against the Hollywood mold. "A Clockwork Orange" by

Stanley Kubrick was a well-regarded film from 1971. It was Kubrick's way of protesting the Vietnam War. The movie foretold the worlds violent future.

Music-based cult films have a musical theme and are farcical or radical in plot line. "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "The Blues Brothers" are examples of music based cult films.

"Cult movie fans are so radical," said Rogers. "People just get so into the movie, watching and re-watching them over and over."

With out the fans, cult films would not exist. Because of limited budgets, cult films rely on word of mouth and advertisement plays for attention. For example, this sum-

mer's "Napoleon Dynamite" took advantage of unusual advertising to entice viewers.

"I saw the ads on MTV and didn't know what was going on," said Rogers. "The ads made you want to see the movie because they gave no clues as to what the plot was about."

Cult films gain audiences in different ways than other big budget films. Cult films rely on their status of being different to maintain their popularity.

"I like going to see [cult films] because I don't know what I'm getting myself into," said Rogers. "I want a unique movie-going experience and cult films offer me just that."



Rose Dillon

The Independent Film Coalition of Kansas City meets at Westport coffee house. There members discuss upcoming events, and film ideas.

## Independent coalition meets to discuss common interests

Juana Summers  
Co-Center Spread Editor

In addition to its commitment to the fine arts, Kansas City is also home to an independent film community. Whether showcasing nationally released films at theaters located in the metro area, or holding small group meetings in coffee shops, the film scene continues to grow.

The Independent Filmmaker's Coalition (IFC) of Kansas City promotes itself as an organization with a interest in promoting expression via film and media production. Founded by filmmakers committed to the community, the organization directs seminars, screenings and other products to promote independent film.

Ms. Linda Widemaier, Membership Coordinator, compares the IFC to a support group, in which members can find resources as well as equipment and financial aid to support their endeavors. IFC meets weekly at the Westport Coffee House to discuss filmmaking and new ideas.

"Naturally, there is a general cooperation among filmmakers," she said. "Film is a cutthroat business, but everyone cooperates and helps everyone else."

Joe Heyen, current president of IFC was drawn to

the organization by his career as a film professor with the Metropolitan Community Colleges. Heyen says that when he joined the group over a decade ago, it consisted of seven white guys, sitting around a table. Now, the group has expanded to an average of fifty to sixty members, with a diversity of ages and ethnicities.

The IFC encourages youth membership, but does not censor its film choices because it caters to mature filmmakers. Wiedmaier and Heyen both agree that high school filmmakers, are capable of competing with adults. Rockhurst Sophomore John Cooper is a youth member.

"Independent film promotes creativity; it inspires people to take chances in ways you don't usually see," Cooper said.

Other groups within the area promote the art of independent film, and its subtopics that include screenwriting, production and acting. Members of the Kansas City Screenwriters Group discuss the art of writing scripts and proctor a short film contest. The group meets Wednesdays at Harpo's in Westport.

The metro area is also home to many film competitions and festivals, which cater to different demo-

See IFC, page 10



Courtesy of KRT Direct

In 2004, several sequels were released including "Ocean's Twelve." Other sequels such as "Shrek 2" and "Spider-man 2" were in the top ten box office hits.

## Sequels follow box office trend by surpassing predecessors

Sarah Tampke  
Staff Writer

In 2004, several original box office hits released sequels. Some surpassed their predecessors in sales and made the list of top box office sales in the US of all time according to the Nielsen EDI, Inc. "Shrek 2" is currently ranked third on the list, although it generally received worse reviews than those of its original. "Spider-man 2" also ranked number eight.

Throughout film history there has been a trend of redoing films in series with the same sets of characters. The first known sequels was "Little Tramp" in 1914, where Charlie Chaplin played the same character. Universal Studios was the next to recycle stories with its remakes of horror films such as "Frankenstein" and "Dracula." Up until the 1980's there were very few sequels released. From then on according to The History of Film a steady flow of sequels were released every year. Sequels are usually made by inferior studios then their originals and rarely include the original cast both of these factors most times make for box office flops.

"Did you see 'Ghostbusters 2?'" said Rockhurst

High School junior Mike McInerney. "Neither did anyone else."

McInerney believes that making a sequel does not do the original story any good.

"I feel sequels are more often than not just an attempt to earn more money by using the name of a decent film to draw attention to a bad one," said McInerney.

On the other hand, some believe that sequels do help tie up loose ends to the original plot.

"I don't think [sequels] are better," said Rockhurst High School junior Kevin Jakopchek. "But a lot of them help complete the story."

STA sophomore Allie Fiss believes that opinions on sequels have a lot to do with how you liked the first one and that you can't categorize sequels as a whole.

"If you were totally in love with the first movie you might be disappointed with changes in the second one," said Fiss. "On the other hand you might really enjoy the plot and want the story to continue."

Other sequels are coming to theaters including "Miss Congeniality 2," "The Sandlot 2" and "The Italian Job 2."

## Controversy in Sports

### Should college athletes be paid?

Katie Meyers  
Staff Writer  
Co-Sports Editor



No. That is my final answer. College athletes should absolutely, positively not be paid for playing sports, whether it be basketball, football, volleyball or any other sport.

Let me play the Devil's advocate for a little bit, though. I have heard the arguments for the players and even though I don't agree with them, here are a few: 1) Athletes bring in millions of dollars of revenue for their university and do not see any of that revenue for themselves. Schools sell tickets to games, athletes' jerseys, advertisements on television and in venues, yet athletes are not compensated for any of that profit.

2) College coaches and athletic directors are paid large sums of money and provided with cars and other perks, while the players are not allowed to receive anything from anyone. I once read a story about former University of Kansas head basketball coach, Roy Williams, that during a recruiting visit, coaches are only allowed to provide dinner for the player and his parents. But when past KU player Jeff Boschee was in high school and on an official campus visit, he, his parents and brother joined Williams and his wife for dinner. Because of NCAA regulations, the Boschee family had to write Williams a check for the dinner he had provided to the brother, just to ensure no violation was made.

3) Because of the extreme time commitment, players do not have time to have a job, therefore having no income for themselves, which is greatly needed in college. But besides like toiletries, social occasions, and other necessities of all college students athletes are provided with many commodities. They get their tuition, books, room, board, fees, meals, and travel paid for. Some especially those of highly ranked Division I schools even get new, brand name shoes to wear during games.

I can see where one would side with these arguments and I even understand where they are coming from, but I still disagree. A full-ride scholarship to an accredited university does not have the same value it once held. When did we start taking the gift of an education for granted? These players are getting their college years completely paid for which will leave them debt-free after they graduate. The majority of college players will continue on into the "real world" because professional sports are such difficult businesses to work in. The fact that they will have no loans to pay off is a payment in itself. Many people around the world are not fortunate enough to get such an education, and it is disgraceful that a free education is not considered to be any form of payment.

In addition, if one athlete gets paid, then all athletes will expect the same treatment. How will athletic directors decide how much each player will receive? With rising tuition costs, athletic department budgets are already tight because they must reimburse the university for all athletes on scholarship.

Some elite athletes particularly in basketball choose to skip college and go straight to professional leagues in order to bring home a big paycheck. There is not a problem with this fact because many athletes do not want to risk injury or a drop in their "stock" with NBA scouts. Some players are not blessed with a financially stable home while growing up, which gives them more reason to enter into professional sports earlier. These players make it clear they are interested in making money and forgo attending college. It is the fact that players in the NCAA think they should get paid that is absurd.

Some believe it is inevitable that college players whether in five or fifty years will find a way to get paid, but I hope, for all sports, that it never happens.

as of press time, the game had not been decided. Their last game will be tonight at the Lee's Summit West tournament.

**Freshman B Basketball**  
The team's final record is 2-11. Notable games were against Aquinas Jan. 12, the Stars losing 24-39 and O'Hara Jan. 27, the Stars winning 52-35. The B team combined with the A team for the Lee's Summit West tournament this week.

**Dance Team**  
The team's competition season began after Christmas break, which increased their practice to four times a week meeting at 6 a.m. on Thursdays and after school Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Their first competition was the Kansas Spectacular at Olathe East Jan. 21. They received the Judges Award and the Sweepstakes Award. They also competed at the Lee's Summit North Invitational Jan. 29. They placed fifth for jazz, fourth for novelty and third for pom. According to the coach, Ms. Megan Savage, the competitions were more challenging than the girls expected, but they were good learning experiences. The team will finish out their year-long season performing at STA basketball games.

**Varsity Basketball**  
The team's current record is 4-16. They got their first win Jan. 19 against Basehor-Linwood, 58-31. Other notable wins were against Bonner Springs Jan. 21, 54-47 and Olathe Northwest Jan. 29, 42-36. On Tuesday, they played Blue Springs. Sophomore Lauren Fowkes made a shot with 14.3 seconds in regulation to send the game into overtime. In OT, sophomore Lauren Beford hit the game-winning shot with ten seconds left. The final score was 52-51. They play Pembroke at STA tonight at 7 p.m.

**Junior Varsity Basketball**  
The team's current record is 12-3. Notable wins were against O'Hara Jan. 27, 63-39 and Blue Springs Tuesday, 35-24. They also won the St. Teresa's JV Tournament Jan. 17-19. Since Jan. 17, the team has a six game winning streak. They play Pembroke at STA tonight at 5:30 p.m.

**Freshmen A Basketball**  
The team's current record is 4-11. Notable games were against Sion Jan. 8, the Stars losing 28-39 and Lee's Summit West Monday, the Stars winning 33-28 in overtime. They played Belton Wednesday, but

# New sports lack realistic future

Katie Meyers  
Staff Writer

In the fall there is golf, cross-country, volleyball, softball, dance team and tennis. In the winter there is basketball and dance team. In the spring there is diving and swimming, soccer and track and field. For most students, this list of sports offers more than enough variety, and yet there are others who still want more.

At STA, several athletes and non-athletes, have requested new sports, such as field hockey, lacrosse and powder puff football. What some of the students do not realize is a new sport is not added to a school on the basis of a whim, there is a time consuming procedure that goes along with it and it is not easy.

"The first thing in consideration is it possible to have it on campus?" said athletic director Mr. Mike Egner. "If not, it is always a problem."

The second and third issues that Egner considers are, when is the sport in season? And are there enough girls to go around? In the fall, STA has six competitive sports going at once. Next, he determines the availability of coaches, who, according to Egner, are not always easy to find. Then he considers how many experienced students are interested.

"When we first got softball, about five years ago, we sent out a petition to see who was interested and got about 150 signatures," said Egner. "That fall only about twenty girls came for try-outs."

But the final decision is not up to Mr. Egner. "It's really the administration's call," said Egner. "And they look at the same things I do, cost, facilities and availability of coaches."

With all of this in mind, Egner doesn't expect the school to be getting new sports soon.

"It doesn't look like anything is on the horizon," said Egner. "We already have ten competitive sports, including dance team."

Some students, on the other hand, stay hopeful about new athletic possibilities.

"I would like to have a [lacrosse] team, because it is a sport that is specialized for girls," said sophomore Carina Murphy. "With basketball and soccer guys and girls are playing the exact same game, but with lacrosse they

are two completely different sports."

Murphy has been playing lacrosse for four years and currently plays for the Kansas City Girls Lacrosse Club.

Physical Education teacher Ms. Ann Bode Rodriguez has low expectations when it comes to the arrival of lacrosse at STA.

"I can't see lacrosse for several reasons," said Bode. "First of all, I hear that it is a very expensive sport, and also there is little competition around here."

Murphy, however, feels differently.

"I don't think that it's outrageously expensive

at all," said Murphy. "Once you have [the equipment] it's just the usual costs, the traveling might make it a little more expensive, but it's worth every penny to me."

STA girls have also suggested ultimate frisbee, gymnastics and girls' football, also known as powder puff football.

"I think it would be fun to have a [Powder puff football] team," said junior

Claire Rachel. "Other sports at STA get really competitive; this would just be a fun game."

Rachel said she has never seriously played powder puff, but thinks it would be a great addition to the intramural roster.

"Powder puff football] has always been kind of in the back of my mind," said Bode.

According to Bode, there are several issues to consider with powder puff football. First, the sport is more about rules, rather than the skills players have, and it takes a while to learn the details of the game. The second issue is it is an outdoor sport, so if it rains one day, four games need to be rescheduled. The third and most important issue is injuries.

"Last time we had a powder puff game between STA and Sion, there were several girls with serious injuries," said Bode. "We're talking broken bones.

But that is not all.

"The other sport I've been asked about is bowling," said Egner. "In Kansas bowling is now a competitive sport, but not in Missouri. Wouldn't it be odd if Missouri made bowling competitive after we destroyed [our bowling alley]?"

While students continue to request their favorite sports at school, neither Bode nor Egner see any new sports coming to STA in the near future.



Caroline Findlay

Senior Katie Kelly drives down the court while being defended by a Sion player Jan. 30. Kelly has been playing CYO basketball with her team, the Ballas, for three years. The Ballas won the game, giving them an undefeated record of 7-0.

Varsity Basketball

The team's current record is 4-16. They got their first win Jan. 19 against Basehor-Linwood, 58-31. Other notable wins were against Bonner Springs Jan. 21, 54-47 and Olathe Northwest Jan. 29, 42-36. On Tuesday, they played Blue Springs. Sophomore Lauren Fowkes made a shot with 14.3 seconds in regulation to send the game into overtime. In OT, sophomore Lauren Beford hit the game-winning shot with ten seconds left. The final score was 52-51. They play Pembroke at STA tonight at 7 p.m.

Junior Varsity Basketball

The team's current record is 12-3. Notable wins were against O'Hara Jan. 27, 63-39 and Blue Springs Tuesday, 35-24. They also won the St. Teresa's JV Tournament Jan. 17-19. Since Jan. 17, the team has a six game winning streak. They play Pembroke at STA tonight at 5:30 p.m.

Freshmen A Basketball

The team's current record is 4-11. Notable games were against Sion Jan. 8, the Stars losing 28-39 and Lee's Summit West Monday, the Stars winning 33-28 in overtime. They played Belton Wednesday, but

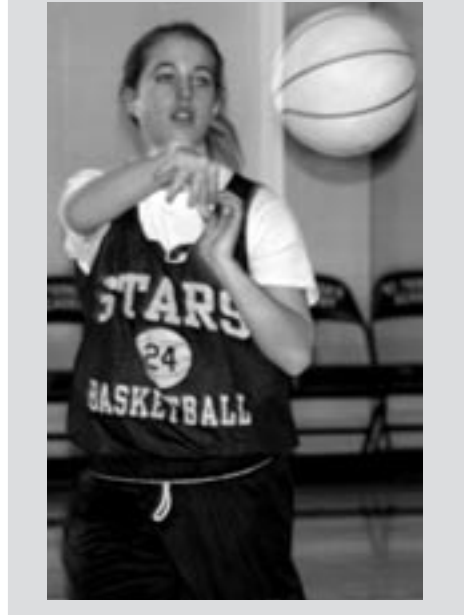
as of press time, the game had not been decided. Their last game will be tonight at the Lee's Summit West tournament.

**Freshman B Basketball**  
The team's final record is 2-11. Notable games were against Aquinas Jan. 12, the Stars losing 24-39 and O'Hara Jan. 27, the Stars winning 52-35. The B team combined with the A team for the Lee's Summit West tournament this week.

**Dance Team**  
The team's competition season began after Christmas break, which increased their practice to four times a week meeting at 6 a.m. on Thursdays and after school Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Their first competition was the Kansas Spectacular at Olathe East Jan. 21. They received the Judges Award and the Sweepstakes Award. They also competed at the Lee's Summit North Invitational Jan. 29. They placed fifth for jazz, fourth for novelty and third for pom. According to the coach, Ms. Megan Savage, the competitions were more challenging than the girls expected, but they were good learning experiences. The team will finish out their year-long season performing at STA basketball games.

## Star Athlete

### Freshman Megan Konz



Caroline Findlay

Konz practices with the varsity basketball team Jan. 28.

History

- Began playing the summer of third grade
- Joined the Kansas Belles, an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) club team, in sixth grade
- She is currently on the same team, but their name has changed to Missouri Valley Eclipse

Accomplishments

- AAU team placed 13 at Nationals in the 2003-2004 season
  - AAU team placed second at Nationals in the 2002-2003 season
  - AAU team placed third at Nationals in the 2001-2003 season
  - AAU team won Regionals before each of their National appearances
  - She tied an STA record of six three-pointers against Basehor-Linwood Jan. 19
- Goals**
- She wants to become a better player, for the Stars and Eclipse, on and off the court
  - She wants her AAU team to win Nationals
  - She wants the Stars to win Districts in future years
  - She is unsure about her college future because she is just a freshman

# beyond cool

Rose Dillon  
Features Editor

Do you search for decent music to dance to? Do you sometimes wonder why you are stuck listening to Britney Spears and Nelly any time you want to roll up a rug? If you agree that sometimes "Right Thurr" just doesn't suffice, Beyond Cool has some answers for you. But first, the obligatory historical



exposition.

Once upon a time (or more accurately, in approximately 1979), there were some punk bands who were awesome. Not in the same vein as The Clash, mind you, but bands that emerged from the local New York scene with a danceable alternative to other popular acts of the day, such as Aerosmith and Journey. These revolutionary pioneers were Blondie, the B52s, the Cars and the Romantics, among others, and they had learned their craft from the Kinks and the Kingsmen of the early sixties.

These acts came about in an era of hair bands and arena rock; Top-40 radio in the eighties was basically a talent vacuum. I mean, who still likes Air Supply? But these talented groups of people are remembered for their most important feature—they played the kind of music to which you can dance around your house in your underwear. That, my friends, is the sign of a good rock band. Why listen to music that isn't having any fun?

And so it was that music and the people who made it entered into the nineties, when they were faced with an insurmountable obstacle: grunge. Flannel-shirted trio Nirvana moped their way out of Seattle and I made an explosion. This isn't to say that I don't like Nirvana; I'm a Kurt/Krist/Dave fan. I just think they're depressing dudes. I mean, have you ever tried to dance to "Bleach?" It's a lost cause—not a single song on that album will move you.

Anyway, back to "The History of Popular Music" as told by Beyond Cool. After Nirvana and their partners in grime, Pearl Jam, came the Spice Girls and Hanson, who paved the way for about 16,000 crappy boy bands, the only one of which even worth mentioning is N\*SYNC, because they didn't take themselves too seriously, and they spawned Justin Timberlake as a solo act. Naysay as much as you like, "Rock Your Body" is a great song. Other toxic byproducts of this despicable time in pop included Britney Spears and the Macarena.

But that leads up to the early part of the new millennium. Things looked bleak at the beginning, what with *more* Britney Spears albums, as well as the increasing popularity of Avril Lavigne and Good Charlotte (shudder). But all was not lost.

Our saviors appeared randomly in 2002 or 2003, from New York by way of British radio (they've always been much more switched on about quality tune-age): The Strokes. The dancers who appreciate music with real instruments were ecstatic, especially when the success of the Strokes was followed by hype of the Vines and the Hives (who turned out to be dance-y on only about one song of every 10). We turned up the volume on our car stereos and started going to concerts again.

But the best was yet to come. In 2004, los Estados Unidos discovered Franz Ferdinand, the Killers, the Faint, the Futureheads, the new album by the Strokes ... too much and too good. Dance punk (as music critics like to call it) is in full swing, much to Beyond Cool's delight.

It seems that the usually dense music industry has finally caught on that people like to dance, but they also like to listen to well-crafted tunes. So crank that stereo and jump around till the ceiling caves in on your parents.

## IFC: Film festivals Continued from page 1

graphics of filmmakers and films. Among them is the Lucid Underground Media Arts Festival, which currently works in conjunction with the Kansas International Film Festival. This particular competition showcases films that challenge societal norms and break down boundaries in the world of filmmaking.

Other festivals include the Kansas City Jewish Film Festival, the Latin American Cinema Festival, and the Indy Outlets Film Festival.

Theaters showcasing independent media in the metro area include the Tivoli, in Westport. The Glenwood Arts theater and Rio Theater in Overland Park are part of the Fine Arts Group, founded in 1982 by a group of film enthusiasts dedicated to the service of "discriminating" moviegoers, and the screening of classic theater.

"Without these theaters, so many wonderful movies wouldn't be seen," Wiedmaier said. "The mainstream wouldn't see them anyway."

# CARS, GUNS, THE FBI: MEREDITH GILMORE'S SECRET LIFE

Senior Meredith Gilmore stood in Lot L of Arrowhead Stadium on the sunny, brisk morning of Nov. 7. Underneath her metallic blue helmet, she shook with anxiety and excitement as her 1989 gold Honda Prelude was checked over by the tech inspectors in the pre-grid. In a few minutes, Gilmore would race her car for the first time, in a time trial heat at the Halloweenie Autocross Crown Event.

At this point, some of you may be baffled. Who thought that Gilmore, who usually keeps to the quieter, more modest side of things, would be involved with autocross? What might surprise readers more is that car racing is not the only offbeat activity that occupies this 17-year-old's time. Gilmore also shoots rifles, has a job in a pharmacy and aspires to be a member of the FBI. If you think you're impressed now, just wait.

## Bringing the Heat

"November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004 I remember it like it's my baby's birthday," laughed Gilmore. "I was so freaking scared. It was my first time to race. No practice runs, no preparation. You just go out there and hope you don't suck."

Gilmore began attending autocross events last summer when her cousin, Mr. John Shultz, 21, invited her to come watch him race his Celica at Arrowhead Stadium. Gilmore attended four or five more races before resolving to register herself and her Prelude online in the Halloweenie event. When registering at MyAutoEvents.com, Gilmore was required to specify the year, make and model of her car, as well as her first and second choices for which race, or heat, she would participate in.

"I signed up for a later heat because early in the morning, there could be ice and snow, and you don't really know what the course is like," said Gilmore. "If you go later, you can see the tire marks left by other racers so you know how to approach corners if you're not sure. Plus, other racers from earlier heats can give you feedback on the track and what corners are bad, stuff like that."

Gilmore participated in the fourth of five heats at the event. While she waited for her heat to begin, she, like all participants, was required to perform an assigned task to help the event run more smoothly. Gilmore's job was to work on the race course, assisting wherever she could.

Out of approximately 20 racers in each of the five heats, Gilmore was one of four female participants. She was also the youngest racer at the event, with the exception of one 15-year-old boy.

"He drives a red Honda Civic and he puts body kits on it, so he can't take the corners very well," explained Gilmore. "He's so worried about scraping his body kits that he completely sucks the whole time. Plus, he only has his permit, so he has to have his mom ride with him."

According to the autocross regulations, racers can drive virtually any type of car they choose.

"You can race anything," said Gilmore. "You can race your mom's van, you can race a go-kart, whatever. There's actually a guy who races this little go-kart and he's about 30- or 40-years old. It's really all just for fun."

Different types of cars are categorized into classes and may only race against cars from their designated class. The four biggest classes are street modified, street prepared, street tire and stock. A car's class depends upon how much work the vehicle has undergone and what type of tires the vehicle has. For example, a car with regular street tires would be classified differently than a car that drives on the more sticky racing tires, which possess less tread. A street modified car has undergone a significant amount of modification while a car that is considered "stock" maintains its dealership condition.

Gilmore races in the ladies H stock class. She drives a Prelude, which she purchased last June from a personal seller in Lawrence, Kansas.

"I spent months looking for an '89 Prelude," said Gilmore. "Hondas are very good cars, very reliable. And Preludes are the best cars in the world, so I was kind of partial to it. I guess I just like the style of the car. It's really hot."

The only modification Gilmore made to her car was replacing the exhaust system. She could not make many more adjustments to her vehicle without moving it out of the stock class.

Gilmore took her place at the starting line in the fourth of five heats of the day. Since only one racer is allowed to drive the course at a time, eyes were on her. She raced four times in her heat and earned times of just over a minute with hardly any trouble.

"It was such a rush," said Gilmore. "I was just so happy that I had done it."

Gilmore plans to race more in the future, but does not want to take it too seriously just yet.

"Right now, while I learn what the heck I'm doing, I'm racing just for fun. I'm going to give myself a few years before I race competitively."

Gilmore's next race will be held in

March.  
Under-  
cover Camp

While sitting in her midday advisory in Mr. Eric Thomas's room last school year, Gilmore heard a voice come over the intercom announcing an FBI camp to be held over the summer.

"This announcement came out of nowhere one day and I was like, 'Hey, that would be cool,'" said Gilmore. "At that time, I was interested in being a forensic science major and I thought it would be fun because I wanted to learn about that kind of stuff."

The camp was held over the summer at the FBI office in downtown Kansas City. Senior Alecia Stover, as well as 24 other students from the Kansas City area, attended. For six hours, the campers learned about fingerprints, finding blood and urine samples and were given a demonstration on how to take casts of footprints at a crime scene. They talked with an agent that specializes in cyber crimes, in which he poses as a 14-year-old girl in order to catch older men who sexually target young girls in chat rooms. The group also toured the FBI building, which, according to Gilmore, was unpredictably ordinary.

"It was basically just offices," explained Gilmore. "It doesn't look like CSI-type stuff like you would expect, so I was a little surprised. It was actually weird how normal-looking it was."

The best part of the camp however came at the end of the day. The group was taken to a shooting range right next door to the Leavenworth penitentiary for a sniper demonstration. Their parents were required to be in attendance at the range because there was shooting involved. For the demonstration, five "snipers," FBI agents posing as snipers for the purpose of the demonstration, hid at the base of a hill on the shooting range. Approximately 100 feet from the base of the hill were two milk jugs filled with red and blue liquids. The campers' objective was to spot the snipers in a certain amount of time.

"The sniper demonstration was really scary," recalled Gilmore. "There were 26 kids and there parents out there and not one of us could spot a sniper."

When the allotted time was up and the campers had still not pointed out a single sniper, they were told to plug their ears



Meredith Gilmore leans against her race-worthy Honda Prelude.

and count down from 10. On the count of one, all of the snipers shot over the heads of the campers and hit the milk jugs on the opposite end of the range.

"They actually shot right over our heads," said Gilmore. "And they had actually been right in front of us the whole time. It was really weird that none of us had been able to see them, but it was so awesome at the same time."

After the demonstration, each camper was given the chance to shoot a handgun and a rifle at a poster board with four targets on its corners and one target on its center.

"I did really bad on the handgun," admitted Gilmore.

Gilmore's father, Mr. Greg Gilmore, who was in attendance to supervise, agrees.

"It was hilarious," laughed Greg. "With that [handgun], she couldn't hit the broad side of a barn."

Gilmore redeemed herself however when she was given a chance to shoot the air rifle. She had never shot before. Once the instructor, who had acted as a sniper in the demonstration, taught her how to hold and shoot it, Gilmore took aim at a target on the top corner of the poster board and hit a bullseye on her first shot. Then she hit another. And another. Her instructor told the other "snipers" how well she was doing and they all came to watch her shoot. Gilmore hit yet another bullseye. The instructors were awed.

You are really good, they told her. You really have some talent for that.

And that's when Gilmore decided to take shooting classes.

BY MOLLY HUBER

PHOTO BY RACHEL STRAUGHN



submitted photo

Shoot-  
ing Up

"I read about an 'Introduction to Shooting Sports' in the *Raymore Journal* in September," said Gilmore. "I thought that was sweet and I decided to go."

The introduction was held in Knob Noster, Missouri and featured archery, shotgun, air rifle and small bore (a lightweight, long-range rifle) lessons. Gilmore opted to try the shotgun, air rifle and small bore.

According to the Gilmore, the shotgun, like the handgun a few months prior did not bring her much success.

"It was really bad," laughed Gilmore. "The shotgun was really massive, like something you would take on a safari with you. The whole thing was like 'Duck Hunt' for Nintendo, except you were shooting disks instead of ducks."

Well, more like *disk*—Gilmore was only able to shoot one out of 20 disks with her "safari gun."

Next came the small bore and the air rifle.

"The small bore I wasn't too bad at, but the air rifle went really well," explained Gilmore. "And that's the one I'll be competing in."

Yes, competing. Shortly after her "introduction to shooting sports," Gilmore joined a 4-H shooting team out of Raymore, Missouri, where she resides. But before she could shoot competitively, Gilmore had to obtain her hunter's license.

## The (Non-) Hunter's License

Gilmore attended a 10-hour class Jan. 29 to acquire her hunter's license, which she will need in order to shoot air rifles competitively. The class, which was

in reference to her initial response when Gilmore first showed interest in autocross. "I was expecting it to be scary...it was going to be my baby out there. I could just see her wiping out and I'd be down to four kids."

Gilmore's father, Greg, thought she was "nuts."

"I told her she already had 200,000 miles on her car, and racing would put some more wear and tear on it," said Greg. "She takes really good care of her car though."

Greg, along with Gilmore's aunt, said that she could race. Joan wanted to see what autocross was like so she went to Gilmore's race and parked on a hill where Gilmore could not see her.

"As a mother, you'd have to see it to make sure it's okay," explained Joan. "It wasn't so bad, and I could see where it could make her a better driver. In emergencies, she could handle herself better because she would have better reaction time."

Greg also had a good time watching Gilmore race.

"I didn't think she had it in her," he admitted. "But she did, and she did great."

As for the shooting team, neither Joan nor Greg is too concerned.

"She has a lot of natural talent," said Joan. "I'm not so nervous because she did so well [at the FBI camp] and didn't shoot off to the side."

Ultimately, Gilmore's parents are okay with the activities she has chosen to participate in and will support her as much as they can.

"She's proven to me that the things I thought I should worry about, I didn't need to worry about," said Joan. "I've learned to trust her judgment."

Greg and Joan would like to see Gilmore excel in the activities she has chosen to pursue, especially shooting.

"If she gets into [shooting], who's to say she can't go to the Olympics?" said Joan. "I'd like to see her go—if I can go with her!"

**What's Next: Play-by-Play (Literally)**  
Gilmore currently works at Walgreen's in Belton, Missouri as a pharmacy technician. She is one of 110 applicants out of 550 to be accepted to the Drake University pharmacy program. She plans to study pharmacy for six years at Drake, starting in the fall.

"If I could do anything, I'd move to Minnesota and live in the Twin Cities and be a pharmacist there. My great aunts and uncles live up there, and my favorite hockey team [Minnesota Wild] is there; they're my babies and I have to be around them."

She will practice pharmacy for six or seven years in Minnesota, after which she wants to move back to Kansas City and apply for the FBI.

"My main goal is to get into the FBI," explained Gilmore. "They take all kinds of different kinds of professions, and I'm going to be their pharmacist, like the guy who caught Robert Courtney."

Greg is most proud of Gilmore because of her independence and the self-starter attitude with which she pursues her many interests.

"The cool part to me is that she got these interests on her own—I didn't promote them; they are all hers," he said. "That's the most gratifying part."

PG-17, Parental Guidance Suggested  
The girl races cars, shoots air rifles and wants to join the ever-lovin' FBI. What do her parents have to say about all of this?

"My first reaction was 'No,'" said Gilmore's mom, Joan (mother of five girls),