

# THE DART



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## Campus thefts, vandalism arouse concerns

Alexandra Bojarski-Stauffer  
Staff Writer

Going to school every morning at STA, students drive up drinking their Starbucks coffee, turn off their stereos,

drag their homework-laden sacks from the back seat and set off to join the bustling crowd of popped collars and plaid skirts. As students take notes in class, the bustle continues outside. Parents drive up to drop off their late students, college

reps come to talk, people arrive and leave for meetings, sales reps and delivery people come and go all day long.

On Monday Oct. 17, the activity didn't stop car thieves from breaking into three cars parked on and around the STA cam-

pus between 7:45 and 11:45 a.m.

Starting on Main Street, the thieves broke into sophomore Kerry Beckett's dark green 1998 Jeep Sport Cherokee. They smashed the driver's side window and ripped out Beckett's newly installed radio with console still intact. They searched through her belongings, taking \$10. Later that day as she was leaving school for a doctor's appointment she realized her car had been ransacked.

"When I first saw the car, I saw the glass on the ground," said Beckett. "Then I saw the window broken. I guess it took me a while to process it. I was kind of in shock."

Beckett said she was parked on Main Street because sophomores are not allowed to park in the main lot. STA's security does not patrol Main Street because it is off campus.

"I don't think that anything could have been done to prevent it," said Beckett. "It's just one of those things that happened, it just sucked that it had to be me."

Next the criminals struck STA's east parking lot. They broke the passenger window of the 1999 Maroon Toyota Camry owned by Ms. Mary Casey, who works in the admissions Office. The thieves tried to pry out the CD player and failed. They succeeded only in taking \$5 and damaging the dash.

Moving to the main parking lot, the thieves drove away with senior Ashley Devine's 1992 red Jeep Cherokee along with her license, checkbook and purse.

"I would never think someone would steal my car," said Devine.

For that reason Devine said she felt it was safe to leave important things such as her purse in her car.

The Jeep was found a week later parked in front of Eagle Inn, a motel frequented by drug dealers as Devine

was told by the police. Cops were doing a routine checkup when they noticed the SUV, ran the plates, and realized that it was stolen. The police waited five hours for someone to come out of the motel and into the vehicle. When no one did, they towed it away and called Devine at 1:15 a.m.

Devine said the Jeep was returned her with dents and scratches, needing the ceiling re-upholstered and the window and steering column replaced.

"I was kind of scared when I first drove the car," said Devine. "You never know what [the car-thieves] did in the car."

Were the car break-ins a result of the school's lack of security?

Although auto thefts have risen 4 percent from last year in the metro area, according to KCPD.org, facility manager Mike Farmer said the STA campus has only seen one other car theft in the last seven years.

"With all the activity that goes on here I was pretty shocked," said principal of academic affairs Ms. Nancy Hand.

Hand has decided not to increase STA's campus security following the car break-ins.

Mr. Ben Casey, a retired 25 year sergeant of the KCMO Police Department, explained that unless the STA campus or the Brookside area witnessed a dramatic increase in crime, the STA administration would not hire daily on-duty police officers.

"We've intercepted a couple of people who were going to steal cars just by being aware," said Casey. "Normally if you confront someone 'fight or flight'. So if you confront them, they usually run. It's just safer to report and observe, and not just us, you guys [student] too."

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Alexandra Bojarski-Stauffer

Officer Kari Stokes, left, writes a police report while senior Ashley Devine contacts her parents. Devine's car, which was later recovered, was stolen Oct. 17 from the STA parking lot.

## Food for Thought emphasizes service to Kansas City's poor during holiday season

Rachel Schwartz  
Staff Writer

More than 60 STA students dressed in costume walked around Brookside on Halloween night, trick-or-treating. However, their purpose was not to fill their bags with candy, but instead, to gather as many canned goods as possible.

These girls were involved with Food for Thought, the annual STA food drive for the poor. According to theology teacher Ms. Betsy Hansbrough, who oversees the food drive, there were three truckloads of canned goods collected this year from the trick-or-treating done by Food for Thought, which has been going on for about six years.

Trick-or-treating is the biggest part of Food for Thought, amounting for 75 percent of the food collected. However, M&A and Donnelly will be competing for a jeans day this year, by seeing which building can bring in the highest percentage of canned goods.

Seniors Hannah Moore, Tricia Rogers, and Jordan Gribble organized this event.

"I have been in Community Service Club since I was a freshman and we are the people who put on Food for Thought," said Gribble. "If you're in the club, you have to participate. Since we are in charge of the club, it was natural that we were in charge of Food for Thought."

According to Gribble, there is a lot of work involved in organizing the event.

"We get everything ready for Food for Thought so the night of it goes smoothly, which, thankfully, this year it did," said Gribble.

Moore agreed.

"We held all the meetings to make the rest of the school aware and did all the organizational things," said Moore.

Rogers said that there were other things involved in the preparation.

"I have been working on it since August and have been getting the maps, plans and ideas together," said Rogers. "I helped run the meetings to promote Food for Thought. I was the one in charge of getting everyone out on the streets."

Hansbrough said the event took a lot of preparation.

"It's a lot of work, especially the day of," said Hansbrough. "But there is such a great energy and it is just a lot of fun."

However, she said that the girls do most of the work.

"Some Sion parents wanted to start [a food drive] and came to me for help," said Hansbrough. "But I told them that at STA, it is student-driven. I just help and supervise."

Junior Claire Cullen and sophomore Molly Campbell both participated in Food for Thought for the first time this year and said they enjoyed it.

"I liked it because you felt like you were doing something good," said Cullen. "I still had fun doing it and was giving back to the community at the same time."

Cullen plans on participating next year as well.

"You got to go around neighborhoods and see little kids in their costumes," said Cullen.

"We got dressed up with crazy costumes, too. I'm not going to go trick-or-treating or anything, so what else am I going to do?"

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Kathleen Pointer

Sr. Joan Tolle, left, and Bishop Robert Finn talk after the mass Finn celebrated at STA on Sept. 9. Finn recently confirmed his connection to Opus Dei.

## Local bishop reveals membership in questionable Opus Dei organization

Mikhala Lantz-Simmons  
Staff Writer

Bishop Robert Finn of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Catholic Diocese, who recently visited St. Teresa's, has confirmed his connection to Opus Dei, a conservative organization within the Catholic Church. Opus Dei, which means The Work of God, helps ordinary lay people seek holiness in and through their everyday activities, according to Opus Dei's official website.

Finn became a bishop earlier this year when the Vatican accepted the resignation of Bishop Raymond Boland. Finn is one of four Opus Dei bishops in the United States. In response to requests from the Kansas City Star to comment on his involvement in Opus Dei, Finn released the following statement:

"I became familiar with the Work in the mid-1990's and went to days of 'recollection' they have offered for

diocesan priests. I benefited then, as now from spiritual direction from a priest of the (Opus Dei) prelature. Later I became a 'cooperator' in the Work and, in recent years joined the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross. Of course, most people don't speak publicly of all the details of their spiritual life, their prayer and spiritual challenges, except with their spiritual director."

Mr. Matthew Bertalott, theology teacher, began researching Opus Dei when he found out that Bishop Finn was a part of it.

"I began researching because of the mere fact that I'd heard bits and pieces about Opus Dei in the past," said Bertalott. "I wasn't interested until it came out in the paper that Bishop Finn was a member of this group. I wanted to understand my Bishop."

Opus Dei has recently received some

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Mary Kate Bird

Senior Jordan Gribble, collects canned goods from Mr. Mark Clauss on Halloween night for Food for Thought. Students collected from 6 pm to 9 pm, donating non-perishable food items to Seton Center for the homeless.

## World suffers from lack of progress, rotates backward

Molly Huber  
Managing Editor



Last month while prepping for the essay portion of the SAT, I came across a sample question worthy of note. The question prompted me to agree or disagree with the following state-

ment: *The world is changing for the better.* I laughed out loud. How could I possibly agree with a statement so obviously ridiculous? Perhaps my emphatic difference of opinion may be owed to simple teenage pessimism, but I do not see how I, or anyone, could consider such a naïve proposal.

It only takes a look at the newspaper (*The Dart*, preferably) to see that the world is not changing for the better. While some people and their actions are inherently good, the world itself is on a slippery, downward slope. Everything in it is being overused or reused so that it's potential for forward, positive progression is stagnant. It moves and changes now only by time and close-minded, self-serving ideals of the people who inhabit it; it is unoriginal.

I'll speak first to television, as it is something girls at STA seem to understand, and even revel in. If you turn on the TV and flip through the channels on any given weeknight, you will there discover a prime example of reuse, of unoriginality. Every show stuffed into the major time slots of big-shot cable networks is either a reality show or some class of mindless sitcom showcasing sex as its main attraction. Shows like "The O.C." and "Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County", regardless of the fact that they are set in the same city and track the lives of the same teenagers (with different names, of course, to maintain "uniqueness"), are curiously reminiscent of their decade-old predecessors. Need we recall "Beverly Hills 90210"? How about "Dawson's Creek" or "Saved by the Bell"? All include the same general plot in which teenagers and young adults "come of age" in a startling untrue-to-life setting. They have been done before, to say the least, and I can say with confidence that they will be done again, due to the fact that America and major media owns not one shred of creativity. We are a borrowing people.

On a broader scale, if the world is getting better, why does poverty still exist? Why is there still a possibility that this very newspaper will become someone's pillow, someone's blanket tonight, when all of us have gone home to our upper-middle class houses? It has existed for as long as people have been selfish, since the acquisition of "stuff" has been important to us. To date, no apparent headway has been made to reduce poverty; three billion people continue to live (and die) without having their basic human needs met. There is *no reason* why America, the wealthiest nation on Earth, should have the widest gap between rich and poor of any industrialized nation; the same nation should not be a first-world country for some, and a third-world country for others. That is not progress.

The world *is* changing, that much is certain. Our societal world, as does our physical world, is spinning on its axis, pulling used, worn ideas from the past and creating our "future" from them. Meanwhile, there are billions of poor people bowing down at the feet of our "advancement", gaining nothing from our excess, signaling the beginning of their end, or the end of us all.

The world is changing, but surely not for the better. If it were, the SAT board would ask questions that actually leave room for debate.

## DANCE: Bonds motivate dancers to fund raise

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the future of the dance team, whether or not they will be able to continue to have the best dancers on the team given the rising costs.

"I am just afraid that they may not be getting the girls trying out in the future that they would because of the financial limitations," said Edsall.

Until then, however, the dance team will continue fundraising trying to raise money to lower the total cost of the season.

"I don't know where I'd be without dance. I love the girls like my sisters, I love to dance so I've worked harder," said Fiss.

## THEFT: Commitment to security visible through facility managers, Protection One

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Mr. Casey emphasized that criminals are fast. If the ignition is on the steering column all they need is to break in, then use a screw driver to break the column and start the car. In less than a minute they can drive off.

"We have excellent security," said Hand.

STA has four hired facility managers who serve as campus security. Ms. Hand explained that during the day, Mr. Casey, Mr. Farmer and Mr. Howard Russel patrol the campus as often as possible when they aren't busy repairing school property.

Mr. Farmer and Mr. Casey make sure that every room has the proper heat, ac and power settings. Then Russel arrives to help maintain the campus and set up for upcoming events such as the Auction. Mr. Russel leaves around midday and Casey and Farmer both leave at 4 p.m.

Mr. Robert Wesling, a graduate of Rockhurst High School, is employed for his eleventh year as security from 4 to 8:30 p.m. on weekdays. His primary responsibilities are to be a presence on campus after hours, to make sure all the girls get rides home, to lock up the buildings and to check out anything that might be suspicious, according to Wesling.

"Things don't happen very often and that's the way we want it," said Wesling.

He previously worked as a police dispatcher for 20 years. When he first got started as a police dispatcher, he volunteered as a police reserve to get a feel for the situations he would be dealing with and how to handle them.

In the event of a school function such as a dance or a game, Wesling stays later along with four to six off-duty police officers to help protect STA students. STA pays the officers about \$30 an hour for three to four hours, according to Ms. Mary Anne Hoecker, principal of student affairs.

In addition to the facilities management team, STA is equipped with Protection One an electronic security system. In the event that the security alarm is triggered after hours, Mr. Michael Hand, husband of Ms. Hand and active law enforcement officer, personally responds to the alarm. The police are also automatically notified but, because Mr. Hand lives close to campus, he can make it to the school in about two minutes whereas the police would regularly take 10 minutes.

To Devine's knowledge the criminals were never caught. According to Mr. Casey, the only way to prevent additional car thefts is for students and staff to always be watchful of their surroundings. Mr. Casey emphasized that in the event that a suspicious person is seen, there are incident report forms in the Donnelly office.



Alexandra Bojarski-Stauffer

Senior Ashley Devine contacts her parents after being notified that her car was stolen on Monday, October 17. Devine's car was the second car to be stolen from campus in the past seven years, according to Mr. Mike Farmer, facility manager.

## Administration approves new Junior Ring Dance

Mikhala Lantz-Simmons  
Staff Writer

Five juniors huddled around a desk during a 9/10 free in Ms. Katie Dolan's room. Their voices were excited as they shouted out ideas and watched Junior Mary Garcia write them down. The girls had set their minds to creating a possible St. Teresa's tradition: a junior ring dance.

The dance is scheduled to take place on Jan. 21, in the Commons. Tickets will sell for \$15 a person or \$25 for a couple. The theme, suggested by junior Kelly Nelson, will be black and white.

After going around the cafeteria to ask fellow juniors if the idea for a dance was appealing, Garcia, Maggie Burke, and Betsy McKenny decided to present the idea to Ms. Mary Anne Hoecker.

"We set up an outline of things such as a budget, fundraising ideas, locations, and prospective dates then took it in to Ms. Hoecker," said Garcia.

Although Hoecker admitted to being skeptical at first, she approved the proposal and commended the girls on their organization.

"I liked the booklet they came in with," said Hoecker. "There were lots of plans in place. I thought it was well thought out."

Hoecker commented on the fact that clubs will sometimes come to her to ask for a dance without adequate thought about how much work putting on a dance takes.

"I thought they were asking for a much larger dance in the gym," said Hoecker. "But they just wanted their class,

in the cafeteria...When it's smaller, it's more manageable."

Junior Jen Finley is excited about the dance. She thinks that it will build everyone's anticipation for receiving their junior ring and that those who aren't getting one will still be able to be involved in the dance.

"It's so awesome that we get to have [the dance]!" said Finley.

Other students were less open about the idea.

"I don't mean to be a pessimist," said junior Bridget Dougherty. "But it seems like the junior dance is one that we're forcing ourselves to have because we know Sion has a Junior Prom and Rockhurst has Junior Ring. It just seems like we're having a dance because everyone

else has a dance."

However, McKenny said that not only will the dance be fun and elegant, but they have already calculated that it will bring in over a thousand dollars towards next year's Prom.

As to whether or not this dance becomes a tradition, Hoecker said it was up to the students.

"Each year we will have to see what each class wants," she said. "It wouldn't be my place to set it up as a tradition; it will be up to each class and their officers."

Hoecker concluded by complementing the juniors.

"It just shows the maturity of the juniors as they are moving to be the leaders of the school," said Hoecker.

## FOOD: Charitable acts begin tradition

Continued from page 1

Campbell also enjoyed the experience. "I am really glad that I did it, because it gave me a chance to get involved with the school and serve the community," said Campbell.

The leaders of this project believe that they made a huge difference.

"When we come back that night, or the next morning, the people come and we load [the food] up on the truck," said Gribble. "Their faces are just priceless and they tell us we don't know how many lives we are changing."

Rogers was also impacted by Food for Thought.

"The most rewarding thing was this year, since I was one of the main leaders. I came in Tuesday morning and walked into the cafeteria and saw the 300 bags of groceries full of food," said Rogers.

Hansbrough says that Food for Thought really affects the community.

"Now the neighborhood expects us to come by, and they prepare bags for us," said Hansbrough. "It has become a neighborhood tradition, as well as a St. Teresa's tradition."

## OPUS DEI: The Da Vinci Code encourages Catholics to read into Bishop's involvement in unorthodox, secretive society

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negative press due to its dramatic portrayal in the best selling novel, *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown. Opus Dei members are depicted murdering, drugging, and doing physical mortification.

According to Opus Dei's website, *The Da Vinci Code's* depiction of Opus Dei is inaccurate both in the overall impression and in many details, and it would be irresponsible to form any opinion of Opus Dei based on reading *The Da Vinci Code*.

Bertalott agrees with this sentiment.

"The Da Vinci Code has no theological basis," said Bertalott. "As far as having a speculative view on Bishop Finn as a bishop based on the novel would be

like comparing apples and oranges."

Despite this, certain aspects of Opus Dei have opened the door for criticism. Among them is its inherent secrecy. Many of Opus Dei's documents are written in Latin and membership is invitation only.

In response to this secrecy, Dr. Craig Prentiss, religious studies professor at Rockhurst University, and husband of STA teacher Shana Prentiss, said that secrecy is not uncommon in the Catholic Church. He cited the conclave as an example. During the election of the Pope, those involved are sworn to secrecy and anyone that reveals information about what happens inside the Vatican walls is excommunicated.

"[Opus Dei] is well within the frame-

work of Roman Catholic tradition," said Prentiss.

In regards to the invitation only aspect, Prentiss said that Opus Dei is not the first to use this method.

"There are plenty of elect clubs within the Catholic Church," said Prentiss. "The bottom line is that the people that have an issue with Opus Dei are people that don't like their politics. It's not much more mysterious than that."

As to whether or not the apprehension is warranted will be left up to each person.

"I have some concerns from what I have read, but I don't know if I have enough information to make an informed opinion," said Bertalott. "It has, after all been endorsed by the Church."

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### NEWS

#### Seniors qualify for state

Three students from the STA math team, seniors Alex Horton, Sarah Murphy and Lisa Peterson, have qualified for state. They qualified in their first competition, a rare accomplishment according to Ms. Jo Weller, the team's moderator, by placing first in the relay, a team event in which one member solves a problem then passes his or her answer to the next team member whose problem is dependent on that answer and the answer that this team member gets is passed to the third person. According to Weller, the students do not plan to compete at state. ~Mollie Esposito

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# Donors 'inspired to be' contributors to annual auction

Kelly Nelson  
Staff Writer

With the auction two days away, volunteers are wrapping up preparation efforts including decorating the Goppert Center, designing the auction catalog, organizing caterers and volunteers and collecting gifts for both the silent and live auctions. For over 30 years, STA has hosted its annual auction to raise money for the school.

This year's Auction will be held Saturday in Goppert with a preview of the items at 5 p.m., dinner catered by Garozzo's at 7 p.m., a live auction starting at 8 p.m. and a silent auction running throughout the night.

According to STA mother Ms. Jill Hough, mother of sophomore Lily Hough, one of this year's six auction chairpersons, the auction is a major event.

"We're trying to raise as much money as possible," said Egelhoff. "The auction is the school's biggest fundraiser of the year."

Ms. Joan Jordan and Ms. Terry Egelhoff of the Development Office, plan the auction along with the six chairs. According to Jordan and Egelhoff, the money raised goes directly into general school funds. This year's profit goal is \$300,000.

"[The auction is] an added source of revenue," said Egelhoff. "The money we get helps to make up the difference of tuition and the cost of education."

To plan the auction, committees begin

meeting in February.

"It's definitely our main thing from August through November," said Egelhoff. "It's so huge."

Though chairs head the auction each year, there are many other people who also contribute to the auction's success.

Ms. Twila Samborski, mother of sophomore Michelle Samborski, is one of the five "team captains" that lead a group of eight or nine volunteers in acquiring different gifts and donations that are auctioned off in the silent auction.

"Each year, we get printouts of donors from the past and it has what they've given, how long they've given and their connection to the school," said Samborski.

The volunteers then proceed to call the businesses and ask them to donate the same item or another item for that year's auction. The Development Office uses a computer program with a database to keep track of the information for over 1,200 donors. While many businesses continue to donate from year to year, Samborski said that the teams are always looking for new donors.

"[The Development Office] asks for each person to get two or three new donors each year because some businesses decide not to give again," said Samborski. "They like to keep things new and fresh and different and look to see if there's a new restaurant or business that catches people's interest."

The live auction items are acquired differently.

"The live auction solicits higher dollar items and a lot of them come from people others know or from friends and word-of-mouth," said Hough. "It's all just through basic networking."

According to Egelhoff and Jordan, there are many donations including gift certificates to a variety of restaurants, trips to locations such as Ireland and Las Vegas, services such as a personal decorator for the holidays, valuable jewelry and various housewares and collectibles such as a pinball machine and cuckoo clock. Along with these items, school-related items, such as prime spots in the parking lot are auctioned off for around \$1,500 every year.

To keep the interest level in items high, the Development Office gives information to the teams on what kind of items they are looking for that year.

According to Samborski, there are many reasons for businesses to donate.

"Most of them just have a connection with the school," said Samborski.

However, Samborski said, many businesses also give because of the publicity they can receive.

"We put out a very slick catalog before the auction with all the items listed," said Samborski. "If I'm a business, and I give a \$75 or \$100 gift certificate, it's advertisement, but it also shows I support the



Kathleen Pointer

**Ms. Jennifer McBratney, front, works on seating assignments while Ms. Joan Jordan and volunteers prepare for the Auction. The Auction, which will take place Saturday, is STA's biggest fundraiser.**

school. It's good P.R. and it encourages the STA community to go and spend money there."

Ms. Debbie McShane, mother of senior Franny McShane, thought up this year's auction theme, "We are Inspired to be..."

"We came up with different women that could be an inspiration to girls," said McShane.

This year's invitation lists some of these

roles, such as "Champions at Heart," "Instruments of Justice," "Patrons of the Arts," "Voices of the Poor," and "Pioneers of New Frontiers."

According to Egelhoff, the auction is about more than just raising money.

"[The auction] is a good kickoff for the holiday season and a nice time for parents and friends to see each other," she said. "It's just a really fun evening."

## What goes down, must come up



Claire McInerney

**A freshmen gym class practices basketball in the Goppert Center on Nov. 11. The past two entering freshmen classes at STA have outnumbered the previous year's freshmen class, with 143 freshmen this year and 147 in the 2004-2005 year.**

## Growing class sizes affect teachers, students

Elizabeth Nelson  
Staff Writer

The STA hallways clamor with more freshmen and sophomores than juniors and seniors. For the past two years, each new freshmen class has outnumbered the freshmen class from the previous year.

Currently, there are 143 freshmen, 140 sophomores, 104 juniors and 123 seniors, and these numbers keep changing. At the end of last year there were 147 freshmen, 109 sophomores, 123 juniors and 127 seniors.

Admissions assistant and scheduler Sherry Neal explained the growth.

"We would like all of our freshman classes to have about 145 girls because there is a certain percentage who leave for

whatever reason, and we end up with about 135 girls by their senior year," said Neal.

Besides the goal of 145 students, Neal said another reason for the growth is more qualified girls each year.

As the number of STA girls grows, the students, faculty and administration are noticing positive and negative effects.

"I basically know everyone in my class," said senior Rachel Somodi. "For the girls in grades who have a bigger class, it's probably harder to get to know everyone."

However, some freshmen feel they benefit by having a larger number of girls.

"I think I have an advantage to know more people," said freshman Kari Price. "I like meeting new people."

Ms. Mary Anne Hoecker, principal of student affairs, feels that the variation in

class sizes affects teachers.

"Teachers probably have to plan a little differently for a larger group when you have more students to keep interested," said Hoecker. "The dynamics of these classes are different."

Hoecker also feels that the numbers are neither an advantage nor a disadvantage for the students, and do not play a role in problems different grades may face.

"Each class is different and there may be more acting out in one class than in another, but it's not necessarily due to numbers," said Hoecker. "Typically I'd expect seniors to have fewer SBRs than freshmen, because they get a sense of the heart of the school. Sometimes it surprises me because that is not the way it goes. Every class has its own personality, which can be very interesting."

## Kansas school board questions evolution

Elizabeth Nelson  
Staff Writer

It was an average day for sophomore Lisa Kranz of Blue Valley North High School last year during second semester. It was her first class, biology, and she wasn't looking forward to it because it was a block schedule day. She made it to class on time and chatted with her friends. But then something happened.

"I need to tell you all something," Kranz remembers her biology teacher saying to begin the class. "Today what we're going to do is from a scientific point of view and you might have religious beliefs that are different. This is what we are teaching though, and you have to learn it. You do not have to believe it."

This signaled the start of a new unit on the creation of the universe, and more specifically, evolution. If this class had occurred today, Kranz might have learned something different.

Last Tuesday with a six to four vote, the Kansas State Board of Education passed new science standards that question evolution and require equal teaching time for the theories of evolution and intelligent design.

Intelligent design and evolution offer explanations for the creation of the universe. Intelligent design states that there is some form of creator with a higher intelligence level than humans possess. It credits this intelligence as a reason for why humans do not understand how they were created and who the creator is.

Modern evolution theories are based mainly on Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection, which states that species evolve or change over time and explains why some species die off. Both of these offer examples of proof, but neither is conclusive.

The debate in Kansas over intelligent design started in 1999 when the Kansas State Board of Education decided against placing the idea of intelligent design in science curriculum. Other states have faced similar debate.

In 2002, the Ohio Board of Education approved the teaching of intelligent design in public schools, but did not require that teachers actually review the material. That same year, parents in Georgia sued the school district to have a sticker removed from science textbooks that stated evolution as a theory that should be considered critically. The Kentucky Department of Education decided to replace the word "evolution" with "changes over time" in 1999.

An organization in Kansas called the Intelligent Design Network has been promoting the teaching of intelligent design in public school science classes for several years. The organization calls itself "a member based nonprofit organization [that] promotes evidence-based science education with regard to the origin of the universe and of life and its diversity." It also "seeks to increase public awareness of the scientific evidence of intelligent design in the universe and living systems." The organization started in Kansas and now has chapters in

New Mexico, Minnesota, and Ohio.

Whether or not they live in Kansas, many people feel strongly about the debate.

"I think that it'd be really smart to give the option to students [that God created the world] because no one really knows how the world was created," said Kranz. "It's just one of those things that you can't prove, and you either believe it or you don't."

STA sophomore Kristin Newman disagrees.

"I think they should teach evolution because not everyone believes in God," said Newman. "I think the world had to start somewhere, but evolution is what made it change. I just don't know what made it start."

Newman's brother attends public school in Kansas, but she does not feel these standards will affect him.

STA science teacher Renee Blake just began a unit in her Honors Biology class that teaches about the origin of the universe.

"When I teach, I present the scientific side of it," said Blake. "I never try to impose any of my beliefs on any student and I let each individual make their own decision. I think people get really turned off by [saying it's one way or the other]."

According to several websites including [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org), Mr. William Dembski, a supporter of intelligent design, said, "There are natural systems that cannot be adequately explained in terms of undirected natural forces and that exhibit features which in any other circumstance we would attribute to intelligence." He argues that humans display "signs of intelligence" that suggest the existence of a being higher than themselves.

Some opponents of intelligent design claim that it is just a theory that cannot be proved and therefore should not be taught in schools. Others have called it an "argument from ignorance," meaning, that if people cannot understand it, then it did not happen; or, the lack of evidence points to something that humans cannot comprehend.

Members of the Kansas State Board of Education spoke to reporters after last Tuesday's meeting that resulted in the new standards.

"I'm certainly not here to change anyone's faith, but I wish you were not changing science to fit your faith," Ms. Carol Rupe said to board President Steve Abrams after he called Tuesday a "great day" for Kansas. Rupe voted against the proposed standards.

"We're becoming a laughingstock, not only of the nation, but of the world," said Ms. Janet Waugh, who also voted against the curriculum standards.

Blake feels it is necessary to let students decide.

"When people ask for my opinion, I'm very vague because I don't want to sway either way," said Blake. "Everyone has their own beliefs. Once kids reach college, they have a little bit of background and can form their own conclusion, but not in grade school."

## PHOTO

Do you believe the theories of evolution and intelligent design should be taught at STA?



"I believe it is important that we learn about [intelligent design and evolution] even though I think God created the world. It is still a part of our history."  
Jessica Closson, senior



"Yes, I do. I believe it should be up to [the student] to decide what they believe."  
Kelsey Stephan, freshman



"No, we are here because we believe in God."  
Meghan Loosen, senior



"I think that the students should be taught the various thoughts of evolution as theories and nothing more. I'm not sure we know how [Earth] came about."  
Ms. Karen Moran, Spanish teacher  
compiled by Sarah Tampke

Journalism  
Cartoons

The STA Journalism class recently completed political cartoons. Here are samples of what they accomplished:



cartoon by Sarah Smith



cartoon by Anne Tampke

## Students left behind in classroom

The life of a STA girl seems pretty similar to that of any other teen. Each day she wakes up, goes to school all day then attends one or two practices before coming home to eat dinner with her family and complete that night's homework. On weekend nights she goes out with her friends and does schoolwork on Sunday. However, this "average" girl proves that the median standard has escalated. She maintains a 4.0 grade point average. The extracurricular list on her resume fills three pages. A service agency sees her face weekly. National Honors Society welcomes her onto their executive board. Obviously, STA's average student exceeds normal expectations.

STA is one of the finest college prep schools in the city. To be a part of such an esteemed community known so well for its academic prestige is a blessing in itself. As a college prep school, the obvious priority

of our school is to prepare women for college-level academics and to help them succeed. However, sometimes it appears more time and effort is spent excelling, on bright college-ready students and less time on those students struggling to catch up.

Before the junior PSAT in October, STA offered a PSAT prep class during Activity period to a select group of students. Those students invited were the girls predicted to be the National Merit Scholars based on their previous PSAT test scores from sophomore year. A class dedicated to preparing girls for the PSAT is an excellent idea, but everyone should have an equal opportunity to participate. Why are students who already exceed average national test scores offered this class and not those who need to improve theirs?

Instead of furthering the success of girls who progress on their own, we as a community should begin to

focus on picking up those who have fallen. It is, after all, the Christian thing to do. If you see classmates with failing test scores in your math class, offer your expertise in functions and fractions. Volunteer to tutor in your foreign language when you continue to ace the exams.

However, for this assistance to take affect, one must also focus on their own improvement. Do you spend your Activity period in the chemistry room rather than with your friends when you fall behind? How often have you utilized the resource centers? Do you visit the room of your math teacher during your free periods for guidance on hard concepts?

On a larger scale, we need to excel together as a community and not as individuals. There are instances where recognizing outstanding academics is a necessity. However the emphasis should be placed on the strides these students have made to

achieve this and not the achievement alone.

Realistically not every student at STA is in the running for valedictorian, but every student should feel like they have a chance. Studying for general classes is not mediocrity and neither are "B" averages.

There are many opportunities available for everyone to do well. Honors and AP classes as well as organizations like the National Honor Society are all extremely important to our students' many successes and being in these accelerated classes has helped many to maintain a good GPA and prep them for college. However, at this school, it seems as though there is too much emphasis placed on students getting a 4.0, being a National Merit Finalist and belonging in organizations and clubs that will look good on a college résumé. What happened to an equal education for all students involved?

Nickelodeon  
not 'All That'  
for children

Mollie Esposito  
Copy Editor



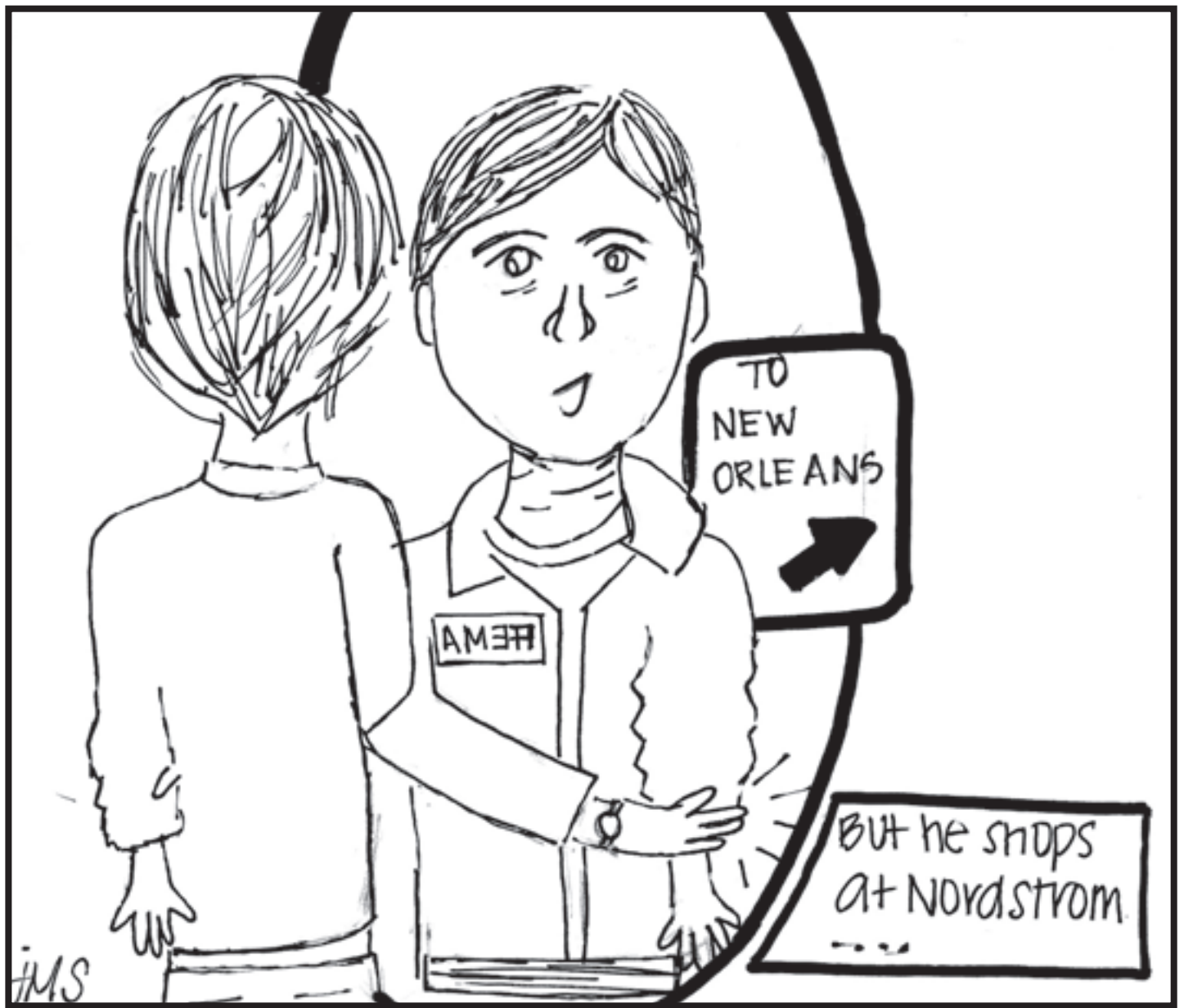
Every weekend my little brother celebrates his release from school by indulging in the mindless rubble that stations such as Nickelodeon spew out. His little eyes begin to dilate while he watches hour upon hour of these "shows." The entire time the little orange-blob logo sits in one of the bottom corners. Last week I sat down, pen and paper in hand, to write this column. I sat on the couch, half listening to the mindless dribble that my brother was trying so hard to assimilate when some creepy little thing caught my attention. It was something in the catchy theme-songs and the Technicolor, misshapen characters; something that suggested an ulterior motive: brain-washing.

Now, before you throw this paper down and think "What a psycho," give me a chance to explain. During the hub-bub of the 2004 election, Nickelodeon ran a commercial in which a cartoon boy learns about democracy through the magic of the montage. Democracy, the commercial sings, is a good thing. One of the lines of the song could have been ripped right off of an army recruitment poster: No one gets to tell you what to think, okay? Or tell you what to read or what to do or what to say. "Cause it's democracy in the USA, democracy in the USA!" Although I have to admit that the commercial, which compared a democracy to kids choosing which game during play during recess, has helped me on a more than a couple US Government tests, the commercial seemed to suggest that democracy was somehow superior to the other governments the kid explored.

A second commercial explained to children that eating pie was not good. It makes you fat, the commercial said, and being fat is baaaaaad. The commercial showed the "good" skinny kids refusing to eat the "bad" pie that was done up with plastic google-eyes and menacing eyebrows. Soon it was hard to watch without being buried in by these "hidden messages." On one show you have students at a prep school undermining the rich kid who cheated his way to the top. On the next you've got a football-headed cartoon teaching you the golden rule and the commercial in-between was urging kids to "Go Play."

I began to wonder, whose job is it to teach these ideas, morals and lifestyles? Is it okay for a group of people to come up with a chant, democracy in the USA, and teach it to my little brother?

I don't think so. These cartoons, Tween Queens and Heartthrobs already influence the way my brother talks, the way he dresses and who he makes friends with. I draw the line when they start telling him pie is bad. It's simply an abuse of their power. It just isn't right that my brother should learn these lessons by gluing his eyes to a TV screen.



cartoon by Juana Summers

## Ward Parkway Mall maintains charm

Colleen Owens  
Features Editor



What is it that makes Ward Parkway Mall the best place in the world? Is it that crusty food court which serves only the most ancient and questionable of foods or is it that 24-hour fitness, which everyday attracts crowds of buff and brawny bench pressers from all over Kansas City? Whatever the reason, one thing is for sure and that is Ward Parkway Mall's indestructible, unyielding, supernatural presence, which has stolen the hearts of many, including myself.

Through thick and thin, loyalists have donated their time and money meandering through random stores sporadically placed here and there. They have bought tickets to that small AMC, where the popcorn is always a stark yellow and the chairs are never quite clean. A building that serves no true purpose, other than the fact that it will always be there, kind of like Madonna.

Over the years a handful of optimists set their keen eyes upon its metal door frames to renovate and renew Ward Parkway once and for all. This has never been successfully done, even with the addition of the user-friendly Target, with its gleaming white floors and bright red sign. Yes,

Ward Parkway Mall has undergone one too many "face lifts", some might say, but its history and verve persists each year appearing just as tired and worn as ever and just as determined to succeed as all the years before.

But hasn't it performed for practically every true Kansas Citian? Hasn't it at one time or another always stocked the very Hallmark card, discount book, or Halloween costume that no other Abercrombie

A building that serves no true purpose, other than the fact that it will always be there, kind of like Madonna.

and Fitch at every other mall in America could provide? It has for me and I know it has for you as well.

There have been many additions, from the PetSmart with a ceiling so low near the animal kennels, I often must duck to walk around it, to the Starbucks which pours into Ward Parkway's main hall scents of hazelnut and vanilla, the only true appealing scent in the entire vicinity. And who else remembers Auntie Anne's pretzels? I got mine plain with the cheese dipping sauce, but the cinnamon tasted just as

harmonious. Only at Ward Parkway did a pretzel ever mean as much to me.

I am a loyalist to this unique dwelling of all things peculiar. I love everything inside, from that large and obtrusive fountain to that tackily-clad-in-pink Claire's to those twinkling lights that were once placed high up into the glass domes that shine ever so dimly in the twilight. Though, it may never compare in size to the Plaza colossus or overcome the sparkling and sometimes overbearing walls of Town Center, it has a certain personality all its own.

These are the reasons I smile every time I drive by that stretch of brick, these are the reasons I love Ward Parkway. I have never really heard people say, "Hey! Let's go hang out at that old mall on Ward Parkway!", but I still want to, and this is why to this day I love to walk around its deserted grimy floors to maybe visit Santa again, as I had almost every year of my life since I was born or maybe just sit and watch the few people that shuffle around aimlessly, not truly knowing why they came at all. Therefore, this holiday season I am taking a stand and will shop no where else but Ward Parkway Mall. That's right; all who are planning to receive presents from me this year can expect a big sticker on its wrapping reading "compliments of the only true mall in town, Your friendly neighborhood mall, Ward Parkway."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by STA parent Mrs. Lee Miller:

I am responding to the article "Gossip promotes gender inequality," written by Sarah Tampke. The title and the final paragraph infer gossip is the cause of a double standard of behavior between

men and women. The secular world does condone such a double standard. However gossip is the result of the secular double standard.

Contrary to Catholic teaching is the following statement near the end of the article, "the standards of female behavior should be lowered but the standards of male behavior should be raised." The

Catholic faith demands striving to obtain Christian behavior of both men and women. Abstinence is the minimum standard expected by the Triune God. There is no gender inequality in God's eyes and gossip can not cause nor perpetuate what does not exist.

Thank You,  
Mrs. Miller

November 17, 2005

## WASP traditions spread to fashion, sports, social life

Carina Murphy  
Staff Writer



The affectionately coined term WASP stands for White Anglo-Saxon Protestant, though the label itself is hardly affectionate. More often than not, the term WASP is used

derogatorily to describe those old money, social climbing, Ivy League-attending, "All-American" families. Typically, they join country clubs, play golf and tennis, attend prestigious boarding schools and colleges, wear Brooks Brothers and Polo, and are loaded. While these characteristics appear to describe a group of people that like to throw money around, WASPs really aren't all that bad. In fact, I think it's time we recognize the social contributions of the "good old boys (and girls)" of this uniquely American subculture.

First and foremost, WASPs deserve credit for their impeccable ability to dress. They always manage to look sharp and fresh without hopping from trend to trend. How do they do it? They pick timeless brands and simple styles. I owe my love of pink and green to the WASPs and their endorsement of such designers as Lilly Pulitzer and Ralph Lauren. They made cable knits cool, topsiders trendy and embroidered pants slightly less dorky. Though some of these items may be a little pricey, for the typical WASP, classic style never changes, so as long as you don't grow, that \$65 Polo shirt will last a few years.

The WASP sportsman isn't afraid to get his Nantucket Red chinos a little dirty, though. Thanks to the WASPs, lacrosse, tennis, golf and other activities are now NCAA sports at most universities and extremely popular on the national level. Gone are the days when only Yalies played lacrosse and golf courses were only available to those with houses in Martha's Vineyard. And, without the WASPs and their undying love for country clubs, STA may not have placed second in state doubles and have a state qualifying golfer. WASP contributions can work on a local level, too.

Now finally, where would our social life be without the role model of "Animal House"? Rather, where would "Animal House" be without WASPs? "National Lampoon's Animal House" portrays the deranged Greek system at Dartmouth College and other small liberal arts schools, whose student bodies, coincidentally, primarily consisted of WASPs. In fact, Dartmouth, like many of the Ivies, was basically a school founded for WASPs by WASPs. So, if you choose to further your education by attending college in the next few years, and you find yourself doing a keg stand in a toga, be sure to thank the WASPs. They may appear to be reserved and taut, but don't let that deceiving façade fool you.

WASPs are everywhere, and it's time we quit denying this fact. Because if Kanye West can embrace WASP fashion, if Tiger Woods can embrace a WASP sport, if frat boys at the University of Whatever can embrace WASP party ethic, and I, your resident Irish-Native American Catholic can embrace it all, certainly you can.

## Walk around the clock



Claire McInerney

Member of the Ward Parkway location utilize the numerous treadmills at 24 Hour Fitness. According to junior Allie Fiss, one of her favorite parts of 24 Hour Fitness is that there are so many machines that she never has to wait for an open treadmill.

## Students warm up to 24 Hour Fitness

Alison Raybould  
Sports Editor

Junior Allie Fiss walks out of the locker room of the Ward Parkway 24 Hour Fitness at 7 p.m. Tuesday. As she enters the cardio area, she notices that her favorite treadmill is open and hops on. While she sets her pace, she stops worrying about tomorrow's algebra test; instead focuses on how much she appreciates no wait for a treadmill, the numerous TVs, the towel service at the entrance and the easily visible clocks.

"I originally went there simply because I enjoyed sports and working out," said Fiss. "Now, I am more goal-oriented. It is perfect place for me to train for dance and swimming, especially in the winter."

Recently, many teens have flocked to 24 Hour Fitness in preparation for high school sports and in pursuit of a better body.

"We have a very young crowd here," said Mr. Mitchell Anderson, 24 Hour assistant sales manager of the Overland Park location. "I think that is because with the society we live in, young people are starting to see the effects of bad eating and little exercise on their parents. This is a more health-conscious generation."

Fiss joined with her parents in a family promotion. According to assistant manager of the Overland Park location Brandon Nicholas, families often join together, which allows the "opportunity to create a better and more diverse environment."

"While parents hold the cards because they have the money, I feel it is equally important to appeal to the kids," said Anderson. "Having a younger crowd is not only important to our success as a business, it is important because it will change the face of America as a nation and lead people to

be healthier later in life. Children are like sponges; if they see their parents living healthy, they will follow suit."

There are six 24 Hour Fitness locations in the Kansas City Area including clubs in Ward Parkway, Overland Park, Metcalf, Independence, Gladstone and Shawnee. Each center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"People always say they never can find time, but we solve that problem for them," said Anderson. "[Our hours] make fitness accessible to everyone."

Though amenities vary, all offer cardio and resistance machines, free weights, circuit training, nutrition programs, certified personal trainers and group classes.

**I have been to other clubs like Healthplus, but 24 Hour appeals to me so much more.**

-Allie Fiss, junior

"Our mission statement is to improve the communities we serve," said Anderson. "We do this through team sports programs in which varsity athletes can use the club for free between certain time periods with the coach's signature. To further help these student-athletes, we have activities that are strictly geared toward sports-performance training."

The Overland Park location, which is the largest, also offers a pool, sauna, steam room, whirlpool, basketball and racquetball courts, juice bar, tanning beds, executive locker rooms, towel service, Kids' Club and group cycling.

"This facility has the overall appeal in terms of amenities," said Anderson.

"I would say the group classes are more popular among teenage girls, especially lifting classes geared toward toning and cardio. I think guys rarely attend because it is not the type of lifting that they are used to. Also, being around girls makes them feel uncomfortable. Their macho personality and ego takes over."

However this does not prevent all males from attending classes.

"As far as the group exercises go, I find them to be really fun but at the same time really challenging," said St. Thomas Aquinas senior Scott Halpin, an Overland Park member. "I have done Ab Express, 24 Cycle, Yoga and PiYo, and I always get something out of each class."

Though Halpin normally goes to 24 Hour Fitness with a friend, his focus remains on fitness.

"I like to socialize but my real point is to work out," said Halpin. "Over half my school belongs to [the Overland Park location] so I am bound to see someone I know there."

Though Fiss has had a personal trainer in the past and occasionally attends group classes, she is most attracted to 24 Hour because of the environment and technology.

"I have been to other clubs, like Healthplus," said Fiss. "But 24 Hour appeals to me so much more. It is so new and clean, and I never have to worry about a long wait or a crowded area. The other members are very friendly and helpful, and I never feel like I have to look a certain way or have certain physique."

After an hour, Fiss cools down. On her ride home, she thinks about her workout and feels a sense of accomplishment.

## Long ride steers students toward gratitude

Breanne Sigler  
Staff Writer

While many STA students roll out of bed every morning and march to the car for a five-minute ride to school, a large number of students have been up for more than an hour getting ready and traveling the long commute to STA.

Sophomore Nicole Gravino lives in Overland Park, Kansas. She wakes up at 6:30 for school every morning, and it takes her 30 minutes to get to STA. Gravino said that the long ride usually doesn't affect her study time, but during golf season the commute did take its toll on her homework time.

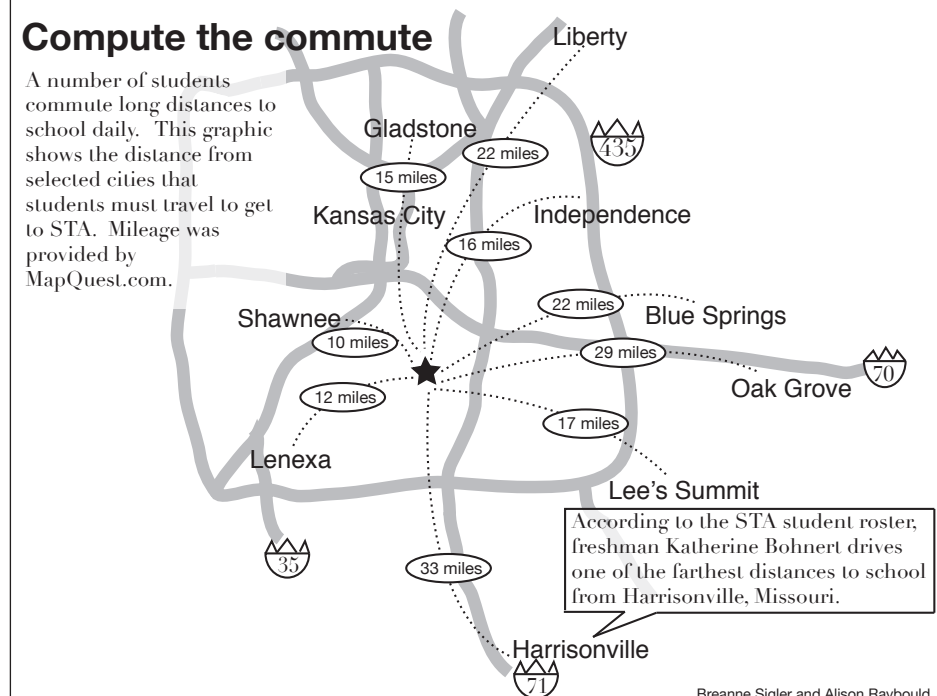
"During the golf season I got a lot less sleep," said Gravino. "I usually wouldn't get home until six."

Senior Kelley Seitter, who lives in North Kansas City, also said that she received less sleep, but she is used to it. Seitter went to a grade school that was 30 minutes from her house, so she is accustomed to the long drive and cutback on sleep and study time. Seitter also said that she feels she has a bit of a disadvantage since she lives a half hour away from school.

"Nobody is understanding of the fact

### Compute the commute

A number of students commute long distances to school daily. This graphic shows the distance from selected cities that students must travel to get to STA. Mileage was provided by MapQuest.com.



that I have to know in advance [about activities near or at STA]," said Seitter.

Sophomore Anna Essmann lives in Blue Springs, which is also a 30-minute drive from STA. Essmann said the commute affects her social life because she cannot drive yet.

"I always have to get a ride," said Essmann. "It's harder for everyone to accommodate their schedules because you have to figure in time and distance."

Even though the long commute may affect their social lives, Essmann, Seitter and Gravino all said that the drive does

not affect the friends they have or the people with whom they socialize.

"Yeah the drive kind of sucks sometimes," said Essmann. "But I don't think I miss anything because of it."

Along with cutting into study, sleep and social time, the long commute to STA cuts into students' wallets for gas money.

Both Gravino and Seitter said they fill up once a week, which costs between \$25 and \$30. Although Seitter has to pay for her gas, Gravino's parents pay for her's. This means that Seitter has to take a chunk of the money that she earns at her job to pay for gas for the drive to and from school every day. Since Essmann carpools with senior Kathleen Heermann, Essmann's parents pay Heermann \$20 per week for gas.

Gravino said that though the drive is lengthy and has some disadvantages, she still is pleased with her school choice.

"It was my decision to come all the way out [to STA]," said Gravino.

Essmann agreed and is thankful that she attends STA.

"I don't take STA for granted, because I could be going to a public school closer to home," said Essmann.

## Kabbalah confronts tradition

Sarah Cooper  
Staff Writer

Many celebrities, including Madonna and Britney Spears, publicly identify with Kabbalah, bringing worldwide attention to the mystical form of Judaism.

Wikipedia's internet encyclopedia defines Kabbalah as "the religious mystical system of Judaism claiming an insight into divine nature." A part of the Kabbalah Centre's official website says Kabbalah is not a religion, but "the oldest, most influential wisdom in all of human history."

The Jewish Virtual Library states modern Kabbalah developed during the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when the *Zohar*, a record of mystical traditions dating back to Moses and commentary on the Torah, was revealed. The traditional study of Kabbalah is deeply complex and dangerous. It was reserved for highly educated Jewish Orthodox married men over the age of 40 after several individuals became mentally unstable while participating in mystical activities in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The Kabbalah Centre International defies this tradition. It was founded in 1922 and has been open to people of all faiths since 1969. Today there are 50 nondiscriminatory Centres worldwide. According to Olivia Barker of *USA Today*, they receive 50,000 visitors each week, about half of which are Jewish.

The fact that the Centres encourage non-Jews to practice leads many to question its authenticity.

"Kabbalah is a Jewish thing," said Jewish sophomore Roni Katz. "And when it's not, it doesn't really make sense."

Critics of the Centre claim that teachings are not genuine and mislead followers.

"I believe [the Centres] are trying to do the real thing," Mr. Shaul Magid, a former professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary, told Abby Ellin of *New York's The Village Voice* last year. "The problem is that they are doing it in a way that's easily accessible. Kabbalah is written precisely so there is no easy access. It's encoded in a way that people can't access it without prior knowledge."

The Centres, especially the Los Angeles location, are popular with celebrities such as Paris Hilton, David and Victoria Beckham, Demi Moore and Lindsay Lohan, who sport the red string bracelet sold by the Centre.

The bracelets, said to protect wearers from the Evil Eye, a powerful negative force in unkind glances and unfriendly stares, are just one part of the Centre's enterprise. It also markets Kabbalah Water, which claims to have healing powers and copies of the *Zohar*. Kabbalah Enterprises, unaffiliated with the Centre, introduced Kabbalah Energy Drink earlier this year, with Ashton Kutcher leading its campaign.

Katz practices Judaism but not Kabbalah and feels that it should be reserved for those highly educated in Judaism. She is appalled by the commercialism of Kabbalah.

"I'd be embarrassed to sell miracle water that supposedly would cure someone of cancer," said Katz.

While some scholars worry that celebrities practicing Kabbalah are merely playing into a trend, Rabbi Ben Zion Friedman, who teaches Kabbalah classes at the Torah Learning Center in Overland Park, Kansas sees the exposure as a positive thing for the community.

He has seen a slight increase in attendance of his classes in the last five years, which he hopes can be attributed to the publicity celebrities create for Kabbalah. He admits the Centre's approach is different than of his classes and questions the Centre's selling of Kabbalah water and bracelets.

"The practice is more fraud than the teachings," said Friedman. "I don't know a lot about their teachings."

However, he feels the beliefs of celebrities are genuine and supports the Centre's activity.

"If it makes [the celebrities] lives a little better and Godlier, I'm all for it," said Friedman.

STA theology teacher Ms. Betsy Hansbrough agrees. She is skeptical not of Kabbalah, but of those people involved only because of its recent popularity.

"Everybody is looking for a guide for how they're supposed to live their life in a moral fashion," said Hansbrough. "They find some truth in [Kabbalah]. I'm glad it's the place they find their meaning."

# STA policies incite conversations, conflict

Juana Summers  
Managing Editor

A group of students gather on the carpeted floor of the third floor theology classroom during Activity period. They are quiet, until one girl, senior Hannah Moore, pulls out pamphlets regarding sexuality and intimacy which she received at National Catholic Youth Conference.

Almost instantly, the room erupts with laughter. Another girl, also a senior, points out passages in "True Womanhood" to her friend and the entire group muses over them.

Sophomore Paris Mantz reads through one of the books quietly and appears perplexed at some of the passages. When the terms "religion" and "sex" are interjected into the same conversation, each girl is eager to have her say.

Students at STA discuss issues regarding sexuality daily, and often, the policies on pregnancy and marriage at the school are included. These policies have existed for over 15 years.

The policies, as outlined in the handbook, require both medical and emotional attention for a pregnant teenager and if there is academic feasibility, allow a pregnant student to continue her education. The policy states: "In considering the good of the student involved, St. Teresa's Academy will follow the leadership and directives of the Catholic bishops who urge us, as an educational and faith community, to provide an environment where a pregnant teenager can find support and compassion." In the case of a student considering marriage, the policy reads, "Students who enter the marriage state will not be able to continue their education at St. Teresa's Academy."

Many of the girls in the theology classroom found the policies to be unclear. Moore believes that the

policies misrepresent the school.

"I don't appreciate the part where it says 'feasibility of academic standing,'" said Moore. "Most everyone who comes to the school can handle it. If the school is really supportive of pregnant teens, [teachers and administrators] will make sure that they pass and graduate."

Though the teachers and administrators are committed to the education of students, as expressed in mission statement, the responsibility for a student's grades is her own. Senior Jordan Gribble believes that the policy on pregnancy makes an intellectual statement.

"[The policy on pregnancy] says that you're somehow not smarter, that you can't get the grades," said Gribble. "It's hard to go through school and carry a baby to full term, but women have been doing that for years."

Gribble believes that this particular clause in the STA policy is demeaning and makes commentary on the intellectual ability of the pregnant teen.

However, all three administrators at STA have personal experience with these types of decisions. Due to the proximity of their concern, they believe that their decisions are in the best interest of the student. As women, they recognize the struggle and difficulty in pregnancy and believe that there are many difficult decisions to be made, however they do not doubt the intellectual ability of the teenager.

Ms. Nancy Hand, Principal of Academic Affairs, attended STA and has been involved with the institution since 1974.

"There was a time when I was senior moderator and one of our students became pregnant," said Hand. "The policy before that was that a pregnant student had to leave school. I felt that as a women's institution and as a Catholic school it was our responsibility and duty as

Christians to allow the girl to finish [her senior year]."

Hand and Dr. Faith Wilson went to the principal at the time to discuss the possibility of the student's ability to continue her education. Hand believes that teenage pregnancy and support of the mother becomes a "right to life" issue. She said that she values both the student and the unborn child and that telling a student that she must leave would not be an option. Following this particular incident, the policy regarding pregnant students was changed to the policy which now exists.

As for the current marriage policy, Hand believes that married students are not allowed at STA because, when a teenager enters the marriage state, she is emancipated and is legally considered an adult.

"A lot of it has to do with responsibility," said Hand. "Justly, would we be required to provide day care and to help see that the child gets a good foundation? Would that person be able to be an adolescent?"

Hand is also concerned with the school's ability to contact a legal guardian if there were any concerns regarding the student.

However, the administration's concerns for the life and condition of students go unheard to the girls who are affected by this policy every day.

"It should be more 'don't ask, don't tell,' as far as marriage goes," said freshman Caroline Quinn. "It's probably not holding that many people back. It shouldn't even be a rule." Quinn sees marriage as a personal decision and feels that the married teen should be allowed to attend the institution so long as she still participates fully.

Some students support the policy on marriage and to some extent feel it is unnecessary.

"Why would anyone here get pregnant in the first place?" asked freshman Casey O'Malley. "Most of us have had sex ed, so we should know the consequences." O'Malley feels that both policies at STA are fair. In the case of a married student, O'Malley believes that exceptions should be made for marriage out of cultural neces-

sity, however she believes students who get married on their own accord should be limited by the school's policy.

"The work of adolescence is to discover who [teens] are," said Ms. Mary Anne Hoecker, Principal of Student Affairs. "[They need to discover] a sense of their relationship to the larger world and focus on emotional, social and academic growth. There's so much to do in that area that I don't believe most teenagers are ready for marriage and the possibility of a family."

Students also believe that this policy contradicts Catholic doctrine.

However, Father Matt Ruhl of Saint Francis Xavier parish in Kansas City disagrees. According to Ruhl, the STA policies on pregnancy and marriage do not do so. He says that he would not marry 99 percent of teens who petitioned for marriage due to the fact that teenage marriages have a "bad record" in regard to their permanence.

"I always leave one 'smidgin' for the working of the Holy Spirit," Ruhl said, explaining his opinions on teenage marriage.

To Moore, the policy sounds as though the school only shows compassion because of directives from Catholic bishops. However, Hoecker clarifies the procedures traditional Catholic involvement.

"Within the Catholic church, engaged couples go through an extensive marriage program with the purpose of the couple feeling sure and the parish priest being supportive," Hoecker said. "[The parish] wants them to feel sure about entering into this commitment."

The preparation for a Catholic marriage is at least six months, in which both parties undergo preparation for entering into Holy matrimony.

"We as a school community, in our years of experience teachers, staff, and administration truly have the best interests of the students in our hearts and minds," Hand said. "Certainly that's why the policies are the way they are."

**Forty STA students completed a poll regarding marriage and pregnancy. It was asked what some reasons to get married as a teen are. Here are some answers:**

*"I wouldn't because I need to get my own education, life, plans, etc."*

*"If I was expecting a baby, I would get married."*

*"There is no reason except if you are dumb."*

*"I would not get married as a teenager because you and your partner are no where near maturing into the person that you will be."*

*"I would not ever but people should have the option."*

*"Love, true love."*

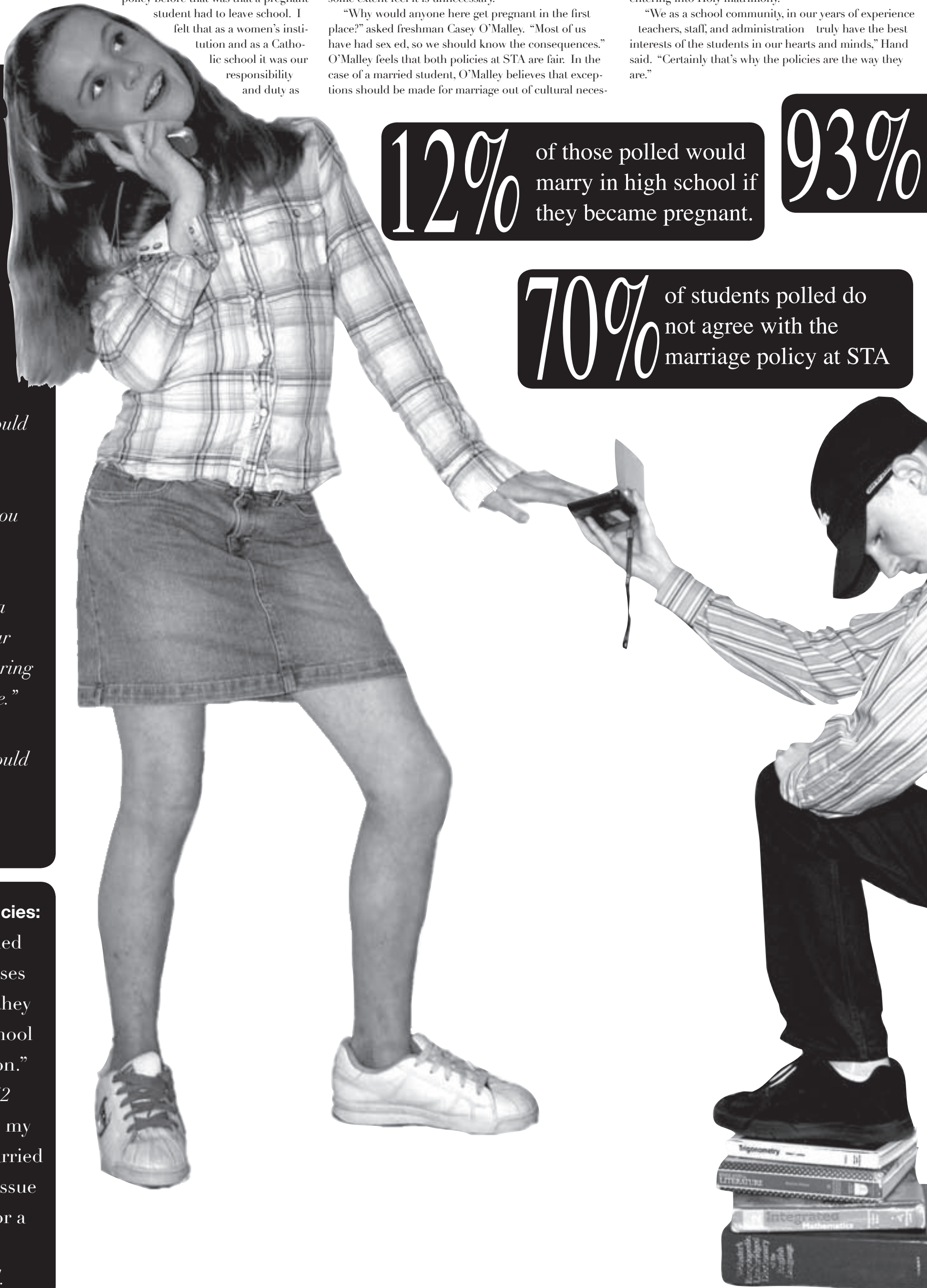
**Area high school marriage policies:**

**NOTRE DAME DE SION:** "Married students may not attend classes at Notre Dame de Sion, and they may not participate in any school activities including graduation."

*Student Handbook, page 52*

**ROCKHURST HIGH SCHOOL:** "In my 28 years here at Rockhurst, married students have never been an issue so there has been no need for a stated policy."

*Mr. Larry Ruby, Principal.*



**12%** of those polled would marry in high school if they became pregnant.

**93%**

**70%** of students polled do not agree with the marriage policy at STA

November 17, 2005



### Legal ramifications present obstacles in youth nuptials

Molly Huber  
Managing Editor

So you think you've met the guy of your dreams. He's charming, handsome, has a side-splitting sense of humor and, most importantly, he's completely taken with you. You think you've fallen in love. During class, you even find yourself scrawling a seemingly perfect combination of your name and his, and contemplating floral arrangements for a June wedding. If you're under 18 in Missouri, however, you may want to cancel the caterers - you have the law to deal with.

According to Missouri state law, a person under the age of 18 cannot marry without the consent of a custodial parent or guardian. In the event that teens do get married with parental consent, they become legally emancipated. According to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Living Arrangement Rules, emancipation ends the parents' duty to support the minor and to make decisions about their residence, education, health care and conduct. While emancipated minors still may not purchase or consume alcohol or vote if under 21 or 18, respectively, they may enter into binding contracts, sue and be sued and establish residences of their own.

In the event that a person under the age of 15 desires to enter into matrimony, the marriage can only be obtained after a court judge rules that a "good cause" for the marriage is evident.

"In most cases, the 'good cause' is that the female is pregnant," said Ms. Lisa Key, attorney of Krigal & Krigal, P.C. in Kansas City, Missouri. "I haven't personally experienced marriage as a popular solution to pregnancy, however. We are more familiar with teens giving up children for adoption and to abortion."

Unlike Key, Ms. Ashley Schmidt of the Jackson County Courthouse Department of Records is very familiar with teen marriage cases. She works as a representative in the Marriage License division and speaks often with teens under 18 who wish to tie the knot. "On average, I handle five to ten cases of teen marriage a month," said Schmidt. Recently, Schmidt has informed many 17-year-old girls with boyfriends fighting in Iraq on how to obtain a legal marriage.

"At the end of October and November, soldiers are coming back in town before the holidays and want to marry their girlfriends," said Schmidt. "This has been the most common reason for underage marriage lately."

In addition to marriage for military reasons, Schmidt cites pregnancy as an all-too-common cause for teenage matrimony. Within the past week, Schmidt handled the case of a 15-year-old pregnant teen who drove from Florida to Missouri in order to sidestep Florida's harsher regulations on teen marriage and to wed the 30-year-old father of her child, who currently resides in Kansas.

"From what I gathered, the mother was forcing her to marry him because she was pregnant," said Schmidt. "When they hugged each other at the courthouse, it seemed as if they barely knew each other. It was so cold, and it looked wrong."

Unfortunately for Schmidt, she is required by her job description to provide information to all applicants on the process of obtaining a marriage license.

"I see these young girls, and I just want to turn them away," said Schmidt. "They're only 15 years old, and they're too young to be getting married, especially for the wrong reasons. There's so much they haven't experienced. I've seen so many of those marriages end in divorce."

However, Schmidt claims she would "get in trouble" if she turned away applicants on the basis of her own opinions. It is her job to tell all applicants that both they and their proposed partner needs appear at the courthouse with \$48 dollars in cash, Social Security numbers and valid photos ID's to obtain their marriage license. After the application is turned in, a three-day waiting period is incurred to process the application. Following that three-day period, the couple has 30 days to get married before their license becomes void.

Although Schmidt has helped countless teens in her one year with the Courthouse, she still does not fully agree with their decisions and often wishes that she had the power to turn teens away.

"Teen marriages, and most of the marriages I see, seem like a relationship on paper anymore," said Schmidt. "It's so sad."

### As classmates prepare for Prom, some say their vows

Julia McQueeney-Thorpe  
Editor-in-Chief

According to the Center of Law and Social Policy (CLASP), approximately 891,000 15-to 19-year-olds are married right now in the United States. This statistic surges upward almost 50 percent from the 1990s, reversing a decade long decline.

Included this statistic is Mandy Morris, 24, of Wichita, Kansas who married her husband Travis when she was 19.

"I always knew I wanted to marry young," said Morris. "It wasn't that I didn't have any more options. I didn't want anything else. For me, a happy future is one that is married."

She is not alone. In 1997, a Louis Harris poll showed that 94 percent of inbound college freshman considered a happy marriage among their important future goals.

Mandy met Travis at a Wichita State University football game during her senior year of high school.

"It was that whole friend-of-a-friend deal," said Mandy. "We all met in our group before the game, and Trav and I just hit it off. We didn't really leave each other's side the rest of the night," said Morris.

Three months after their nonchalant date, Travis proposed at the Crown Center ice skating rink.

"I think about it now and it seems totally corny," laughed Morris. "At the time, though, it really swept me off my feet."

Mandy spent her last semester of high school planning her wedding. She purchased her wedding dress while her peers shopped for Prom. Mandy and Travis said "I do" on a Saturday in June. Five years after their small family wedding, Mandy gave birth to their first child, Owen.

"I knew what I was getting into," said Morris. "A lot of my friends and even some family members didn't support me. I got so sick of hearing teen marriage statistics, but I knew in my heart what was right. That was Travis."

Demographically, the Midwest has one of the lowest teen marriage rates, according to CLASP, second only to the Northeast: less than one percent of 15- to 17-year-olds and almost three percent of 18- to 19-year olds have ever been married. The South with six percent of 18- to 19-year olds to ever have married owns the highest rate of teen marriage. Analysts attribute the differences to an influx in immigrants from Latin America, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, areas that accept teen marriage as common practices. Consequently, 15-to 17-year old Hispanic women were the most prevalent married teenagers.

"Generally I know who is getting married early and who's not," said Fr. Harold Bradley of Marquette University. "There are a myriad of cultures represented in the US, some of which marry young and some don't."

Bradley, a Jesuit priest for over 50 years, has presided over countless marriages but can count on his right hand how many of them were teenagers.

"It's not my job to say who can and can not get married," said Bradley. "It is my job, however, to make sure the decision to become married has been made for the right reasons. For instance, I'm not comfortable with a marriage based solely on the fact the woman is pregnant."

The amount of "shotgun" or wedlock marriages among teenagers has gradually declined. Between the ages of 15 and 19, only 15 percent of teen marriages can be classified as "wedlock," premarital conception but post-marital birth. However CLASP shows teens make up for 34 percent of all non-marital births and 23 percent of non-marital births are allotted to women over 20, but with a previous teen birth.

"People have a preconceived notion that marriage will solve so many problems," said Bradley. "Often times through divorce, people realize that. There are so many more options other than marriage."

Teens get married for several reasons after a pregnancy is confirmed. Some believe that through marriage there will be a greater increase of

paternal involvement. Being married allows for the father to have greater access to the child early on, which is important if the marriage dissolves. If the marriage eventually dis-integrates the early contact can lead to greater fiscal support from the father. Teen marriages are the most unstable; about one half of them dissolve within 15 years as opposed to the one third for those who marry in their 20s. "Travis and I had no other reasons for getting married than the fact that we loved each other," said Morris. "I've seen other teens get married for stupid things, but I think we are an exception." Trends toward conservatism, fear of AIDS and abstinence until marriage programs instituted by high schools nationwide provide potential answers to why more teens are getting married. This is the first generation to experience AIDS as a common concern, which researchers believe causes teenagers to concentrate on developing a relationship before entering sexual boundaries. High school abstinence programs teach that sex before marriage is unhealthy, but more than half admit to having sexual intercourse according to a CNN News poll.

A health class at Northwest High school in Wichita served as a 45-minute marriage commercial, according to Michael Davis, 18. Davis married his girlfriend, Sara, five months ago. After possessing his high school diploma for 26 days, Davis met Sara at the Grooveland Kingdom Hall in Wichita for their nuptial.

"I had always thought about marrying Sara," said Davis. "[The videos] just made me consider it more seriously, because while the class would watch them I would just zone out and think about getting married instead."

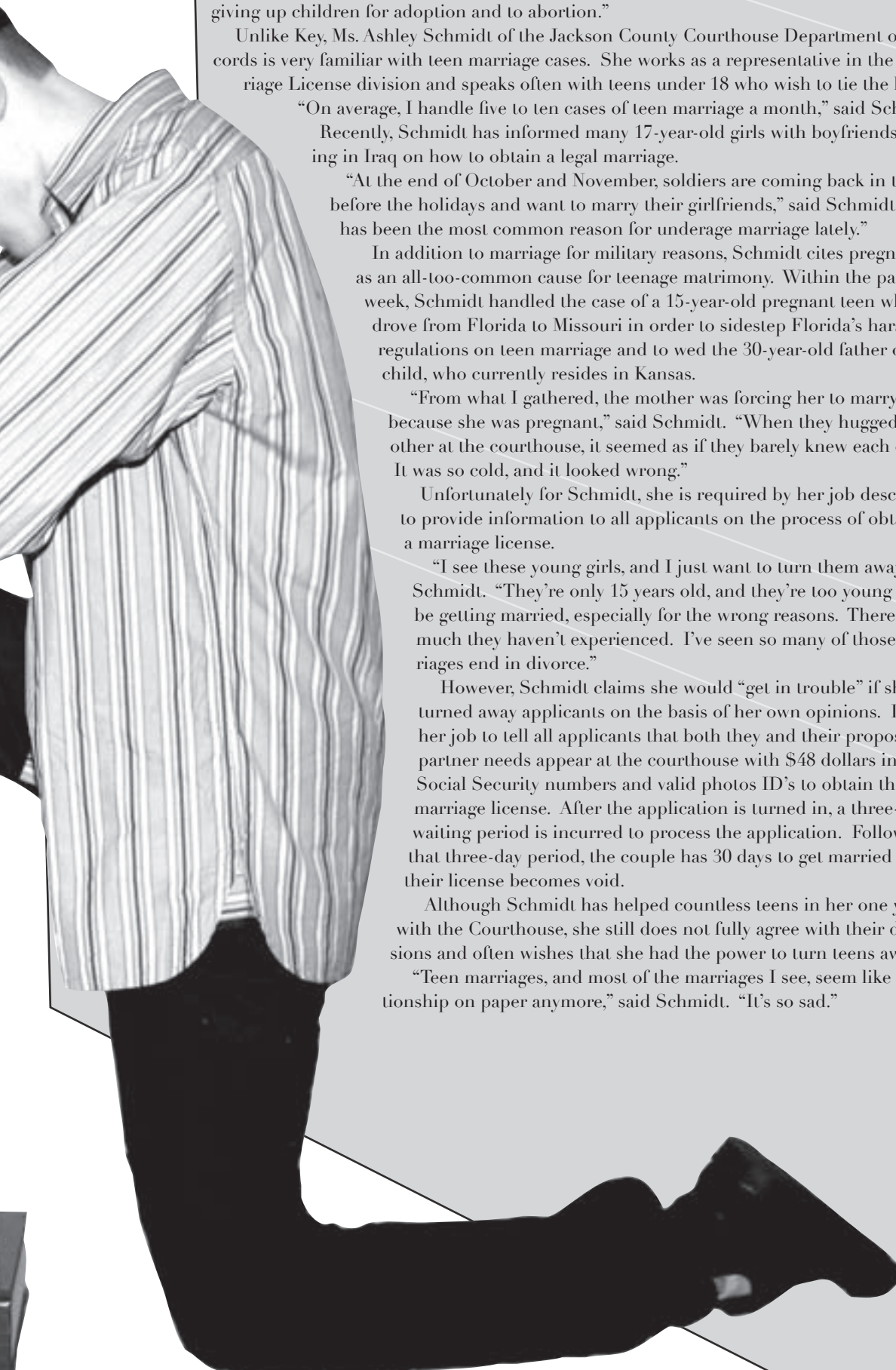
Informative movies and handouts added to the elusiveness of marriage at Davis's school. Often times, according to Davis, teens in the movies often alluded to being married themselves.

Northwest High School declined comment. "[The people in the movies] were always so happy," said Davis. "I guess in many ways it made me think about getting married."

Davis and his wife dated for two years before he proposed.

"So far [being married] has been everything I've ever wanted and more," said Davis. "You have to work at it though. People who think they can just get married without even thinking about it are wrong."

of STA students do not personally know a married teenager.



graphics by Julia McQueeney-Thorpe

# Junior voices self in music, writing

Emily Becker  
Staff Writer

At age 10, junior Chelsea Burton sang with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. At the age of 14, Burton began writing a novel. Now, at age 16, Burton participates three choirs and is working on her next two books.

## Hitting the High Notes

Burton has been singing since childhood and was raised with a love of music. She enjoys the high notes of opera over most genres of music.

"She really is a true soprano and opera is really one of the only places where those high notes are," said junior Laura Welch, who sings with Burton.

Burton is a member of the A Cappella choir; STA Singers and Canta Filia, a girls' choir sponsored by former STA choir teacher Ms. Jennifer Benjamin and UMKC.

"She sings very well," said Ms. Shauna Moore, choir teacher. "I can always count on her to sing the parts I need her to."

When she was in the fifth grade, Burton appeared in "Tosca" with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. For "Tosca," she sang in Italian, an aspect that makes it her favorite opera.

"It was a really cool experience," said Burton.

Since then, Burton has appeared in about five other main stage operas with the Lyric.

"It's really exciting," she said. "You sing with a full orchestra and professional opera singers. It's crazy fun."

Burton's musical background allows her to make suggestions for the STA choirs and help the members' voices blend together.

"She has a very good ear for music and she has very high standards for herself and the rest of the choir," said Moore.

## On the Write Path

Since freshman year, Burton has been

scribbling ideas for her stories in the margins of her notes during class.

"Ever since I started reading, I've wanted to be a writer," said Burton. "I was writing poems and short stories and then I got this really great inspiration."

Burton has a fascination with vampires and formulated the plot of her book around a vampire war. When she came across a picture of a girl with red hair and tattooed symbols on her cheeks, Burton knew she had found her main character.

Burton prefers to write on her computer with very little light in the room.

"I have a cave thing going on," said Burton.

Three years later, Burton's story measures 220 pages and is finished except for the editing process. She is currently fixing her story for the ninth time.

"I'm a little anal about editing," she said. "I'm trying to make it perfect."

Burton is now working on the accompanying two novels in her trilogy.

Few people have read Burton's story. Welch, one of the few, said that some of the people Burton knows are reflected in the characters and the plot is somewhat similar to dark fantasy movies like "Underworld" and "Interview with a Vampire."

The biggest problem surrounding Burton and her story is the lack of a publisher. Burton is currently talking to her fourth prospective publisher. Two other contacts refused to read her work because she was too young.

"It was aggravating because I have had other adults say that my writing was good," said Burton.

But her present prospect wants to take a second look, so Burton is optimistic, as are her friends.

"It's a book that I would take off of the shelf and bring home," said Welch. "And I'm kind of picky."



Carina Murphy

Senior Clare Morris plays Nintendo's Super Mario Brothers in her basement on Sunday, Nov. 6. According to Kaiser, 92 percent of kids ages 2-17 play video games.

# Video game marketers shoot for male audience

Carina Murphy  
Staff Writer

Video games were considered boys-only activity when Atari's *Missile Command* and *Doom* dominated the video game market. But that was before *Dance Dance Revolution (DDR)* and *Briney's Dance Beat*. According to the Entertainment Software Association (ESA), the rise in gaming genres, specifically the increase of games that appeal primarily to girls, has led to a wider audience.

In a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation (Kaiser), researchers found that action, sports and adventure games, genres typically aimed at males, only comprise about half of video game sales. Despite marketing strategies, males are still the predominant consumers and gamers. In 2002, Kaiser reported that only 17 percent of girls played video games on a daily basis, compared to 44 percent of boys.

Senior Clare Morris, who has been playing video games for about 15 years, accredits her game playing habits to her brothers. Between Morris and her brothers, they own PlayStation 2, Nintendo 64 and games such as *DDR*, *Mario Brothers* and *Madden NFL Football*.

However, Morris, like several STA students, feels that *DDR* is different from most video games and can appeal to both genders. *DDR*, a PlayStation 2 video game,

requires the player to dance a sequence of steps to a popular song or beat as prompted by arrows on a game screen.

"You do all these sweet dance moves and it's really interactive and can be a pretty good workout if you play it long enough," said Morris.

Morris plays the video game for competitive fun with her friends. However, boys often take video games to the next level, especially while playing action and sport video games, according to Morris.

"I think, overall, guys are way more serious about video games," said Morris. "I have seen my little brother get in fights with friends because they are so competitive. I recall a fight over *Madden* when one kid won, the other one got really mad and started saying that the other kid cheated or had a better team so it wasn't fair."

Freshman Cynthia Livingston believes her brother, Bishop Miege High School junior Tony Livingston, is addicted to video games, though she rarely plays them. Tony owns a Nintendo GameCube, Nintendo DS and a variety of games.

"I don't think there's a time when he's not playing video games," said Cynthia. "He'll stay up all night playing with friends. He has a pretty sad life."

*The Journal of General Psychology* published an article discussing the differences between boys and girls in terms

of psychological strategy while playing video games. In the article, Dr. Fran C. Blumberg and Ms. Lori M. Sokol analyzed the competitiveness of boys in particular.

"Girls' strategies for learning how to play a video game might emphasize greater cooperation and collaboration between players, whereas boys' strategies might emphasize greater self-reliance, less consultation with others and greater internal generation of game strategies," said Blumberg and Sokol.

Rockhurst High School junior Scott Bluhm and Morris both believe video games are aimed primarily at boys. He claims that most video games do not appeal to girls because they are violent and graphic. Bluhm and several of his friends play *Halo 2*, a futuristic shooting game, about four times a week.

"Most girls have better priorities," said Bluhm. "They don't like killing people. I like to kill people and stand over their bodies and mock them."

Freshman Casey O'Malley has been playing video games for about four years and often competes against her twin brother. She believes there is little variation in gaming attitudes.

"We just try to beat each other," said O'Malley. "But we're pretty much the same... girls can like violence just as much as guys."



Emily Becker

Junior Chelsea Burton sings during A Capella choir Nov 7. "I just grew up with a love of music," said Burton.



Graphic by: Julia McQueeney-Thorpe  
Left: a step-by-step frontal view of a manga-style face.  
Right: a step-by-step drawing of the 3/4 view of a manga-style face.

# Japanese animation draws students together

Katie Meyers  
Entertainment Editor

Outside of Japanese culture, *manga*, the Japanese word for comic book, refers specifically to cartoons created in Japan. Often, when a series of manga establishes a following, it is set in motion and turned into movies or television shows that are commonly known as anime. Among STA students, this form of media has established a broad fan-base.

Former STA student Gaelyn McGhee, now home-schooled, was first exposed to anime around the time the show "Sailor Moon" premiered in the mid-1990s. She saw the show "Pokémon" when she was in the fourth grade and decided to start drawing.

"I do have a lot of characters of my own creation," said McGhee. "I actually have a comic that I'm planning."

Sophomore Aristeia Lubar was first introduced to anime by television and

video games several years ago, and says that she really became interested after walking through a bookstore and picking up a book on anime. Lubar occasionally hosts parties where she and other fans of the genre get together and watch their shows or movies. She also attended a class on anime. Lubar enjoys the options she has within the genre, and how each form has its own benefits.

"It's neat that you can stay interested in the same medium for such a long period of time," said Lubar. "Manga is good because I like reading, and it's like a book, but anime is good, too. There are so many options."

Another thing about anime that interests Lubar is meeting new people.

"It's helped me to bridge friendships with upperclassmen and even adults," she said. "I went to this class on anime and I saw all of these people there, from all walks of life, but all with this common bond."

Senior Molly McSorley also finds that

her knowledge of anime has helped her meet new people.

"A lot of times at school you'll meet girls who recognize a symbol you have on your backpack," she said.

On the other hand, McGhee feels the local fan base is a very recent development.

"I used to get shunned for liking it," said McGhee. "There is a lot more of it on TV now. It's just exploded, especially in this area."

Another aspect of the anime subculture is an activity called cosplaying.

"Cosplaying is when you dress up like your favorite characters," said McGhee. "It's actually a pretty common way to dress in Japan."

McSorley said that cosplaying is one of her favorite things about anime.

"The reason that you make these costumes is to go to comicons," said McSorley.

There is a yearly comic convention, also known as a comicon, in Lawrence,

Kansas called Naka-con. Lubar is also a fan of comicons, having attended the International Comicon, a five day convention in San Francisco, California, in 2004 and 2005.

"This is the craziest convention ever," said Lubar. "Last year I think there were around 100,000 people there, and there are all sorts of classes and balls and artists."

Lubar said that going to conventions is comforting because it makes her feel that she is not alone.

"I used to feel weird that I was watching cartoons in high school," she said. "You don't really feel embarrassed after a while because there are so many people [with you]."

McGhee said it is easy to find other fans. "There are thousands upon thousands of [message boards and chat rooms]," said McGhee. "Even in places like LiveJournal."

In addition to chat rooms and blog-rings that discuss anime, there are many professionally-designed websites whose

main focus is anime and manga, such as "Anime Web Turnpike" or anipike.com (whose catch phrase is "setting the trends for anime and manga.")

After ten years, anipike.com is the largest organized collection of anime and manga-related links anywhere on the Internet. Other websites include: animation.com, animenewsnetwork.com, which claims to be the Internet's most trusted anime news source, and animeresearch.com, a site based on the academic study of anime, manga and Japanese popular culture.

McSorley said that she uses sites like direct-manga.com to read her favorite manga stories such as "Neruto." Manga books are often sold in big bookstores such as Walden Books or Barnes & Noble, while lesser known comics can be found in specialty comic stores. Manga books are usually priced at about \$10 per book, but a series can often be accessed for free on the Internet.



# Basketball begins with new theme of unity

Nicole Farley  
News Editor

Coming off of last year's 4-22 season, varsity basketball tips off at 7:00 p.m. Monday in a home game versus Lee's Summit North.

In an effort to start fresh this year, the team has been making some changes. Coach Rich Wilson said that some of last year's problems were due to bad team chemistry. He hopes that the team will play both harder and better together this year.

"Every team that gets along and plays as hard as they can, they're always successful," said Wilson. "So if we can manage to have very little selfishness and more togetherness, there's no doubt that it will translate into better play."

To build unity, Wilson said the team has planned activities together that are unrelated to basketball practice, such as going to watch college games together and team dinners, barbecues and sleepovers.

"That's my big theme, that they're together," said Wilson. "Everything they do is together. We hope that that will translate into better play."

Senior Jazmyn Froe also feels that the team-building activities will be evident on the court.

"Us being together all the time is what's going to make us a team," said Froe.

In addition to the extra activities, the team also changed other policies this year. Wilson implemented a new policy that would not allow players to miss practices in order to participate in other activities, meaning they would ultimately have to choose between basketball and their other extracurricular interests.

"I think that the result is just that we're going to have kids here who really want to play basketball," said Wilson. "They all understand that they're all going to be here every day. They're all going through the same pain, the same joy, the

## Star Athlete Senior Caitlin Aaron



Kathleen Pointer

Senior Caitlin Aaron practices in preparation for the first game of the season Monday.

### History

- Has been playing for seven years
- Made varsity sophomore year
- Plays AAU for Hoop Service

### Accomplishments

- Led Stars last year in rebounds
- Was second in scoring
- Won five first-place finishes with Hoop Service over the summer

### Goals

- Hopes to play at Benedictine
- Wants to finish the season with a winning record

same ups and downs. And our intention is that they will just be better together."

However, some former players were unhappy with the decision. Junior Alexandra Kurth, who played varsity the past two seasons, chose not to tryout after the

implementation of the new policy. Kurth had joined a club soccer team prior to the announcement of the decision, and her schedule with her new team would have caused her to miss too many basketball practices.

"I understand [Wilson's reasons for the decision]," said Kurth. "But when a girl that's been playing on the varsity level for two years isn't allowed to play... it doesn't make a lot of sense, because I felt I was a part of the team."

Despite the unhappiness of some players such as Kurth, Wilson feels that the decision itself has become a unifier.

"The decision that's been made has had an effect on just about everybody, because they had a friend or they were that person that had to make that choice," said Wilson. "So right away, they're kind of in this thing together because of that. They're either all mad about the rule, or they're all questioning it, or they're all at least discussing it, so right away, they're together on something."

With everyone together, the team is now looking ahead to next Monday's game. The preliminary Black & Gold scrimmage was held last Monday, offering the public a chance to see the team before the official first game.

"We are all really looking forward to getting back into playing," said Wilson. "It's been a while. The season was hard on all of those girls last year. Nobody likes to lose and then to lose when you're not really a cohesive team, makes it just that much harder."

Froe said she is excited for the upcoming season. She feels the team will be successful this year, and that there will not be a repeat of last year's season.

"We've learned that one person can't win a game for everybody," said Froe. "It has to be a team, everybody working together."



Kathleen Pointer

Freshman Kelsey McCormick, left, and sophomore Jessica Nouri participate in a scrimmage drill. Mr. Rich Wilson implemented a new policy that would not allow players to miss three practices for other extracurricular activities.

## Fast feet: Stars compete in State

Colleen Owens  
Features Editor

Sophomore Elizabeth Keaveny crossed the finish line at the Jefferson City cross country state meet ninth out of 156 Missouri runners with a time of 19:30 Nov. 5 and received All-State Honors while fellow classmate Emily Thompson crossed 74<sup>th</sup> with a time of 21:19 and senior Jessica Reid finished 109<sup>th</sup> with a time of 21:59.

Keaveny has led the team to multiple victories, with State as her last running endeavor of the season.

The meet took place on a golf course with rolling hills and temperatures slightly higher than expected with an overcast sky. The winning time was 17:51 by Eureka native Merideth Snow, the two-

year state champion.

"It was warm," said Coach Karen Moran. "But their times were still very, very good. They were outstanding."

Thompson and Reid prepared for the race together and wore the same red Nike spikes. They hoped to pack together and finish within the top 70 runners, but were satisfied with their results.

Keaveny positioned herself as the 22<sup>nd</sup> runner for most of the race, until the last mile when she increased her speed for her final place.

Keaveny, after resting for half an hour admitted that although she didn't enjoy the race, she was proud of herself.

"I think I did...fine," said Keaveny out of breath.

Coming in fresh from the finishing

chute, a breathless Thompson agreed she felt "tired" while Reid believed the race to be "really awesome."

Moran had prepared the runners with months of training, which included time trials at Loose Park and running miles down Ward Parkway.

Moran selected seven girls to run at Districts at Longview Community College Oct. 22 for the outcome of being bumped further to Sectionals. The team made the cut by 20 points, and team morale soared.

"After Districts, it was really great," said Reid, a first-year runner. "I didn't even realize how important [the race] was until I saw how many people were there. After the race, everyone was screaming and hugging."

Sectionals Oct. 27 at Lake Jacomo ended varsity's run at State as a team, where only the top three runners qualified.

Moran's encouragement of the runners never ceased in their efforts to improve.

"She always told us we were prepared, that we had worked up to this all season," said Reid.

Moran knew that hill workouts were important exercises to build stamina for the final test at State.

"The toughest part of the race is the hill you go up at about the four-thousand meter mark," said Moran, pointing to a stretch of winding land.

All three runners agreed that their greatest trial during the run took place through those hills.

For the final three, looking back at the season brings emotions of accomplishment and closure.

"This is the farthest you can go," said Reid. "All that we did built up to it. I didn't even imagine I would go to State."

## Student utilizes sports psychology to improve athletic performance

Katie Meyers  
Entertainment Editor

Many athletes have heard that sports are between 50 and 90 percent mental; it is that mental aspect that brings sport psychology into play. Sport psychology is the study of how psychological factors affect an individual's athletic performance and how sports affect the psychology of the participant.

According to Athletic Insight, Inc. (AI), an organization that publishes "The Online Journal of Sport Psychology," the three aspects of athletic performance are physical preparation, technical skill and psychological readiness. AI states that, of the three, psychological readiness is the most often neglected by athletes and coaches, probably because coaches tend to focus on the physical and strategic components of their sport. One solution for athletes is to consult a sport psychology professional.

Dr. Andrew Jacobs, a local sport psychologist, says that there are usually two reasons for someone to see a sport psychology professional.

"It's either people who want to be the best and are frustrated with where they're at, or people who are stressed out or frustrated by life and don't want it to affect their game," said Jacobs.

Junior Mary Kate Bird recently grew interested in sport psychology and now works with Jacobs to improve her golf game.

For Bird, choosing to work with Jacobs was an easy decision.

"Several really, really good players who have gone on to the pros have gone to him," she said.

In the 1980s, Jacobs taught at the University of Kansas and was a consultant for the U.S. Cycling team that won nine medals

in the 1984 Olympics. In 1981, he opened a private practice, The Winning Edge, and in 1992, he got his own radio show on WHB Sports Radio that runs Sundays at 8 a.m.

Bird said that she, her parents and the golf team's assistant coach, Mr. Steve Perry, discussed the idea of consulting a sport psychologist and agreed that this was the right road to take.

"I felt like I was a good player, but the only thing holding me back from being a great player was my mind," said Bird. "Staying focused for four to six hours is a hard thing to do."

Jacobs first administers a personality test to his clients to see what causes them to struggle. After that, he helps them improve their focus, confidence and preparation and develop a routine. He and Bird have been working on relaxation.

Bird has been seeing Jacobs for about a month and already notices improvements, not only in her golfing, but in other areas of her life as well.

"I'm learning how to balance stress and that helps with school," she said. "I've been getting better grades since I started seeing him."

Jacobs helps Bird with golf, but he works with athletes from a variety of sports.

"It depends on the season," he said.

"Now, I've got a lot of basketball players." His clients vary in both the sports in which they participate and in age. Jacobs works with athletes that range from professionals down to high school athletes. He believes that about one third of his clients are in high school.

"Sport psychology isn't really prevalent in student athletes right now," said Bird. "But I think it will be in five or ten years."



Kathleen Pointer

Sophomore Elizabeth Keaveny, center, is supported by freshman Lauren Medina and junior Shannon Van Buskirk. Keaveny received All-State Honors for her ninth place finish at the Jefferson City cross country state meet Nov. 5.

## Dance team stretches to fundraise for season

Mary Kate Bird  
Opinion Editor

After a grueling two-hour Monday practice, grumbles about money owed from the most recent STA dance team magazine fundraiser fill the air as dancers cool down from their workout. The dance team has become accustomed to fundraising over the last few years with the growing success of the program. They hold an annual car wash that raised nearly \$800 this year, according to junior co-captain Allie Fiss. Recently, every member of the dance team had to sell 15 magazine subscriptions, or pay \$7.50 for each magazine they did not sell.

"People wonder why we raise money; we have to pay for costumes, hotels, buses... things our school doesn't provide for that we end up paying," said Fiss. "The

school supports us with a good sufficient amount that is equal to any other team, but we're doing a lot more things that are year-round, and they can only give out so much to us."

At the beginning of every sports season, coaches propose budgets to Athletic Director Mr. Mike Egner. Those budgets have to be approved by Egner and the Booster Club, who supports the teams financially throughout the season. The dance team needs new performance outfits yearly, which are expensive costs in comparison to other sports that use jerseys for several years.

"Booster Club gives money to dance equitably like kids on other sports," said Egner. "The financial planning has changed, making it seem more expensive this year."

By the end of the season, Ms. Amy

Edsall expects to pay about \$1,000 out of pocket for daughter, senior Abby Edsall's, participation on the dance team.

"They are representing STA," said Amy. "We want our best image forward; it would be nice if they got a little more money from the school, but I think it's grown at a pace quicker than they had expected."

The school allows teams and clubs to sponsor one fundraiser per year. However, due to the costs for dance team, the administration has made an exception. "[The] school told them they could do more than one fundraiser a year because it's so expensive trying to come up with [fundraisers] to be done in the community, outside of the school," said Egner.

When the team is at competition, they come across a variety of different teams. Some teams are similar to their

own while others have gyms full of props. Intricate hand-made costumes, different pairs of shoes for each outfit and matching ribbons adorn most dancers' bodies.

"It's all about money all the time," said Fiss. "[Coach Megan Savage] is basically by herself trying to persuade these people and she's doing an awesome job."

Given the cost of participation, parents and athletes hold an anxiety over whether or not the cost controversy affects the dancer's performance.

"It's like any other sport," said Amy. "It's hard work and sometimes your ready to give it all up, but then you have a game that gives you that rush and you think it's all worth it again."

Edsall and Fiss's main concern lies in



Libby Conwell

Junior Kelli Hansen, left, and senior Sarah Tampke practice their new novelty routine in the cafeteria.

# Hogwarts Heaven



## Harry Potter obsession reaches an all-time high through Friday movie release

Rosie Neenan & Mollie Esposito  
Staff Writer & Copy Editor

Although he doesn't know it, Tom Felton (better known to some as the actor who plays Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter movies) was the guest of honor at a party in the house of senior Christine Farris. It was his birthday party and, since the real Felton was unable to attend, Farris made a Draco Malfoy mask from a magazine cut out and blew the candles out.

This scene may be unfamiliar to some, but for certain STA students, it demonstrates a level of Harry Potter obsession that is being revived with the release of the sixth book this summer and the fourth movie tomorrow.

### Who is Harry Potter?

J.K. Rowling, an award winning author, was inspired to write the first *Harry Potter* book while riding on a train from Manchester to London in 1990. She worked on the first book for several years and was turned down by many publishers until finding one that was interested.

The Harry Potter books are part of a seven book series based on a teenage boy named Harry Potter who attends a school for witches and wizards for seven years, with each book chronicling one of Harry's years at Hogwarts.

According to Scholastic, in America, there are over 103 million *Harry Potter* books in print. Each of the six books has been #1 on *The New York Times*, *USA Today* and *Wall Street Journal* best seller lists. The sixth book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, set the world record for a first printing by selling 10.8 million copies on the first day of release last July. The *Harry Potter* books are published in 200 countries and 55 different languages.

### The Internet

Both freshman Rachel Turgeon and Farris have become ensconced in Harry Potter web sites. Farris became the administrator of a message board at age 12 according to Farris because of her "active and enthusiastic" attitude.

Turgeon has written fan fiction, or stories based on the book's characters, on various *Harry Potter* fan web sites. Turgeon has written three of her own fan fiction stories about what the characters will do when they leave the school. To help with her predictions, Turgeon has read each book multiple times looking for hints and clues for what will happen in the next and final book. She keeps all of her predictions and her fan fiction stories in her *Harry Potter* notebook, so that she can check them when the seventh book comes out. According to Turgeon, her guesses have been close in

the past and she feels that she is close to knowing what will happen in the last book.

### Obsession

"I would consider myself obsessed," said Turgeon, an avid since age ten. "I have read all the books multiple times, I have a *Harry Potter* notebook, I am a member of multiple online fan clubs, I write fan fiction stories and I collect *Harry Potter* tree ornaments."

Some STA students are celebrating the release of the new movie. Sophomore Bailey Lynch planned her own *Harry Potter* party last Friday.

According to Lynch, a group of "really obsessed" girls came to her house for "an entire night devoted to *Harry Potter*" which they call a "*Harry Potter* Nerd Party." The girls watched the first three movies, then spent the night analyzing each.

*STA Potter* fans are getting ready for the upcoming movie and the final book, which is expected to be released next June. No matter how their lives may change, STA fans will stay true to their obsessions.

"My obsession for [Harry] has waned," said Farris. "But I still hold a special place for him in my heart. I remember his birthday every year."

## The mystery, mayhem behind the wizard

Alison Raybould  
Sports Editor



As I walk into my bedroom, I collapse into a cozy chair in the corner and immediately fall asleep. When I awake, I find myself in the Gryffindor common room, hugging the armrest of a comfy chair by a flickering fire. Low and behold, in the chair before me is a boy fast approaching manhood with black, tousled hair; jade green eyes and a lightning bolt scar on his forehead—unmistakably, Harry Potter. His presence sends my mind reeling into an alternate reality of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, broomsticks, incantations and bubbling potions.

The Harry Potter craze has pervaded the nation once again with tomorrow's release of the movie adaptation of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, directed by Mike Newell. I am not immune to its charm, having read some of the books in the *Harry Potter* series over ten times. In fact, I have been possessed by the approaching movie since Aug. 29, when I started a countdown in my planner 83 days before the movie's release.

I have had to live with this semi-unhealthy obsession since the fourth grade, when I was first introduced to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. To this day, I can list off random *Harry Potter* trivia: Harry's last exam in his first year at Hogwarts—History of Magic, of course. To brush up on my trivia, I have invested in several board games, including "Harry Potter Scene It" and "Harry Potter Trivial Pursuit," as well as purchased my own copies of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, *Quiddich through the Ages*, *The Science of Harry Potter* and *New Clues to Harry Potter: Book Five, Hints from the Unofficial*

*Guide to the Mysteries of Harry Potter*. In the first week of summer vacation, I like to take a sabbatical and spend my time rereading the *Harry Potter* series. I am and always will be a slave to the HP phenomenon.

For me, though, this particular movie in the series does not just resonate as the fourth of an eventual seven. It is the turning point in the Harry's life and the wizarding world. In the prior books, readers were being introduced to our hero, Harry Potter—played by Daniel Radcliffe—in a sequence of mystery novels arranged along the same lines as a *Nancy Drew* detective story. Sure, we were captivated by Harry's adventures, whether they be his surviving the Killing Curse, Avada Kedavra, as a baby, when no other wizard had; his thwarting of the most evil wizard of the century, Lord Voldemort, of the Sorcerer's Stone; his ending Voldemort's attempt to return as his 16 year-old self; his killing a 50 ft. basilisk; or his saving of his godfather, Sirius Black, from a terrible fate and dementor's kiss. Up until the fourth novel, Harry had been biding time for the wizarding community to live in a temporary peace.

But in *The Goblet of Fire*, he returns to Hogwarts to find himself unexpectedly thrown into the TriWizard Tournament. In the tournament's tasks, he must face a Hungarian Horntail, mere people and all sorts of other dangerous creatures in his pursuit of the TriWizard Cup. Those challenges only serve as preparation for his fourth confrontation with Voldemort.

Conflict erupts between good and bad when Voldemort successfully returns to his body after 13 years of clinging to life as a mere spirit. In *The Goblet of Fire*, plot develops drastically to encompass more genres than simply mystery and delves into the Harry's emotional psyche. On a larger scale, the wizarding world is on the

brink of war against Dark Magic led by Voldemort, who is rapidly gaining power and strength. *The Goblet of Fire* ties all the previous books together and prepares you for the dangerous tasks that Harry is destined to face.

Overall, Rowling ingeniously uses a period of history for the basis of the *Harry Potter* series. Her novels serve as a metaphor of World Wars I and II. In the first book, we know that the wizard community has emerged from a war against Voldemort, similar to World War I. Books two and three reveal a separation between purebloods, wizards of magical parentage and "Mudbloods," wizards of non magical descent, and build up to war that is on the verge of erupting by the end of book four. Voldemort's beliefs about purebloods mimic Adolf Hitler's desire for a Germany populated solely by blonde-hair, blue-eyed Aryans. Both Voldemort and Hitler wanted to cleanse their distinct worlds of what they viewed to be society's riffraff.

My only potential concern with turning *The Goblet of Fire* into a movie is that part of Rowling's literary masterpiece might get lost in translation. Will the movie bring to life Harry's emotional turmoil as successfully as the novel? Will the audience be able to delve into Harry's mind the way they can in the book? I fear that we might lose a sense of his destiny. But I am willing to put my faith in Radcliffe's acting ability and trust that he had a plan of attack in conveying Harry's internal struggle.

"Difficult times lie ahead for Harry Potter," rang the theater preview for *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, PG-13, which premieres tomorrow in theaters nationwide. Hopefully, the movie adaptation will match the standard set by Rowling and cleverly display Harry's emotional conflict as well as the inevitable war about to erupt in the wizarding world.

Broom and glasses illustrations  
By Colleen Owens & Kathleen Pointer  
Features Editor & Photography Editor



Libby Conwell

Top, sophomore Bailey Lynch, dressed as Harry Potter, hosts her "Harry Potter Nerd Party" Friday in celebration of the upcoming movie release. Middle, sophomore Sami Setter attends dressed as Professor Dumbledore of Hogwarts with, bottom, sophomore Kellyn Smith wearing a Dobby the house elf costume. Party events included the game "Deluxe Scene It - Harry Potter Edition" and several theme snacks of Butterbeer, Cauldron cakes and Bertie Bott's Every Flavored Beans.

