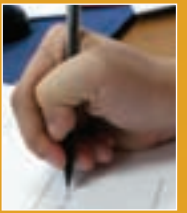




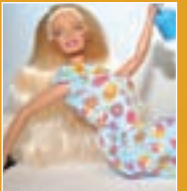
THE DART

Calculus: Students will be able to find higher-level classes closer to home in the math department



Page 9

Barbie: This pop culture icon is central to the lives of American youth: her qualities and messages



Pages 12&13

Rachel Schwartz: STA sophomore and her family conquer injury through faith



Pages 20&21

Revolution: The Dart staff concentrates on change and style in creating a journalistic revolution in 2006



Page 24

Weighing In:

Will the Curriculum Council's decisions regarding freshman and sophomore honors-level classes tip the scales in students' favor?

Page 2



LIBBY CONWELL

Sophomores from left Anna Boisseau, Elizabeth Warwick and Emily Thompson give a presentation on "Oak and the Reed" by Jean de la Fontaine in Ms. Karen Johnson's Accelerated World Literature class Jan 24. The course is no longer weighted, due to Curriculum Council changes last year. However course content including in-depth analysis and group presentations remain

Changes emphasize class rigor

Honors class changes not to affect students' college admission

Staff Writer
Breanne Sigler

Though freshman-and-sophomore level honors courses will not be available to boost students' GPA next year, STA college counselor Ms. Steph Hart said students should not worry. Colleges are looking less and less at GPA's.

"What's important is that students are taking the most challenging classes available," said Hart.

Honors courses may be changing their names to accelerated, but the content and curriculum is set to remain the same. According to Ms. Nancy Hand, Principal of Academic Affairs, most teachers present advanced curriculum regardless if the class is labeled regular, accelerated or honors.

"What is important is that the rigor [of the classes] stays the same," said Hand.

Honors programs are individual to each high school, so Hart must send a school profile with a summary of classes and their difficulty levels with each college application. College admissions' offices use these profiles to assess each applicant. They judge each applicant separately because of the variance of course rigor and honors programs at individual high schools.

Some students are questioning the benefit of accelerated classes without a weighted GPA.

"It kind of makes me mad because it's already harder in accelerated," said freshman Jaime Henry-White, a student in Accelerated Algebra I who planned to be in Honors Geometry next year. "I wanted to get in honors to help out my GPA."

Freshman Katie Kenney, also planning to enroll in Honors Geometry, agreed.

"This year I kind of questioned the point of accelerated classes," said Kenney. "The point of me taking them was to get into honors next year. Colleges would look more at accelerated and honors classes. Accelerated would look good on your record, but honors helps your GPA."

According to Ms. Alice Amick, head of the foreign language department, schools are trying to standardize their honors system for more uniform college applications.

"We're not the only school questioning honors," said Ms. Shana Prentiss, head of the fine arts department. "Everyone is going through this process. It's an ongoing thought process for every school."

Hart talked to many colleges to get perspective on weighted honors classes. According to a 2004 article by former college admissions officer Aaron Milenski, colleges may recalculate your GPA so it is unweighted. Milenski designed the GPA recalculation system for Oberlin College.

"Without GPA recalculation, admissions offices would be comparing apples and oranges," wrote Milenski. "The colleges need, somehow, to put all of these different numbers into a context that allows them to fairly evaluate every student, regardless of school."

Because most colleges look at GPAs as unweighted, and take into consideration the rigor of the class, the lack of weight on accelerated classes is not expected to affect a student's chance at college entrance. ★

Curriculum Council decision removes weighted credit from some classes

Beginning next year, freshman and sophomore level 'honors' classes will be titled 'accelerated' and will no longer have weighted GPA credit.

Section Editor
Nicole Farley

eliminate everything at once," said Hand. "Sometimes you just have to move into it slowly."

Ms. Alice Amick, head of the foreign languages department, said that the members of the Council researched other schools to determine how STA's honors policies compared. They found that policies at other schools ranged from students receiving no weighted credit in their GPAs to students receiving weighted credit for every honors or accelerated class.

"There are different systems in place that address different types of student bodies," said Amick.

With registration deadlines for the 2006-2007 school year approaching, some students will reconsider taking accelerated classes now that they will not be receiving weighted credit. Acton noted, however, that despite the changes in the sophomore world history and world literature classes this year, there were more sophomores than ever enrolled this year.

"Our students are internally motivated," said Mr. Eric Thomas, head of the English department. "They don't need

the weighted GPA. They're there because they want to learn."

According to College Counselor Stephanie Hart, when choosing classes for next year, students should not be concerned about the changes in weighted credit having a negative effect on their college searches. Because the courses are still the same with only a different name, colleges will still be able to see that students are taking the most academically rigorous classes available.

Hand said that it is also still important for freshman and sophomore students to take accelerated classes because the classes prepare them for the pace of junior-and-senior level classes, which are taught to an Advanced Placement (AP) curriculum.

"Preparing these freshman and sophomores for that AP rigor is important," said Hand.

After changing the policies with honors classes, the council revised the STA program of studies, working to make sure that the program of studies, overall, was more consistent, fair, and user-friendly. This year's course book includes changes such as clearer explanations of course prerequisites, along with the addition of visual organizers to aid users.

See HONORS, page 22

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★in brief

The Science Knowledge Bowl team finished its season last Saturday at Rockhurst University's annual Science Knowledge Bowl competition. The competition tests teams of five from high schools across Kansas and Missouri on their knowledge of various scientific fields including chemistry, biology, mathematics and computer sciences. The team competed in five rounds, facing schools including Incarnate Word of Saint Louis and Holden, and finished with a winning record of three out of five rounds. Team members for this year's season include juniors Laura Welch and Chelsea Burton, and seniors Jordan Gribble, Katherine Schilling, Colleen Slentz and Erica Houglund.

"[This decision] keeps justice between the departments," said Ms. Sara Acton, head of the social studies department. "No one department is more important than the other."

The council made their final decision at their Jan. 12 meeting, after spending over a year discussing and researching the potential effects of the change.

"It wasn't really a vote," said Mr. Matthew Bertalott, head of the theology department. "It was a consensus."

According to Hand, the decision was based on factors including curriculum learning objectives.

"We didn't feel like we should just

inside out

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★in brief

Monday during Mods 9-12, all Honors Physics students attended a presentation in Verheyen on the dangers of drunk driving. Officers Wilson and Lester of the KCMO Police Department offered students a presentation of a reconstructed accident scene & scene calculations, demonstrating how police determine who is at fault in a drunk-driving traffic collision. Wilson and Lester then presented a PowerPoint which showcased graphic images from real accident scenes, including one showing brains coming from a severed head. After the visual presentation, students got the opportunity to take a sobriety test while wearing intoxication goggles. See photo on page 22.

Juniors prepare for ring dance

Dreams become reality as committee finishes final details

Staff Writer
 Claire McInerney

"It all started when we were in a free with [Ms. Katie] Dolan," said junior Mary Garcia. "We were talking about it and she was like 'Yeah, try it.' So Maggie [Burke] and I went down to Mrs. [Mary Anne] Hoecker's office during activity. We made a meeting with her for the next day and brought her projective costs and sheets of information. She liked it, and it just happened."

The first Junior Ring Dance, with the theme of black and white, will be held tomorrow from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in The Commons. The dance is doubling as a fundraiser for next year's Senior Prom.

"It will raise a lot of money," said junior and committee member Betsy McKenny. "We calculated it out, so with tickets being \$25 per couple and \$15 for a single, we should raise around \$1,500. That is if everyone goes."

Some students are concerned about the number of students who will attend, given that the juniors have the smallest class at STA.

"There better be three-fourths of the class there," said junior Meredith Snyder. "I know we have to have 65 people to make money. Some are like 'I don't know,' but they will end up going."

Some juniors are unsure of what is to come.

"I think it will be mellow, but it's still a dance with girls running around screaming," said Snyder.

Others, however, are not planning on attending the event.

"It's just going to be the same as Teresian," junior Alex LaPointe said. "And [Teresian] wasn't all that fun, so I don't think I'll be missing too much."

Because LaPointe feels the evening will be similar, she doesn't want to spend money on a dress, tickets and dinner for an evening reflective of the one four months ago.

"I really don't think it is a good idea," LaPointe said. "It's just going to be another excuse to get dressed up."

Others, like Snyder and McKenny, are enthusiastic.

"We got to choose the music for the DJ to play," said McKenny. "It's going to be rap and some fun oldies. We aren't really going to play many slow songs."

With decorations and music set, all that's left to plan is dresses and dates. ★

Just a side note

When is the Junior Ring ceremony?

The junior class will receive their class rings in a ceremony held on Sunday, February 26 at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Students are encouraged to invite family and friends to participate in the celebration. A reception will be held following the ceremony. Videos of the day will be available for \$7 after the event. Final payments for rings are due before the ceremony. A list of those students who still owe payments is posted on the door of Ms. Roseann Hudnall's office, located in M107 in the M&A building.



KATHLEEN POINTER

Seniors Lisa Peterson, left, and Abigail Sosinski complete their performance of the polka at the Cultural Awareness Assembly Jan 27. Sosinski learned the dance from her grandfather and father at a very young age and has also danced the polka at family weddings.

Cultural Awareness hits the stage

Participants bring diversity to assembly

Molly Huber &
 Alexandra Bojarski-Staufner

Managing Editor &
 Staff Writer

At the annual Cultural Awareness Assembly Jan. 27, students, teachers and other guests showcased the school's diversity through performances and presentations inspired by students' backgrounds and interests.

After an introduction by emcee and English teacher Mr. Mark Fudenberg,

several students in bold, brightly-colored shirts kicked off the assembly with a rendition of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Acts that followed included a dance performed by the Center High School step dance team that featured a high-energy hip-hop style called "crumping," as well as a free-style rap presentation.

Senior Suphaphon Tachawatcharapunya, a foreign exchange student from Thailand, also exhibited her culture in the form of dance; to a classic Thai song, she moved fluidly across the stage in a traditional costume of her country.

Sophomore Roni Katz read an excerpt

from the Torah, the Jewish sacred text. Her father helped her with the tradition of picking up the fragile, one-and-a-half foot long book, and showing the excerpt which was read to the audience.

Junior Rachel Janose and her group presented traditional Slavic dances known as the cola and polka. The group encouraged the audience to participate.

The assembly concluded with a Moroccan belly dance performed by six masked women in dresses of red, purple and gold. The dancers were suspected to be five teachers and a senior, though no one has publicly admitted involvement in the surprise performance. ★

'Til death do us part? My marriage to STA

Students unite with STA to form the ultimate power-couple

Section Editor

Colleen Owens



sisterhood of the plaid skirts

To have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, from this day forward until death do us part?

I am married to STA... there is no denying it, because we all are in a way. I wake up every morning and lying next to me like the dead horse head from "The Godfather" is my school uniform. Like in marriage, this could be considered an 'irritable' morning. Other days I might wake up comforted that I know exactly what to expect: what classes I have, what projects are due, what my mom made me for lunch.

I am going to make a leap of faith right now and assume that my fellow classmates feel similarly. I have proof. Last Thursday,

I was in Whitney's class about to take a quiz and the girl next to me (let's just call her Martha) nervously blurted out how she often got excited right before taking tests she had studied hard for. Then I heard three or four students chime in with Martha about how they felt similarly and even looked forward to it.

After some thought, I understood what they said. They wanted to benefit from their hard work. This revelation came as a surprise. I was caught off-guard with her moment of honesty, and decided this was a classic example of school marriage in its purest form.

There are few Marthas in the world, I know that. But I think deep down inside, we are all little school nerds, desperately attached to this school - whether we admit it or not.

Moving on, I recall having my STA marriage predicted to me when I was about 13. My sister Mary, now an alumna, told me that when I got to high school I would encounter a range of emotions. First, I was to "fall in love" with STA because it was so different than my sheltered grade school past. I would the retreat into an insecure phase - unsure of what to expect from high school. In between, I would grow irritated and annoyed at times.

Lastly, I was to become completely comfortable and at ease, almost as if STA were my home. And this was true for me. My own little marriage to STA was typical, as prophesized to me by my own ram-

bling psychic sister.

No, I confess, I have never actually been married or proposed to, but as stated earlier, I feel as though STA is my unorthodox spouse. I realize I might be slightly stretching this truth, but I have been to lunch with enough middle-aged women to know some entertaining marriage stories.

For example: just as a spouse might forget to flush the toilet...so does my STA. And just as a spouse might prepare food that you never even asked for...so does my STA (thanks again, JoJo). You might even say that those little brown Birkenstocks and black itchy sweaters are to "keep up appearances" for this spouse... despite our questionable hygiene situation. But just like a marriage, it's a relationship of ups and downs, and sometimes a few trades. I gave up seeing boys on a daily basis for STA, just like I would if I was married. And it is a sacrifice, to say the least.

Whether I get excited to take tests, or run for cover when the alarm goes off, STA has been here for me. I practically live in these classrooms, and when I am away from it, I am forced to continue thinking about it, whether that be through homework or other crazy stories are impossible to forget.

I can hardly imagine what it would be like on the other side, married to Sion... I shudder to think. For these reasons alone, I am satisfied with my marriage to STA, with no counseling necessary and no divorce in sight. ★



Above: an aerial view of Slaggie Inc.'s redevelopment proposal, presented to The City of Mission's Planning Commission at the Jan. 23 meeting. Below: a graphical depiction offering a future view from Johnson Drive of the redeveloped area with proposed buildings.



Mission Center closed after 50 years

Residents embrace plan to demolish mall as architect begins work

Section Editor
Sarah Tampke

Planning Commission members, residents and others agree redeveloping Mission Center Mall is the right step.

The mall that was originally built in 1956, and rebuilt in 1989, closed its doors at the end of last month to prepare for demolishing. Located at Shawnee Mission Parkway and Roeland Drive, it was an enclosed shopping center with retail stores and several restaurants.

"Right now [Mission Mall] looks like a big box," said Mr. Bob McShane, father of senior Franny McShane and a resident of Fairway for over 30 years. "It's not in good shape and the development will be more attractive and better for the community."

McShane has not been following the plans for the site very closely, but has seen several proposed ideas. He believes the new development will be "fabulous" even though it requires demolishing the building.

Monday, Jan. 23, the City of Mission held a Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall. Mr. Scott Slaggie of Slaggie Architects, Inc. and their lawyer Mr. John Petersen of Polsinelli Shalton Welte Suelthaus PC gave a presentation. Petersen first addressed the commission on the reason for the meeting and what Slaggie needs to do to take the next step in development.

"We are looking for approval to setting up a platform, an enhanced platform," said Petersen as he addressed the commission.

Slaggie gave a Power Point presentation on his company's proposed plan for the site. The plan includes an outdoor shopping center, a residential tower, office space and a multi-level parking ga-

rage. The shops will be upscale retail, and the residential space will either be apartments or a hotel located in a 16-story building. He went through the slides pointing out what each new building would be used for.

"That will be the new Ruby Tuesday's," said Mr. Tom Thompson, a Mission resident as he watched Slaggie talk about a drive-thru to be located at Shawnee Mission Parkway and Roeland Drive.

"More a like a Go Chicken Go," responded Mr. Andrew Sandler, another Mission resident sitting behind Thompson.

The commission later questioned the drive-thru and Petersen told them it was not going to be "typical" fast food and would most likely be a Starbucks or "something to that caliber." Slaggie continued with his presentation, showing current views of the mall from nearby streets. In contrast, he showed what the new view would be after the development. Audience members were taken aback by the sight of the new buildings.

"Hey, that picture was taken right in front of my house," said Thompson with a laugh as he admired what the future view from his driveway would be.

The Commission began addressing their concerns, one being the amount of green space that would be present. Slaggie responded by pointing out trees, bushes, flowers and other plants located on the development. They were also worried about the buildings sticking out, in the mostly residential area.

"We will make sure the architecture and look is of the same character as the other buildings on Johnson Drive," said Slaggie before commenting on the details and rich materials that would be used in the building process.

Mr. Jerry Wiley, father of senior Morgan Wiley and a resident of Fairway for over 20 years, did not think the height was a problem because he believes it is all in the architecture. He does, however,

have a concern about the development sticking out.

"Right now, that area is mostly residential and I hope this addition doesn't cloud the residential atmosphere," said Wiley.

Near the end of the meeting, residents were invited to step up to the podium and give their thoughts. Several people rose from their seats, moved to the podium, stated their name and address and shared their opinions. Every person had positive things to say about the development.

Ms. Kate Michaelis, who has a graduate degree in Urban Development, was the only non-resident of Mission to give her thoughts.

"With our population decline, if we don't add housing options, we aren't going to thrive," said Michaelis as she stated why she supported the plan. "More people means more money and more power to the area."

Thompson and Sandler also went to the podium to express their concerns. Thompson asked that the drive-thru speaker not face the houses across the street. Sandler inquired about the 16-story building and asked to see a slide that showed the view of the building from Shawnee Mission Parkway.

"I'm very impressed, it's attractive," said Sandler. "Is that a 16-story building?" he asked Slaggie, and after receiving a confirmation, nodded his head. "Well okay, looks fine to me."

The height of the towers was a major concern for residents in past meetings and the concern was still present at the Jan. 23 meeting.

All commission members gave Slaggie and Petersen approval to move forward and wished them luck, concluding the meeting. The Mission Planning Commission and City Council are finalizing plans to demolish the mall and begin work in the spring. They hope the new site will be up and running by the fall of 2007, but agree there are still many decisions to make. ★

Local owners emphasize service, quality

As corporate chains expand, small businesses fight to keep their space

Staff Writer
Mikhala Lantz-Simmons

With nationwide chains popping up all over Kansas City, it has become difficult for the smaller merchants to compete. While corporate stores like Target are selling items at a discount price, those stores that are unable to buy in bulk are suffering. This is one reason why the merchants of Brookside, the first outdoor shopping area built in Kansas City, have continued to fight to keep corporate businesses out of their small neighborhood and have put an emphasis on their service and unique qualities.

Ms. Marti Lee is the executive director of the Brookside Business Association. She feels that Brookside is distinct because of the unique shops and services that it offers to the neighborhood.

"Brookside is not the cookie cutter like the other shopping centers," said Lee. "It seems like you can find a Bed Bath & Beyond, Borders, et cetera, at every shopping center. You don't find these stores in Brookside."

Lee also mentioned that several of the storeowners take yearly trips to other countries to get their merchandise, thus perpetuating the idea of uniqueness.

Mr. Robert Thatch and Ms. Jody Thatch, owners of the Brookside Neighborhood Office, decided to open their copy store to serve the neighborhood.

"We emphasize service... because you cannot compete on a price level with big stores."
store owner, Robert Thatch

"We saw that Kinkos was always busy and we thought that a similar outlet in Brookside would be convenient," said Jody. "We were constantly running over to Kinkos to make copies for Girl Scouts or the PTA. We thought to ourselves, 'What we need is a copy shop!' Customers say they love having us here. How else would they get the ten cent copy jobs done?"

Robert said that it can be difficult to compete with corporate stores such as Kinkos.

"We were worried that a larger outlet might also open in the area and put us out of business," said Robert. "...In order to keep that from happening, we just have to do things differently. We emphasize service and greater convenience because you cannot compete on a price level with big stores."

Lee acknowledged the problem local merchants have competing with corporate stores.

"We do have a lot of competition with the large corporate stores," said Lee. "For example, we don't have any book stores anymore probably due to the Barnes & Nobles, et cetera."

Lee mentioned that where there is an Osco store, oftentimes, a brand new Walgreens can be seen just across the street.

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★in brief

ABC news co-anchor Mr. Bob Woodruff and ABC cameraman Mr. Doug Vogt were seriously injured during coverage in Taji, Iraq. The convoy Woodruff and Vogt were traveling in was attacked 12 miles north of Baghdad by an explosive device, believed to have been detonated through a wire tap in the ground. Woodward and Vogt suffered serious wounds and underwent surgery at a U.S. military hospital in Baghdad. Both men's injuries were extensive enough that both were flown by U.S. Marine helicopter to another more secure military hospital in Germany. The men are now recovering in the U.S. The U.S. military is conducting an investigation into the attack.

Genocide in Sudan leaves 70,000 dead

STA sophomore petitions to help Darfurian refugees with hopes of educating and gaining assistance

Staff Writer
Kate Rainey

In the past year, sophomore Roni Katz has participated with her youth group in raising money for the Lost Girls program, a program dedicated to bringing women from Darfur to the US.



Roni Katz

"I learned about Sudan in geography [class], but I hadn't heard anything about it on the news," Katz said. "I first heard it from my youth group because the Holocaust Museum has a genocide alert. This is the first time they've [sounded] the alarm."

Her youth group has helped by making pins, showing educational programs and writing letters to newspapers and news stations in the Midwest, pleading that they write about the genocide.

"As [Jews], we know the pain and suffering that comes with [genocide]," Katz said. "I had family in the Holocaust and to know that the same thing is happening is terrible. I want people to understand, and help."

Katz is also a member of World Cultures Club, here at STA. The club is planning a way to help Darfur.

"The World Cultures Club is a club that... shares information about cul-

tures around the world to hopefully gain an appreciation and understanding," said Ms. Denise Rueschhoff, club founder. "Another goal... is to raise awareness or support a cause in a region of the world."

The club is planning a fundraiser to raise money to donate to an organization, but isn't sure yet of the best method.

"We're thinking of doing a coin drive for advisories," said Rueschhoff. "Right now we're decorating milk jugs, [but] we have to get approval from Ms. Hoecker."

If the coin drive falls through, Rueschhoff said that a bake sale could be another option.

Katz is also leading a petition to raise awareness of the conflict in Darfur. She got the idea from a website that had information about ways to get involved. So far, she has about 230 signatures.

"You're educating people when [they] sign a petition," Katz said. "[The petition] might not help, but educating someone out there who might help... you just never know."

Rueschhoff and Katz both stress the importance of raising awareness and helping the victims of the genocide in Darfur.

"It's important that we do something to stop it, because if it was happening to us, we would want someone to stop it," Katz said. "Mass killings affect everyone and everyone is called to stop it, no matter what religion or race." ★

"If it was happening to us, we would want someone to stop it."

sophomore, Roni Katz

A look at the conflict in Darfur

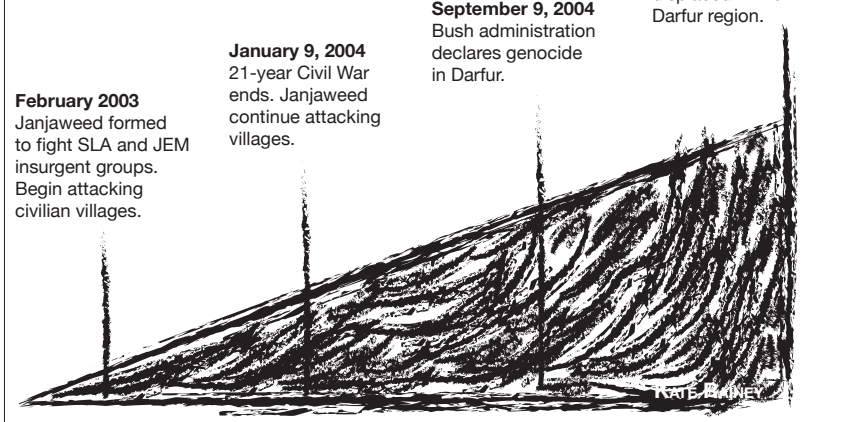
The Darfur region of Sudan has been at war since early 2003. Since, tens of thousands of civilians have been murdered, thousands of women raped, and over 1.5 million displaced.

January 20, 2006
USHMM.org estimates 70,000 civilians dead and 1.5 million more displaced in the Darfur region.

September 9, 2004
Bush administration declares genocide in Darfur.

January 9, 2004
21-year Civil War ends. Janjaweed continue attacking villages.

February 2003
Janjaweed formed to fight SLA and JEM insurgent groups. Begin attacking civilian villages.



Pro-government militia attacks Darfur villages

Staff Writer
Kate Rainey

Since early 2003, the Darfur region of Sudan has been at war. The Bush administration labeled the conflict genocide on September 9, 2004.

The cause for the conflict in Darfur is disputed. According to an article published by the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), an organization founded to help people in the region, the conflict began with a civil war when two anti-government groups, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), attacked the Sudanese government. The fighting escalated when the Janjaweed, a pro-government group, entered the war. The Janjaweed are credited with most of the genocide and displacement of Darfurians.

ITDG also attributes the conflict to fighting between farmers and nomadic

herders, reoccurring droughts, poverty and a lack of development. Dr. Gregory H. Stanton, President of Genocide Watch, stated in an article that the Janjaweed want to drive out Africans in order to confiscate their cattle, water sources and land. According to an article by the Representatives of The Massaleit Community in Exile, the conflict is an ethnic dispute. The Janjaweed are Arab Muslims persecuting non-Arab Muslims, mainly the Massaleit, Fur, and Zaghawa peoples. Recently, ITDG reports, non-Arabs have been attracted to the Janjaweed due to their wealth.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been murdered and thousands of women have been raped by Sudanese government soldiers and Janjaweed members, stated the US Holocaust Memorial Museum website (USHMM.org). About two million citizens have fled to neighboring Chad, while more remain trapped in Darfur. The majority of people there are dying of malnutrition, lack of decent health care and shelter and the harsh desert climate. ★

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Miscommunication in Sago mine tragedy causes media confusion

False reports cause readers to question accuracy in the news

Managing Editor
Juana Summers

Newspapers across the Kansas City Metro area gave hope to those monitoring the Sago, West Virginia mine explosion Jan. 4. The boldfaced headline on the center of the front page proclaimed "12 miners found alive after 41 hours," overshadowing all other news reported that day. However, later that day, the headlines viewed by Kansas City's readers would drastically change, instead to report that there was no grand miracle of life, as *The Star's* subhead had claimed. Thousands of papers would be circulated, amended to reflect the news that all miners, save for one, had been found dead.

Tuesday, Jan 3., the first edition of *The Star* began to go to press around 11:00 p.m., allowing carriers to reach the city by early morning, according to *Kansas City Star* reader's representative Mr. Derek Donovan. This edition of *The Star* reflected a story on political lobbyist Mr. Jack Abramhoff as the leading story. However, less than 20 minutes later, the Associated Press ran coverage of West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin's claim that 12 miners were alive. Based on this information, *The Kansas City Star's* editors decided to redesign the page, which would make the story of the 12 living miners the featured centerpiece for Wednesday morning's edition. This edition began



Signs on local businesses in Buckhannon, West Virginia, display prayers and well wishes for the families of the deadly Sago mine disaster.

to print after 1 a.m. on Jan. 4, however less than 50 minutes later, *The Star* and newspapers across the country would be faced with more changes. According to Donovan, the Associated Press released a bulletin reporting the assumed deaths of 11 of the 12 coal miners, according to various family members. Upon receiving this news, *The Star* again made changes to its issue. The paper for Wednesday was

finalized at 2:42 a.m. according to Donovan, with the headline "12 of 13 miners found dead."

Approximately 20,000 incorrect copies of *The Star* were destroyed by distribution workers, while about 37,000 of the final editions with the correct headline were circulated across the Kansas City metropolitan area. However, the majority of *The Star's* readership was still met with

the incorrect headline.

Wednesday Jan. 4, all three versions of *The Star's* front page were published on www.kansascity.com, along with an editor's note, stating: "The news of the West Virginia miners changed throughout the evening from optimistic to tragic. *The Kansas City Star* changed its pages throughout the night late Tuesday and throughout the morning early Wednesday to update that news."

Thursday, Jan. 5, Donovan published a time line of the events leading up to the error, as well as a Midwestern perspective on the incident.

"The tragedy of these events was amplified by the rollercoaster of contradictory news throughout the night," Donovan wrote. "The daily front pages at www.newseum.org show that few newspapers in the Central Timezone caught the late-breaking news in time to run the corrected story in the morning paper." In addition to Donovan's piece, *The Star* also ran a correction, acknowledging the paper's mistake and attributing the cause to "erroneous reports from wire services", as well as miscommunication in Upshur County.

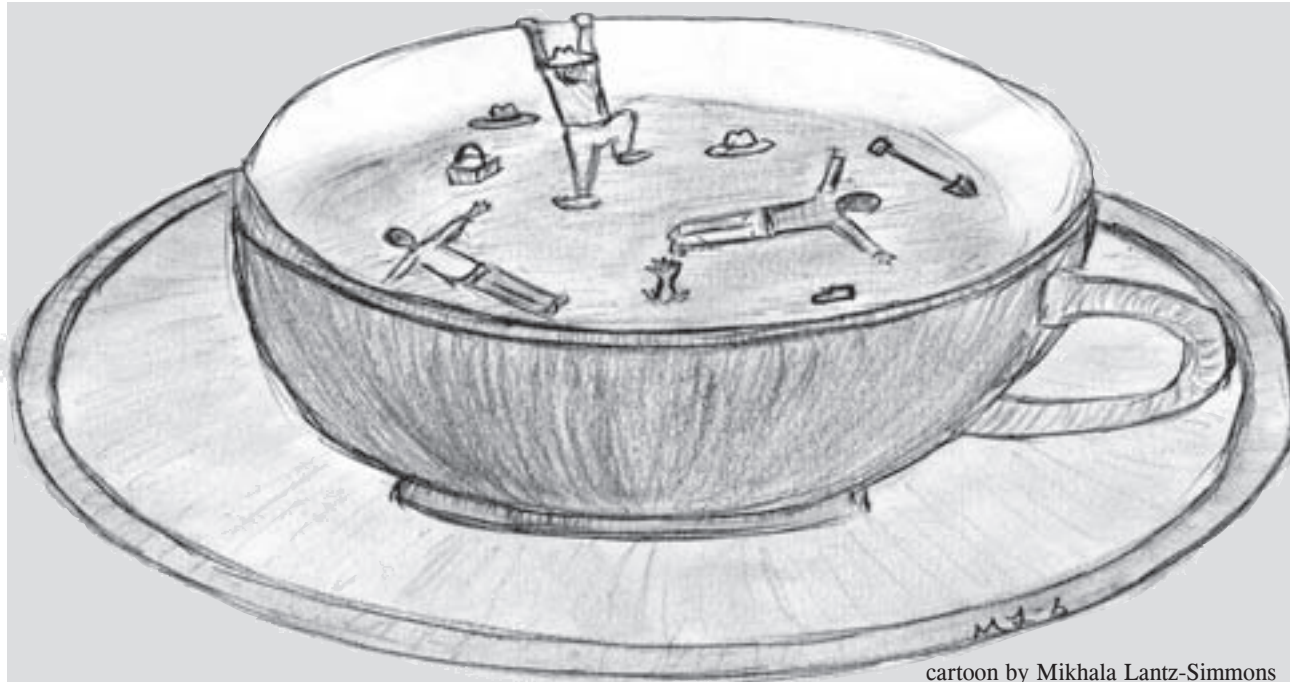
Letters to the editor published on *The Star's* blog "Unfettered Letters," as well as in the daily paper, reflect a variety of opinions. From Jan. 4, a letter from communications worker Ms. Bonnie Smith reflects gratitude towards *The Star* for its efficiency in correcting errors, as well as a knowledge of the difficulty in following late-breaking stories. Smith also linked to her own experiences listening to the radio to follow the story.

"I heard the early news of 12 suppos-

See MINES, page 22

★in brief

Former Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Ariel Sharon, suffered a stroke Jan. 4. Sharon remained in critical condition, unconscious, as of Jan. 31. Sharon has undergone three operations in doctor's efforts to reduce swelling and clots in his brain. Hospital sources have stated that it is still too early in treatment to draw conclusions. According to *The New York Times*, Israeli radio stations, however, have quoted experts: "The situation is worrying, very worrying, even frightening. The moment of truth is approaching." 29 days into an induced coma, Sharon has shown minimal signs of improvement as treatment continues at Hadassah-Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem.



cartoon by Mikhala Lantz-Simmons

A Country of Consumer Convenience

Fair trade prices open doors for farmers, but consumer support remains at popular chains

Today's world is the world of the consumer. This statement does not evoke the sentiment of a moral and ethical bond for all, however, it is our job to be not consumers but conscious consumers. It's time to accept the fact that not everything is as easy as we may want it to be. Everyone makes choices each and every day. The problem that sometimes goes unnoticed is the idea of global consumers in a global market-- our choices may indirectly have an effect on someone else's livelihood somewhere else.

In a world where there historically has been an astronomical unbalance between trade markets, one example of a way to be a conscious consumer is to look for labels that immediately acknowledge fair rights and wages to workers, suppliers and growers. A prominent example would be Fair Trade. For something to be Fair Trade-certified, it must meet certain requirements. With coffee for example, which is the number one Fair Trade product as well as the number one United States import, buyers must pay their growers, who work on family based farms, a minimum \$1.26 per pound, which is in drastic opposition to the 50 cents to a dollar some farmers receive for their crop. Due to the establishment of Fair Trade,

disadvantaged coffee producers are able to return a fair amount for their labor and therefore further their lives as well as the lives of their families. The 25 million coffee farmers in more than 50 developing countries are able to begin to rise above their condemned life, a life of entrapping poverty, to a life where they are able to provide for health, education and environmental needs. Over the past decade Fair Trade-certified coffee has become more readily available to consumers in the United States. However, consumer demand is still not high enough to have farmers in developing nations sell more than half of their crop at Fair Trade prices.

Mass consumerism, especially here within the borders of the United States, is rampant, particularly amongst teenagers. Not only is the United States a consumer-influenced society, but also one catering to convenience, and here is where some of the problems arise. In a society that finds instant gratification to be top priority, principles are often put into check due to the clamor for convenience. Convenience, this single-minded attempt to attain what is desired in the most efficient way, glosses over pressing facts that may lay beneath the surface. Society today has to come to believe that ignorance

is bliss; it is convenient to think this way.

If people can learn to be conscious consumers, reform will follow. Being a conscious consumer requires questioning. For example, Starbucks has only one brand of Fair Trade-certified coffee; it is not identified on the menu, but the baristas have an obligation to inform you. Latte Land has a sticker stating they are Fair Trade-certified, however further inquisition into the matter will clarify that this, does not mean that all coffee served within the establishment is Fair Trade-certified - it only applies to certain blends which are sold by the bag. There is no sign indicating which of the blends are Fair Trade-certified and which are not. The only way to find out about Fair Trade-certification is to take the few extra moments to ask.

Consumers have the power to change how the system works. For example, several years ago Starbucks was not known for carrying Fair Trade-certified coffee. This however has changed as consumer pressure to purchase the coffee has been applied. While Starbucks only currently carries one blend of certified Fair Trade coffee, it does carry Ethos water bottles, a fairly new addition that benefits poor regions of the globe.

Just remember, convenience may come at a higher price, a price that may not be evident without taking a few moments to find out. ★

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The Dart

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

A recent matter of controversy has surrounded author James Frey's "A Million Little Pieces," a memoir of Frey's professed experience with jail time and life as an addict in rehab. The online journal, *The Smoking Gun*, printed an article Jan. 8 that stated much of the content of Frey's book was embellished and/or fabricated. Once hailed by Oprah Winfrey for his "unprecedented honesty," Frey is now being tagged as "The Man Who Conned Oprah," the headline to *The Smoking Gun* piece. Frey appeared on Oprah Jan. 26 and admitted to the reported embellishment. What do you think? Voice your opinion on the Frey controversy in the next issue of *The Dart*.

Photo Poll

How do you feel about Democrat Hillary Clinton's bid for President in 2008?



"It's a good thing that a woman can finally run with the ability to win, and be considered seriously to win."

-Laura Welch, junior



"I hope she wouldn't win just because she's female. I hope she would win by her views and stand on issues."

-Amy Hymer, sophomore



"If she ever ran for President, I wouldn't vote for her, because she contradicts everything she says."

-Nicolette Anderson, freshman



"I would like to see a woman running, but I'm not familiar with her stand on issues. I would expect any woman to be elected on her merits, not her gender."

-Ms. Alice Amick, teacher

compiled by Aly Brownlee

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Ownership and sponsorship: *The Dart*, a monthly newspaper, is written, designed and typeset by student members of the newspaper staff. Students enroll in the newspaper class after completing Introduction to Journalism during freshman or sophomore year. The Dart is published with funds from the St. Teresa's Academy general operating fund and advertising revenue. St. Teresa's Academy is a Catholic, independent college preparatory school, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Editorial Policy: In cases of potentially controversial

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Growth of politics leaves party mascots behind

Political cartoonist births the elephant and donkey as party mascots; labels reign in circus of politics

Section Editor
Alison Raybould

It has long been said that whoever wishes to know the future must first understand the past. This is especially true in terms of politics. Such a statement brings one to ask, "How did the elephant ever come to represent the Republican Party?" or, "Who chose the donkey as the Democratic symbol?"

According to the gop.com and Democrats.org, Mr. Thomas Nast, renowned American political cartoonist of the nineteenth century, is responsible for popularizing the elephant as the Republican mascot and the donkey as the Democratic symbol. Nast's political cartoons were inspired by two New York Herald articles: the "Central Park Menagerie Scare of 1874," a false story about animals escaping from the zoo and searching for food through Central Park, and "Caesarism," an editorial against a third term for President Ulysses Grant.

In his cartoon, he disguised a donkey as a lion trying to scare animals in a forest. The donkey symbolized the Herald; the lion costume embodied its scare tactic and wolf cry of "Caesarism." Meanwhile, Nast paralleled the animals to the Herald's hoax about escaped zoo animals in Central Park.

Among the animals worried by the donkey's roar of "Caesarism" was an elephant, which represented Republican voters who, as Nast believed, were abandoning President Grant and about to fall into the Democrat's trap.

What began as a symbol of the Republican vote in the 1874 election came to stand for the Party in its entirety. The modern elephant was designed by Jack Frost in 1969, employing new graphic design technology. The Party continues to use the contemporary im-

age, which according to gop.com, signifies that Republicans would not only accept change but initiate it.

Mr. Craig Whitney, STA history teacher, however, disagrees with change as a fundamental Republican belief.

"When I think of the term 'conservative' in the classical sense, I am reminded of maintaining the status quo," said Whitney. "In fact, I would argue that it is the exact opposite of change. Republicans work to preserve and conserve what they once had."

Moreover, Whitney feels that the elephant no longer matches the Party's beliefs.

"My mom always told me I had a long memory like an elephant, like I remembered everything," said Whitney. "So what I associate with the elephant focuses on knowledge of history and ability to learn from the past. The connections no longer seem appropriate."

Junior Meaghann Taylor believes that the elephant is "a heavy hitter. If it wants to be heard, it most certainly will be."

Republicans revere the elephant as dignified, strong and intelligent, but Democrats perceive it as pompous and

bungling. According to Democrats.org, Democratic nominee of the 1952 and 1956 presidential elections Mr. Adlai Stevenson offered his own description of the Republican's symbol, saying, "The elephant has a thick skin, a head full of ivory, and as everyone who has seen a circus parade knows, proceeds best by grasping the tail of its predecessor."

Although Nast chose the donkey to represent a Democrat-tilted newspaper, his party mascot was frequently used

by other cartoonists who wished to portray Democrats attacking Republicans and therefore came to represent the Democratic Party.

However, the donkey first surfaced long before Nast's cartoons, during President Andrew Jackson's campaign in 1828. While his opponents labeled him a "jackass" for his populist views and slogan, "Let the people rule," Jackson responded by using the donkey on his campaign posters. The donkey remained prevalent throughout his presidency

and characterized his stubbornness, solidified by his veto to re-charter the National Bank.

President Bill Clinton could be considered a modern Jackson. Both were viewed by the American people, as "President of the Common Man." And both suffered from scandal—Jackson in

Just a side note

Are you liberal or conservative?
Answer yes or no

- 1) Social security should be privatized.
- 2) Government spending and taxes should be cut.
- 3) Abortion should be illegal, except when mother's health is in danger.

Mostly yes: Conservatives favor freedom of choice on economic issues but standards in personal matters.

Mostly no: Liberals tend to embrace freedom of choice in personal matters, but support central decision making in economics.

Ladies' choice: progress crucial for Iraqi women

Abayas imprison Iraqi women, American girls have a vital voice while liberation key to rebuild Iraq

Managing Editor

Juana Summers



Iraq is not a thing of the past. For the past 2 years, as the War on Terrorism has manifested itself in the Middle Eastern country, we have heard report after report, so much that some of us would like to plug our ears. The American military has captured Sadaam Hussein and ensured President Bush that there are no weapons of mass destruction that will infringe on American security. But, it isn't over; there still isn't peace or justice in the country. Iraq still matters, and it affects us, even in Kansas City.

Have you ever walked down the street and felt self-conscious, because you thought that people were judging you for the way you looked or the way you dressed? Have

you ever tugged at your plaid skirt, hoping to make it just a little longer so that the man in the next grocery aisle won't

stare? Multiply that by ten, veil your face, silence any oppositions you might have to your treatment and you have just begun to live the life of an Iraqi woman.

Former political institutions of the country offer no protection to the women of Iraq. Women are frequently subject to "honor killings," a practice said to protect the sanctity of the family unit if a woman were to, for example, have an affair. Under Article 409 in the Iraqi law code, established under the Hussein dictatorship, a husband who murdered his wife on charges of adultery (which includes rape) would be given leniency, according to a January 2006 article in "The Nation". In America, the husband would certainly be condemned to extensive jail time, but in Iraq he could be freed, and perhaps even marry again.

Though Iraq is being reconstructed from an American model, some beliefs will die hard. Women may vote for the first time, but who's really dictating what they vote for? Commentary from CNN

on Iraq's "first vote" last year said that it is difficult to inform women in rural areas of voting issues because of the underlying belief that voting issues conflict with traditional Iraqi culture and religious practices. Some women fear the repercussions of displaying their independence in voting, thus they tried not to disclose their participation in the country's elections. But Iraqi women should not have to hide their vote.

"One of them they featured as an elderly woman in Baghdad who was at the voting station, for example, when there were some bullets and some fighting broke out; she insisted on staying while everyone was running away," said Ms. Zainab Salbi, cofounder of Women for Women International and an Iraq native in an interview with CNN in January 2005. "[The woman] said, 'I will not give up my right to vote.' So what we see are women becoming very resilient, very courageous and adamant about protecting their legal rights."

"What we see are [Iraqi] women becoming very resilient, very courageous and adamant about protecting their legal rights."

Iraqi native, Ms. Zainab Salbi

ient, very courageous and adamant about protecting their legal rights. And now this stage becomes the critical stage for Iraqi women." This type of resilience is not unfamiliar to the American woman.

Women in the United States, under the leadership of advocates of suffrage have broken down the boundaries barring the

Peggy Eaton affair, in which he welcomed Eaton as a cabinet wife, in spite of rumors that she had an affair with another senator, and Clinton in his affair with Ms. Monica Lewinsky, which he was later impeached for—that captured the American public's attention, diverting it away from their unsuccessful policies, such as Clinton's failure to obtain health care reform and Jackson's veto of the National Bank re-charter. Today Clinton is seen as the "Comeback Kid," with 2.5 million copies of his autobiography My Life in circulation, while Jackson's name bears an era of true democracy.

Although it has never been officially adopted by the Democratic Party, the donkey remains its assumed mascot and has been included in numerous political campaigns. While Democrats view the donkey as humble, homely and courageous, Republicans regard it as stubborn, ridiculous.

"I feel that the donkey as representative of Democrats might actually be an appropriate symbol," said Whitney. "I mean, they truly are mule-headed."

Taylor associates the donkey with similar qualities but different outcomes.

"Yes, the donkey is a stubborn animal," said Taylor. "And it's not nearly as noble as a horse, but it gets the job done."

Unlike Taylor and Whitney, Mr. Pat Sirridge, American government teacher, said the labels for both parties need altering due to Independent Party growth.

"These labels have stuck for over a century, yet politics are constantly changing," said Sirridge. "I imagine both parties wish they could have chosen a nobler animal, like a lion or a stallion, to represent their party."

Although the accuracy of these symbols appeared to match the time period in which they were created, their appropriateness today depends on individual beliefs and evolving societal norms. ★

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

President Bush delivered his State of the Union address Tuesday night to millions of Americans.

Bush began his address by honoring Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, who died Monday.

In an effort to calm anxieties about the war on terrorism, Bush invited Americans to choose action over isolationism.

Bush also proposed domestic plans on education, federal funding for baby boomers and proposals aimed at bringing fuel-saving technologies to life.

Bush spoke on the impending crisis in Iran, acknowledging public speculation of US and European suspicions that Tehran is developing nuclear weapons.

Thinking peace isn't always about conflict between two sovereign states: peace is also internal. ★

peace is also internal. ★

peace is also internal. ★

peace is also internal. ★

College Corner

Reflecting and encouraging students on the college process

College Counselor

Stephanie Hart



You hear one of my announcements almost every day during advisory... are you listening? Juniors and seniors (not to mention their parents) get a newsletter from me

each month...do you read them? Seniors probably cringe when they see an email from me in their inbox...do those get deleted right away? And now I am supposed to write for *The Dart*?

Actually, I welcome this opportunity

for another forum to get STA students thinking about the college process! I think I found the most appropriate words to describe how I feel about my job when I wrote my faculty profile for the STA website when I arrived with the Class of 2006 on a hot August day in 2002. "As the only child of a single parent with no college education, I struggled through the college admission process. My college choice has proven to be the keystone for the path I have taken in life, both at the personal and at the professional level. Consequently, I strive to encourage our STA ladies to enjoy the college selection experience, even under pressure to make what may well be the biggest decision of their lives so far."

Each year, as I wrap up the application process with seniors (if they would just stop turning them in!) and begin the search process with juniors, I think back to my own junior and senior years of high school, when I was incredibly nervous

about this giant step in my life, but equally excited to embark on the college adventure. Just the idea of leaving home for college consumed me, often leaving little room for thought about my class work, my part-time job or my batting average.

Just recently however, one of my sophomore advisees and I were talking with Ms. Dunlay before I distributed their PSAT and PLAN scores. Maureen's nerves were raw with anticipation and while we chatted, a thought slipped quietly into my awareness...I do not even remember fearfully waiting for my ACT or SAT scores, nor do I recall opening the score report when it arrived in my mailbox. Something that had so fully captivated my attention at a critical turning point in my life no longer even matters. I love the word that Ms. Dunlay invented during our conversation that afternoon. Test scores, although only PART of the entire college search

"I strive to encourage our STA ladies to enjoy the college selection experience."
counselor, Stephanie Hart

and selection journey, allow students to "catastrophize" to make a situation or experience so terrible, so intolerable... even before it has ever happened! The dread of opening that envelope from ACT can be paralyzing. The seemingly endless fill in the blanks for name, address, birth date, social security number, email address, etc. can appear mountainous. And the thought of having to make such a substantial decision about my future... count me out!

But now that I am "all grown up," looking back at my own experience preparing for my college path, I realize that I did my best all along the way. I made my decision based on what I knew at that age in that time, and I landed in the best possible place for me to grow into who I am today. The day I stepped foot on my college campus, there was no more discussion of my test scores or my seventh semester cumulative grade point average. ★

30 Seconds With ★ Senior Jordan Gribble

Staff Writer
Elizabeth Nelson



The Dart: How do you feel about the Community Blood Drive? Do you think students need to be more generous, or already show great kindness?

Jordan Gribble: First I think that the Blood Drive is an amazing thing. It's something that helps a lot of people. Mr. Serridge offers

it for credit in his class, and I wish more teachers did this. I guess my real problem is with the restrictions because more students would be able to donate if you didn't have to be 17. We do give a lot of blood for a school our size; I think it's about 30 pints.

The Blood Drive will be held Feb. 10 in the M&A Conference Room from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ★

Rising gas prices inspire rhyming

Continued oil hikes encourage poetic suggestions for saving environment, money

Managing Editor

Molly Huber



As you've probably noticed, the gas price is obscene!

One day it's two bucks, and the next, two-fifteen.

Now we shell out a fortune at the local Quik Trip for our case to receive a tiny gas sip.

And we needs drive to our workplaces, to school and beyond but when we get where we're going, the low-fuel light is on.

If we lived back in the day, we could rest on our heels because our gas source came straight from our own oil fields.

But now we have to depend very largely on dear old Iraq— If you haven't heard the news yet, that place ain't got our back.

So screw saving the whales and planting more trees, Our money's going to gas for our beloved SUVs.

But still we'll complain (which won't help anything), as we wait in long lines at the ATM machine.

If we were wise, we wouldn't wait for the next oil hikes;

We would stick to public transportation, or perhaps, dust off our bikes? ★

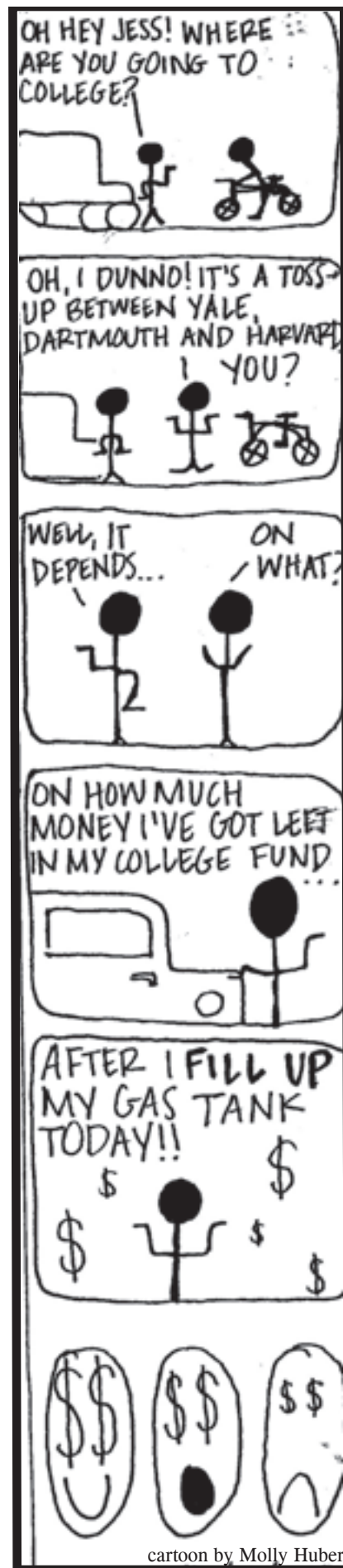
Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing you this letter in regard to the last publication of *The Dart* (Nov. 17, 2005). I really enjoyed reading the marriage article. I think it got more people into it because one, you conducted that survey that caught everyone's focus and two, you talked about something that relates to everyone that goes to our school.

I just thought you should know that I liked it and I think you guys should do more articles like that. I mean you have a lot on prom, and Teresian and things like that, but freshmen don't participate in those.

Sincerely,
Bridget Aylward ★



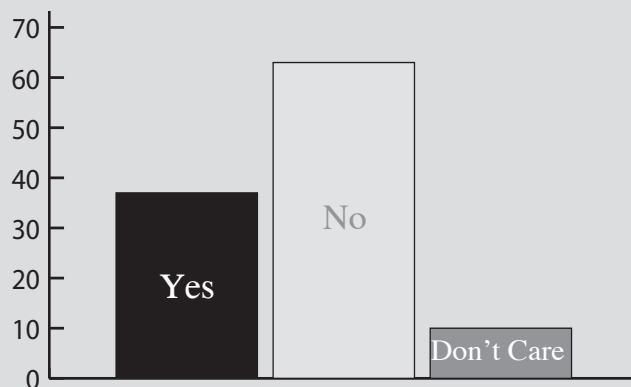
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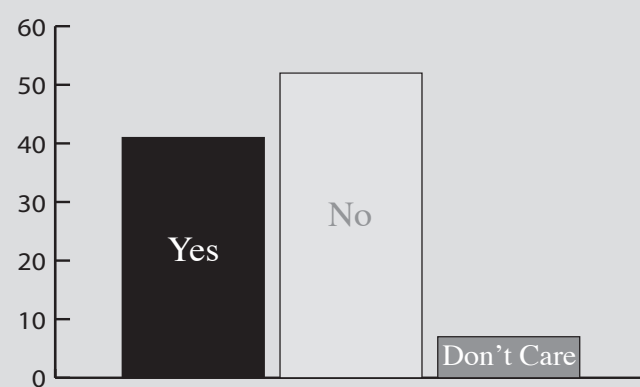
The goal of Open Forum is to promote readers to become more involved with *The Dart*. We encourage readers to allow their voices and opinions to be heard in becoming more active with *The Dart*. In an effort to make our paper more reader-friendly, we have created Open Forum to provide as an outlet for the voices of STA. Ideas, thoughts and commentary can be sent to the staff in the following ways: in person to Mr. Eric Thomas in M&A 205; by mail to St. Teresa's Academy, Attn: Eric Thomas, 5600 Main, Kansas City, 64113; or by email to ethomas@stteresasacademy.org. Letters should be limited to 300 words. The Dart reserves the right to edit or shorten letters.

Voice Off

The government and online search engine Google.com have insued a heated debate over the government trying to obtain federal permission to subpoena Google.com for the ability to track online users searches. What do you think?



Should Google be required to release users' online searches?



Math department offers calculus course next school year

Mr. Rich Wilson to teach college class

Staff Writer
Kelly Nelson

As class registration approaches for next year, some soon-to-be seniors will have to give thought to a new option for math next year. Right now, Calculus I and II is offered at Rockhurst University four mornings a week to any St. Teresa's student that is has completed Trigonometry/Analysis or Pre-Calculus. However, starting next year Calculus it will be a part of STA's own curriculum taught by Mr. Rich Wilson, who currently teaches Essentials of Algebra, Algebra I and Geometry.

Wilson said that though there are benefits to taking a college course on campus with college teachers and students, there are also negatives, including the heavy use of a computer program uncommon in most college settings.

"The class is taught using a program called Mathematica and it doesn't translate well to courses at other colleges," Wilson said. "We can offer a more generalized class."

Since this unorthodox method is not shared by many other colleges, students often are forced to retake the same Calculus I course upon entering their freshman year.

"We did a lot of research about other kids here who had taken it and about 80 percent had to retake the same course in college," Wilson said. "We want to avoid that and make students better prepared so they don't have to."

Senior Emylie Leonard was enrolled in the Rockhurst Calculus I class first semester, but opted not to take the class second semester.

"[The class] was really hard and it was hard to commute to campus for class and also for homework since we used a specific



JULIA McQUEENY-THORPE

Seniors Sarah Murphy, left, and Erica Houghland, right, receive assistance in their Calculus class at Rockhurst University from their professor Anita Salem.

computer program," Leonard said.

Wilson's objective is to replace this computer program with graphing calculators.

"We want to spread this [Calculus I] course out throughout a whole year and make it interesting by using graphing calcu-

lators which have more real world applications."

Though Wilson is optimistic about the new course, some students are still skeptical or unsure as to whether the course is beneficial.

Junior Maggie Burke is currently enrolled in Trigonometry and Analysis with

See Calculus, page 23

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The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

STA students take advanced off-campus classes

Juniors, seniors gain perspective from classes on local college campuses: UMKC and Rockhurst

Staff Writer
Sarah Cooper

Seventeen STA upperclassmen took advanced classes on Rockhurst and the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) campuses last semester. They learned not only their subject matter, but also got a glimpse of college life.

"It was fun to meet new people and get a taste of the college environment," said senior Katherine Schilling, who took Spanish V at UMKC. "It was an experience to apply what I've learned at STA in a college setting."

College counselor Ms. Steph Hart agreed that taking an off-campus course gives students the opportunity to learn about college, especially regarding grading.

"It's a great sneak preview of what to expect," said Hart. "They are really seeing the inner workings of a college."

Senior Meredith Lynch took Calculus I at Rockhurst and though she did not enjoy the class itself, appreciated the camaraderie she shared with the eight other STA students in her class. This included inside jokes and parking-lot dance parties.

"I miss that part of Calc. the most," said Lynch. "It was just really fun to be our own separate little St. Teresa's group."

Ms. Roseann Hudnall, STA's academic scheduler and registrar, said that taking an off-campus course limits classes a student can take at STA. They are sometimes forced to drop an STA class if they have already fulfilled the credit requirements for graduation to accommodate an off-campus class.

"Because we are a college prep school we really do want to make [students' advanced classes] work for them," said Hudnall.

Schilling had originally planned to take Spanish V at Rockhurst University but the

class did not fit into her schedule the way she wanted. STA must schedule the class for its students when Rockhurst offers it. To avoid having to drop a class, she enrolled in an evening class at UMKC.

"[Evening classes] made it a little bit difficult, but at the same time it was kind of a blessing," said Schilling. "I really learned to manage my time."

Schilling is enrolled in two college credit classes at STA and wishes that her Spanish class could have been at here for convenience, but is grateful that everything worked out.

"I had a great experience at UMKC," said Schilling. "I don't regret anything."

Senior Ali Burr also had a positive experience with her French Advanced Conversation and Composition classes at Rockhurst University.

"It was fun to leave campus during the day," said Burr. "It is kind of a special privilege."

Lynch had similar experience.

"It prepared me a good deal," said Lynch. "I have been really freaked out about going to college. Being on a college campus with actual college students and a college professor made me relax a little bit and get excited about going to college." ★



JULIA McQUEENY-THORPE

Seniors Sarah Murphy, left, Cori Dover, Erica Houghland and Laura Kearns, perform their morning ritual, a dance party as they arrive at STA after their morning calculus class. Dover and Houghland had their own choreographed dance which they perform to whichever song plays on the radio. Two competing car radios play different beats.

★in brief

The Math Team competed this fall and a relay team consisting of Sarah Murphy, Lisa Peterson, and Alex Horton qualified for state.

The team moderated by Ms. Jo Weller, STA math teacher and is made up of 15 members and regularly meets once a month.

The girls take tests during activity period and see how their scores compare with students from other schools. Yesterday was their last meeting.

The girls plan to compete Saturday, March 4, at Olathe East High School.

Just a side note

How much do these classes cost?

Rockhurst Calculus II: \$350
Rockhurst Spanish V: \$350

A Day in the Life of: Tanith Kartman

Student composer gets a visit from her muse

Section Editor
Katie Meyers

On the third floor of the M&A building, within the boundaries of the KYCA offices, there is an ordinary room. It is a small, rectangular room with one black piano and one orange chair. On the wall there is a white board that holds random music notes, and there is one small window that looks out towards the soccer field. This room is nothing special. But none of that matters as senior Tanith Kartman sits at that lone piano during activity period and plays, from memory, a tune of her own creation. Kartman has been playing piano for ten years and plans to continue playing, but says it is mostly a hobby and stress reliever.

"When I'm mad or stressed I'll run away to my piano and start playing," she said as she fiddled with the ivory keys.

It was a couple of years ago when Kartman began to compose her own music.

"Usually I'll be sitting around day-dreaming and I'll be hit by the muses of

music and make something up."

At the moment, Kartman has seven original songs that she is trying to record. She played one of her favorites, an untitled work, at a school prayer service.

"I figure out a main theme and then add things with my left hand so that the music isn't boring," said Kartman.

By a "theme" Kartman means that she comes up with a melody that people will be able to hear. Her piano instructor has complimented Kartman on her ability to come up with melodies that people will recognize.

"They're simple," she said.

"And that's what people like. What I do with my left hand is simple and what I do with my right hand is simple."

Kartman's eyes drift open and closed as she rocks back and forth to the sound of her melody. Her right foot periodically taps the peddles as her left is propped on its toe underneath the bench. After ending her third song, Kartman turns and announces that she's hungry.

"It is, after all, my lunch time." ★

"When I'm mad or stressed I'll run away to my piano and start playing."

senior, Tanith Kartman



KATIE MEYERS

Friday, during first activity, senior Tanith Kartman plays an original song on a piano in a KYCA practice room. She has taken piano lessons for ten years and has composed seven songs.

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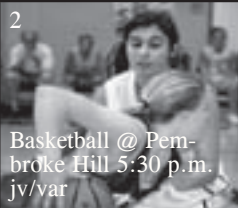

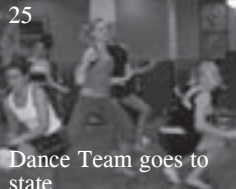
★
The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Junior Mary Garcia arranged a game of assasian that involves a total of 118 STA sophomores, juniors and seniors. Each girl drew a name of another student playing, to kill. Students may kill one another using a water gun, nerf gun or other forms of water. A victim and only be killed if they do not see their assasian killing them. The game can not take place on school grounds or inside the victim's house. Once you kill your victim you then take the name of their victim to kill. Each girl gave one dollar to Mary at the beginning of the game and at the end the last assasian standing takes the pot of money.

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2  Basketball @ Pembroke Hill 5:30 p.m. jv/var	3 Junior Ring Dance 7 p.m. Rockhurst Switch Day @ STA	4
5	6	7 Basketball @ Raytown High School 5:30 p.m. jv/var	8 Prayer Jams during activity	9 Parent Daughter Liturgy 7 a.m.	10 STA Blood Drive	11 ACT
12 Father Daughter Dance	13 Late Start Sophomore Retreat	14 Sophomore CCC Valentines Day	15 Basketball @ O'hara 5:30 p.m. jv/var	16	17 Basketball & Dance Team Senior Night jv/var @5:30 p.m.	18
19	20  President's Day No School	21	22 Alvin Ailey Assembly	23	24 Class Meetings	25  Dance Team goes to state
26 Junior Ring Ceremony	27 Freshmen Registration	28 All School Registration Classes of 09,08,07				

Media plays role in society's ideal image

The bodies of celebrities continue to influence society's ideal body image; girls follow trend

Staff Writer
Rachel Schwartz

From Marilyn Monroe to Twiggy, ideal body image has changed overtime. It is different today than it was in the 1950's.

"I think in the 1950's the images that celebrities portrayed had different size bodies than today with people that have virtually no body fat and implants and stuff like that," said KU professor of Women's Studies Aliccia Ruscin. "In the '50's, there were curvier women. I think media really affects how woman see their bodies in the relationship to the celebrities."

Ruscin and others feel that women's body image has changed drastically from how it was in the '50's with celebrities such as Monroe.

"Marilyn Monroe's body size was what today would be a size 14 or 16, which is considered a plus size," said Ruscin. "America's Next Top Model says anything above a size eight is plus size, which I think is totally abnormal. So, today Monroe would be wearing a plus size."

STA school counselor Ms. Karen Sinco also thinks that body image is considerably different from how it was in the '50's.

"In the '50's, we had more of an idea of glamour," said Sinco. "Today, we don't real have glamour, we just have hot. Hot is more of what your body shape is then the package of beauty."

Then, in the 1960's Twiggy's body was ideal. Her body type was very different from Marilyn Monroe's.

"Twiggy said that was the body she had," said junior Tracy Haden. "She didn't do anything to make herself that skinny. [Monroe and Twiggy] are both pretty courageous for breaking the norm or making the norm something achievable."

Freshman Molly Fakoury believes that people compare what their body looks like to celebrities' bodies.

"Society probably has the goal of the ideal body image it has today because one celebrity started it," said Fakoury. "It all starts with one person and becomes a trend. When one celebrity wears certain clothes, everyone wants those clothes. Being super skinny in Hollywood is a trend right now."

According to Sinco, people base their

bodies on models and celebrities, and they are usually very unnatural body types. When she was younger, Sinco attended a party with her family. They all saw a girl who was really skinny, she thought the girl was perfect, but her friend's dad asked what was wrong with her because she shouldn't look like that. At the time, Sinco thought that the girl was perfect, but now she knows that's not normal.

"We worship a few perfect bodies but that's not how real women look," said Sinco.

Many people believe that the ideal body type today is not easily attainable and is overall, extremely skinny and unnatural.

"I think most people strive to have a

model's body, which is very tall," said Ruscin.

Ruscin said that to be on America's Next Top Model you have to be at least 5'7" and much taller to do well on that show. She also believes that you have to be very skinny with almost no body fat.

"This lack of body fat is virtually unattainable without surgery," said Ruscin.

Haden also feels that today's ideal body type is unreasonable.

"I read in some magazine that only 2 percent of women have the ideal body type," said Haden. "It's kind of wrong to send the message that it's good to look that way. Sometimes I even find myself looking through magazines and being like

'I wish I had that body!' It's people not wanting to be who they are and conforming to society, things that people think will make them happy."

Ruscin feels that the ideal body image of society should be based around health. She talked about a friend of hers who was normally very smart, but then she became anorexic. She had to drop one of her classes because her brain couldn't work that hard due to the fact that she wasn't eating enough.

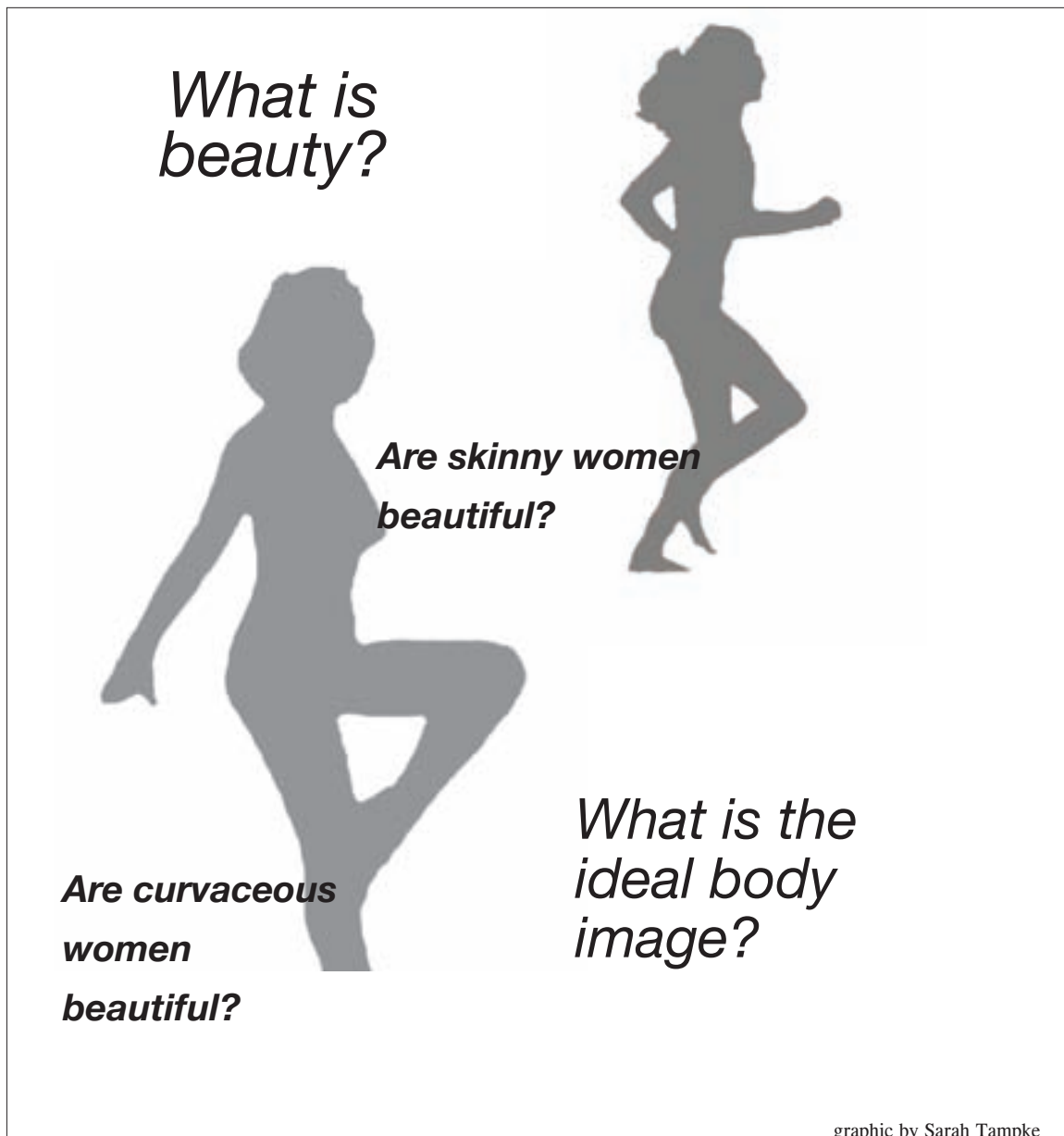
"I wish we had a body image that was all about health," said Ruscin. "A small person that smokes is considered to be healthier than an overweight person that doesn't. We should focus more on real body images of health."

Haden also believes the media's ideal body image is not what we should strive for. She feels that you should strive for your personal best body type.

"I just think that whatever feels comfortable for you is your ideal body type," said Haden. "Just as long as you're keeping yourself fit. I think whatever your healthy body type is, than that is the ideal body type for any person."

From Monroe's curvaceous figure to today's stick thin models, the ideal body image has changed drastically.

"The ideal body image should be something that is healthy," said Ruscin. "It should be about using your body to do the things you need to do." ★



graphic by Sarah Tampke

Barbie: See the next page, Center Spread, for an article on the history of the Barbie Doll. You will also find breakdown on the doll's proportions to an actual human being, a timeline of Barbie since her creation in 1959. Read the conflicted imagery that the doll emphasizes. Pages 12-13



Just a side note

Think you are comfortable with your body?

Ask yourself these questions:

How many times a day do you look at yourself in the mirror?

How many times a week do you step on the scale?

Do you often compare your body to a friend's or celebrity's body?

Do you ever feel insecure in the presence of someone skinnier than you?

Do you ever wish you had someone else's body?

Who do you consider beautiful?

When was the last time you told yourself you were beautiful?

Are you embarrassed by you answers?

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The Dart

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

The spring is just around the corner and Ms. Ann Bode, head track and field coach is moderating spring training every Tuesday and Thursday directly after school. They are training for the spring sports season, soccer, swimming and track and field.

The training consists of cardio and aerobic exercises, as well as weight training. Many girls are participating but the majority of girls are freshmen and sophomores. It is common after school see these STA girls running through Loose Park or on Ward Parkway.

barbie through the years

1959: Ruth Handler, Mattel co-founder, introduces Barbie at the New York Toy Fair.

1960: With a full head of faux hair, Ken joins Barbie in production lines. Two years after it's introduction, Ken's fuzzy hair is replaced with brown or blond paint.

1968: Christie, Barbie's friend and first African-American Barbie, joins the fun. Barbie also speaks for the first time this year, saying phrases like "I have a date tonight!" and "I love being a fashion model!"

1976: Barbie tackles several careers this year. She becomes an Olympic skier, a gymnast, skater, doctor, surgical nurse, ballerina and a flight attendant. This year, she is also selected as the "doll of the century" and is placed in a time capsule scheduled to be opened in the year 2076.

1980: Mattel launches an international collection complete with Barbies such as: Oriental, Italian, Parisian and Royal U.K.

1981: Cowgirl Barbie hits stores.

1993: Mattel introduces Native American Barbie.

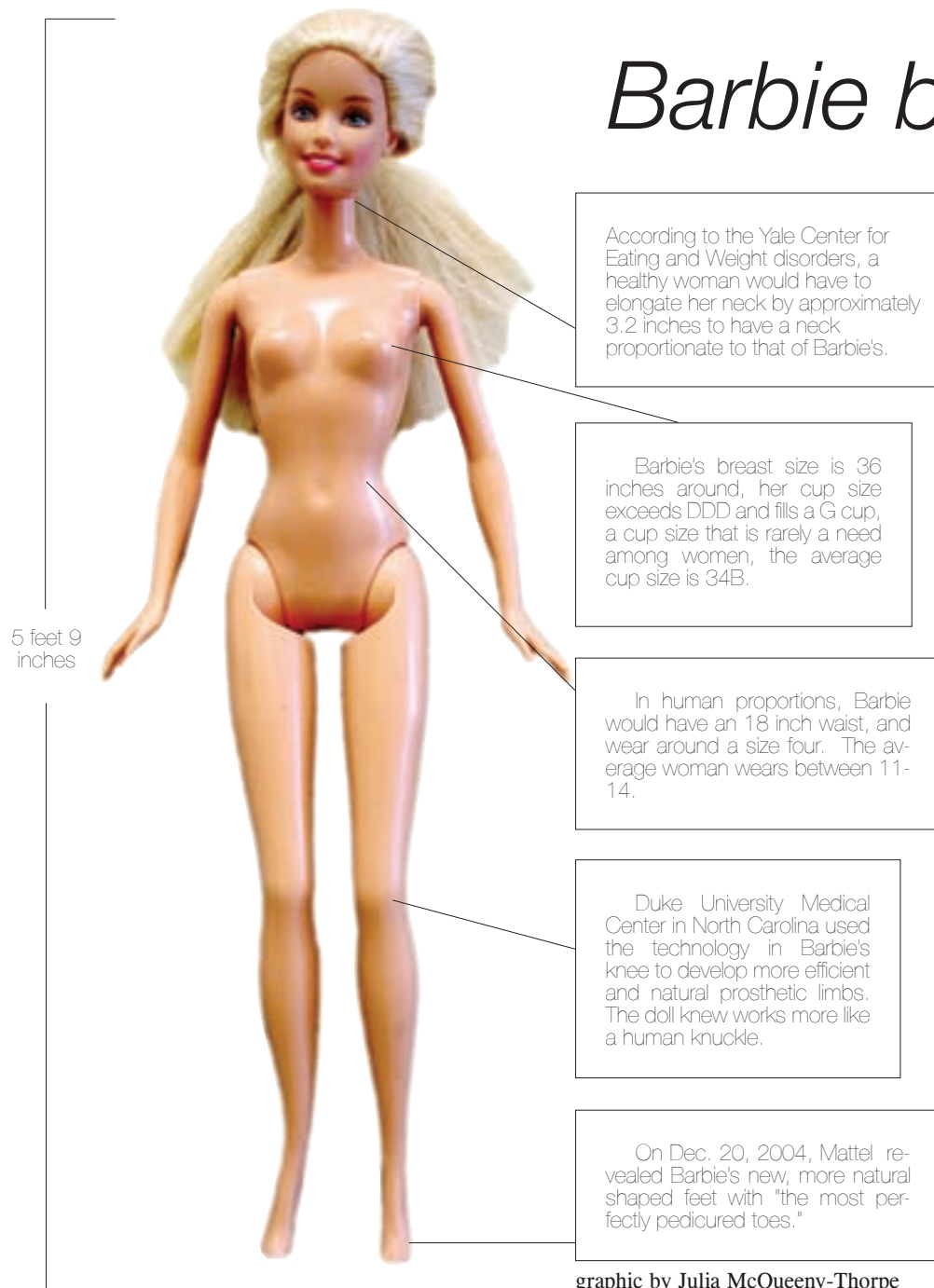
1994: The new Teen Talk Barbie exclaims "Math is hard!" and sparks national discussion on girls and education.

1999: Barbie celebrates her 40th birthday. To celebrate Mattel joins a partnership with nonprofit Girls Inc for the project "Ambassadors of Dreams," to advance the message that girls can achieve anything.

2000: Barbie runs for president, campaigning for issues such as equality, world peace, animal kindness, education and the environment.

2001: Barbie steals the silver screen in her first feature film. "Barbie in the Nutcracker" airs on Thanksgiving day. The DVD/VHS quickly becomes one of the highest grossing childrens' film. Ken also celebrates his 40th anniversary.

2004: Two days before Valentines day, Barbie and Ken break off their 43 year relationship. Vice President of marketing at Mattel, Russel Arons, said that Barbie and Ken "feel it's time to spend some quality time apart. Like other celebrity couples, their Hollywood romance has come to an end." Arons also promised the two will remain friends.



Barbie breakdown

According to the Yale Center for Eating and Weight disorders, a healthy woman would have to elongate her neck by approximately 3.2 inches to have a neck proportionate to that of Barbie's.

Barbie's breast size is 36 inches around, her cup size exceeds DDD and fills a G cup, a cup size that is rarely a need among women, the average cup size is 34B.

In human proportions, Barbie would have an 18 inch waist, and wear around a size four. The average woman wears between 11-14.

Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina used the technology in Barbie's knee to develop more efficient and natural prosthetic limbs. The doll knee works more like a human knuckle.

On Dec. 20, 2004, Mattel revealed Barbie's new, more natural shaped feet with "the most perfectly pedicured toes."

On the outside Barbie appears to be physically fit and appealing. However, in accordance to human proportions the doll falls shorts of reality. Her impossible features stand out after dissection. For instance, if Barbie came to life, her body fat percentage would be below 17-22, which would hinder menstruation. Researchers estimate her weight to be a staggering low 100 pounds.

graphic by Julia McQueeney-Thorpe

Q&A: sisters debate the worth of influential toy

Julia Flores, 4, and sister Isabelle, 6, candidly answer questions regarding a new best friend and a tiresome plaything

Editor-in-Chief
Julia McQueeney-Thorpe

Who is Barbie?

Julia: [points to the doll next to her]
Isabelle: She's the girl that likes to do stuff I guess.

Do you like Barbie?

J: Yes! I don't know, Barbie's cool.
I: No, I don't—not really. I play with different things. I like loved Barbie when I was five.

Do you think Barbie is pretty? Why?

J: Yeah, I dunno. I just know it.
I: I don't know, people try to make them pretty cause they want them to buy them and stuff. They make dolls pretty.

Who is your favorite Barbie?

J: Brittany! I like cheerleader Barbie too.
I: I don't really have one, because you know, I haven't really seen all the Barbies.

How often do you play with Barbie?

J: Like every day.
I: I play with other dolls, I stopped playing with them on my 5th birthday. Only Julia likes to play with them, I swear.

What do you like about Barbie? Why?

J: To play with them, and her clothes. Barbie is fun, her clothes are pretty.
I: I don't really like anything about Barbie. She is kind of getting boring, a little.

Who do you play Barbie with?

J: Just me
I: I'm always like "Julia do you want to play something?" but she will just run off with the Barbie.

What does Barbie usually do when you play with her?

J: Hang out with friends. We had two Barbie cars, but we only gave the purple one away.
I: [Julia] talks to people, she's always like



JULIA McQUEENEY-THORPE

Julia Flores, left, and sister Isabelle disagree when it comes to their toys. In a world of make-believe, the two have swapped best friends. Barbie, who was Isabelle's comrade, now is at the whim of Julia.

"Goodbye!" or something.

Describe Barbie in your own words.

J: I don't know!
I: She's really skinny with light skin, long blond hair and probably girls thinks she's cool. When I was four I really did like her. ★

Barbie

Her
symbolism is
in the blue eyes of
the beholder...



Watch out presidential hopefuls, iconic doll runs for office

Mattel masks pop idol's conflicting intentions while children accept unattainable image into their daily play dates

Section Editor
Colleen Owens

Barbie Millicent Roberts has a reputation, which has developed for either being the world's smallest symbol of feminism and girl-power or for being known as the blondest "bimbo" ever to have lived in Malibu.

Mattel claims that every second there are three Barbie's being purchased somewhere in the world; however, this statistic does not compare to the 800,000 million Barbie's that have been embraced by little girls all over the world since its creation in 1959. With as much popularity and influence that Barbie has controlled over the years, teachers and parents alike are demanding to know: is this doll promoting intelligence or advice on how to coordinate accessories? Due to the copious amounts of admiration that children have yielded to this plastic toy, adults can only hope that Barbie delivers a positive image.

"Barbie's put the wrong ideas in my head...she made me want to grow up," said sophomore Paris Mantz. "I didn't want to feel smarter with Barbie, I wanted to look prettier with Barbie."

Mantz dabbled with dolls as a little girl, only to realize later in life that she gained nothing from Barbie and mostly believed she was inadequate when compared. The differences compiled, left a deep void in

"Barbie put the wrong ideas in my head...she made me want to grow up."

sophomore,
Paris Mantz

Mantz.

"I don't know how many times I cried when I was little because my ears were too big or because I had dark circles under my eyes," she said. "[I would tell myself] 'I'm not perfect. What's wrong with me? I'm not supposed to look like this...am I?'"

Yet her story seems to differ from Barbie.com and its mission statement to "engage, enchant, and empower girls" and to "inspire [them] to be creative and explore their individual interests."

How could such intentions have lead Mantz and many others girls to feel alienated in their quests to find who they are? Is Barbie to blame, and does she truly promote what is expected of her, to be the role model of millions?

"[Barbie] makes young children try to fit into a perfect stereotype: pretty, blonde, and perfect with no room to mess up - even though that's what childhood is all about, making mistakes and learning from them,"

said Mantz.

Although senior Amy Cirocco agrees that Barbie has maintained her "bimbo tendencies" and intellectually lacking appeal, she believes in Barbie's pure intentions. Her mother, Susan Cirocco, never censured the doll for Amy, who played often as a child.

"[My mom] is not the type of mom who thought we would transform into Barbie," said Cirocco. "She knew us well enough to know we would never conform to the Barbie way. It was more fun for us."

The year 2004 was a dramatic year for Mattel as they announced Barbie's decision to run for President under the 'Party of Girls'. Her platform boasts issues debatably relevant to girls: world peace, helping the poor, and caring for animals.

"She has very unrealistic views," said Mantz. "What is she running for the Miss America Contest, seriously?"

Mattel has stated that Barbie is more than qualified to fulfill this position including working for the military and representing UNICEF as an ambassador. Some, however, feel differently for Barbie's credentials.

"There is not even a senator Barbie," said sophomore Abbey Deiterman. "I think she is making a joke for women who are involved in politics. We don't want kids to think that running for president is a beauty contest."

Mattel backs Barbie's dreams, believing her many occupations are simply positive reinforcement to young girls everywhere for the importance of gender equality, leadership and encouragement for the future.

Aside from vying to win leader of the free world, Barbie's additional extra curricular activities include being a Radio City Music Hall Rockette,

sign language teacher, United States Navy officer, NASCAR driver, and lastly, a McDonald's employee.

"She shows that females can have any job they want," said junior Kelli Hansen, an avid Barbie supporter. "She helps to motivate girls by telling them, 'you can do this too.'"

The debate is complex, as some feel Barbie is sending mixed and flaky signals, as is apparent in Dr. Miriam Forman - Brunell's article, What Barbie Dolls Have to Say about Postwar American Culture, where she observes Barbie as "the quintessential blonde bimbo."

Hansen furrowed her brow having heard this news.

"I am upset that someone would call her a bimbo," said Hansen. "She has only been with one man, Ken, and she is very caring towards her sisters Kelly and Teresa, so of course she is not a bimbo."

Hansen remembers her old Barbie days as a time when she would invite her friends over to play in her Barbie House and "create drama". Although she admits that her Ken dolls were never quite as successful as Barbie; who always had the upper hand.

"People who look at negative parts of Barbie are only looking at her physically," said Hansen towards Barbie critics who believe she portrays a stereotypical image. "Those [people] are only thinking about what is on the outside than the inside. Barbie has her positive sides."

An order processor for the Barbie Hotline, who was not authorized to provide any personal information other than her job title, commented on behalf of Mattel and their stance on critics who believe Barbie is vapid.

"I don't think Mattel really cares...and I know it doesn't affect

their sales," she said in their defense.

The "Teen Talk Barbie" game, released by Mattel in 1993 sparked a great interest into the intellect of the doll herself when some of the phrases repeated in the game included, "Math is hard!" and "I love shopping!" Feminists were outraged at Barbie's representation of women and an underlying animosity towards the bright-eyed, golden-haired doll grew.

"It wasn't like 'I'm ripping off their heads, hahaha!' it was more like 'I want to make your life a disaster,'" said Mantz, in her attempts to flaw Barbie as a girl. "I just made her more human...as a matter of fact I used to draw zits on her face."

A 2005 Bath University study revealed that Barbie mutilation was common among junior school children, which provoked many forms of hatred and violence as an insecure reminder of their childhood.

"At least they are learning that Barbie is a stereotype and doing something about it," said sophomore Mo O'Rear in response to the study. "In a way Barbie kind of teaches them to be vocal about opinions."

Despite the slew of beliefs that nearly everyone has formed about this doll of controversy, the facts remain; Barbie is indisputably the #1 girl's brand in the world. She influences the youngest generation of girls and will have some form of impact, large or small, on every single person that comes across her. Whether indignantly opposed to her bubbly image or deeply rooted in appreciation for the many years of amusement spent with her, Barbie's message to those who listen is open for interpretation.

"Go Vote. Go Run. Go Lead. Go Girl," said the doll herself. ★

Stars suffer defeat to Rock Bridge

Varsity basketball team sees potential problems from lack of height

Staff Writer
Rosie Neenan

The scoreboard read 20 to 49 as the buzzer sounded Saturday in the Gopfert Center. The STA varsity basketball team had just lost their thirteenth game to Columbia Rock Bridge Bruins. The Stars had begun the game without much vigor or luck, scoring five points to the Bruins' 32 points by the end of the first half. The Stars gained a sense of urgency in the last quarter however which allowed them to outscore the Bruins in the second half, according to junior forward Leia Darden. Coach Rich Wilson believes "the second wind" can be attributed to the diminished effort of the Bruins and is not the result of an increased effort by the Stars.

"I don't think we did anything different," said Wilson. "We kept playing hard, and they just stopped playing because they didn't have to."

Last Friday, the Stars played Columbia Hickman and lost 33 to 40. After the game, Wilson gave the girls a talk which may have affected their performance Saturday. According to Wilson, he tried to emphasize that the team had not played as hard as they could have. Sophomore Jessica Nouri, Darden and Wilson agreed that, although they lost both games, the Stars had played harder on Saturday than they had on Friday, in part due to Wilson's post-game motivation.

"Coach Wilson put things in perspective for us," said Darden. "We decided we wanted to play harder all the time and not let up."

The Stars' lack of height seemed to be a problem for them during the game. It made it hard for them to rebound balls on both sides of the court.

"We are probably the smallest high school team you will see," said Nouri. "One game we were the bigger team and it was weird."

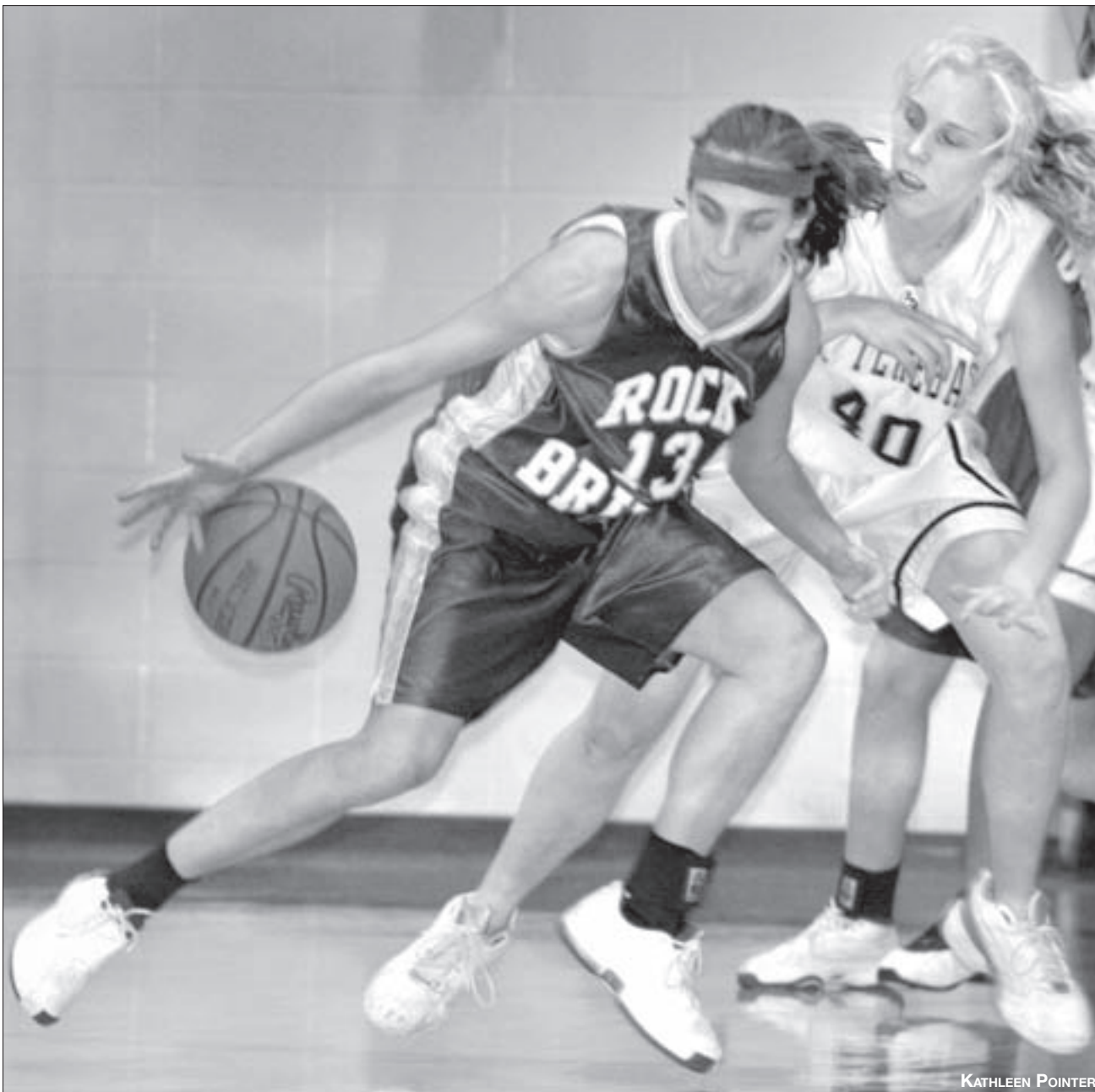
According to Darden, the tallest person on the varsity team is 5'10". She believes that they make up for their lack of height however with their speed.

Wilson believes that the team compensates for their short stature with their tenacity and drive to succeed.

According to Wilson, one of the aspects of the game which the team needs to improve upon for the future is team unity.

"We need to do a better job of playing together," said Wilson. "We need to communicate more on offense and play together on defense."

During Saturday's game, the Stars missed many of their shots. According to Nouri, the team was tired from the night before and did not have the chance to run their offense due to continuous



KATHLEEN POINTER

Rock Bridge sophomore Lauren Borduin dribbles down court while freshman Abby Duethman plays defense. Rock Bridge won the Saturday game 49 to 20 and had a lead of 32 to five at half.

STA v. Rock Bridge Game Summary

	STA	Rock Bridge
Free-throws made	5	10
Free-throws missed	6	7
Three-pointers made	1	2
Three-pointers missed	11	3
Offensive rebounds	12	7
Defensive rebounds	10	21
Turnovers	11	9

defensive pressure.

"We didn't know much about the team or the type of defense they had, so we couldn't practice it," said Darden.

Darden agreed that the team needs to improve on their defense, but also believes the Bruins to be a difficult team for anyone to defeat.

"Sometimes you play teams who you can't beat; they are just better than you," said Darden. "I think Rock Bridge was one of those teams."

According to Wilson, although the Stars were defeated Saturday by a much better team, losing can still take harsh tolls on the players.

"Sometimes they respond well to a loss," said Wilson. "But sometimes it just hurts." ★



KATHLEEN POINTER

Sophomore Kristin Belfonte, center, is trapped by Rock Bridge players freshman Kelsey Eckenrode, left, and sophomore Lauren Borduin. The game was the Stars thirteenth loss.

Varsity Basketball (7-14)

Nov. 30	North Kansas City	W (55-34)
Dec. 2	Lee's Summit West	L (45-57)
Dec. 6	Notre Dame de Sion	L (16-49)
Dec. 8	Columbia Hickman	L (39-45)
Dec. 10	Columbia	W (69-27)
Dec. 12	St. Joseph Benton	L (34-42)
Dec. 15	KC Christian	L (52-57)
Dec. 19	Blue Springs South	L (57-63)
Jan. 2	St. Joe Lafayette	W (48-41)
Jan. 4	Pleasant Hill	W (57-29)
Jan. 6	Helias	L (45-59)
Jan. 10	Notre Dame de Sion	L (9-49)
Jan. 16	Benton	L (35-39)
Jan. 18	Bonner Springs	L (43-53)
Jan. 20	Northeast	W (72-35)
Jan. 23	Savannah	W (45-37)
Jan. 27	Columbia Hickman	L (33-40)
Jan. 28	Columbia Rock Bridge	L (20-49)

JV Basketball (15-5)

Nov. 28	Hickman Mills	W (52-22)
Nov. 30	LS North	W (54-37)
Dec. 1	Notre Dame de Sion	L (40-52)
Dec. 12	St. Joseph Benton	W (43-41)
Dec. 19	Blue Springs South	L (40-52)
Jan. 2	St. Joseph Lafayette	W (43-30)
Jan. 4	Pleasant Hill	W (61-11)
Jan. 6	Helias	L (33-44)
Jan. 10	Notre Dame de Sion	W (31-29)
Jan. 16	Miege	W (42-58)
Jan. 17	Blue Springs	W (49-48)
Jan. 18	Notre Dame de Sion	L (27-33)
Jan. 12	St. Joseph Benton	W (43-41)
Jan. 19	Blue Springs South	L (46-53)
Jan. 23	Savannah	W (48-49)
Jan. 27	Columbia Hickman	W (25-32)
Jan. 28	Rock Bridge	W (43-33)
Jan. 31	Blue Springs	W (54-45)

Freshmen A Team (6-10)

Nov. 22	Lawrence South	L (24-29)
Nov. 30	Bishop Ward	W (42-37)
Dec. 1	Blue Springs	W (30-27)
Dec. 3	Bishop Miege	W (33-27)
Dec. 6	Notre Dame de Sion	L (26-28)
Dec. 12	St. Joe Benton	W (33-29)
Jan. 5	St. James	L (20-38)
Jan. 9	Notre Dame de Sion	L (29-46)
Jan. 11	St. Thomas Aquinas	L (35-36)
Jan. 12	Lawrence South	L (30-55)
Jan. 14	O'Hara	W (44-36)
Jan. 17	Bishop Ward	W (51-47)
Jan. 23	Shawnee Mission East	L (27-42)
Jan. 26	Shawnee Mission East	L (29-38)
Jan. 28	St. Thomas Aquinas	L (31-32)
Jan. 30	Lee's Summit Tourney	L (24-32)

Freshman B Team (4-8)

Dec. 1	Blue Springs	L (22-29)
Dec. 3	Bishop Miege	W (44-27)
Dec. 5	Turner	W (54-39)
Dec. 6	Notre Dame de Sion	L (26-64)
Jan. 3	Turner HS	W (35-30)
Jan. 5	St. James HS	L (18-30)
Jan. 9	Notre Dame de Sion	L (7-39)
Jan. 11	St. Thomas Aquinas	L (22-34)
Jan. 23	Shawnee Mission East	L (32-43)
Jan. 25	Bishop Ward	W (41-14)
Jan. 26	Shawnee Mission East	L (13-36)
Jan. 28	St. Thomas Aquinas	L (14-18)

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

The Varsity basketball Stars lost 53 - 35 on Tuesday at Blue Springs.

The Win For Kansas City luncheon was held Wednesday to celebrate the 2005 Varsity soccer team's state championship, as well as the championships of other area teams. Julie Foudy, winner of a gold medal in the Women's Olympic Team in 1996, was the honorary speaker at the luncheon. She plays midfield and her teammates call her "Rowdy Foudy." She is co-captain for the U.S. Women's National Team and she graduated from Stanford University.

Regattas reel in rowers

In Kansas City Rowing Club, friends become family, new experience becomes way of life

Section Editor
Katie Meyers

In the beginning

The Kansas City Rowing Club (KCRC) has been providing people in the Kansas City area access to one of the world's oldest sports since 1992. In the past few years, more and more STA students are taking advantage of that opportunity.

The juniors program at KCRC has three seasons throughout the year. The fall season runs from late August to early November, the spring season from March to May and the summer season runs through June and July. They practice five days a week in the Kansas River, directly behind Kemper Arena.

Ms. Jen Jewett, the team's head coach, rowed in college and was on the US National rowing team before moving to Kansas City. She has been coaching at KCRC for ten years.

"The coaching is a blast," said Jewett. "Being in the water with the kids is fun and I love every minute of it. It's the administrative stuff that's hard work."

KCRC is a non-profit organization, therefore many of the people involved are

volunteers with other jobs. When she is not coaching, Jewett works as a firefighter. The free time that her job allows helps her to keep things running.

"If I had any other job, I don't think I could do it," she said.

Something different

This year, there are 13 members on the KCRC junior crew team, including three from STA, two from Sion, two from Blue Valley North High School and six from St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

"I wanted to try a sport that was different from what everyone else was doing," said junior Amelia McGannon.

McGannon first heard about KCRC through a flier she received in the mail. After attending an informational meeting, she and her parents decided to go for it; she has been a member since Sept. 2004.

According to Jewett, most of the team members, like freshman Elizabeth McNamara, hear about the team by word of mouth.

"We do a little recruiting, but most of the time, kids just bring their friends," said Jewett.

Regatta fever

Most of the team agrees that the competitions are the best part of rowing. Rowing competitions are called regattas. Because there are very few rowing teams in the Midwest, the KCRC girls have to do a lot of traveling. But they agree that it's worth it.

"It's so much fun," said McGannon. "At first you think, 'Why am I rowing?' and then you get to a regatta and it's amazing. It's like a party in spandex."

Since there are so few high school or junior teams throughout the country, the KCRC juniors often row against novice college teams, or masters (adult rowers) join them in races.

"It's a great experience," said McNamara. "When we're not racing, we help out on the docks. It's a lot of work, but a lot of fun."

For the coaches, it's a bit more strenuous, but still the highlight of the sport.

"From the time we get to the regatta site and the time I get in the car to leave, I very rarely sit down," said Jewett. "That's when it's like being a mom."

Just Like Family

"They're like my kids," said Jewett about her team. "It truly is like one big



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Junior Amelia McGannon on the Kansas City Rowing Club (KCRC) since Sept. 2004 and said that it has helped her control her ADD. "This is my way of focusing on something that I want to do," she said. "It's helped me to do better in school because I know that if I can do this, then I can handle school, too."

family. Sometimes I'm like a big sister and sometimes I'm the mother."

Both McNamara and McGannon agree that their team is like one family that supports them in whatever they do.

"I'm really close to these girls," said McGannon. "We go to different schools, so there's not all of that school drama."

According to Jewett, not only is the crew just like family, but their families as well. She gets to know grandparents and siblings as well as the team members.

Parents have a big role in the club as well. McGannon's parents run the KCRC website, krowing.com and at the regattas, it is the parents who set up the tents and help out the team when the coaches are not around.

Things to learn

Through McNamara enjoys rowing and wants to continue, she is not surprised that few others feel the same.

"It's really hard to learn how to row," said McNamara. "And you get bruises on your shoulders from carrying the boats. That's why a lot of people quit in the beginning."

McNamara said that another difficult

aspect is that after those first few months, it is hard to get better.

"Now, I'm about as good as I was last summer," she said.

Jewett agrees that the learning curve is steep and that the first few weeks are often difficult, but once you get it, it lasts forever.

"It's something that if it gets a hold of you, you'll hold on to it for the rest of your life," said Jewett. "It's not just a sport, but a frame of mind."

For McGannon, the experience has helped her in many different ways.

"I have ADD," said McGannon. "This is my way of focusing on something that I want to do. It's helped me do better in school because I know that if I can do this, then I can handle school, too."

Jewett acknowledges that rowing is not for everyone. Yet she still encourages people to try.

"Come give it a shot," she said. "There is no problem with trying and deciding you don't like it. But you'll never know unless you try." ★

"At first you think, 'Why am I rowing?' and then you get to a regatta and it's amazing. It's like a party in spandex."

Amelia McGannon, junior

Just a side note

Rowing 101:

How to speak like a true rower

Regatta: the term for rowing competitions

Sweeping: a style of rowing where each rower has one oar, is done using two, four or eight people

Sculling: a style of rowing where each rower has two oars, is usually done using one, two or four people

Masters: adult rowers of all ages, from those who recently graduated college to those who have long been retired

Dance team prepares for State, wins awards

The dance team competed in the Yvonne Cole Invitational Dec. 3 at Lindberg High School in St. Louis, earning first in jazz, second in novelty and the choreography award for dance routine. They also won awards at the Kansas Spectacular at Olathe East Jan. 20-21, including the following: the Sweepstakes Award, the Judges' Award for jazz, hip-hop and novelty, the Best Overall Presentation, Best Overall Choreography, Best of Overall Precision, Best Overall Precision, Best Overall Technique, and the Spotlight Award. Additionally, sophomore Katie Embree won fourth for her solo.

At the Lee's Summit North Invitational, the Stars earned first in jazz, first in hip-hop and fourth in novelty. Fox Four News aired the duet by seniors Jessica Dahmer and Sarah Tampke.

The Stars qualified for State and will compete Feb. 25 at Blue Springs South High School.



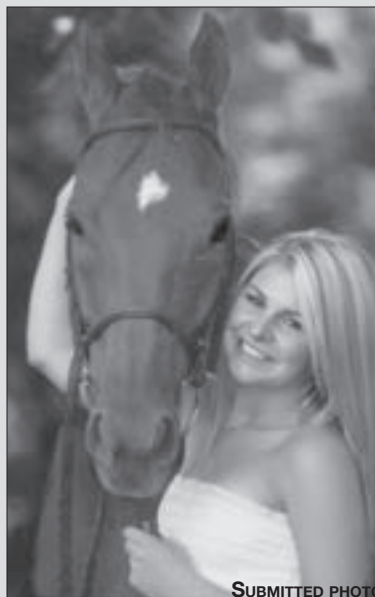
LIBBY CONWELL

Dance team practices Nov. 10 before the Yvonne Cole Competition Dec. 10.

Star Athlete



Senior Morgan Wiley



SUBMITTED PHOTO

History

- ★ Has been riding since she was nine years old
- ★ Rides her horse, Odie, at WhiteFox Manners
- ★ Competes in hunter jumper shows at the three-foot level
- ★ Practices with trainer Ms. Kylian Coulter

Accomplishments

- ★ Placed ninth and 10th in Kansas City Professional Horse Association year-end awards in 2005
- ★ Has won championships in the Lake St. Louis competition, the American Royal and the Mason City, IA championships
- ★ Will ride at Southern Methodist University this fall
- ★ "My parents put me into [horse-riding] and it just clicked," said Wiley. "It's something I like doing, I'm good at, and it keeps me out of trouble."

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★in brief

The newest intramural sport is starting off with a kick. During activity, teams such as The Best Team, Gangsters with Balls and Oompa Loompas play kickball in the gymnasium. In past years, basketball was the previous winter intramural instead of kickball. Junior Carolyn Wiedeman, a member of The Best Team, said that she gets quite excited about the games and especially enjoys the competitive nature of the sport. "I wanted to play kickball for intramurals because we used to play in grade school," said Wiedeman. "Now in high school, we get even more into it and it is so intense."

Edwards to replace retired Vermeil

Former Jets head coach returns to Kansas City after 17-year hiatus

Sarah Cooper & Claire McInerney

Staff Writers

The Kansas City Chiefs chose Mr. Herman Edwards to replace Mr. Dick Vermeil as the new head coach. The New York Jets released Edwards from the final two years of his coaching contract.

"I promise you this, I will give all my heart and my energy to this organization any way I can," said Edwards. "That is how I am built. I believe that and that is what I am going to do. I am excited about this football team and this organization and I am excited about being back in Kansas City."

Edwards played for the Philadelphia Eagles and began his NFL administrative career 17 years ago with the Chiefs as a scout. He then became an assistant coach under head coach Marty Schottenheimer in 1992-94. Edwards credits Vermeil Chiefs general manager Carl Peterson for teaching him the values of the NFL and the privilege it is to be a part of it.

"We selected Herman Edwards because he is without question one of the most qualified head football coaches in the NFL today," said Peterson, a longtime friend of Edwards, Jan. 9. "He is a man



Kansas City Chiefs head coach Dick Vermeil hugs his grandson, Jack, left, in the post-game press conference following the 37-3 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, Jan. 1, 2006. Vermeil had announced his retirement prior to the game.

of integrity, family and great passion for the game. He coaches all aspects of the game and he coaches them well. Herm has tremendous relationships with players and coaches throughout the league."

The Chiefs ended their 2005-2006 season having won 10 of 16 games. During his five years with the Chiefs, Vermeil won 44 of 80 games and went to the AFC playoffs once. Edwards won 39 of 80 games during his five years with the Jets and reached the AFC playoffs three times.

"This five year experience is as positive an experience that I've ever been exposed to within my coaching career," said Vermeil during a press conference Jan. 3. "Never have I enjoyed an experience more with so many great young men. Never have I been treated with more respect and appreciation than I have by the Kansas City fans."

Edwards said he developed as a coach during his time as head coach for the Jets.

"I will always cherish my time in New York," said Edwards Jan. 9. "They gave me my first opportunity to be a head coach... I thank the organization and I thank my players for the last five years in New York for making me a better man. Hopefully I have made a difference and hopefully I will make a difference here."

Edwards said he looks forward to starting the new season with a winning team.

"This family is set," said Edwards. "I am just a new addition to it, but I have been an addition to it a long time ago and I finally found my way back. It is a great opportunity for my wife, my son, my daughter and myself to come back home. I never planned on something like this but it happened." ★

"I promise you this, I will give all my heart and my energy to this organization any way I can."

Herman Edwards, new Chiefs head coach

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

This Sunday the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks will play in Super Bowl XL at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich. This was the first year since 1984 that the Seahawks won a playoff game, and they found themselves seeded first in the National Football Conference (NFC). And although the Steelers were seeded sixth in the American Football Conference (AFC), they did not lose any of their three playoff games on the road. The game will air on ABC at 6 p.m., and the halftime show will be performed by the Rolling Stones. The Kansas City Chiefs, under retired coach Dick Vermeil, did not make it to the playoffs in spite of their 10-6 record.

How do you feel about Dick Vermeil's retirement?



"I'm really sad. [Vermeil] did a really good job and he was really close to all the players.

It's sad to see him go without winning the Super Bowl."

-Lyndsey Zapien, senior



"It was the closest we've come to making the playoffs in a long time, so I was really sad to see [Vermeil] leave."

-Amanda Wilson, junior



"He encouraged them and brought the best out of the Chiefs."

-Megan Woodrum, sophomore

How do you feel about Herman Edwards as the new head coach?



"I think [Vermeil] was a good coach, but he was just too laid back. Edwards will probably do a lot more for the team."

-Kate LaTerza, junior



"I like Edwards. He's a good coach. He knows what he's doing. He's more offensive-minded than defensive."

-Antoinette Jackson, sophomore



"[Edwards as head coach] is a good thing. We need someone more strict and forceful. [Vermeil] was just too nice for football. Without a good coach, you can't accomplish much."

-Brenna Mitchell, freshman

Test your Chiefs knowledge

1. The Kansas City Chiefs are named after Mayor H. Roe Bartle when they came to KC. What was their original name and city?

- a) The Alabama Tigers
- b) The California 49ers
- c) The St. Paul Lions
- d) The Dallas Texans

2. What year were the Chiefs brought to Kansas City?

- a) 1963
- b) 1954
- c) 1958
- d) 1967

3. What year did the KC Chiefs first play in Arrowhead Stadium?

- a) 1966
- b) 1982
- c) 1972
- d) 1976

4. How many Super Bowls have the Chiefs won over the years?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 4

5. How many Super Bowls has the team played in?

- a) 4
- b) 9
- c) 5
- d) 2

6. What year was the Chiefs best season with a record of 12-2?

- a) 1983
- b) 1995
- c) 1968
- d) 1973

7. Who is the current owner of the Chiefs?

- a) Len Dawson
- b) Lamar Hunt
- c) Carl Peterson
- d) Buck Buchanan

8. Including Edwards, how many head coaches have the Chiefs had?

- a) 13
- b) 15
- c) 8
- d) 10

9. How many coaches are currently employed by the Chiefs?

- a) 14
- b) 9
- c) 17
- d) 11

10. Besides Hank Stram, which coach of the KC Chiefs is in the Hall of Fame?

- a) Marty Schottenheimer
- b) Marv Levy
- c) John Mackovic
- d) Dick Vermeil

11. Who did the Chiefs name as their nominee for NFL Man of the Year?

- a) Tony Gonzalez
- b) Trent Green
- c) Dante Hall
- d) Priest Holmes

Answers: d, a, c, a, d, c, b, d, a, b, a



EMILY BECKER

Jan. 23, Canta Fila, an all-girls, high school choir, practices under the direction of Ms. Jennifer Benjamin. Benjamin started the choir to remain active in music education after leaving STA.

Chorus harmonizes high school girls

Former STA choir director founded Canta Fila as a way to challenge local singers

Emily Becker &
Kate Rainey

Staff Writers

The Community Music and Dance Academy on the UMKC campus, looks plain and ordinary. The carpet is dark gray, the walls white. But from each room comes the sound of music: violins, pianos and voices.

The drab hallways are lined with students. At the end of the hall, inside room 205, girls giggle, gossip and sing under their breaths. Ms. Jennifer Benjamin, former choir director at STA, picks up her pencil and the practice of an all-girls high school choir, Canta Fila, begins.

"It's there for us," said sophomore Olivia DeSimio who is one of the six STA girls who participate in the choir. "We all love to sing – it's one of those things that does not have a school setting."

This year, Canta Fila, Latin for

"daughters of song," has 12 members, but Benjamin hopes to double that number in coming years. During auditions, held in May and August, Benjamin selected girls who have a desire to sing, a good sense of pitch, an elementary ability to sight read and the time to commit to the choir.

"[I joined] partially because I enjoyed Ms. Benjamin and enjoyed the way she taught," said DeSimio. "[I] wanted to keep the way she conducted in my life. I worked really well under that. It's also a comfort level."

The choir performs at three or four events throughout the city each semester, most recently at the Mission Hills Country Club. While the girls work hard, they also enjoy their time with the chorus.

"I think the director is really good and the group is kind of a social thing but we're also singing, so it's really fun," said freshman Chloe Lundgren.

The choir sings a variety of music, from classical to multicultural to jazz to popular songs like "Seasons of Love" from the musical "Rent." Recently, the chorus has been working on a Spanish ballad. Some members find the music for Canta Fila harder to sing than previous pieces, but they still enjoy them.

"I feel like it tests me," said DeSimio. "It tests what I can do in my ability level. If I can do this, I can always strive for something harder."

Her experiences during her five years of teaching at STA inspired Benjamin to create a single-sex choir.

"I found when it's all girls, they're less inhibited," said Benjamin. "I've also found they tend to sing out more and be the meat of the sound. They also tend to bond and form a community and that connection comes out on stage."

Upcoming concerts for Canta Fila include a performance Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. at Cherokee Christian Church with the Kansas City Children's Chorus, a show April 8 at 7:30 p.m. with Belle Voce, UMKC's women's choir at an undetermined location and a concert April 22 at 1:30 p.m. in White Recital Hall.★

Q&A: Senior speaks out on her music

Courtney Anderson has been playing the flute for eight years, now she speaks her mind

Staff Writer
Breanne Sigler

When and why did you start playing the flute?

I started in fifth grade. My mom told me that I had to be involved in something. It was either band or Girl Scouts, and I didn't want to be in Girl Scouts.

Why did you pick the flute?

I originally wanted to play the saxophone, but I didn't know much about music so I didn't know the name of it. I got a trumpet, but I only had it for one day and my mom returned it and traded it for a flute. I live in a condo so my mom thought it would be too loud, and I didn't like it anyway so she took it back.

What is your first memory of playing the flute?

This was the only time my mom forced me to practice so I played the same note for 30 minutes and "Hot Cross Buns."

Are you ever nervous before a performance or recital?

No, I've gotten past the nervous phase.

How does playing the flute affect your family life?

I'm the only one out of my six siblings who plays an instrument. They all play sports. My sister can't stand it [when I practice] because we share a room. It doesn't really bother them though.

Do you play any other instruments?

I picked up piccolo in sixth grade. I got it for Christmas. I taught myself piano freshman year, and then my flute teacher gave me ten-minute instruction for piano after my flute lessons.

Do you plan to continue playing the flute?

Yes, I might minor in music. I might try to do orchestra, because you can't just drop it.

What's your favorite thing about playing the flute?

It's just fun to play music.★

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Friday is a popular day when it comes to art. The first Friday of every month, The Crossroads district opens its galleries at night. Read more about it on page 18. Also, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art recently began "Ford Free Fridays." All day, every Friday, admission to the museum is free of charge.

Grant provides for new center at Nelson-Atkins

Nelson-Atkins builds new learning center with \$4.5 million grant from the Ford Motor Company

Section Editor
Mary Kate Bird

Renovations to the Nelson-Atkins Museum have been ongoing since 2001. Costs topped \$200 million dollars with the creation of a 150,000 square foot conceptually designed east wing added to the museum. A major part of renovations to the Nelson-Atkins is the Ford Learning Center, a facility underwritten by a grant of \$4.5 million dollars from the Ford Motor Company.

"The facility [is] where participants of all ages can use direct experience with original works of art in the exhibitions

galleries as a foundation for learning and creating," said museum spokesman Mr. Scott Stuart.

Completed in Sept., the Ford Learning Center boasts 22,463 square feet and features seven renovated classrooms for studio-art classes, an orientation and training classroom, an Educator Resource Center that provides support and state-of-the-art technology for high school students, adults and teachers, according to Stuart.

The addition is aimed at connecting young people with Museum collections and special exhibitions, in order to promote understanding of the visual arts.

"The program mix at the Ford Learn-

ing Center incorporates the best from the past, and adds new offerings, allowing all ages and backgrounds to come together in different ways to learn and to experience the joy of discovery," said Stuart.

Another feature of the Ford Learning Center is its Gallery, which exhibits art created by participants in the Center's programs such as painting and ceramics.

"All you have to do is see how excited [the kids] are when their art is exhibited in the hallways," said Ms. Kathryn Fitzsimmons, a STA alumna and an assistant at the Ford Learning Center.

Along with the Ford Motor Company's grant for the Ford Learning Center, the company has also sponsored "Ford Free Fridays," a partnership that offers visitors free extended-hours admission from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays year-round.

"[Ford Free Fridays] are a good cheap date," said Ms. Christine Minkler, head

of Youth and Family programs at the Nelson-Atkins Museum. "We have free gallery talks, all possible because of the [Ford] grant."

"Ford Free Fridays" have become the most popular time to visit the Nelson-Atkins Museum, with programming such as live jazz performances and outdoor sculpture tours, according to Stuart.

According to Minkler, the Ford Learning Center's next session runs April 1 through May 20, providing workshops for high school groups and programs for elementary students and teenagers.

"The new [Ford Learning Center] gives us facility and programming places designed to enable us to offer programs that relate to the museum collection," said Minkler. "People get excited about art and [the Ford Learning Center] is a chance to learn about art in different ways."★

Crossroads area opens its doors

First Fridays allow the city to become more comfortable with art

Staff Writer
Emily Becker

The Crossroads Art District is easy to miss. The buildings within the official boundaries of the district, Truman Road to the Kansas City Terminal Railroad Tracks and Southwest Trafficway to Troost Avenue, resemble old, brick, abandoned factory buildings. Most of the time, the art that lies up a purple staircase or behind doors guarded by a larger-than-life metal man goes unnoticed to persons on the street.

But on the first Friday of every month, behind the walls of the old freight train storage buildings, the district comes alive.

First Fridays began 15 years ago as an event for just the artists of the area.

"It was a way to show off artists' newest work and to celebrate art," said Ms. Lesley Janssen, owner and operator of the MOJO Collection, a gallery in the district on Baltimore Avenue named for Janssen's pet goat. "It was a close-knit art community, not everyone in Kansas City knew about it."

Only in the past two years has First Fridays become an event for the entire city. During First Fridays, the art galleries are open to the public from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

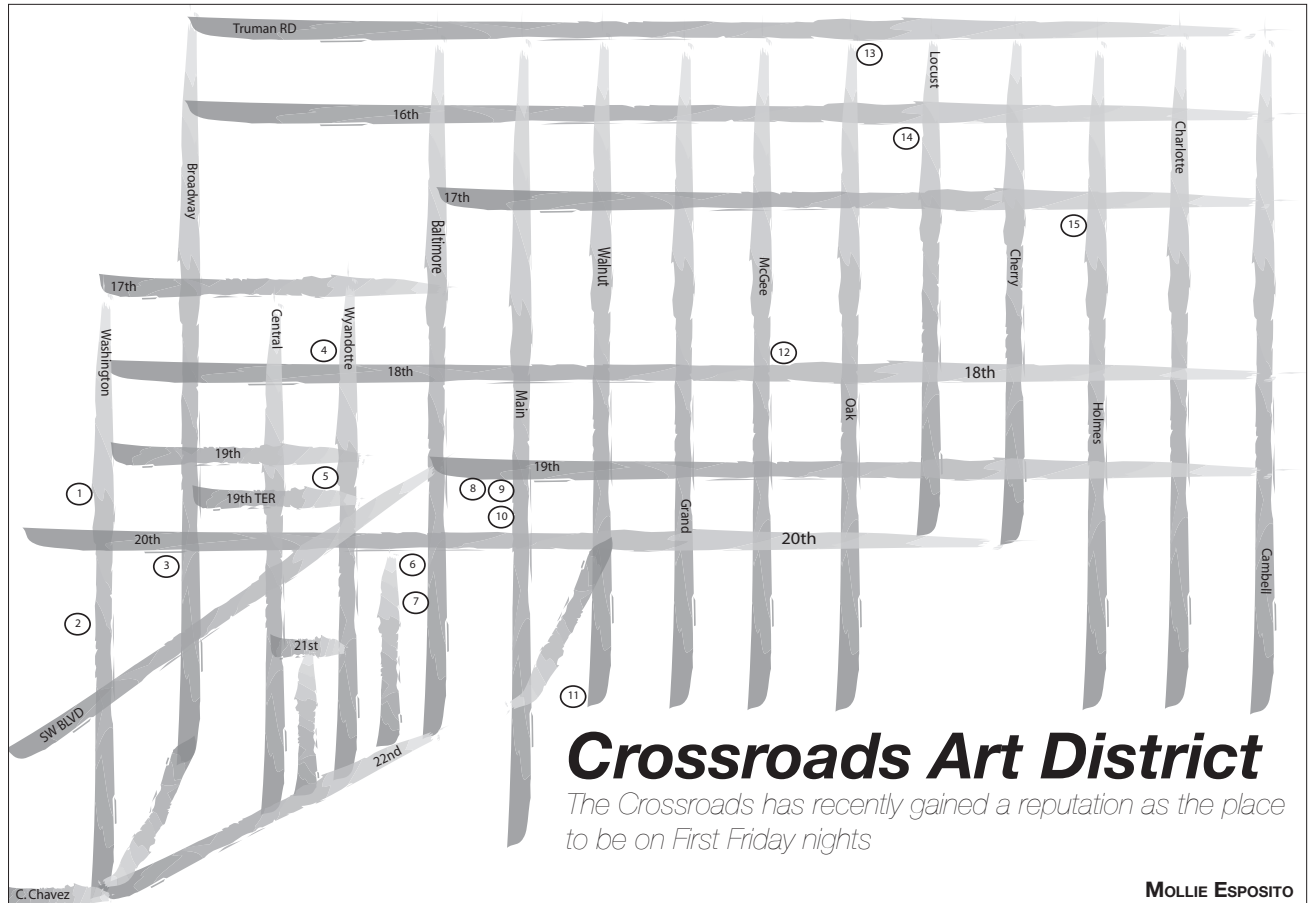
"In a way you don't really do anything, but it has a really fun atmosphere," said sophomore Eleanor Dillon who has attended the event four times.

First Fridays can become stressful for the gallery owners and the artists.

"It's very gratifying, but there's also some fear involved and some trepidation at what people will think," said Mr. William Rainey, an artist whose work has been shown at the Blue Gallery on First Fridays several times. "Overall, it's very thrilling; an honor."

Those who attend the event numerous times should expect to see something different every visit. According to Janssen, each gallery changes the work it is displaying every time and some galleries open only for First Fridays showings.

"You don't want to be the same all the



MOLLIE ESPOSITO

1. Bloyd Art Glass
2. Digital Labruder
3. Kuemmerlein Fiberart
4. Ernie Block Studio
5. Bohemian Gallery

6. Sherry Leedy
7. Byron C. Cohen
8. Blue Gallery
9. KCAI Crossroads Gallery
10. Archival Designs

11. Beger Arts Center
12. Hillard Gallery
13. Dot Gallery
14. #8 Gallery
15. Dead Sea Artworks LLC.

time," said Janssen. "It's great motivation, but sometimes intimidating."

According to Rainey, the art shows at the galleries often open on First Fridays night. His "Paintings from the Land of Oz" was the first show ever at the Blue Gallery five years ago. Rainey has had several shows there since.

"I am inspired by life to make art," said Rainey. "It's something I just have to do."

The Crossroads District used to be a dirty, neglected area of town until 1985 when artists began opening galleries in the area and galleries pushed to have the area

cleaned up. Attempts are still being made to restore the district including an anti-graffiti initiative.

According to the Crossroads Community Association's bylaws, the association's purpose is "to support, promote, advance and encourage the improvement and revitalization of the blighted and depressed area of Kansas City, Missouri, known as the Crossroads District."

Crossroads has art for all tastes, including sculptures, photographs, jewelry, fabrics and paintings both still life and abstract.

"I like colors and abstract stuff because

it doesn't tell you what's there," said Dillon, a fan of Rainey's work. "You have to try to interpret it."

In the past two years, First Fridays have changed in some noticeable ways. A free trolley now runs through the district, food vendors set up stands in the streets and the galleries no longer serve alcohol. Even with the changes, the goal of First Fridays has always been to allow the public to become familiar with art.

"Art can be intimidating if you don't know about it," said Janssen. "First Fridays is a way to become more comfortable."★

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The Dart

St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

This Saturday, the Veronicas will play at the Uptown Theatre in Kansas City. The Veronicas are twin sisters Lisa and Jess Origliasso, from Brisbane Australia. The pop-rock group has recently been recognized for their single, "4Ever." The Jonas Brothers and October Fall are also appearing. Tickets to the concert are available through Ticketmaster, as well as available for purchase at the door.

Chick flick themes creep into other films

Box office hits, such as "Wedding Crashers" and "The Notebook" have similar tear-jerking qualities

Staff Writer
Carina Murphy

By now, you've seen the tearjerkers and the empowerers, the "Sleepless in Seattle" and the "Pretty Womans," and every other classic chick flick. While moviegoers, particularly men and film critics, are quick to dub such films chick flicks (and with good reason), the majority of successful movies are indeed chick flicks or at least, contain some vital element of this cinematic masterpiece we have come to know and love. Even the crudest of the crude contain a few chick flick-isms, believe it or not.

In order to entice an audience, that certain chick flick element is rarely included in the previews, which is why my father actually dragged my mother to see "Top Gun" in 1986 - he kicked himself later. "Top Gun," while often considered the quintessential "guy movie" with its buff men and trash-talking rivals like Iceman and Maverick, certainly entertains its female viewers as well. The soundtrack easily gives this away, for "Take My Breath

Away" by Berlin is not exactly a song for poker night.

If the directors really had been trying to appeal to men and only men, Goose and his wife's tender, loving relationship would have been completely unnecessary. As for Maverick's feverish crush on Charlie, well, that is usually more romance any guy can handle. Epic love songs and steamy romances? Chick flick alert #1.

The epic love song and token steamy romance scenes are essential to any self-respecting chick flick. Even though Baby and Johnny leaped onto the scene with "Dirty Dancing" almost 20 years ago, the film still carries a strong following of predominantly female fans and a few male ones. "Dirty Dancing" did not have quite the clever and deceiving marketing tactics as "Top Gun," but it certainly fulfilled the requirements of a chick flick. Despite the feuding father and daughter, the film eventually comes together in none other than an epic love song "(I've Had) The Time of My Life," by Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes and, you guessed it, a steamy summer romance. This is no coincidence.

The "Wedding Crashers" previews presented a similarly deceiving scenario as "Top Gun." At first glance, "Wedding Crashers" seemed to be the typical comedy blockbuster of the year, with just as much or more crude humor as "Old School." Sure enough, John and Jeremy's initial antics are not exactly morally admirable, but John's sudden change of heart leaves the women in the audience swooning.

After revealing who he really was to Claire, the apple of his eye, John realizes he is virtually nothing without her. Soon, a film overflowing with booze and sex becomes a tender display of man's undying desperation to get back the girl he loves. He even suggests that they "maybe take a walk, take a chance." Last minute cry for love at the altar? Chick flick alert # 2.

Though not necessarily carried out at the altar, the last minute cry for love was a tactic carried out exceptionally in 2004's "The Notebook." However, this film does not lie about its chick flick qualities. Like "Dirty Dancing," the film captures women and wins over their hearts with man's desperate desire to love his only true love. It also does not hurt that he is a good-looking actor, though Ryan Gosling hardly fills Patrick Swayze's shoes.

Though love seems to ironically tear them apart, Noah and Allie realize that

fourteen years without each other was a waste. Like John in "Wedding Crashers," Noah cuts it a little close, proclaiming his love for Allie after she became engaged to richer man. But, as with any true chick flick, that last minute cry for love is the only one that matters.

Some might argue that more recent films like "The 40 Year Old Virgin" and "King Kong" are entirely too crude or destructive to be chick flicks, but it is undeniable that undying, passionate love certainly plays an essential part in the plots. The humor and destruction is merely intended to coax the skeptical audiences into viewing a love story that will eventually leave them gagging into their popcorn. Even legendary director Peter Jackson could not find a better way to lure an audience into his film when he remade "King Kong." Monsters, destruction and Jack Black all seem to be perfectly "manly" things, but upon further inspection, it is clear that "King Kong" is bound to melt hearts.

Chick flicks come in all shapes and sizes, but one characteristic always holds true: love with some assistance from music and timeliness, will always prevail, no matter how many fight scenes, burning buildings, disapproving fathers, or crude humor exist. The credits will always leave you exclaiming, "ADOOORABLE!"★

Nerdy play gets no laughs

“The Nerd” draws in audiences young and old, but mostly old

Copy Editor
Mollie Esposito

I looked around the theater as it began to fill up, some unspoken fact chewing at the edge of my conscious. I took my seat and then it hit me, I was the youngest person there. There was a couple or two that looked like they were in their 40s or 50s, everyone else looked well into their 60s. It was a little awkward. I tried not to think about it as the lights went down; the actors snuck onto the stage and the play began.

The plot of Larry Shue’s play, “The Nerd” is easy enough to follow. Rick Steadman saved Willum Cubbert’s life in the Vietnam War. Gratefully, Willum vows that as long as he is around, he’ll do anything to help Rick. Several years pass and, surprise surprise, Rick shows up to cash in on the favor at the worst time possible. Things wouldn’t have been so bad for poor Willum if Rick wasn’t such a... nerd.

Although there is a chuckle here and there, the play falls short of the claim that it is “one of the funniest plays ever written” on the American Heartland Theatre’s website. Willium’s friend, Axel and his boss’s wife are both funny, but I found much of the humor to be over-the-top. Especially Rick’s character. As the play moved along, I found myself

thinking about the unread pages in my Western Civ. Book, algebra problems that needed solving and unmemorized Spanish words. I couldn’t help wondering, as I flipped through my program during intermission, just what I was doing there. Why was I reviewing this play? There was an ad for A Raisin in the Sun at the KC Rep. Why not that play? It wasn’t that this play was bad; I could tell that a lot of work had been put into the production, the set and the acting. The theater was cozy, and everyone was very friendly, but it was old people’s humor. They made several references to people and things that I didn’t understand, so some of the jokes went right over my head. It was kind of like an ABC Family Movie that you watch for 15 minutes before you get tired of it and change the channel.

All in all, it wasn’t a bad play. It just wasn’t that funny. Go see it if you want to have a lunch date with your grandma while she’s in town, unless she’s offended by smoking, drinking and attempts at being mildly vulgar.

Larry Shue’s “The Nerd” opened at the American Heartland Theatre of Crown Center on Jan. 13 and continues until Feb. 26. Tickets range from \$17 for daytime shows to \$32 for night performances. “The Nerd” stars Mr. Craig Benton as Willum and Mr. Ken Remmert as Rick and is directed by Mr. Mark Ciglar.

For full price listing, dates of performances or to purchase tickets go to the American Heartland Theatre’s website, www.ahtkc.com or call their box office at (816) 842-9999. ★



COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND THEATRE

The cast of “The Nerd” poses for a press photo. “The Nerd” is playing at the American Heartland Theatre through Feb. 26.

NBC discards religious show

Christian group claims “Daniel” is blasphemous, demands its cancellation

Staff Writer

Kate Rainey



I am a videophile. Basically this means that I love TV. Watching TV is more than a way to relax after a long day at school or a way to fill boring hours during the summer;

it’s an art form. And I’m the picky critic. There is nothing I love more than watching a new series and dissecting it.

Last weekend I stayed with my grandparents while my father took an exciting vacation to New York City (note the bitterness). My grandparents are aware of my love of TV and asked me whether I’d seen “The Book of Daniel,” which airs Fridays at 9 p.m. on NBC. When they discovered I hadn’t, they described it.

“The Book of Daniel” is about an Episcopalian priest – named Daniel – who pops pills.

OK, I’m listening...

The daughter sells marijuana to fund her dream of becoming a manga writer, the son is gay, the brother-in-law runs away with the church’s fund to build a school and the list goes on. Daniel asks a Catholic priest to find the money, only to discover that the priest is in cahoots with the mob and will only return the money if Daniel hires the mob’s construction com-

pany to build the school.

And that’s just the first episode! Sounds like an amazing show, right? But watching the second episode, I was horribly disappointed.

The show had so much potential; a cast of well-known actors, an original concept and a good message. And it had a ready-made audience. After “Joan of Arcadia” was cancelled, many viewers eagerly awaited a new comedy about faith. But “Daniel” falls short of “Joan” in terms of the writing and acting.

The actors don’t work well together, story lines are hard to follow and the writing is mediocre. The only thing this show has going for it is Jesus. Jesus appears as Daniel’s mentor, popping up periodically to crack a joke before commercial. But once I got used to seeing Him on screen, his quips weren’t funny anymore.

It’s as if the creators decided the unusual concept was enough to keep the series afloat, and didn’t take time to hire decent writers.

By putting dysfunctional characters on TV, the creators are trying to show that everyone makes mistakes, even Episcopalians. Just because you make mistakes it doesn’t mean that you are forsaken, either.

NBC recently announced that “Daniel” was dropped from the schedule, but hasn’t said whether the show is cancelled.

According to the Associated Press, many Christian groups were outraged by the show’s depiction of Jesus, calling it blasphemous and accusing the writers of portraying Jesus as tolerant of sin in his interactions with Daniel.

I’m excited that the show is being cancelled, but I don’t agree with why. It should be cancelled because it’s moronic and ridiculous, not because it portrays a “tolerant Jesus.” The message is the show’s saving grace. It’s the writing and acting that are cancel-worthy. ★

Children’s movie provides an enjoyable experience

“Hoodwinked,” though aimed at children, is entertaining for all

Staff Writer
Elizabeth Nelson

Tuesday, January 17, two friends and I walked into auditorium 12 at AMC Town Center 20 with low expectations.

As we found seats in the back row, I thought to myself that “Hoodwinked” would be boring and corny, because animated films in the recent past have ceased to impress me as “Shrek” and “Finding Nemo” once did. For about the first ten minutes, the three of us prepared ourselves for what we felt would be a wasted hour and a half. But soon, we were plagued by laughter – laughter that continued almost nonstop for the rest of the film.

Honestly, this movie was incredibly corny, but something about the way it was done made it hilarious. This film, while created for a more juvenile audience, followed a style similar to that of “Scary Movie” or “Not Another Teen Movie.” It was a parody on children’s stories, told through the perspectives of all the characters from “Little Red Riding Hood.”

It started with the story – the wolf pretended to be the grandmother, Red questioned him, and in poped the woodsman with an axe. The police, consisting of bears, raccoons, and other forest animals, come to investigate. Soon they were joined by a detective, a frog named Nicky Flippers. The first real laugh we shared was over a flashback that Flippers had about how he received his name. It probably was not as funny as our laughter let on, since the people sitting to my right began to stare,

but we were having fun, so that’s all that really mattered.

Soon the characters decided to interrogate Red. She told her story and there is some disagreement. Each of the other characters told his or her own story, providing an explanation as to why they were there. For example, the wolf claims to be an investigative journalist tracking down the “goody bandit” who he believes to be Red. Eventually there are explanations for each character.

The most memorable characters were

Woolworth the Sheep and the woodsman. Trying to explain Woolworth is not easy. He is basically a singing sheep with detachable horns that he continually changes. It doesn’t sound that funny on paper, but if you see it, you’ll know what I mean. The woodsman is also an amusing character. He is not a real woodsman, but a

struggling actor who drives the “Schnitzel Stick” truck.

It is possible that my laughter was caused by my best friend sitting beside me, who laughed harder than I’ve ever heard her laugh in all the time that I’ve known her. If that’s the case, I suggest that everyone bring along a friend or two who will help to entertain you. My laughter may also have been caused by a young boy sitting down in front whose laugh sounded like Pee-Wee Herman. If that’s the case, I hope a boy with a similar laugh is at every showing. My friends and I were the only teenagers in the theater. This added to the fun factor though. We felt we could laugh as loud and as long as we wanted, and we did.

Overall, the movie was probably average, but the experience made it truly enjoyable. If you have some spare cash this weekend, go see “Hoodwinked.” Remember, it was made for children so don’t think too much about what you are actually watching – just laugh and enjoy. ★

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2 feb. 2006

★

The Dart

★

St. Teresa’s Academy

★in brief

Friday, Feb. 24, Billy Currington will perform at the Beaumont Club in Westport.

Currington recently released his second album, “Doin’ Something Right,” which was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) in early January. Currington, a Georgia native, began working with music professionally after high school graduation, when he moved to Nashville.

Tickets to the local event are available on Currington’s website, or through Ticketmaster.

Power of Prayer

Sophomore Rachel Schwartz's life changed dramatically after a serious car accident that robbed her of memory for a month



KATHLEEN POINTER

Reflecting about the gap in her life, Rachel is unsure of what to make of the situation, "I think [the accident] is a really big deal," said Rachel. "I won't remember a month of this year...that is so weird to me."

2 feb. 2006

★
The Dart
★
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Facts about Rachel:

Rachel is a newspaper staff writer who loves to run. She participates in cross country and track and runs in her free time as well. She loves mashed potatoes and the color blue. She reads *A-List Novels*, her favorite book, and has recently seen *Tristan and Isolde*, her favorite movie. Her perfect vacation would be going on a cruise like the one she and her family took. If she won a million dollars she would, "give some to charity, give some to family and whatever I had left over I'd probably buy a really cool car."

Copy Editor
Molly Huber

Each morning, sophomore Rachel Schwartz wakes up to a blank spot in her mind. Weeks of her life have been displaced from memory; she is unable to recall where she was, what she felt and what happened to her for almost an entire month after a seemingly normal family outing.

Rushed to the ICU

Family and friends filtered in and out of the downtown Children's Mercy hospital rooms of Rachel, who remained unconscious, and her fifth-grade sister, Sara Schwartz, who had broken the tibia and fibula of her right leg.

"There were probably 50 people total at the hospital," said Rachel's mother, Diane Schwartz. "Most of our immediate family stayed around Rachel's bed praying. It was a constant vigil in the ICU."

Fr. Jerry Arano-Ponce, pastor at Nativity Parish in Leawood, brought rosary beads for the family, which were "prayed around the clock until Wednesday," according to Diane.

Rachel's condition the night of Nov. 20 was worrisome. Her doctors announced the probability of swelling in her brain within eight hours, due her serious

head trauma she had sustained.

"Those first eight hours were really hard," said Rachel's father, Bill Schwartz. "We didn't know what would happen. If you had asked me at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 20 if things would ever be normal again, I would've said no."

Rachel's Last Memory

Earlier that evening, at approximately 4:30, the Schwartzes had gathered with family at Stroud's Restaurant at 85th Street and Holmes Road in Kansas City, Missouri to celebrate the birthdays of Rachel, her eighth-grade sister Anne Schwartz and their Grandpa Ed.

"It was unusual because we usually eat at somebody's house to celebrate," said Bill. "This was one of the first years in a while that we decided to go out."

Rachel and her family parked in a parking lot across the street from the restaurant, figuring it would be easier to access later. Most of the cars at Stroud's that night however were parked end-to-end along the street.

The family enjoyed their meal and carefree conversation at Stroud's until 6:30 p.m., when they decided to head home.

This is the last thing Rachel remembers.

Truly Miraculous Medals

The evening of the accident, Dr. Bob Thompson arrived at Children's Mercy bringing with him two miraculous medals, which in Catholic tradition are said to be a promise of great graces to those

"We didn't know what would happen. If you had asked me at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 20 if things would ever be normal again, I would've said no."

Rachel's father, Bill Schwartz

who wear them when blessed. The medals had been blessed and given to the Thompson family by Mother Teresa herself. Diane took off the necklace she had been wearing and laced the medal onto it.

Bill then took the medal and wrapped it around Rachel's left arm.

"Moments later, she raised her left arm," said Bill. "It was her first purposeful response."

Signs of Victory

The medal continued to do good works for Rachel, according to the family. Later that morning, neurosurgeon Dr. Green arrived in Rachel's room to test her ability to respond to and perform physical motions.

"Here was this huge guy that comes lumbering into the room to talk to Rachel," said Bill. "And he says in this big, booming voice, 'Rachel, raise your right arm and make the victory sign!' And she did it. Then he said, 'Raise your left arm!,' and she did it."

Green assured the family that Rachel would be okay, although she was "lifeless" for the next two days.

The Accident

At the scene, no one thought Rachel would be making victory signs any time soon.

When the family had eaten Nov. 20, Rachel and Bill left the restaurant first to retrieve the car from the parking lot. Sara, Anne and their Uncle Keith tagged along, leaving mother Diane outside the

Timeline of Events

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4:30 p.m. ~ Family arrives at Stroud's

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memory for a month

6:30 p.m. ~ Rachel and Bill leave Stroud's; Anne, Sara and Uncle Keith tag along while Diane, Grandma Bernie and Grandpa Ed wait at Stroud's

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. ~ Rachel and

Sara are hit and taken to Children's Mercy Hospital

7:00 p.m. ~ Rachel and Sara arrive at the hospital and are given full body CAT scans; Rachel is positive, but Sara reveals a broken tibia and fibula in her

restaurant to wait with her parents.

Bill and Uncle Keith stepped into the darkened street, looking beyond the parked cars for signs of oncoming traffic. Seeing none, they crossed expecting to be followed. Seconds later, Bill heard Anne scream.

"Rachel and Sara stepped out into the street before me," said Anne. "I looked to the left as they stepped out into the street and saw the car coming at them."

A Ford Windstar minivan driven by a man in his mid-50s had been traveling down Holmes Road. He took a turn onto 85th Street's right lane. As the car merged left, Rachel and Sara stepped into the street.

Rachel, who had been facing the opposite direction of the minivan, was hit immediately in the small of her back by its right side view mirror. The left side of her head collided with the windshield and she lurched backward into Sara, causing Sara to crash into a parked Infiniti behind her. The force of Rachel's collision flung her approximately 10 feet back through the air.

Anne rushed to Rachel's side and found her breathing erratically, though unconscious. Bill ran to Sara, who was breathing normally, but moaning in pain. Anne ran back to Stroud's to alert her mother and grandparents.

"It was only a matter of seconds before the whole family was there," said Bill. "It all happened very quickly. Several other bystanders called 911. There were people everywhere along the street, and the ambulances were there within five minutes."

Rachel and Sara were rushed to downtown Children's Mercy Hospital.

"On the way to the hospital, we were all on phones," said Diane. "I was calling friends to tell them what had happened and ask that they call our church and get us on the prayer chain at Nativity right away."

More than a Prayer Chain

Visitors poured into the hospital to pray for the recoveries of Sara and Rachel. Students from every class at Nativity School made cards for each member of the Schwartz family.

"There were baskets full," marveled Diane. "And we read them all because we had time."

That Monday, an all-school Rosary at Nativity was said for the healing of the girls and later another Rosary was held for the parishioners.

"There was a huge turnout," said Diane. "The church was overflowing. There were people there from St. Teresa's, from different high schools. There were also two posters out in the vestibule for each girl, and they were covered with hundreds of names."

Support continued to be prevalent at the hospital, as well.

"We didn't have to do a thing," said Bill. "It was unbelievable. All we had to do was concentrate on the recovery of our kids. They even did our laundry."

Diane agreed that the support was overwhelming.

"I mean, we were living [at the hospital]," she said. "Somebody brought a cooler, and there was food... It was just a constant stream of support. Uncle Carl came up from Oklahoma and said it was like the world's biggest party...well, not

really a party, but it seemed that way because of all the support."

Where Rachel Was

"I can't remember any of this," said Rachel, as her family discussed the accident. "I don't remember being in the hospital or hurting."

As her family sat in the living room, telling the story that does not exist in her memory, Rachel reclined silently against the wall. Her eyes darted to each of them as they spoke, seeming eager to identify with and share in any of the memories they relayed. When questions were directed her way, she redirected them to her parents with a shrug and an "I don't know."

"All I remember is watching TV once and I think I was still in the hospital," said Rachel. (She turned to Diane to see if she had been remembering correctly, and her mother nodded in the affirmative.) "[Sophomores] Katherine Poppy and Claire McInerney brought a recording of 'Oprah's Favorite Things' and I remember watching a little bit of that."

Other than this incident, Rachel does not harbor any clear memories until a few days before Christmas.

Upon Arrival

When Rachel arrived at the hospital Nov. 20, she was promptly intubated by the hospital's trauma team. Her airway needed to be stabilized, as her breathing was still irregular. Both Rachel and Sara were given full body CAT scans around 7 p.m. to assess their injuries and to look for any internal bleeding. Rachel's scan did not show any fatal injuries, and she was rushed to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Sara's scan revealed a broken tibia and fibula bone in her right leg. When no other injuries were discovered, Sara was taken to the ICU two doors down from Rachel's. Sara was then in and out of consciousness until approximately 8:30 p.m., but the family doctors were certain she would be fine.

For Rachel, however, there was still the question of brain swelling.

At 3:30 a second CAT scan revealed no signs of swelling and "everybody felt better," according to Bill.

Searching for the Words

Rachel's breathing tube was taken out on Tuesday at 1 a.m. She was now breathing on her own, but she still had not spoken. Rachel slept restlessly, clutching her cushy frog stuffed animal.

"She would grab its leg and use her hands to find its head," explained Bill. "Then she would bring it up to nuzzle against her face, just like she sleeps at home. It seemed to help her."

Later that day, Rachel said her first three words since the accident. At separate intervals, she said "No" and "Mom." At one point, her eyes flew open frantically and she whispered, "school!"

Although this was progress, trauma surgeon Dr. St. Peter hoped for more. Tuesday night, he mentioned that he would be more at ease if Rachel could speak a sen-

tence within 72 hours of her accident.

"Tuesday night was the hardest night for me after what he said, because it didn't look like we were getting anywhere near a sentence," said Bill.

When Wednesday rolled around, it seemed the only positive event of the day would be Sara's discharge from the hospital. That morning, however, Rachel's catheter was removed. Bill left the hospital afterward at 10:30, to retrieve some necessities from the Schwartz home. Minutes after Bill left, Rachel said her first sentence: "I need to go to the bathroom."

"After that, things slowly got better," said Bill. "At the scene of the accident, I was just hoping she would survive. But after she said her first functional sentence, I knew she would."

Surviving Rehab

Although the outlook was positive, Rachel sustained right-sided motor weakness because of the trauma to the left side of her brain. Rehabilitation sessions at Midwest Rehabilitation began Nov. 29 for speech occupational and physical therapy. Most sessions were aimed at building memory processes and thinking speed. However, the aftermath of Rachel's head injury made it difficult for her to stay awake for more than four to six hours a day for a two-week period. As a result she often took naps during therapy sessions and lunch breaks.

Approximately 16 days after the accident, Rachel began to show many more

signs of alertness and was awake more often. One day, she asked her parents why she could not attend sophomore Anna Warm's ice skating birthday party.

"She just didn't understand why she couldn't go," laughed Bill. "That's when I knew she was really back. She had her spunk back."

Rachel attended rehab until Dec. 22, but was quickly recovering.

"Rachel recovered so rapidly that the plans [for her rehab sessions] were outdated," said Diane.

Rachel was discharged from the hospital on Dec. 28.

"When she came home, she was on the couch," said Diane. "I brought her laptop downstairs for her, and she immediately had four [Instant Messages] open, talking to friends. That was when I knew she was going to be okay."

What Now?

For another six to eighteen months, Rachel's head injury will still be healing, and she cannot ice skate or participate in any activities that may put her at risk for another.

"We have to clamp down on social stuff to make sure she's home and in bed at a certain time," explained Diane, as Rachel shook her head and smiled. "It's doctor's orders."

The Schwartzes insist that their daughters recovery must be attributed to prayer and the large support they received during their ordeal.

"My huge thing about all this is the appreciation and the spiritual support," said Diane. "It's not to be taken lightly when someone says, 'Say a prayer for me.' We are witness to the power of prayer. Our family is intact."

Rachel returned to school after Christmas Break and is now doing fine. That blank spot in her memory is her only reminder of what happened. ★

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Rachel's mother, Diane Schwartz



KATHLEEN POINTER

"I wasn't really with it for a long time," said Rachel. "One day I woke up and knew what had happened." Rachel has worn the necklace she wears in this photograph—one blessed by Mother Teresa—since her first night in the hospital after the accident.

2 feb. 2006

★
The Dart
★

St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

More facts about

Rachel:

Rachel says she is a huge fan of chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream. She dreams of becoming a doctor, but what kind of doctor she does not know. Her favorite number is 13 because her birthday is on Nov. 13. Her favorite actors are James Franco and Jake Gyllenhaal because, "they are really hot." Her pet peeve is when people chew and talk, which is something she admittedly does too. In the summer her favorite thing to do is travel to her lake house, hang out with friends, or go to the pool.

right leg; doctors worry that Rachel will experience brain swelling within eight hours
8:30 p.m. ~ Sara surfaces from unconsciousness.

Monday, November 21
3:30 a.m. ~ Rachel's second CAT scan, no brain swelling found

Tuesday, November 22
1:00 a.m. ~ Rachel's breathing tube is taken out; she starts forming words

Wednesday, November 23
10:30 a.m. ~ Rachel's catheter is removed; she speaks her first sentence; Sara discharged from the hospital

Tuesday, November 29
~ Rehabilitation begins at Midwest Rehabilitation

Thursday, December 22
~ Rachel completes rehab sessions

Wednesday, December 28
~ Rachel leaves the hospital

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"I can't remember any of this," said Rachel, as her family discussed the accident. "I don't remember being in the hospital or hurting."

As her family sat in the living room, telling the story that does not exist in her memory, Rachel reclined silently against the wall. Her eyes darted to each of them as they spoke, seeming eager to identify with and share in any of the memories they relayed. When questions were directed her way, she redirected them to her parents with a shrug and an "I don't know."

"All I remember is watching TV once and I think I was still in the hospital," said Rachel. (She turned to Diane to see if she had been remembering correctly, and her mother nodded in the affirmative.) "[Sophomores] Katherine Poppy and Claire McInerney brought a recording of 'Oprah's Favorite Things' and I remember watching a little bit of that."

Other than this incident, Rachel does not harbor any clear memories until a few days before Christmas.

Upon Arrival

When Rachel arrived at the hospital Nov. 20, she was promptly intubated by the hospital's trauma team. Her airway needed to be stabilized, as her breathing was still irregular. Both Rachel and Sara were given full body CAT scans around 7 p.m. to assess their injuries and to look for any internal bleeding. Rachel's scan did not show any fatal injuries, and she was rushed to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Sara's scan revealed a broken tibia and fibula bone in her right leg. When no other injuries were discovered, Sara was taken to the ICU two doors down from Rachel's. Sara was then in and out of consciousness until approximately 8:30 p.m., but the family doctors were certain she would be fine.

For Rachel, however, there was still the question of brain swelling.

At 3:30 a second CAT scan revealed no signs of swelling and "everybody felt better," according to Bill.

Searching for the Words

Rachel's breathing tube was taken out on Tuesday at 1 a.m. She was now breathing on her own, but she still had not spoken. Rachel slept restlessly, clutching her cushy frog stuffed animal.

"She would grab its leg and use her hands to find its head," explained Bill. "Then she would bring it up to nuzzle against her face, just like she sleeps at home. It seemed to help her."

Later that day, Rachel said her first three words since the accident. At separate intervals, she said "No" and "Mom." At one point, her eyes flew open frantically and she whispered, "school!"

Although this was progress, trauma surgeon Dr. St. Peter hoped for more. Tuesday night, he mentioned that he would be more at ease if Rachel could speak a sen-

tence within 72 hours of her accident.

"Tuesday night was the hardest night for me after what he said, because it didn't look like we were getting anywhere near a sentence," said Bill.

When Wednesday rolled around, it seemed the only positive event of the day would be Sara's discharge from the hospital. That morning, however, Rachel's catheter was removed. Bill left the hospital afterward at 10:30, to retrieve some necessities from the Schwartz home. Minutes after Bill left, Rachel said her first sentence: "I need to go to the bathroom."

"After that, things slowly got better," said Bill. "At the scene of the accident, I was just hoping she would survive. But after she said her first functional sentence, I knew she would."

Surviving Rehab

Although the outlook was positive, Rachel sustained right-sided motor weakness because of the trauma to the left side of her brain. Rehabilitation sessions at Midwest Rehabilitation began Nov. 29 for speech occupational and physical therapy. Most sessions were aimed at building memory processes and thinking speed. However, the aftermath of Rachel's head injury made it difficult for her to stay awake for more than four to six hours a day for a two-week period. As a result she often took naps during therapy sessions and lunch breaks.

Approximately 16 days after the accident, Rachel began to show many more

signs of alertness and was awake more often. One day, she asked her parents why she could not attend sophomore Anna Warm's ice skating birthday party.

"She just didn't understand why she couldn't go," laughed Bill. "That's when I knew she was really back. She had her spunk back."

Rachel attended rehab until Dec. 22, but was quickly recovering.

"Rachel recovered so rapidly that the plans [for her rehab sessions] were outdated," said Diane.

Rachel was discharged from the hospital on Dec. 28.

"When she came home, she was on the couch," said Diane. "I brought her laptop downstairs for her, and she immediately had four [Instant Messages] open, talking to friends. That was when I knew she was going to be okay."

What Now?

For another six to eighteen months, Rachel's head injury will still be healing, and she cannot ice skate or participate in any activities that may put her at risk for another.

"We have to clamp down on social stuff to make sure she's home and in bed at a certain time," explained Diane, as Rachel shook her head and smiled. "It's doctor's orders."

The Schwartzes insist that their daughters recovery must be attributed to prayer and the large support they received during their ordeal.

"My huge thing about all this is the appreciation and the spiritual support," said Diane. "It's not to be taken lightly when someone says, 'Say a prayer for me.' We are witness to the power of prayer. Our family is intact."

Rachel returned to school after Christmas Break and is now doing fine. That blank spot in her memory is her only reminder of what happened. ★

"It's not to be taken lightly when someone says, 'Say a prayer for me.' We are witness to the power of prayer."

Rachel's mother, Diane Schwartz



"I wasn't really with it for a long time," said Rachel. "One day I woke up and knew what had happened." Rachel has worn the necklace she wears in this photograph—one blessed by Mother Teresa—since her first night in the hospital after the accident.

2 feb. 2006

★
The Dart
★

St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

More facts about

Rachel:

Rachel says she is a huge fan of chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream. She dreams of becoming a doctor, but what kind of doctor she does not know. Her favorite number is 13 because her birthday is on Nov. 13. Her favorite actors are James Franco and Jake Gyllenhaal because, "they are really hot." Her pet peeve is when people chew and talk, which is something she admittedly does too. In the summer her favorite thing to do is travel to her lake house, hang out with friends, or go to the pool.

right leg; doctors worry that Rachel will experience brain swelling within eight hours
8:30 p.m. ~ Sara surfaces from unconsciousness.

Monday, November 21
3:30 a.m. ~ Rachel's second CAT scan, no brain swelling found

Tuesday, November 22
1:00 a.m. ~ Rachel's breathing tube is taken out; she starts forming words

Wednesday, November 23
10:30 a.m. ~ Rachel's catheter is removed; she speaks her first sentence; Sara discharged from the hospital

Tuesday, November 29
~ Rehabilitation begins at Midwest Rehabilitation

Thursday, December 22
~ Rachel completes rehab sessions

Wednesday, December 28
~ Rachel leaves the hospital

REVOLUTION

“Some revolutions are led by the majority of the populace of a nation, others by a small band of revolutionaries”



ERIC THOMAS

"I love us," said junior Mary Kate Bird as the revolutionaries growled for the photo. "My knee hurts," complained junior Alison Raybould as Mr. Eric Thomas told the girls to look tough.

2 feb. 2006

★
The Dart

★
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Major Events for the Revolution:

January 30

3:00 p.m. ~

Publication night

officially begins

4:07 p.m. ~ Mr.

Thomas delivers

both good and

bad news to the

revolutionaries:

the bad news,

the pages and

libraries were all

off size; the good

news, there would

be color on the

front, center, and

back pages

4:10 p.m. ~ Staff

filters away from

computers while

computer difficul-

ties are fixed

5:34 p.m. ~

Winstead's break

January 31

4:08 p.m. ~

Julia runs out on

Barbie search for

her center page

5:00 p.m. ~

Panera break

8:07 p.m. ~

State of the Union

8:30 p.m. ~ Print

outs

11:13 p.m. ~

Thomas tells staff

to pack up and go

home.

Dear Reader,

On behalf of the entire *Dart* staff, I would like to apologize for the incessant mysterious announcements, misleading posters and the lack of information provided regarding THE REVOLUTION. Your frustration and bewilderment can now end, because it's here—it's finally here.

For two months *The Dart* staff has been scheming a new way to incite reader interest and further eye-appeal. We polled readers, sketched page elements and created a new interesting design in

the attempt to form a whole new paper. We struggled with ideas of presenting our newspaper in a reader-friendly, attitude appropriate way. It was our goal, as a staff, to reflect STA accurately via *The Dart*.

From the minutiae of inset spacing to the entire format, your newspaper has a whole new look. You will notice *The Dart* is now laid out in a tabloid format, in the hopes to increase readability. We chose to use two consistent fonts throughout the paper and incorporated standing elements, like the star you see

in the folio lines, to indicate reoccurring elements.

In addition to the design, we decided to “spice up” our coverage. Replacing the traditional story are alternative more innovative ways to relay a story. Specifically, in this issue on center spread you will find a Q&A instead of a story. Or, on sports you'll find a photo poll conveys the ideas of many students.

If you take note of anything, however, please make sure it is the fact that this is now more than ever, your newspaper. Take advantage of the new opportunities

to interact and participate. Submit your opinions through letters, columns, poetry—whatever medium you prefer. Actually submit anything, we encourage it!

So please, enjoy your new newspaper. Take the quizzes, read the stories, interact, take part.

We came, we saw and we most definitely conquered the redesign of *The Dart*. It's now in your hands; please just don't make hats with it quite yet.

Aaaaarrgh,
Julia McQueeney-Thorpe,
Editor-in-chief ★



KATHLEEN POINTER

Junior Alison Raybould explains to junior Katie Meyers about her troubles with not having enough briefs as junior Colleen Owens works on her feature page.



KATHLEEN POINTER

Editor-in-chief Julia McQueeney-Thorpe skims a page preview with Raybould while eating dinner at Winstead's proving that during the Revolution, there are no breaks.