



THE DART

LOVE.com:

When courtship and new age technology click, what is the end result for couples?

See Pages 12-13



FBI informs students of internet offenders

Students frightened by FBI lecture, discuss possibilities of predators.

Section Editor
Alison Raybould

Special agent Jeff Lanza and Public Affairs Specialist Bridget Patton of the FBI visited STA on Feb. 21 to discuss the threat of internet predators and to offer advice on internet safety for exposed student internet users.

"The internet allows us to always be in contact in ways like never before," said Patton. "You will have access to constant communication, but you will also be in constant danger of sexual offenders."

According to Patton, she and Lanza have been "tag-teaming" and visiting other schools—public and private—throughout the greater Kansas City area.

"Many schools asked [the FBI] how to properly educate their students," said Patton. "The FBI has been involved in internet scandals for quite awhile. But this generation has grown up on the internet and is very tech savvy. However, they are not always aware. So as part of our community outreach, we have responded to those schools' requests to educate their kids on internet safety."

She said that the program was important because, "many kids, even at the high school level, don't realize the possible dangers involved in the internet. If you educate yourself, you can then be prepared."

Patton was optimistic about the STA reaction.

"I felt that it was well-received," said Patton. "We offer the stories from a different perspective than your parents or teachers, the law enforcement perspective. I believe that even if someone has already been taught these lessons, it cannot hurt to reinforce the message. It can only benefit and help protect adolescents from becoming victims to internet predators."

In a survey of ten to 17 year old ado-



MARY KATE BIRD

Special Agent Jeff Lanza gave a presentation to students Feb. 28. The lecture, in an effort to educate teens on the dangers of Internet predators, provided tips and warning signs for Internet users.

lescents conducted by the FBI, one in four youths had unwanted exposure to online images, such as pornography; one in five was sexually approached; and one in 33 was aggressively sought to meet someone they met online.

Junior Michelle Jantsch found the statistics, as well as the victims' stories, upsetting; however she found it hard to correlate her own internet choices with those examples presented.

"Those stories were very gruesome," said Jantsch. "But I don't know anyone who goes into chat rooms. I just thought

they weren't relative to us."

Patton, however, defended her message.

"In order to get the full message across, we must assess internet safety as a whole. We just wanted to point out the danger of those sites, while still giving a complete overview of all the internet risks."

Others agreed with Jantsch.

"I felt it was a good presentation," said senior Michaela Marak. "However, I just feel as though the stories were not geared toward us. Every victim

mentioned was either a 13 or 14 year old girl, but we are 17 and 18 year old juniors and seniors."

Even if some students found parts of the presentation to be irrelevant or isolated from their lives, Lanza and Patton wanted their message to be understood.

"Constant vigilance," said Patton. "Basically, you're never completely sure of who you are talking to when it is not one of your friends. You visit these sites and start talking to a total stranger. I just want to emphasize that you have got to be careful." ★

9 march 2006

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The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Harmony NCCJ, a local organization which works to educate individuals on preventing racism, bigotry, and bias will host a screening of the Academy Award winning film "Crash" on March 21 at Rockhurst High School. The screening will begin at 6 p.m., and will be followed with small-group discussion on individual experiences with racism. If you plan to attend, please visit kcharmony.org for more information. Registration is due by March 15. Please call Ms. Cynthia Tooley of Harmony NCCJ with any questions or concerns at (816) 333-5059.

Fight for life leads exonerated man towards activism

This quarter's Faith in Action guest speaker was Ms. Jennifer Merrigan, an STA alumni. Merrigan now works with indigent defense through Kansas City's Public Interest Litigation Clinic, which involves quality legal defense for those who are economically disadvantaged.

"Faith is activism, and a belief in other people," Merrigan said, connecting her professional experiences with her spiritual life.

Mr. Joe Armine, an exonerated man who spent time on death row on a murder charge, accompanied Merrigan. Armine was initially convicted on a robbery charge for which he was to serve a short sentence. However, he was wrongfully accused and committed of the murder of another inmate. Rather than accept life

in prison, Armine requested the death penalty in order to have the chance at another, more competent attorney. Armine went through a series of appeals, all of which were denied.

Before his release, Armine spent a total of 26 years imprisoned, with 17 of those years spent on death row. Since his release, Armine has worked with the Public Interest Litigation Clinic as a public speaker, with his goal to get aid for exonerated criminals following their release from prison. Both Armine and Merrigan also express concern for the administration of the death penalty.

"Executing someone is like saying, 'You're not worth living', and who has the right to say that but God?" Armine said. ★



JULIA McQUEENY THORPE

Mr. Joe Armine spoke to students as part of the Faith in Action Speaker series. Armine told students that he found spirituality while imprisoned. He chose to read various passages in the Bible in order to pass the time he spent alone.

inside out



In The Mix:
School celebrates achievement of local women through service and social justice

efforts in memory of Mother Evelyn O'Neill.

See Page 22



Features:
Kansas City haunted sites draw local interest and curiosity through diverse

myths and legends of deaths and supposed ghosts.

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STA girls eat like an army

Colleen Owens



sisterhood of the plaid skirt

It was Presidents Day and I had just completed watching about four hours of the “Rachel Ray’s Tasty Travels” and “\$40 a Day” marathon on the Food Network. I realized that I had just spent half a day, in school hours, salivating over food I will probably never eat in places I will never go. I decided this was not normal. I soon came to a diagnosis for this sickness of mine: an acute obsession with food. But as I came to terms with my “illness,” I thought about it some more, and decided that if I was obsessed, then so was STA.

Don’t get me wrong, I don’t believe this is horrible. Others might view us as junk food addicts or food-a-holics (for lack of a better word), but in our cozy community I believe a better phrase for us would be nutritionally-challenged girls with excellent metabolisms.

If you don’t believe me, just take a waltz through our halls on any given activity period. Some common sights and smells along the way should include rooms filled with chatty girls man-handling massive and complicated Chipotle burritos or maybe even rows of Panera bags lined up on tables, heaped with dozens of creamy soups and bread. I love it all, and I am obviously not the only one.

“I realized that I had just spent half a day, in school hours, salivating over food I will probably never eat in places I will never go.”

How hard is it anymore to pass through mods 7/8 without your mind wandering deeper into the abyss of “what’s-for-lunch”? And there is always plenty to go around. I sincerely believe we could feed an entire third world country with all the food that is hauled into STA everyday.

I even discontinued packing my lunch for a week and believe it or not, I have never eaten so much for lunch. The best way I could describe it would be a free-for-all buffet. You name it, STA girls brought it: Chinese, bagels, sandwiches (some better than others), Cheetos and Chips-Ahoy!...and oh, the microwavable meals! Don’t get me started on the microwavable meals...the lines are so long now, it’s as though we need to make reservations just to heat our food.

Lets not forget JoJo’s, the caterer that packs paninis by the pound. I personally have only had the meals a few times, but it would be a sad day indeed if those salad bar trays were never to be filled again. Hundreds might have gone hungry were it not for this woman and her courageous actions in trying to feed an “army.”

One of the most prevalent sub-cultures at STA will always and forever be food. I guess we finally know why Cooking Club is the most exclusive club on campus. Though I may have grown a bit more in width than in length during the past three years, I feel a little better knowing I am surrounded by hundreds of girls who consider eating to be a hobby. ★

Students contribute gift of life



Senior Abby Edsall, left, has her blood pressure taken by nurse Ms. Tiffany Johnson during the Blood Drive held at STA on Friday, Feb. 10. Campus Ministry, who sponsored the blood drive, collected 33 pints of blood for the Community Blood Center.

Campus Ministry holds drive for those in need

Staff Writer
Rosemary Neenan

Junior Samantha Sprinkle anxiously waited in the chair as the nurse prepared and cleaned her arm to give blood. As the nurse brought out the needle, Sprinkle nervously said, “I can’t watch.” “Make a funny face,” said the nurse to ease Sprinkle’s tension. She turned her head the other way, stuck out her tongue and winched as the nurse inserted the needle into her arm. After the nurse was done, Sprinkle looked back at her arm and watched as her blood ran through the tube and out of her sight into a bag.

Sprinkle was one of 49 girls to give blood on Friday, Feb. 10 in the M&A conference room at the Community Blood Drive. Campus Ministry sponsored the drive. It was open to all students over the age of 17. According to Campus Ministry moderator Ms. Betsy Hansbrough, 33 pints of blood were given during the five hours the drive took place. There were ten more volunteers and eight more pints of blood collected than last year. According to Hansbrough, the Community Blood Center was extremely happy with the amount that St. Teresa’s donated.

The blood was transported to the Community Blood Center and made available for use. When a blood transfusion is needed, the receiver’s type of blood is determined. A match is then found, obtained and used. All blood is only good

for 60 days after it is donated.

Some people donate because they feel that it is the right thing to do, and others feel that it is their duty to their community.

Hansbrough believes that blood donations are a necessity in a community. There must be people within the community who want to give, she said.

“You can kind of tell how [a community] is doing by how much blood is being donated,” said Hansbrough.

Mr. Pat Sirridge, government teacher, offered points to those who gave blood as a civic activity or something that demonstrated how a student gives back to their community.

As a nurse, Hansbrough has seen the effects of the donations. Her daughter

See BLOOD DRIVE, page 23

Service Week encourages involvement

Juniors and seniors step out to new experiences

Staff Writer
Claire McInerney

Service Week began on Feb. 13 for 228 juniors and seniors as they spread out over the Kansas City area to help 57 different agencies. Their decisions sent them many different ways and, for some, opened new doors for opportunities later in life.

“Now I am interested in the field,” said junior Meredith Stoops who worked at St. Joseph’s Institute for the Deaf as a teachers aid with preschoolers. “I chose it because it was close to my house and has cute kids. Also, I liked the feel of it.”

Stoops was fully involved with the hearing impaired children she assisted.

“It was really hands-on with most of my attention on one kid who was a little rowdy,” she said. “I really just helped with their speech corrections. They are still working on basic skills. If they get the right number of syllables correct, then

we are really happy. Then, they are preschoolers, so we did preschool stuff, like finger-painting.”

Senior Amy Cirocco also enjoyed being close with the children she helped at Kansas City Young Audiences.

“It was better than being in an office filing papers all day,” she said. “We got to make posters with markers and paint sets with brightly colored paints to make kids more interested.”

On the other hand, fellow senior Leah Blake had little direct contact with the patients at Overland Park Regional Medical Center.

“We stayed in the basement in the volunteer room,” she said. “I ran errands, made deliveries, worked in the gift shop, and made packets. There were also other older volunteers. They just kind of helped show us what to do.”

Three weeks later, Stoops is excited to go back to the Institute and work.

“Having fun and seeing speech improve was most rewarding,” she said. “They eventually get better, and the progress they make is amazing. It was fun and



Senior Laura Quiason plays a game of KCINO with the residents of Little Sisters of the Poor retirement home.

filled with life.”

Stoops, Cirocco and Blake hope to continue to work and have learned how much it truly affects the people they help.

“I was never involved in volunteer work like this,” Stoops said. “I worked in soup kitchens and graded papers for teachers, but this was less typical with different kids. I’m actually helping and making an impact on their lives. It’s not standard. I’m doing more.” ★

9 march 2006

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St. Teresa’s Academy

★in brief

The STA Math Team competed last Saturday at the KCATM Math Competition, which was held at Olathe East High School. The Algebra Team received a silver medal, while the Word Problems Team and the Geometry Team each placed third. STA placed third as a school, in the Small School Division. Yesterday, Math Team members took the latest in a series of bi-monthly tests for a year-long event known as the MathFax Competition.

Downtown revitalization displaces traffic

Supporters say changes will improve commerce when work is complete

Staff Writer
Kelly Nelson

Kansas City's downtown is currently undergoing a facelift that, when completed will include renovations to the Convention Center, a new Power & Light entertainment district, improvements to multiple theaters and a brand new sports arena, the Sprint Center. However, these additions and upgrades do not come without major construction and traffic displacement. The City Council, Downtown Council, Visitor's Bureau and numerous committees working towards this downtown growth all believe that the finished product will overshadow any minor flaws in the area's traffic flow caused by the construction and will drastically improve the city.

"It's almost three billion dollars worth of investments; in the end, no one will remember the traffic problems," said former Mr. Jim Rowland, former city councilman and father of senior Caitlin Rowland.

According to the city's Capital Improvements Management Office's website the projected street closings in March are 13th, 14th and 15th Streets between Baltimore Avenue and Oak Street, along with parts of Central, Wyandotte, Baltimore, Main, Walnut, Grand Boulevard and McGee between 12th and 16th Streets.

Rowland worked in City Hall, located downtown within close range of this arena construction.

"[Construction] hasn't been good for traffic but anytime you have massive amounts of development especially in an urban environment, it will displace traffic," he said.

Gina Leo, a representative in public relations for HOK Sport Venue Event, one of the architecture teams working on the Sprint Center, supports the construction saying that in the end, both the arena and Power and Light District will be necessary for a thriving downtown.

"The Sprint Center will act as a magnet, drawing thousands of Kansas Citians and tourists downtown nearly every day of the year," she said. "With its close proximity to the adjacent Power and Light District, arena fans will have places to eat, shop and be entertained nearby."

Along with the commerce from the general public, Leo believes that more corporate businesses will also be drawn to the area.

"Many local and national businesses already are signing leases to be a part of the excitement in downtown," she said.

Mr. Alan Carr, communications project manager for the city's visitor's bureau, said many powerhouse businesses and corporations are already a part of projects. H&R Block's World Headquarters will be located inside the Power and Light District, Sprint bought naming rights to the new arena and will have a large retail presence downtown and AMC Theatres is involved in redeveloping the Empire Theater.

The ground-breaking in June 2005 marked the beginning of one of the largest development projects in the Midwest.



MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS

This downtown street at the intersection of 13th and Grand is closed for construction. The downtown renovations have hurt the flow of traffic.

According to Leo, the site is 8.5 acres, running north and south from 13th Street to Truman Road and east and west from Grand Street to Oak Street. Before building began, the site had to be prepared for the major endeavor.

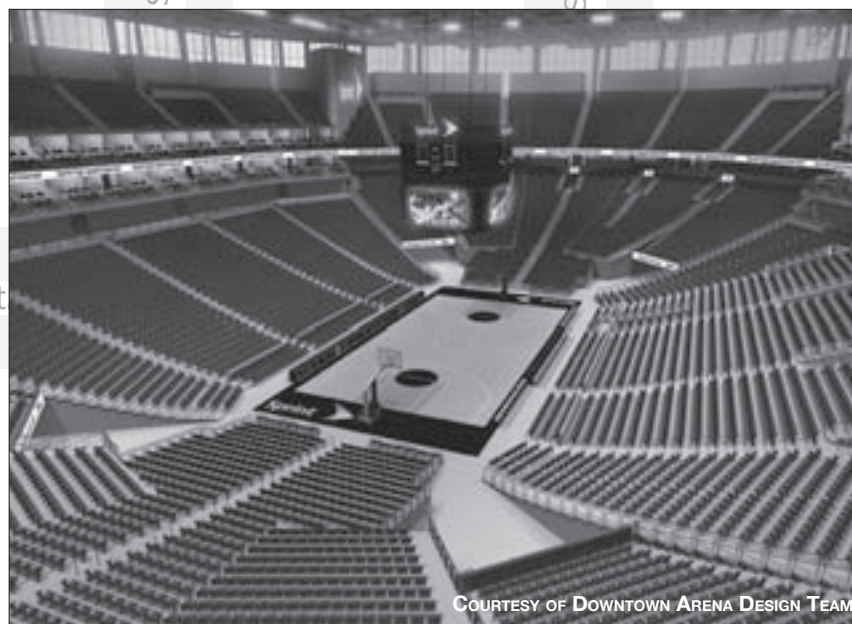
"A few older, some vacant, buildings on the site footprint were torn down," said Leo. "Site excavation recently was completed and the crew is beginning actual construction now."

Likewise, the Power and Light District is a large construction site.

According to Carr, the 300-million dollar project's first phase is expected to be completed sometime in spring 2007. This district will contain shopping, dining and residential areas along with Kansas City Live, a venue for outdoor concerts and events. The Sprint Center, projected to be finished in October 2007, will also concentrate on hosting high profile concerts and events as well as bringing a professional team of some kind, whether from the National Basketball Association or National Hockey League to Kansas City.

All of these projects combined will take up a large block of downtown. However, Carr believes that all construction and traffic re-routing downtown will be well-worth the finished product.

"I think with any growth, there's going to be a lot of construction needed," he said. "Fourteen square blocks of construction downtown necessitates closing roads, but that's outweighed by the benefits that visitors will eventually receive from all of it."★



COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN ARENA DESIGN TEAM



Set to be finished in Oct. 2007, the new Sprint Center will concentrate on hosting large events.

9 March 2006

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The Dart

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Kansas Legislature is currently reviewing a bill that they hope will decrease the amount of teen-related driving accidents. It is based on a "graduated licensing process," in which teens would go through more training before receiving full rights. The Missouri Senate Committee has already passed a similar bill. These bills would raise the age of eligibility for a permit from 14 to 15 in both states, and would also require that from ages 16-18, drivers hold an "intermediate license." This license would only allow teens to drive to and from work and school, and would also put restrictions on the legal ages of passengers.

"It's almost three billion dollars worth of investments; in the end, no one will remember the traffic problems."

former city councilman,
Mr. Jim Rowland

Insurgents restrict US withdrawal

Bush draws victory plan while Sunni fighters attack troops daily

Staff Writer
Emily Becker

With hostile relationships in Iraq's newly elected parliament and the number of insurgent attacks on the rise, some feel the Bush administration's vision of victory in Iraq by an end of the US troops' occupation is yet to be a reality.

The major difficulty the troops still face is the division of the Iraqi people. The tensions between the Sunni, Shiite and Kurd Muslims have invaded the newly-born parliament, making it hard for the government to rule as one.

This conflict, in turn, is affecting the US troops' occupancy of Iraq. The US-sponsored parliament gives the Shiites a majority in government, and thus opens the threat of attacks from the Sunni insurgents.

"The longer US troops remain in Iraq—under conditions of daily threat, where they lack protective gear and protective numbers, exposing them to deadly attack—the greater the chances that Iraqi insurgents will deliver some devastating blow," said Mr. G. Zachary in an article retrieved from Alternet.org.

According to an article from CNN's website entitled "Iraq Insurgency 101," US military intelligence sources estimate that there may be up to 200,000 insurgents in the country. Most of the fighters are members of the factions that benefited under Saddam Hussein and are being led by a former Iraqi general who goes by the alias of Abu Omar.

"Six months before the occupation, we started training and exercising resisting the American army in small groups," Omar told CNN.

Al-Qaeda is also sponsoring some of the insurgents. Despite efforts by coalition forces, the organization is still a viable threat in the Middle East, having just elected a new head of the association.

In February, the New York Times reported that the number of insurgent attacks on US troops in Iraq has increased since last May by 250 percent.

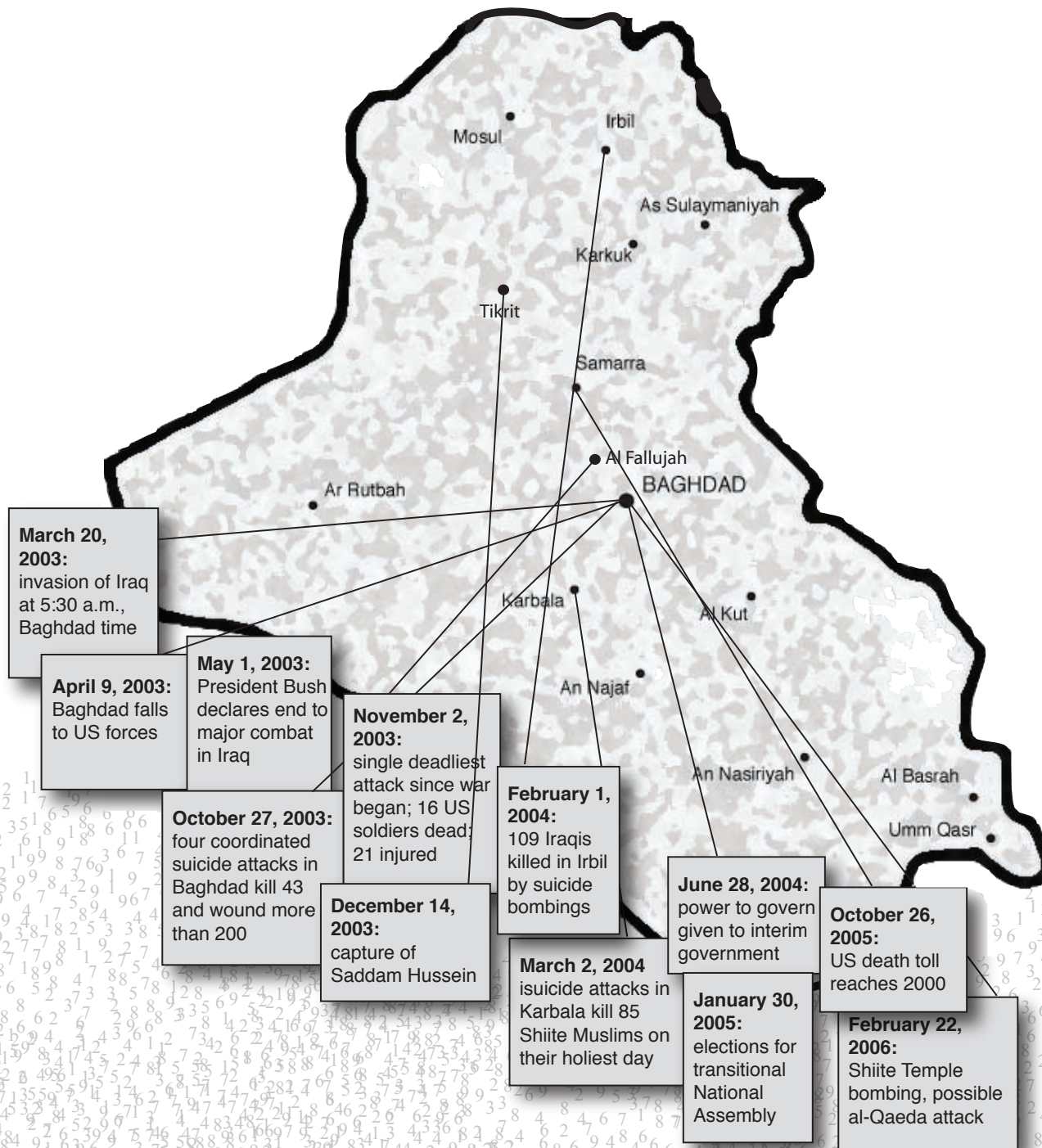
According to "Iraq Insurgency 101," there is no military solution for the attacks. The article stated there must be a political peace treaty between the three cultural groups for the attacks to cease.

A sign of democracy was brought to the country when millions of Iraqis lined up to vote on Dec. 15 for members of their parliament, the first permanent government since the dictatorship of Hussein. While this is a step in the direction the US intended, officials say there is still a long way to go.

"An election does not a democracy make," said Senator Joe Biden of Delaware in "How Much Longer?", an article that appeared in Newsweek.

In a speech made last December at the Annapolis Naval Academy, President George W. Bush laid out his plan for victory in Iraq. He outlined three general "tracks" – political, security and economic – that must be accomplished before the withdrawal of troops. He then broke each track into eight "pillars," which included items like defeating terrorists, helping Iraq strengthen its economy and increasing international support for Iraq. By the end of this year, Bush hopes to have handed most of the security aspects of Iraq back to its own armies by having US troops withdraw to rear-area bases, delegating patrol duties and reducing the number of US soldiers to fewer than 100,000.

The almost three years spent in Iraq have brought changes to the country. Hussein is on trial, three democratic elections have been held, a constitution has been written and reformed and security forces have been established. ★



IRAQ: by the numbers

600 average number of Iraqi civilians killed each month as of May 2005

24 number of countries in Coalition Force as of January 2006

70 average number of insurgent attacks per day as of May 2005

155,000 number of US soldiers in Iraq as of January 2006

75 percentage of Iraqis who support government as of May 2005

218 billion approximate number of dollars spent for Iraq operations as of December 2005

NICOLE FARLEY & EMILY BECKER

9 march 2006

The Star
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

A recent poll for the Washington Post and ABC News found that 80% of Americans believe the Sunni and Shiite Muslim fighting will lead to civil war. Two-thirds of those polled believe that President George W. Bush does not have a clear plan for Iraq. A CBS News poll found that public approval of Bush's handling of Iraq has fallen to 30%, from 37% in January. Of those polled by CBS, 62% believe US efforts to bring order to Iraq will end badly. A third poll, organized by Le Moyne College/Zogby found that 72% of US troops in Iraq believe the US should exit within the next year. Nearly one in four felt that the troops should leave immediately.



CARTOON BY ELIZABETH NELSON

Will there ever be a female president?

Poll shows majority of American voters feel ready for women to become more involved in politics

As the 2008 presidential elections approach, more and more people are wondering if a woman will finally be elected as president. Democratic Senator Hillary Clinton and Republican Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are both gaining support for such nominations, and are becoming strongly supported by more than just feminists. A survey conducted by the Siena Research Institute showed that 78 percent of men and 80 percent of women would vote for a woman president.

Women should demand the same opportunities as men in elections. Our country is one of the only countries that has not had a female leader and, according to scholars, the growing readiness to elect a woman stems from watching other countries put women in positions of high power. This is evident in the recent elections in Germany, Liberia and Chile, all of which were won by females. Women have continually proven themselves the equals of men in almost every field, and now, we have the chance to do so again. There are some issues that a woman can see through different eyes, and be able to discover more suitable solutions for the problems.

The poll found that 63 percent of voters think a female president would be better at handling domestic issues, such as health care policies and education. Women, especially students at STA, understand the value of an education, and how important it is in today's society. Today, most jobs cannot be obtained without a college degree. Through a woman's eyes, education is important. Everyone should have the opportunity to succeed, regardless of ethnicity, background or financial status.

The voters who were surveyed also agreed that a woman would be better than a man at handling foreign policy, and more likely to withdraw US troops from Iraq. A female president would work to achieve peaceful solutions rather than solutions that lead to warfare. Such solutions would benefit America's resources, saving not only money, but also the lives of American soldiers. Peaceful responses would also strain less international ties.

A woman would bring enormous advantages to the country, as STA students display with their leadership on a daily basis. Students take an active role in voicing their opin-

ions and ideas and planning everything from dances, like Teresian or the Christmas Dance, to service projects, such as Homeless for a Night and Food for Thought.

This planning experience students gain can carry over into the working world. The voters said that a woman would match a man as commander-in-chief, and respond to a time of crisis better. After Hurricane Katrina, STA students banded together to raise money and care packages to send to families. Girls opened their homes and STA opened its doors to new students from the affected areas, proving that planning, consideration and empathy are some of the many traits that make a woman a good leader.

It is a possibility for us to have a woman as president. Although there are many women with potential out there, they cannot make it on merit alone. Girls can show their support through organizations like American Women Presidents, which supplies money and encouragement for women candidates, or by standing on Ward Parkway, holding up banners to passing cars. Through St. Teresa's, girls can continue to show the world just how smart and successful women leaders can be. Perhaps one day, we will have a STA alumna as the first woman president. ★

9 March 2006

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The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Defense Department officials have ordered the US Army to open a criminal investigation into the death of Cpl. Pat Tillman, the Pentagon reported Saturday. Tillman, an NFL star who was accidentally shot by a fellow soldier, died in Afghanistan in April 2004. The investigation is expected to determine whether soldiers in Tillman's unit should be charged with negligent homicide. Initially after Tillman's death, the Army claimed Tillman was killed by enemy fire while scaling a hill. Shortly after awarding him the Silver Star for bravery, the Army stated that Tillman had actually been a victim of friendly fire and admitted that the soldiers had destroyed evidence.

Photo Poll

How do you feel about President Bush's proposal promoting domestic spying?



"I don't see why he can't go to the Supreme Court and get a warrant."

—Rachel Janose, junior



"It's a hard question to think about. Will it eventually be a violation against our Civil Rights?"

—Laura O'Brien, administrative assistant



"It doesn't make me feel any safer."

—Whitney Gray, senior



"If it is to keep the people of the country safe, then by all means, do it."

—Haley Vondenkamp, freshman

compiled by Mollie Esposito

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Editorial Policy: In cases of potentially controversial

material, the students of the editorial board will meet to resolve conflict and reach decisions. However, the administration of St. Teresa's Academy reserves the right to restrain news and editorial content based on Catholic values and respect for the educational environment. Unsigned editorials present the opinions of *The Dart* staff editorial board. Signed columns reflect the opinions of the individual, and not necessarily the staff or school community.

Letters Policy: *The Dart* encourages letters to the editor about topics covered by the paper or other

issues. Letters can be sent to the staff in the following ways: In person to Mr. Eric Thomas in Music & Arts 205; by mail to St. Teresa's Academy, Attn: Eric Thomas, 5600 Main Street, Kansas City, 64113; or by email to ethomas@stteresasacademy.org. Letters should be limited to 300 words. The Dart staff reserves the right to edit or shorten letters for publication.

Photo Illustrations: Photo illustrations are conceptual photos that combine the limitless possibility of the drawing with the realism of the photograph.

Juana Summers



In Perspective

Israel set to change

Middle Eastern future, skilled regent hang in the balance

Since 1973, current Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been a figure in the political world - whether as Security Advisor for former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, or in various Ministry positions to his current capacity as Prime Minister. President Bush acknowledges a high opinion of the experienced leader, calling him "a man of peace" in a 2002 speech, referencing the Prime Minister's efforts to make peace with Palestine. Since Jan. 4, when Sharon suffered an unexpected stroke, he has been out of the political arena and in hospitals, where doctors are uncertain of his recovery. Following an emergency surgery Feb. 10, doctors say that Sharon's recovery is highly unlikely. Now, the world must ask how Israel would function without Sharon's influence.

According to AP News Reports, Sharon was likely to establish formal borders of Israeli territory in his next term, if re-elected for a third term as Prime Minister. There is little probability for a party shift, as the currently acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, a member of Sharon's Kadima party, seems likely to maintain a strong force in Israeli Parliament. Olmert, in a public interview approximately one week after taking over for Sharon, claimed that he would withdraw from large areas of the West Bank.

However meritorious Sharon's lengthy political career has been, it is not without opposition. Recently, a group of international activists led by a Malaysian doctor held mock trials of Sharon, President George W. Bush and English Prime Minister Tony Blair for human rights atrocities committed during their respective rules. Sharon was targeted by the group due to his role in attacks by military Unit 101 in four specific areas - Al Auja; Qibya, Jordan; Sabra and Shatila, many of which resulted in unmarked numbers of Palestinian deaths. The organization considers Sharon a war criminal, akin to former Iraqi leader Sadaam Hussein.

There is no magic button to make Sharon emerge from his coma, nor a miracle cure to be had, for the ailing Prime Minister or the conflicted Middle East. There is no certain truth as to whether Sharon's inevitable death will breed political instability, or lead in new strides of reform for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. For now, Sharon remains out of the political arena, and Israel's diplomatic future remains uncertain. Americans have to remain knowledgeable about the American role in support of either the Israelis and Palestinians in this ancient conflict, as well as America's undeniable economic link with the country of Israel. Peace can't come unless we know the truth. ★

Violent cartoon riots mock peace of Islam



COURTESY OF KRT DIRECT

Southern Californian Muslims gather outside of an auditorium at the University of California-Irvine, to protest a discussion where cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad were introduced. The cartoons, published in a Danish newspaper, were created in an effort to experiment with self-censorship.

Cartoons depicting Muhammed deemed offensive as protests set off new chaos in the Middle East

Section Editor
Nicole Farley

Religious protests over the offensive cartoons depicting the Muslim prophet Muhammad have gone too far.

Muslim rioters in Nigeria burned 15 churches and attacked Christians not only because of the cartoons, but also, in part, because of what is an age-old conflict between the two religions in the area. Dozens of people were arrested after the three-hour rampage, which took place Feb. 18, before troops and police reinforcements were able to establish order. At least 15 people were killed.

And this is just one instance of the devastating violence. Another dozen people have died in Afghanistan; five were killed in Pakistan. In Iran, 60 protesters threw fire-bombs at the French Embassy, shattering all front windows.

Then there are the Muslim journalists who were arrested for republishing the cartoons. There are the chaotic protests that have spread not only through the Middle East, but also through West Africa, Europe and even the US. There are the European evacuations of embassy staffs, and there is the recent decline in Danish exports.

That's a lot of attention for a few cartoons.

The cartoons originated from a Danish newspaper's experiment with the idea of self-censorship. Jyllands-Posten decided to run articles on the subject after a Danish author, Mr. Kaare Bluitken, wrote an educational children's book about Muhammad. Bluitken had

difficulty finding an illustrator to work on the project due to Islamic belief that it is inappropriate and, in some cases, forbidden to depict the prophet in any way. Bluitken eventually found an illustrator to work on the project, but the illustrator still chose to remain anonymous.

Jyllands-Posten asked 25 artists to

illustrate their vision of Muhammad's appearance. In response, they received 12 cartoons depicting the prophet, which they published Sept. 30, 2005 as part of the debate on self-censorship. The newspaper's editors were aware that some groups and individuals would find the pictures offensive; however, they felt it would be discriminatory against Muslims to exclude the pictures.

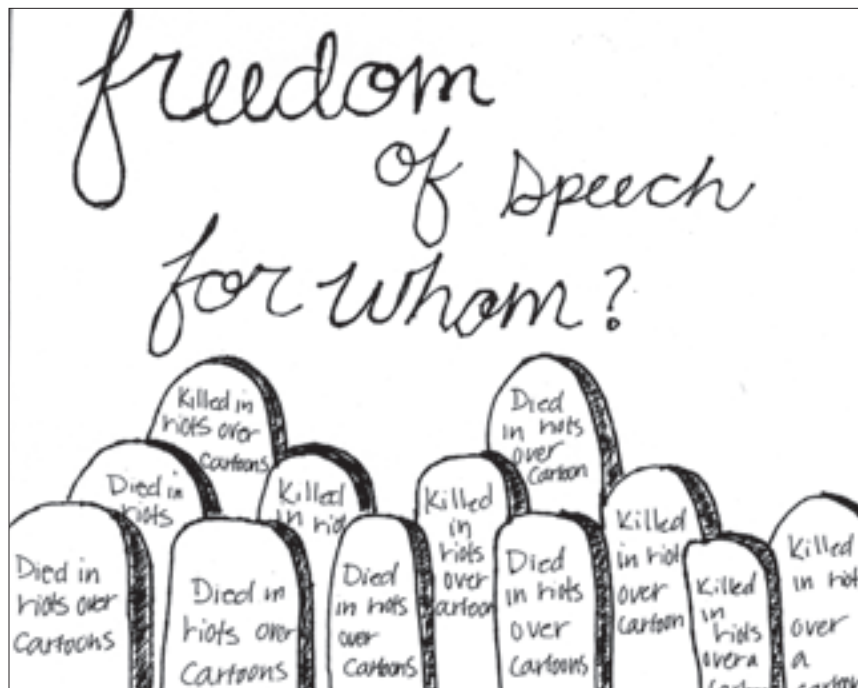
lims in Denmark as equals they made a point: We are integrating you into the Danish tradition of satire because you are part of our society, not strangers. The cartoons are including, rather than excluding, Muslims." It is understandable that people were offended by the cartoons. The cartoon that many find to be the most offensive "satirized" the prophet by depicting him with a bomb under his turban. Therein seems to lie an implicit reference to terrorism, however, in a Feb. 28 interview with Jyllands-Posten, the cartoonist said that the cartoon was meant simply to be directed against the fundamentalist aspect of Islam.

However, regardless of the offense felt by Muslims over these pictures, could Christians not find cartoons portraying Jesus equally offensive? And what about offense toward Jewish peoples with cartoons such as those submitted to an Iranian newspaper that ran a contest for "your best Holocaust cartoon"?

These sorts of cartoons, when printed in a normal situation are no better or worse than the cartoons

published by Jyllands-Posten. But when printed in retaliation, they are little more than a schoolyard argument, as well as a blatant display of hypocrisy.

All issues of free speech and religious rights aside, the violent actions of those protesting the cartoons are disgusting and inexcusable. The irony of the situation is that the very thing these people are fighting for - the honor of their religion and prophet - has been put into far more jeopardy by their own destructive actions, than by the publishing of some cartoons. Islam and the prophet Muhammad himself are both associated with peace. Yet, the extremist protesters who are perpetrating horrible acts of violence seem to have forgotten this fundamental part of the very religion they wish to protect. ★



CARTOON BY MOLLIE ESPOSITO

9 march 2006

★
The Dart
★
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Police in New Hampshire have issued a national warning on the "choking game" after the death of a 14-year-old boy in Whitefield, N.H. The game - also known as "space monkey, flat-liner, fainting game, and black out," - was a story broken by *The Dart* in September 2005. The "choking game" was responsible for more than 50 deaths in 2005 and eight in 2006. The game can cause brain damage, strokes, seizures and retinal damage. Voice your opinion on the "choking game" in *The Dart*.

Citizens question First Amendment

Teacher explains connection between religious freedom and separation between church and state

Pat Sirridge



guest columnist

As I look around my classroom in Donnelly and see the crucifix on the wall, I am reminded of the First Amendment to the Constitution. Freedom to practice any religion (that is lawful) is one of the most significant freedoms we have as Americans. Yet when I visit my son's classrooms at Shawnee Mission East, there are no crucifixes hanging on the walls. Why? This involves the second part of religious freedom in the First Amendment – the so-called separation of church and state.

What exactly does the First Amendment say about the relationship between government and religion? It says that: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, ..." Most historians believe that James Madison, the author of the Amendment, wanted to make it clear that the new federal government would not declare an established church – a practice still common in Europe. But it is important to note that the Constitution does not contain the words "separation of church and state." This

was an interpretation of the First Amendment first offered by Thomas Jefferson in a letter to a church congregation in 1802. The Supreme Court of the United States also has used the "separation" language in several decisions regarding the First Amendment.

Yet there remains considerable disagreement over what the Establishment Clause means. Most agree that it prevents any governmental entity in America from sponsoring an official church or religion. It also seems clear that publicly supported entities cannot endorse or promote a particular religion. Consequently, state and federal governments are usually prevented from financially supporting religious schools like STA. Courts have also ruled that public school districts cannot require that prayers be said in classrooms. As for cities, they can have non-denominational "holiday" displays on public property, but they cannot create nativity scenes with Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus along with banners wishing people a "Merry Christmas."

The problem is that there are numerous examples of how religion IS connected with governmental activities in America. One need look no further than Congress itself. Chaplains open each session of the House and Senate with prayers, and the combined salaries of both chaplain offices are \$289,000 a year. Many government buildings also reference God and religion on their pediments and our currency has that famous statement about trusting God.

A recent issue that has raised new questions involves the actions of several state and local boards of education around the country. These boards (including the State Board of Education in Kansas) have tried to either require or strongly recommend that the theory of "intelligent design" be included in high school science classes along with Darwin's theory of evolution. The idea behind intelligent design is that features of the natural world are so complex that they must be the product of an intelligently designed, casual process rather than through random mutation and natural selection.

Critics claim that intelligent design is really a camouflaged form of creationism (the Genesis account in The Bible) because it cannot be scientifically tested and, ultimately, the intelligent "designer" is thought to be God. As a result, the legal objection is that public school boards, which either require or strongly recommend the teaching of intelligent design, are promoting religion and violating the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. In the first major court case on the issue, a federal judge in Pennsylvania ruled last December that teaching intelligent design in high school classes does, in fact, violate the Establishment Clause.

The coming years are likely to be filled with controversy about how to interpret the religious freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment. Hopefully, the courts will take a commonsense approach and recognize that there should be certain historical exceptions ("In God We Trust" on our money) and concentrate on eliminating those situations where governmental entities are actively endorsing or promoting some type of religious belief. Amen and amen. ★

Molly Huber



Managing Editor

Black box devices curb drivers' rights

Data-recording devices in cars incur privacy controversy, poetry

Now GM has concocted a clever device that may effectively diminish our motorist rights. It's a little black box to record how we drive, and will thankfully take notes on how I'll survive if a semi and my V-6 collide head-to-head, because, sans technology, I wouldn't know I'd be dead. It will track my speed and my brakeage, so I'd better beware— I would be, at least, if I'd been told it was there! They say this box ensures safety (or so goes the plan), yet it puts Big Brother on our backs once again. I don't know much about cars or about how safety is dealt, but weren't we on the right track with that thing called the seatbelt? ★

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As the parent of a St. Teresa's freshman who rows for KCRC, I was pleased to see the article about rowing. Of the many benefits of rowing, one is the chance for a person who perhaps did not find their sport in grade school to participate in a team sport in high school without prior experience. Also, there are scholarship opportunities; two of KCRC's senior girls have signed letters of intent to row at the college level: one for the University of Virginia and the other for Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles. This past season, St. Teresa's had four girls participating in KCRC. In addition to the two girls quoted, the other rowers are Kit Landwehr and Cynthia Livingston.

Sincerely,
Pat Landwehr ★

Dear Editor,

I [wanted to tell you of a] discussion my three classes of sophomores had last week after looking through about a dozen prep newspapers. The kids that were reading the St. Teresa's paper would pipe up; they decided they really liked *The Dart*. I pointed out that a lot of the best stories in the tabloids were first covered in *The Dart* about a month or two earlier, which put a bad taste in the mouth of the tabloid readers.

The conversation would then steer toward which direction *The Shield* should jump: style or substance? Readers wished *The Dart* would spice up their look a little bit.

Today I see that you have. Congrats, but also beg them to keep up the good reporting. I don't need to see any more papers that look nice but lack substance.

Matt Hallauer
Journalism Adviser
St. Thomas Aquinas High School ★

Dear Editor,

I thought "Stars Suffer Defeat To Rock Bridge" was the most negative high school sport's article I have ever had the displeasure of reading. I have been thoroughly disappointed in St. Teresa's lack of enthusiasm for sports, but this takes the cake. We have had numerous successful outings this season, including the varsity, JV and freshmen teams, but I have not seen or heard anything about those contests. Why not accentuate the positive? I hope to never read anything so dismal in this student paper again. Our athletes deserve better. They work so hard and should be praised for their successes not humiliated for their losses. I hold these coaches and girls in the highest regard – the administration, staff and students of St. Teresa's should as well. GO STARS!

Truly,
Nancy Kuhlmann ★

30 Seconds With ★ Senior Laura Kearns



The Dart: What draws you to commit to Heartstrings?

Laura Kearns: Heartstrings is my second family. I got involved with them because my mom's boss and my mom are on their board of directors. They assist adults that are developmentally challenged. They have a storefront where they sell things, and the participants work in the storefronts too. ★

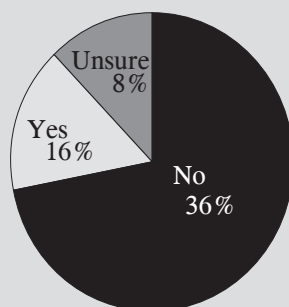
★in brief

The Bush administration plans to sell more than 300,000 acres of national forestry to help pay for rural schools. Nearly 50,000 acres in ten Midwestern states would be sold under the plan, gaining \$41 million in sales profits. An estimated 21,566 acres in Missouri's Mark Twain National Forest would be sold, with all proceeds going towards the fund. Missouri's cut of the school-funding would be among the lowest, receiving \$2.7 million. Voice your opinion on the sale of Missouri's national forestry in the next issue of *The Dart*.

Voice Off

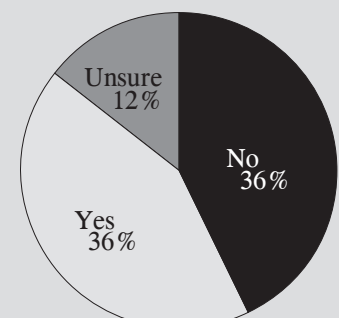
In his January State of the Union address, President George W. Bush discussed a new energy initiative to lessen American dependence on petroleum as an energy source. Students responded to questions about the future of this proposal.

By 2008, will America use solar power as a form of alternative energy?



50 students polled

Will there be a shift from the use of gasoline to ethanol?



50 students polled



Cultural collisions: Annual sophomore projects encourage exploration

SARAH COOPER

Sophomore Chelsea Duckworth pretends to photograph sophomore Sami Setter in their CCC presentation on Feb. 14. Setter dressed as the 1960's model Twiggy and walked a runway in the Commons.

Sophomores employ creativity, teamwork to finish notorious interdisciplinary presentations on deadline

Staff Writer
Sarah Cooper

Their project focuses on the cultural impact the musical artist Selena has had on the United States and music worldwide.

The night before CCC: Monday, Feb. 13, 2006

Group: Michaela Brogoto, Sara Lawrence, Katherine Kuhn

Topic: Selena

Presentation: news report

Souvenir: picture and personalized frame

3:15 p.m. Sara's parents pick up Michaela, Katherine and Sara from school.

3:50 p.m. They stop at QuickTrip to buy a snack. The girls speak Spanish in the car and Michaela attempts an accent.

3:55 p.m. They arrive at Sara's house. Katherine eats a snack while Sara uses the computer and Michaela organizes their materials.

4:01 p.m. Michaela and Katherine review the paper while Sara writes notecards for the group's oral presentation.

4:16 p.m. "I actually did work on this," laughs Katherine as she plays with Sara's dogs.

4:22 p.m. Michaela takes a phone call from her mom. "I'm sick of reading this stupid paper," says Sara.

4:26 p.m. They decide what to bring and buy for their presentation, including chips, salsa and camera film.

4:30 p.m. The group realizes they have no annotated citations. Katherine checks the school website for

Ms. Sara Acton's phone number and reaches her voicemail.

4:33 p.m. Sara finishes the notecards and Katherine emails Ms. Acton, their world history teacher.

4:51 p.m. The girls discuss the design of their souvenir picture frames and how many they should make.

4:53 p.m. They begin to practice their presentation of a news report on Selena. Katherine and Sara act as reporters and Michaela lip-synchs to "Dreaming of You" by Selena. Her performance is followed by an interview between Sara and Michaela.

5:03 p.m. The girls edit their notecards and change their lines for the presentation.

5:09 p.m. After a brief break, they reconvene and Sara checks the computer. Michaela says, "Come on. No more jacking around."

5:13 p.m. They perform for Ms. Kathy Lawrence, who gives Michaela advice on her choreography.

5:30 p.m. The group breaks up. Sara attends her brother's volleyball game and Michaela goes home.

6:04 p.m. Katherine makes corrections in the group's paper and prints the final copy.

6:27 p.m. She is frustrated as she edits the works cited, which will not fit onto one page.

6:33 p.m. Katherine arranges the papers in a binder and says, "I am done."

6:44 p.m. Katherine lays out the clothes she will wear as a reporter and tries them on. She organizes the CD and DVD equipment they will use in their exhibit.

"It's fascinating to find out that sophomores know so much about pop culture icons from the past and are able to see their influence in history."

teacher, Karen Johnson



Sophomores Katherine Kuhn, from left, and Sara Lawrence look on as group member Michaela Brogoto performs to Selena's "Dreaming of You" in the Commons on Feb. 14. Brogoto had been a fan of Selena before their CCC project.



Sophomore Katherine Kuhn staples the final copy of her group's CCC paper in her house on Monday, Feb. 13. Kuhn did not feel like her group had procrastinated and looked forward to the next day of presentations.

Just a side note

What is the purpose of the CCC projects?

Each year STA sophomores participate in the Cultural Connections Convention (CCC), which has gained a reputation for keeping students up late the nights before its due date, during junior/senior service week. Its purpose is for students to develop research and presentation skills and learn MLA citation format. English and history teachers invited students to research individuals or groups born outside the United States and research the impact they had on another culture. The requirements included a poster, oral presentation and creative souvenir. This year featured a new theme and was the first time accelerated students were not required to take part—instead they continued work on projects for NHD, National History Day. Those projects are due tomorrow.

9 March 2006

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The Dart

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Student Production auditions will be held today after school in the basement of Donnelly for the 2005-2006 theatre season. This year, seniors are directing four plays, the majority of which were also written by the student directors. The 2006 student production directing teams are Anna Johnson; Erica Houglund; Laura Kearns and Juana Summers; and Mollie Esposito and Jordan Gribble. No theatre experience is required, however interested actors must fill out an audition form to apply. See Ms. Prentiss, theatre teacher, to pick up an audition sheet.

Girls play: students employ logic, skill through chess

Students turn to logical game for entertainment and achieve success in local and state tournament

Managing Editor
Juana Summers

Chess ladders at tournaments are not always a gender-equitable field, but many females still engage in the game for various reasons.

Freshman Emily Schapker has been playing chess casually since she can remember, and has participated competitively in tournaments since fourth grade.

Sophomore Emily Duesing, founder of the Chess Club, began the club because of her participation in tournament chess in middle school. She learned the game from her father, and because her parents are divorced, she's reminded of him when playing. Both girls are tournament players for STA's chess team.

"It's kind of become our own feminist movement," said Schapker of her interest in chess. "Girls don't go to chess tournaments because they think it's nerdy or stupid."

The lack of female chess players locally is reflected in standings from recent state-level competition; only about six players out of over one hundred players were female.

"There's a pattern to tournaments," Schapker observed. "[The genders] are almost equal in little kids, but in sixth, seventh or eighth grade most girls drop off."

Mr. Nick Manley, a frequent visitor of the Allen Village Chess Club, as well as aid to the Pembroke Hill School's chess group agreed with Schapker.

"I'll be honest and admit that the majority of chess players I encounter are male," he said. "But my perception towards [female chess players] is a friendly one." Manley does not believe that he discriminates or makes a distinction between different genders of chess players.

The gender inequality in the high school chess circuit can lead to some misconceptions from other players, however.

"[Male chess players] assume that girls aren't serious, or that they don't play as well," she said. Schapker commented on the lack of interest among women in chess, and attributed it to a lack of interest and many misconceptions.

"[The chess club] is trying to counteract stereotypes of people who play chess," Duesing said. The club originally had planned to make tee shirts with an intellectual quote from scientist Albert Einstein.

In reality, according to Schapker, the stereotype of the intelligent, bearded male chess player is far from the truth. She believes that the appearance of a player can often be deceiving, and can tell nothing about the strength or caliber of an opponent.

"You can play three foot tall sixth graders and they can just annihilate you," she said. "It's unique and different from every other sport"

Schapker, Duesing, and freshman Elizabeth MacNamara competed at the



Freshman Emily Schapker (right) and Sophomore Emily Duesing (left) contemplate their next move in a Chess Club meeting during activity in Ms. Blessen's room.

See CHESS, page 23

March


9 march 2006

★
The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

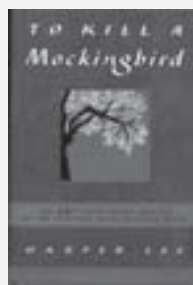
STA parent Mr. Dan Hickey is coordinating an 8 day service trip to the Dominican Republic for a group of sophomores over spring break. The girls going are Maddie and Claire Hickey, Elizabeth Warwick, Hannah Girardeau, Libby Hastert and Emily Thompson. This week they are collecting stuffed animals and school supplies for the children they will be helping in boxes located at the front of M&A and Donnelly. The group will be spending their vacation painting houses and assisting the people of the parish they are staying in.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Ash Wednesday	2	3  Mother Evelyn O'Neil Clubs: Act. I and II	4
5	6  Winter Sports Awards 7:00 p.m.	7	8 Prayer Jam "Meet the Coaches" 5:00 p.m.	9 Parent Daughter Liturgy 7 a.m. Class Meetings: Sch. 2	10 NHS school hours due The Strokes @ Uptown Theater	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
S P R I N G B R E A K						
19	20  Classes Resume	21 NHD in-school showcase NAIA Championship Game @ Municipal	22 Soccer Jv/Var @ Miego Disney on Ice: Finding Nemo @ Kemper Arena	23 National Honor Society Assembly Sch. 2 Parent Teacher Conferences: 5:30-8:30 p.m.	24 Late Start SCO: Teacher Appreciation Breakfast Pep Rally Soccer @ Blue Springs South	
26	27 Soccer Var Tournament @ Aquinas	28	29 Career Day 	30 Senior Retreat	31 Mac & Cheese Track Meet @ Blue Springs South TNT 	

B

"Describe one book that has changed your life."

This is a common college essay subject, but one that is hard to answer because it's rare to find a book that changes your life. It would be easier to describe a book that has made you reflect on your life or affected you in some way. Books can affect you in many ways. Here are some books that have affected people at STA.



To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee: This critically acclaimed novel is, at its simplest level, about change and standing up for what you believe in. It tells the story of a small town lawyer, Atticus Finch, who fought for what he thought was right. Atticus's character appealed to freshman **Kelly Younger**.

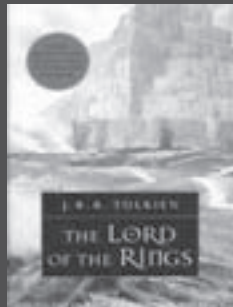
"The way that Atticus stuck up for his beliefs no matter how [much] others didn't want him to [was inspiring]," said Younger.



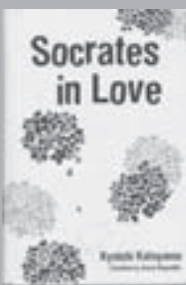
Time and Again by Jack Finney: This novel is about a young man who is recruited by the government to participate in a covert time travel operation. It combines historical fiction, fantasy and romance, which appealed to Ms. **Jackie Hershewe**.

"There [are] certain books that I've read and enjoyed and remember fondly and those are the books I recommend to other people," said Hershewe. "I read to have a variety of experiences that I couldn't have [in one lifetime.]"

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien: This trilogy about Frodo Baggins and his friends' journey to save their Shire and the rest of Middle Earth was inspiring to sophomore **Laurel Beekman**. Her fourth grade teacher read it aloud to her class and the experience stayed with her.



"It really opened my eyes to the world of reading," Beekman said. "I was instantly amazed at this world... he created. [It] was rich and full and it was easy to get immersed in."



Socrates in Love by Kyoichi Katayama: An adaptation of a popular Japanese Manga, this novel is about a high school romance that is tested when the girl develops Leukemia.

"It gave me a new perspective on love and the ability to comprehend human tragedy," said freshman **Kelsey Stephan**.



Mort by Terry Pratchett: To sophomore **Emma Wenig**, *Mort* is an example of good science fiction. The fourth book in the Discworld series, this is a witty story of a boy who becomes Death's apprentice.

"I think about it all the time," Wenig said. "I love it because it's so cool that someone could think of that - that there's an apprentice to death. It gave me a whole other perspective and way of thinking than I'm used to. I think about... whether that really happens or not... It's so good that it could be real."

Compiled by **Kate Rainey**
Graphic by **Sarah Tampke**

KSS



Little Women by Louisa May Alcott: This story follows the March sisters as they grow up during the American Civil War. At age 11, Ms. **Karen Johnson** was inspired to become an English teacher after reading this book.

"[It] prompted me to start reading more difficult books," Johnson said. "That was the point I really started challenging myself as a reader. I got so involved in the characters' lives... and it transported me to another place. And, of course, I cried when Beth died; it was the first time I cried at a book, but not the last."

OO

Doctors, counselors provide advice on emerging from dark times

Being depressed vs. a state of clinical depression: What do these terms mean to teenagers feeling sad?

Section Editor
Katie Meyers

Depression is a word that is often used in daily life, and commonly among or about teenagers but what does it really mean?

One technical definition of depression from Webster's Dictionary is "a state of feeling sad."

Most depression results from a loss, said school counselor Ms. Karen Sinco. You go through a grief process and usually come out of it on your own. For regular depression, one of the best things to do is have that person do things that cause them pleasure.

However, being in a depressed mood is not the same as clinical depression. Dr. Rochelle Harris, a psychologist at Children's Mercy Hospital said that having unhappy moods is common, but for major depression, a defining factor is that it lasts for significant periods of time.

WebMD, a web site that provides health information says that for teens, unhappy moods last for at least two weeks and are accompanied by other symptoms

to be considered depression. All of the information published on WebMD is reviewed by a board of medical professionals to ensure accuracy. The site also reports that an estimated one in 33 children and one in eight adolescents are depressed.

According to Harris, children and young adults have unique symptoms when in a state of clinical depression. They often become irritable, rather than sad. Also, there is a loss of joy found in previously pleasurable activities and many symptoms are physical; trouble sleeping, over sleeping and a change in appetite are all symptoms of depression.

There are depressions that start as an adjustment reaction that could be

brought on by a parental divorce, said Harris. [The affected] develop a depression where coping is insufficient.

Mood disorders can be inherited or caused by chemical imbalances; however, Harris believes that, among children, the most common cause of depression is adjustment reaction or post traumatic stress.

"My belief is you should never take medication without therapy. Medication makes you open to the advantages of therapy."

counselor, Ms. Karen Sinco

"Post traumatic stress is when something shakes your core beliefs about yourself and the world," said Sinco.

According to Sinco, diagnosing depression is usually done using a diagnostic manual called Diagnostic Statistical Manual IV. Though she could not give examples from the manual, Sinco described the manual's format. It gives lists of possible symptoms and determines whether or not the subject is clinically depressed depending on how many apply.

After diagnosing depression, the next

step is treatment.

You basically have three options, said Harris. Intervene in the situation that causes the depression, therapy and finally, medicine.

According to Harris, the ideal treatment is putting all three options in place.

Sinco, however, believes that medication should wait.

"My belief is you should never take medication without therapy first," said Sinco. "Medication makes you open to the advantages of therapy."

The medications used for treating depression are called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) like Prozac.

Though psychologists are not allowed to prescribe medications, Harris warns about the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) has put black box warnings on SSRIs. After conducting and case studies that Harris and some of colleagues believe were inaccurate, the FDA announced that some drugs increase the risk of suicide among their users.

However, according to Sinco, the warnings make sense because people are more likely to commit suicides they are recovering because in the depths of depression, people are too tired to even think about taking their lives. ★

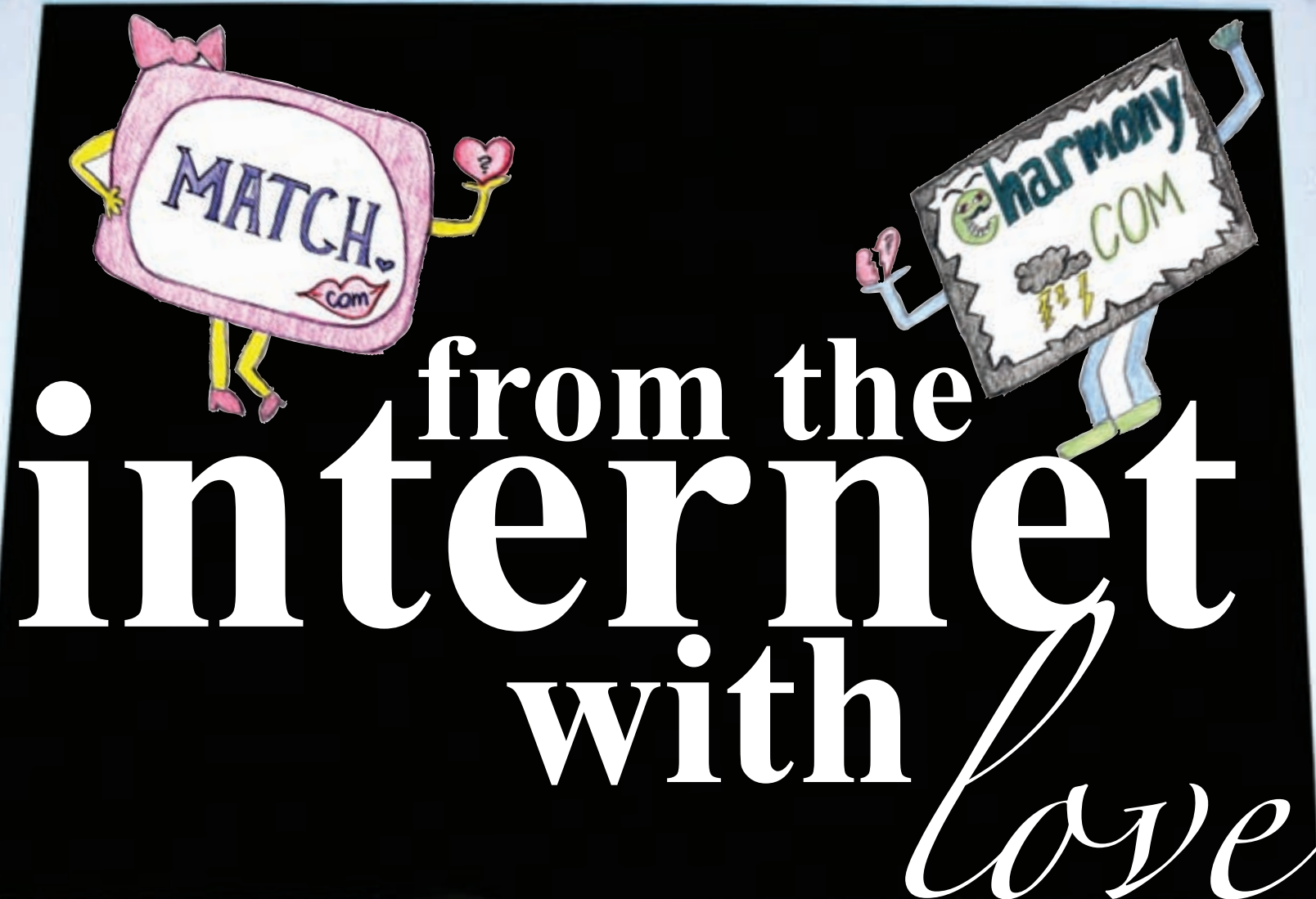
9 march, 2006

★
The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★ in brief

Community Service Club will hold its annual Mac & Cheese Lunch tomorrow during Activities I and II. For \$5, students receive macaroni and cheese, a drink, bread and a salad. Proceeds from the event will benefit The Genesis School, an alternative middle school for high-risk inner city youth. Students in the service club were inspired to help the children at the school after witnessing a need while volunteering during February's junior/senior service week.



from the
internet
with *love*

Web sites offering dating services are striving for new members. Internet dating may or may not lead to romance, but web sites offering dating services attempt to sway customers by promising love. Companies offering a product or service use different marketing strategies in order to attract new customers and dating web sites are no exception. The most well-known: eHarmony.com, Match.com, America.com, Dating.com and Date.com make claims about the quality of its service, but they share the same idea – that they are the best. EHarmony.com claims that it is “America’s #1 relationship site, committed to helping you experience the joy and fulfillment that comes with every successful relationship.” Another web site, WeddingChannel.com, who called it the “#1 site for love... ‘twice as many marriages as any other site in the world.’” Finally, Date.com boasts, “Dating.com is not only the place to get into the dating game, it’s the place to WIN.”

Looking for love online? Get ready to be let down

Web site's failure to determine seniors 'type' leaves Mr. Right waiting in the mess of edates

Julia McQueeney-Thorpe



Editor-in-chief

Dating is a farce. Didn't you hear? Real marriages and real relationships are found via the internet, I mean internet. A myriad of dating web sites such as eharmony.com, match.com, americansingles.com claim to offer the key to a successful relationship. So save your time and money, and simply log on to find your one and only. Guaranteed. Say goodbye to awkward 'get-to-know-you' conversations at parties or frustrating events where every loser in town was invited. E-dating is here to rescue you in shining armor on a white stallion.

Two weeks ago, my time came. My frustration with the commercials that broadcast hackneyed grins and the convenient admissions that the happy couple would have never found each other had it not been for the relevant dating site became evident as I begrudgingly registered at eharmony.com. I signed up for the newest offer: "Get your free personality profile today!" I went

through the first page of standard preliminary questions that would be obvious for a dating site. I selected that I'm a woman seeking a man, and I was on my way. What I thought was going to be a simple personality test turned into 16 pages of ridiculous word associations and irrelevant short essays. Why should my relationship with my mother play a role in my pursuit for a date? After an hour and a half of text areas and 1-5 scales of "strongly agree or strongly disagree," I found myself outside of me asking myself questions like Am I witty? Well, if I'm not witty am I dependable?

There was a disclaimer atop the page regarding the difficulty of these sections, but I paid little attention and went through the profile, saddles blazing. When my progress bar displayed a 98 percent completed, I admit I grew a little anxious to see who my suitors would be. A few short answers stood between me and my e-destiny. I typed a short, nonspecific brief about my goals and hobbies and with a swift triumphant click, I thought Mr. Right would be at my finger tips, maybe a short e-mail away from e-proposal. What I saw next incited a few expletives. A banner reading "Unable to Match You at This Time" slapped a big "L" on my online persona.

Was I that big of a loser that eharmony.com could not even find my man? I panicked and hit the back arrow; maybe broadening my search would help. I stretched my age range up to 25, thinking maybe there aren't

many 18-20 year-olds on eharmony.com. Didn't work. It never crossed my mind that MY personality could be defective: it HAD to be the lack of eligible men. The banner remained after my attempts. The page that contained my stamp of desperation unveiled the eharmony.com science of marriage. It states that eharmony.com "is based upon a complex matching system developed through extensive research with married couples. One of the requirements for successful matching is that participants to fall within certain defined profiles. If we find that we will not be able to match a user using these profiles, we feel it is only fair to inform them early in the process." I yelled at my computer. "Early in what process? The process of internet engagements? Does that mean I will never have a successful marriage?"

It is safe to assume that I was a little upset after wasting my time on something so futile. But I was determined to find my man. Next, I gave match.com a try. Maybe Dr. Phil knows more about me than the "science of marriage" over at eharmony.com did. Again I filled out the typical questions and faced a similar outcome. When I was ready to find my true love, I was asked to pay a fee for a designated number of months. Apparently, Dr. Phil's advice is not pro-bono. Needless to say, my frugality drove me to move to another.

I paid americansingles.com a visit that same evening. I registered as I had before and filled out information that I found to be more applicable to my lifestyle and dating. Here, there were more free responses and open-ended questions. I was not stuffed into a box of being dependable, but most definitely not witty.

The draw back to americansingles.com? It's a human search engine. You have to browse through gazillions of profiles to find the right person: the site just doesn't do it for you. I'm tired of spending endless hours of searching for the right guy; I want someone to tell me instead. Wasn't that the whole point?

I thoughtlessly filled out my profile and my care had been lost. Nothing I had put on this site was identifying, striking or even original. Actually, it was the opposite. On my americansingles.com profile, one can find that I'm a woman seeking a man in between the ages of 18-25 and that I travel from time to time. I opted out of uploading a photograph of myself or providing further information regarding my identity.

The next day, however, I received an e-mail from the site relaying I had a message from a match. A match? I'm sorry, but how? I logged on to find a message that read: "Hey, I think we have a lot in common. Wanna chat sometime?" A lot in "common"? Like what, desperation? Sumtime? Ew. No sir, I will not chat with you, and that's final until you learn to spell correctly. I said I liked to travel, but that entailed foreign countries and shopping sprees in bigger cities, not Branson and fly-fishing on the Huzzah River.

Forgive my judgment, but in all seriousness is my dream guy really going to be online sending me messages in poor mechanics?

I'm unsure what I would have done if I successfully received true love on eharmony.com. I do find many things comforting about my lack of success, however. At least, I can still get guys the old-fashioned way and I thankfully can carry on a real conversation, in person, in correct diction. ★

Point, click, 'I do': Couples upload relationships from online community of chats, personality profiles, sites

Members of STA use the internet as a dating service

Staff Writer
Carina Murphy

With the freedom and rapid pace of the Internet, matches can be made within minutes, seconds even. A single click of the mouse generates pages and pages of options that fit a person's ideal job, car, outfit and most recently, companion. Internet-users around the world are now using chat rooms and e-dating services to find friendship and romance. According to Match.com, approximately 200,000 users have developed successful relationships through the web site.

"I would suggest [e-dating]," said Mr. Jack Garvin. "I was able to find a person within a certain age group, education level and geographical area with some similar interests."

Garvin met his wife, Ms. Sandi Jacob-Garvin, through Match.com in December 2004,

and married Sept. 26, 2005. Match.com and similar web sites, such as eHarmony.com and PerfectMatch.com, allow users to create a personal profile, listing such information as location, age, sexual preference, physical preferences, favorite sports, interests, education level and more. After finding matches, users communicate with each other and often set a time and place to meet.

"We both knew the rules of online dating - meet at a neutral place, drive your own cars," said Garvin. "I'd had three dates before, though none worked out, but it was never awkward. We ate dinner, said our 'Thank you's' and 'goodbyes' and went on. It was mutual."

Jacob-Garvin, a former high school English teacher, also appreciated the ability to find someone who valued education as much as she did, but was skeptical and hesitant about Match.com's services and the men using it.

"I kept my identity a secret for quite a while," said Jacob-Garvin. "A lot of people have the tendency to exchange numbers if the date goes well, but I told them that if they wanted to contact me again, they could e-mail me through Match.com."

On a previous date, Jacob-Garvin's date had followed her home, leaving her presents on her doorstep days later.

"You can never be too careful," said Jacob-Garvin. "By the third time, I

called the police. I thought I was being careful by choosing Applebee's, but it never occurred to me that my date would follow me home."

Garvin and Jacob-Garvin, like millions of other users who have logged into e-dating services during the last 10 years, found each other Christmas 2004. Two days later, after correspondence, Garvin met his future wife at Garozzo's restaurant in Overland Park.

While many of these web sites boast high marriage success rates, some opt for the unconstrained environment of a chat room. Senior Christine Farris met her ex-boyfriend, Shawn Allery, on HabboHotel.co.uk. As a freshman, Farris often went into chat rooms that had avatars, which are characters and images that online users created to represent themselves.

"There was this one room, the Goth House," said Farris. "It was mostly teenagers, so I went in there, and all these little avatars were all wearing black, but then I saw this one with a white shirt and red hair. [Allery] was the only one who was different and I thought that was cool, so I decided to talk to him."

Within the first week of meeting online and communicating through MSN Messenger, Farris and Allery were talking on the phone. Allery lived in East Sussex, a county in southeast England.

"I was enthralled by his accent,"

said Farris. "So we talked a lot."

Aware of the dangers of Internet dating, Farris's parents spoke to Allery's parents and were able to see him via web cam. Nonetheless, her peers doubted the relationship and were skeptical of Allery.

"It was really difficult for me," said Farris. "People would say things like 'Oh, that'll never last' and 'How do you know he's not 40?' and 'How do you know he's who he says he is?' There really was nothing I could say, except I've seen him on his web cam, and I've talked to his parents. I just have to let people think what they think. Then they meet him and fall in love with him."

After three years and five visits with her British boyfriend, Farris still enjoys her long-distance relationship. Since frequenting the chat rooms on Habbo Hotel and through her LiveJournal, Farris has befriended Britons, Canadians, Australians and others from around the world with common interests and situations.

"Your relationship is not hindered by physical stuff," said Farris of online relationships. "You make up for it on a mental level by not being able to be with each other, by talking and communicating - by not needing to make out every weekend. We have a strong relationship by talking all the time because that's all we have - a companionship rather than physical relationship." ★

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 St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

The dance team placed third overall their first time at the Missouri State competition in Excelsior Springs Feb. 26. They also placed first for both their novelty routine and their hip-hop routine and second for their jazz routine.

"It was really exciting to make it so far because we worked so hard to get there," said senior Emylie Leonard.

The varsity basketball Stars concluded their season with a record of 10-17 after a 58-48 win Feb. 15 over O'Hara High School, a 59-43 win Feb. 17 over Spring Hill High School, a 38-29 win Feb. 20 over North Kansas City and a 25-56 loss Feb. 22 against Notre Dame de Sion.

Track and field races toward quick start



KATHLEEN POINTER

Sophomore Kim Kennaley, from left, freshmen Shauna Muelbach and Samantha Barker try out for track and field at the UMKC track Feb. 22. Their first meet is the Liberty Invitational March 25.

Coaching changes pave track for season full of expectations

Editor-in-Chief
 Julia McQueeney-Thorpe

Ms. Ann Bode-Rodriguez, track and field head coach, stood in her office Feb. 22 anticipating a new season. Surrounding her office door were students finalizing last minute details. Senior Amy Cirocco, a long distance runner, handed in her athletic fee and sophomore Claire Hickey received her calendar, complete with scheduled practices and meets.

The track and field season officially started Feb. 27 with practice, however Bode believed the season was already off to a great start that Wednesday.

"I already have two or three checks," said Bode. "This is excellent."

The previously paid athletic fees are not the only thing keeping Bode's spirits high. This year freshman recruiting had more emphasis, two new distance coaches joined the staff and four seniors are returning, whom she expects to be model athletes for the rest of the team.

"I anticipate them to be good role models for respect and discipline," said Bode. "It's so important to have that continuity."

Of the four seniors, Bode predicts that senior Kate Harbin will excel in her events. Harbin is returning for her third season as a jumper.

"Kate Harbin is probably our most gifted all-around athlete," said Bode.

Last year, Harbin ran the 800 meter and competed in both the long and triple jump. This year, she plans to focus on jumping.

"Not running will give me more time to concentrate on jumping," said Harbin. "I'm really hoping to break the triple jump record."

Along with school record aspirations, Harbin also wants to make it to State. She qualified for Sectionals last year.

Liberty High School and the Lee's Summit and Blue Springs schools will be the team's biggest opponents this season. Bode attributes the difficulty to the schools' power in numbers.

"Numbers affect us," said Bode. "But it's also the fact we have no track. Those schools can just open their back

door and there's a track."

For now, the track and field team practices on the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) track twice a week for an hour and 15 minutes, for which Bode says she is very grateful. Bode believes that practicing on the track is an excellent opportunity.

"[UMKC] improves our performance and I actually believe it cuts down on injuries," said Bode.

The team had access to the track last year as well, which adds to Bode's idea of continuity. However, there are some changes in the program this year, such as additional opportunities for freshmen and the junior varsity teams.

"We've added more meets for the teams at the JV level," said Bode. "I think the change will be beneficial."

The additions to the coaching staff will also play a role in the effectiveness of this year's season. Teachers Ms. Katie Dolan and Ms. Heather Macintosh plan to assist in distance coaching, and maybe even increase the team's size.

"I have girls coming out for distance more than ever," said Bode. "I'm really, really happy."

Earlier this year Dolan coached freshman volleyball and prepares to utilize this experience with track. According to Dolan, she wants to incorporate competition situations into practices, encourage a positive attitude and work as a team.

"Even though running seems to be an individual sport, you can work as a team in practice," said Dolan.

The varsity runners for distance are neither predetermined by previous seasons nor decided prior to the first practice. According to Dolan and Macintosh, one's position on the team is dependent upon her effort and time trials. They have set team and personal goals however.

"I want each person to achieve their personal best and to work hard and support each other," said Dolan. "I'd like to get in shape with the girls also."

Macintosh agreed.

"As long as they are willing to work hard," said Macintosh. "We have a lot of tricks up our sleeves. Watch out for Fridays."

The track and field teams will face their biggest competition at their first meet, the Liberty Invitational on March 24. ★

Stars hope to dribble past competition, score another State victory



KATHLEEN POINTER

Sophomore Emily Thompson, left, defends sophomore Britney Scott during a scrimmage at tryouts March 1. The varsity soccer team plays their first game of the season March 22 at Bishop Miege.

With tryouts finished, varsity soccer Stars set goals, sights on State

Staff Writer
 Mikhala Lantz-Simmons

The STA soccer team kicked off the season with a three-hour tryout Feb. 30. After four days of tryouts, the teams were posted Thursday night. The players that made the varsity team were seniors Riki Allen and Ashley Devine, juniors Lauren Fowlkes, Michelle Jantsch, Alexandra Kurth, Alison Raybould and Alyson Russell, sophomores Molly Campbell, Audrey Copenhaver, Ellen Jantsch, Megan Konz, Danielle Martens, Mary McCue and Britney Scott and freshmen Caitlin Boger and Paige Kuhlmann. All but Boger and Kuhlmann went to State last year.

Varsity coach Scott Siegel said he has high expectations for the upcoming season. Siegel also said that the ten returning starters would help enhance the team dynamics.

"We have a good chance of going to State," said Siegel.

Sophomore Ellen Jantsch said that the team has set many goals for the upcoming season.

"We want to go undefeated again, work hard and not back down," said Jantsch.

She continued by saying that while it is too early to tell how good this season will be, hard work will be key as it has been in previous years.

"If our whole team works as hard as we did last year and stays focused on what we need to get accomplished, we will definitely have a good season," said Jantsch.

Senior Riki Allen, who has experienced two State Championships of the three in the past four years, is hoping for the chance to compete at State one last time.

"It would be devastating if we didn't win," said Allen. "But I will still value all the times I had with [my teammates]."

In concern to the varsity's attitude, Allen said simply that confidence is necessary in this game.

"We aren't cocky," said Allen. "We're confident in our abilities; you have to be confident if you are going to succeed." ★

“Karate Kid” achieves most advanced belt

Senior Erica Houglund completes challenging three-day examination, earns black belt with plans to continue karate training after reaching peak

Section Editor
Sarah Tampke

Senior Erica Houglund enters the room, going on four hours of sleep. Her eyes gaze into the faces of current black belts. She walks toward three punching bags with two of her classmates. This is their final test. After three long days of running in the snow, fighting karate champions, practicing drills and doing 1,227 pushups and 1,227 sit-ups, she is finally ready to earn her black belt.

Houglund has been taking karate for the past five years at World Champions Karate in Overland Park. She instructs and practices there for three hours on Tuesday and four hours on Thursday. Houglund became interested in karate after seeing a movie.

“My friend Christine [Kilmer] and I saw that movie, ‘Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon’ and thought it was really cool, so we started taking karate lessons and I decided I wasn’t going to quit till I got my black belt,” said Houglund. “It’s a pretty funny reason now that I think about.”

She instructs children around the age of seven. They stand in rows on a red mat, facing a mirror as another instructor calls moves. While executing their motions, Houglund and other instructors walk between them, correcting, complimenting, encouraging and demonstrating. They all wear white pants and a white shirt with the World Champions Karate logo on the back. However their belts are different colors to represent their skill level.

There are many different belt colors starting with white, then yellow, orange, green, blue, purple, three shades of red and finally the most advanced: black belt. The advancement to a new belt takes place after a test is given. The owner of World Champion Karate, Sensei Bob Leiker, determines when someone is ready to take the test.

“Once a year we give the black belt test to those we think are ready,” said Leiker.

Houglund commented on the difficulty of the test at World Champions Karate.

“We earn our black belts,” said Houglund. “Some schools just give them away but not here.”

In February, Houglund took her three-day black belt test with two of her fellow

classmates, Mr. Chris Thompson, 48, and Kelsey Gilpatrick, 17. Before taking the test, Houglund had to acquire three letters of recommendation and write a three-to-four page paper on why she wanted to become a black belt. Feb. 16, the three began their testing. For three hours, they stood in a horse stance and practiced arm moves and kicks.

“The horse stance is basically where you are in a squatting position,” said Houglund as she demonstrated. “We were told that this was the only time in the exam that we would use the horse stance so we would be doing it for a long time.”

Friday evening, they returned to continue testing with drills for several hours. Drills are a sequence of arm movements and kicks. Houglund had to then spar 15 fellow black belts. Sparring is full contact fighting and requires gear. At Houglund’s school the cost is over \$250 to purchase an entire gear set which includes, head, hand and foot protection.

“Have you ever seen ‘Karate Kid?’” asked Houglund. “Yeah that’s all fake. First of all there is no way you can teach someone karate in two days, and second, you need a lot of gear.”

Later, the three went running in the snow with Sensei Bob. They all went to sleep at Sensei Bob’s house just to be awakened four hours later for another run. Back at the school, they did drills for two hours and the test finished when they went at a punching bag for three minutes. Houglund talked about how encouraging it was to have other black belts there cheering her on, especially toward the end.

“[The black belt test] was like a Kairos experience because of all the support,” said Houglund. “Except more physical.”

The award ceremony took place at 2 p.m. and Houglund’s mother, Marlys, and sister, sophomore Kyle, came to watch.

“[The ceremony] wasn’t a big formal thing,” said Kyle. “It definitely had a lot of meaning.”

Marlys was also touched by the ceremony.

“[The ceremony] was a really emotional perspective of karate,” said Marlys. “All three [classmates] complimented each other a lot and thanked the fellow black belts for their support.”

Kyle and Marlys both commented on



Senior Erica Houglund receives her black belt from World Champion Karate Feb. 18 after five years of training toward that goal. She hopes to continue training while at college next year.

how hard Erica works at karate and her dedication.

“I can see how much she cares because she seems to be over there practicing a lot,” said Kyle.

Marlys believes that Erica always gives a “110%” to karate. She talked about their seven-year-old neighbor who is now taking class at World Champion’s Karate.

“Erica has been really inspirational to him,” said Marlys. “Especially now that

she is a black belt, he brought her flowers after she got [her black belt].”

Erica plans on continuing karate and wants to take classes when she is in college next year. She enjoys it because it keeps her in shape and is a practical skill to have for self defense.

“The black belt is not an end but more like a beginning,” said Erica. “It’s like realizing how to use what you know and realizing what you still need to learn.”★

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Former varsity volleyball coach Amy Carlson recently accepted a position as head volleyball coach at Avila University. Although she regrets leaving STA, she said that “the program is in very good shape and can handle a coaching change.” She said that she will miss many things about STA, especially the people. “Each day I was inspired by the players’ level of commitment to the sport and to be the best,” she said. “I would really like to thank everyone in the STA community, especially Nancy [Hand] and Mike [Egner] for their support. This has really been a wonderful three years. I will forever be the biggest STA supporter.”

Coming Up ★ Swim & Dive, Track & Field, Soccer

Swim and Dive

March 21	Shawnee Mission East	JV/Varsity	at Shawnee Mission East	4:00 p.m.
April 1	Park Hill High School	JV/Varsity	at Park Hill High School	8:00 a.m.
April 4	Shawnee Mission East	Varsity Quad	at Shawnee Mission East	4:00 p.m.
April 7	Mo-Kan Invitational	Varsity Dive	Away	4:00 p.m.
April 8	Mo-Kan Invitational	JV/Varsity	Away	10:00 a.m.
April 18	Blue Springs South High School	JV/Varsity	at Blue Springs South	4:00 p.m.
April 21	Shawnee Mission East	JV/Varsity	at Shawnee Mission East	4:30 p.m.

Track and Field

March 24	Liberty Invitational	JV/Varsity	at Liberty High School	9:00 a.m.
March 31	Blue Springs South	Varsity	at Blue Springs South	TBA
April 4	Turner High School	Varsity/JV	at Turner High School	3:30 p.m.
April 6	Winnetonka High School	Freshman	at Winnetonka High School	3:30 p.m.
April 7	Bishop Miege	Varsity/JV	at Bishop Miege	3:00 p.m.
April 11	Belton High School	JV	at Belton High School	TBA
April 12	O’Hara High School	Varsity	at O’Hara High School	3:30 p.m.
April 13	Winnetonka High School	JV	at Winnetonka High School	TBA
April 18	Belton High School	JV	at Belton High School	TBA

Soccer

March 22	Bishop Miege	JV/Varsity	at Bishop Miege	4:30 p.m.
March 22	Bishop Miege	C Team	at St. Teresa’s Academy	4:00 p.m.
March 24	Blue Springs South	JV/Varsity	at Blue Springs South	5:00 p.m.
March 27	St. Thomas Aquinas	Varsity Tournament	at St. Thomas Aquinas	TBA
March 28	St. James High School	C Team	at St. Teresa’s Academy	4:00 p.m.
March 30	St. Thomas Aquinas	JV/C Team	at St. Teresa’s Academy	4:00 p.m.
April 4	Notre Dame de Sion	Varsity/JV	at Notre Dame de Sion	4:00 p.m.
April 6	Columbia Hickman	Varsity/JV	at St. Teresa’s Academy	4:00 p.m.
April 6	St. Thomas Aquinas	C Team	at St. Thomas Aquinas	3:45 p.m.
April 11	Blue Valley North High School	Varsity/JV	at St. Teresa’s Academy	4:00 p.m.
April 11	Blue Valley North High School	C Team	at Blue Valley North	4:30 p.m.

Star Athlete ★ Senior Lisa Peterson



COLLEEN OWENS

History

Has been swimming since she was nine years old

Swims with STA swim team, club team Kansas City Dolphins and summer team Redbridge Rays

Her father influenced her to start swimming

Accomplishments

Received Swimmer of the Year

award sophomore year and Hy-Vee Scholar Athlete Award senior year

Has placed in the top three in conference since freshman year

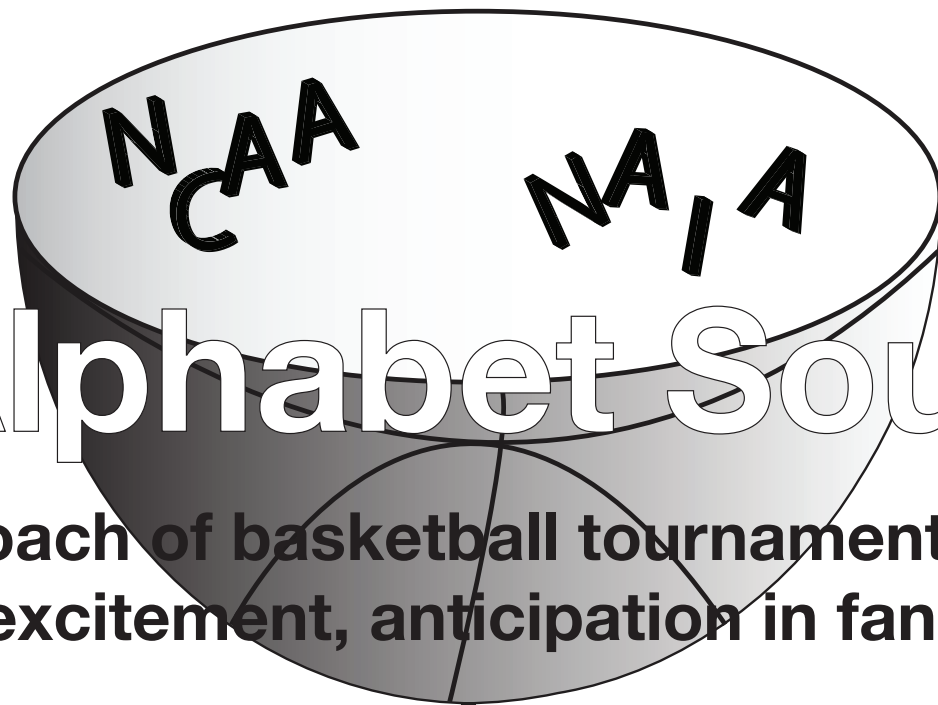
Qualified for state freshman and sophomore year

Goals

Wants to qualify for state this season

Plans to swim on a club team in college

Hopes to be a swim coach



Alphabet Soup

Approach of basketball tournaments stirs excitement, anticipation in fanatics

With tournament in full swing, Big 12 recalls ten years of basketball

Section Editor
Colleen Owens

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

The XX Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy concluded Feb. 26 with the closing ceremony. The United States placed second with a medal count of nine gold, nine silver and seven bronze for a total of 25 medals. There were 84 gold medals and 252 total medals awarded at the Winter Olympics, where 2,500 athletes competed. The athletes represented 85 different countries, including 215 Americans. Six events were added to the 2006 Winter Games, including men's and women's speed skating pursuit, men's and women's snowboard cross and men's and women's biathlon mass start.

Junior Carolyn Wiedeman owns seven Kansas basketball t-shirts, four team rosters stuck to her bathroom door, one enlarged Jeff Boschee poster, and one basketball signed by every single Kansas team player of the 2003 season. When Wiedeman was in the seventh grade, she was able to still remember the tournament as the Big Eight, prior to its merge, creating the Big 12. She was in seventh grade the year she fell in love with college basketball. Having been to nearly every NCAA basketball Big 12 Tournament game in Kansas City since, she deeply reveres this conference most of all.

Fans such as Wiedeman celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Big 12 Conference as the tournament approaches from tonight through Sunday at the American Airline Center in Dallas. Other conferences like the Atlantic Coast Conference and Big East Conference had already established their standings in the tournament when the Big 12 was just starting out.

Modest Beginnings

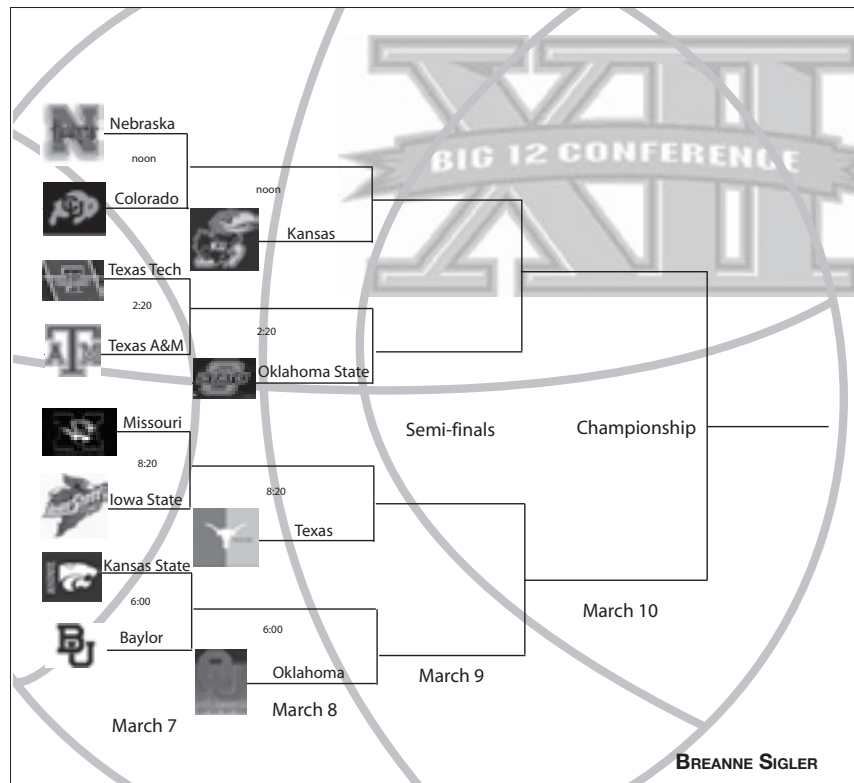
When the College Commissioners Association collapsed, the Big Eight abruptly merged with four schools from the Southwest Conference. Although many disagreed with this decision, the Big 12 was officially born Feb. 25, 1994, but the competitive season began in 1995-1996.

According to journalist Mike Jones's article in the Fort-Worth Star-Telegram, "Big 12 Basketball...Among The Best," the conference has "upgraded in almost every category." Popularity and excitement for the conference steadily grew with each improvement.

"[In the beginning] there were a lot of things that weren't in place," said Texas coach Rick Barnes in Jones's article. "The league was going through a getting-to-know-you, feel-it-out phase. Over the last few years, I do think it's become a major player nationally."

Hitting it Big

Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson, upon entering the Big 12, had little idea of the quality of coaches the conference



would yield.

"I thought the potential was there when the conference formed," said Sampson in Jones's article. "But the thing that I don't think anybody anticipated was how great the coaching is at every school...[The Big 12 has] an unbelievable coaches league."

Many of the nations leading coaches highlight the Big 12, including Bob Knight of Texas Tech, Bill Self of Kansas, and Billy Gillispie of Texas A&M.

In 2002 the Big 12 made it to the Final Four with Kansas and Oklahoma, the farthest they had ever gone. Others soon followed with Texas and Kansas again in 2003, and finally Oklahoma State in 2004.

Will it be?

According to the league, the Big 12 is only getting stronger and better equipped for their long-awaited national championship title.

"One through twelve, this upcoming season is the best the conference has ever been," said Sampson. "You just measure yourself against the schools in this league and you can determine whether or not you're one of the better teams in the na-

tion."

Legacy

"I think [the Big 12] was a marvelous idea and it's a marvelous league - and a league that people who know look at it, admire it and are a little jealous of it," said former Kansas coach Roy Williams in Jones' article.

Wiedeman agrees that her favorite league is growing steadily in influence.

"[The Big 12] is one of the most prestigious conferences because the group of teams is just that good," said Wiedeman.

A KU fan at heart, she recalls serious rivalries spurring her interest.

"People love to come because it's so full of tradition...it will last forever," she said.

Senior Caitlin Rowland saw a "sea of orange" when she attended the Big 12 Tournament last year when Oklahoma State beat Texas Tech. Her recollections of the conferences left her in deep thought for several moments as she collected herself.

"I predict KU will win [this year]," said Rowland. "They're on a winning streak." ★

NAIA play-offs scores with kids

Staff Writer
Alexandra Bojarski-Stauffer

Here's a riddle: How is an obstacle course, a moon walk or an inflatable jungle gym related to basketball? The NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) Men's Basketball National Championship returns to Kansas City bringing six days of games to kids young and old alike.

"It's our strategy to provide an overall experience for fans of all ages," said Mr. Kevin Dee, NAIA director of operations.

While 32 college teams battle in a 31-game knock-out tournament March 15-21, kids can play in Fan Fest, held in an adjacent recreational Exhibit Hall at the Municipal Auditorium. The activities will include all those above plus mini hoops and courts for basketball-type games. Kids who come from 9:30 to 10 a.m. will also have the chance to receive autographs and talk with the teams participating in the tournament.

According to Dee, adults can relax at the sports grill, featuring 810 sports radio, while watching the games on TV.

"[The tournament is] a wonderful Kansas City tradition played in the most historic venue in the United States, the historic Municipal Auditorium," said Mr. Kevin Gray, Kansas City sports commissioner.

The NAIA has deep roots in Kansas City. The first general session of the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIB), the precursor to the NAIA, was held at the Phillips Hotel in Kansas City March 10, 1940, according to the official NAIA web site. The first men's basketball championship tournament at Municipal Auditorium in 1937 sparked the ongoing flame of the longest continuous national collegiate tournament in any sport. Kansas City was the site of the event for 56 years. In 1993, the NAIA moved the competition, along with its headquarters, to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Since 2001 both have been back in Kansas City.

"It is a highly-competitive marathon of basketball," said Dee. "There are only ten minutes in between games."

He added that even though the first three days of games are packed together, the last game rarely ends before midnight.

The Quarterfinals will be held March 18 and the Semifinals will be held March 20. The Championship game will be broadcast nationwide on CSTV at 8 p.m. March 21.

Fan Fest will last from March 15-18 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. According to NAIA's official web site, there will be a pre-championship Tailgating Party at 5 p.m. Entrance fee and area restaurant samples will cost \$12.

Past champions, current statistics and local area colleges will play a part in which team colors fans will paint their faces.

"My heart is with the local favorite (Columbia) but I imagine Oklahoma Baptist is still considered one of the favorites," said Gray.

Robert Morris College, Mt. State University and Los Angeles State University are also favorites to win according to Dee because they are rated amongst the top five in the association.

The family package is made to be very affordable for families, according to Dee. For four general admission family tickets, the price is \$35 including four hotdogs and four drinks. For singles, tournament tickets are available for \$50 general admission and \$70 reserved. General single session tickets are \$9 per adult and \$5 per student (add \$3 for reserved seats). All tournament tickets can be purchased through the NAIA National Office (913) 791-0044. All single-session tickets can be bought at the Municipal Auditorium Box Office or through Ticketmaster (816) 931-3330. ★

Ballet *pointes* students toward future

Dancers dedicate time, energy to perfecting their performance

Staff Writer
Rachel Schwartz

Ask almost anyone what he or she considers to be rigorous sports, and ballet probably will not make the cut.

"Guys are the ones who usually say ballet isn't a sport," said sophomore Sarah Luecke. "But I don't think that they could ever put on a pointe shoe and lift their leg over their head at the same time and call it easy."

Luecke has taken ballet at United Dance for the past four years, along with jazz, jazz composition, modern and pointe.

Freshman Jaime Henry-White agrees with Luecke. Although she thinks ballet is difficult, she also enjoys it.

"It's just as hard as any other sports because it works your body and you use a lot of muscles," said Henry-White. "I don't want to make it sound just like hard work though, because it's fun and you meet great people, too. I just love to dance."

Henry-White, as well as sophomore Alex Miller and freshman Elizabeth Meyers, take dance at Kansas City Ballet, and have been dancing since they were young.

"Ballet takes so much dedication," said Meyers. "People don't realize it on stage because our dancing looks so easy, but it's a really challenging sport."

Meyers recently received a scholarship to a five-week summer camp sponsored by the San Francisco Ballet after a selective audition. Meyers is excited because the Ballet only accepts dancers that complement their style.

Miller has participated in ballet camps for the past three summers and plans on attending one this summer. She has also participated in "The Nutcracker," performed by the Kansas City Ballet, for the past seven years.

Miller enjoys ballet but she has encountered various obstacles.



LIBBY CONWELL

Freshman Elizabeth Meyers, left, and sophomore Alex Miller practice ballet at the Kansas City Ballet, Friday. This summer, Meyers will attend a five-week camp sponsored by the San Francisco Ballet.

"I am doing the best with what I have, because I'm tall and most dancers are not as tall as I am," said Miller. "I don't have the perfect body type but I have dealt with what I have and have accomplished a lot."

However, Miller said that she will not go on to do ballet professionally because of the sport's competitive nature.

"In class, it's you against yourself," said Miller. "Once you get out into the

real world, you are competing against everybody else and I don't really like that. I just like trying to make myself better."

Luecke said that she will never stop dancing, but does not want to pursue it as a career. Henry-White said that she would love to perform ballet in the future, but is somewhat hesitant.

"I would love to do ballet professionally... but I don't know if I'm good enough," said Henry-White. "I love to

dance, but I would only keep dancing if I thought I was good enough at it."

However, Meyers does want to take up ballet as a career.

"Ballet just interests me and I've been doing it forever so I think I will go on to do professional ballet," said Meyers. "If you have a bad day at school, you can just go dance and forget about everything else." ★

9 march 2006
★
The Dart
★
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

The Coterie Theatre was named one of the best five theaters for young adults by *TIME* magazine. Tuesday the theater opened its latest production "The Search for Odysseus," a retelling of Homer's "The Odyssey" through the eyes of a teenager.

Performances run Tues.-Sun.; 10 a.m. Tues.; 10 a.m., 12 p.m. Wed. & Thurs.; 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 7 p.m. Fri.; 2 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children, students and seniors.

Winter Tech Week brings long days, late nights

Various crews prepare for school musical "Leader of the Pack"

Staff Writer
Kate Rainey

You've probably been to an STA production, but it's unlikely that you have seen the work that goes into putting it on. The long nights, hours of waiting, sound checks, stage spiking and light orienting: this is what happens during Tech Week.

"Tech Week is where we add in the technical elements of the show," said director Shana Prentiss. "That's lights, sounds, props, costumes, makeup, all the things that we haven't worked with yet."

Tech Week for the spring musical "The Leader of the Pack," a story about a 1960s female producer who struggles to balance her career and her marriage, started Saturday, Feb. 25. It was an 11 hour day.

Tech crew (which included light, sound and run crew) spent about four hours setting up. During those four hours, the actors "hang out, do homework and eat," according to sophomore Elizabeth Warwick. The light crew went through cues and made sure their equipment was working. Sound crew set

up speakers and mics. Run crew set up props and cleaned backstage.

Next was sound check. The actors lined up on stage and said their names, roles, a line, and sang, or told stories. Meanwhile, a member of sound crew set the level of each mic, which varied for each actor, depending on how loud the actor was.

Around 4 p.m., cue-to-cue, a run through of scene transitions, began. According to Prentiss, this was a long process.

The cast and crew got a one hour break to eat dinner that was provided by the Fine Arts Booster club (FAB).



KATHLEEN POINTER

Sophomore Hannah Girardeau, left, back combs freshman Anna Gillcrest's hair before a dress rehearsal Mach 1. Hair, costumes and makeup were one aspect of the technical work that the crews performed.

At 9 p.m., the cue-to-cue ended and they did a full run-through of the musical. They finished the run-through at about 12 p.m., after which Prentiss went over notes with the cast and crew, to work out any remaining problems.

"Tech Week is sort of like being in an alternate reality," said sophomore Ariste Lubar, a member of light crew. "It consumes your life for a week,"

The next days of Tech Week went similarly. The cast and crew arrived at 6 p.m. and set up. After one setback or another

[Monday night, sound crew had to rearrange the equipment after the Junior Ring

Ceremony; Tuesday, hair and makeup took longer than expected, but sophomore Kathleen Bryant brought cake and soda in celebration of her birthday, so no one complained, sound check finally started. Then run-through began, and, for the most part, went without interruptions. After run-through, the cast and crew reviewed notes before calling it a night. They never finished before 10 p.m.

Despite the long hours, the crew seemed to enjoy Tech Week. "The thing about Tech is you always have to try to have fun because you're there so much you can go a little crazy," said senior Kate Harbin.

The girls found ways to entertain themselves. Sound crew turned on people's body mics while they were in the bathroom, and listened in on people's conversations; neither the cast nor crew was safe. The light crew used the newest toys, the gobos — discs used to project pattern onto the stage — to have a dance party.

While the cast and crews had their fun, they were still willing to work.

"It seems like each year Tech Weeks get easier," said Prentiss. "I don't know if I'm more organized or the kids are more prepared each time. Half the time they just know what needs to get done. We're a family. We help each other out and we get through it. That's what it's all about." ★

Netflix subscribers enjoy convenience, no late fees through online movie rental plans

Opinion Editor
Mary Kate Bird

Since 1998, Los Gatos, Calif., based Netflix has been the largest source for online movie rentals. The company, whose 2005 year-end subscribers were in excess of 4.2 million, offers four different types of online subscription plans ranging from \$9.99 to \$17.99 per month. All four plans include a two-week free trial, with three of the plans offering unlimited rentals throughout the month.

Subscribers sign up on line and create a list of movies in order of favorites. The DVD's are shipped to the subscriber's home. Netflix guarantees subscribers that they will receive their rentals on the next business day. Those DVD's come with postage-paid envelopes to mail back DVD's. Guaranteed within the next two days, each customer's online account is updated to show that the DVD has been returned, at which point the next DVD on the list gets mailed out.

"We subscribed [to Netflix] because we didn't have enough time to go to the store," said junior Rachel Janose. "It was more convenient to have them delivered. We ended up watching more movies because it required no effort."

Statistics show that Netflix's reputation of "no hidden fees" draws consumers to Netflix rather than local video stores or national conglomerates. There are no late fees, no due dates and customers have the "convenience" of being able to have their rentals shipped back and forth from Netflix for free.

"Another big reason why [we chose] Netflix was because of Blockbuster's ridiculous late fees," said Janose.



Netflix is competing with not only Blockbuster and local video stores but also with services like On-Demand and pay-per-view. The Netflix system is so convenient that, according to the Netflix website, customers average five rentals a month.

"I think [Netflix] is better than Blockbuster," said Janose. "Ordering and finding DVD's online is easier than a store."

However, as quickly as Walmart entered the mail-order rental game, they were out. Now directing subscribers to Net-

Mail's In!

Check out how mail-order movie rental options match up

		
Website	www.blockbuster.com	www.netflix.com
Price	Three at a time \$17.99 per month	Three at a time \$17.99 per month
Travel Time	One- three business days	One US business day
Keep time	Keep as long as you want	Keep as long as you want
Late fees?	None	None
Movie selection	50,000 titles	55,000 titles
Easiness of website	Simple how-to directions on home page	Simple how-to directions on home page
Shipping & postage	Free	Free
Extras	Includes paid postage stamp for return; four free in-store rentals per month for members	Includes prepaid envelope

Your movie has arrived!

BREANNE SIGLER

flix for their movie rental needs, Walmart removed itself from the online movie business at the success of Netflix. Netflix, according to its website, would "be taller

than Mt. Everest within 10 days" given the amount of rental requests.

"I'd love to be Howard Schultz," said Mr. Reed Hastings, founder and CEO of

Netflix in an interview with Wired Magazine. "As Starbucks is for coffee, Netflix is for movies." ★

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★
The Dart

★
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Singer-actress Dana Reeve, wife of the late Christopher Reeve, died of lung-cancer, Monday at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Medical Center in Manhattan, a year-and-a-half after her husband. She was 44.

Reeve announced her diagnosis last August.

She was described by former President Clinton and New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton as "a model of tenacity and grace."

Reeves is survived by her 13 year-old son, Will; two step-children, Matthew and Alexandra; her father, Charles Morosini and two sisters.

Spring break ideas for those students stuck in Kansas City

- Bowling for Rhinos March 12 6p.m. AMF College Lanes \$15 supports Rhinos at the Kansas City Zoo
- Snow Creek Ski Area Fri.-Sun.
- Crown Center Ice Terrace 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.
- The Elders March 17 7:30 p.m. at the Uptown \$18-\$33
- KC Brigade vs Philadelphia Soul Mon. 7 p.m. \$13.50
- Tours at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art Tues.- Sun. 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.
- Kid Rock performs Friday at Municipal Auditorium 7:30 p.m. \$35
- Thoroughly Modern Millie Wed. Music Hall 8 p.m. \$47.50
- Bellydance Superstars March 19: Uptown 7 p.m. \$32
- Professional Bull Riders Fri.-Sun. 8 p.m. \$20-\$100

NBC strikes funny gold

Opposing shows have similar comedic formula

Kate Rainey



Videophile

NBC has been host to a plethora of great comedies. "My Name is Earl" and "Scrubs" are two of their current successes.

These two shows (though very different) are original, have great actors and writers, and innovative storytelling and filming.

The main thing that makes these shows stand out is the storytelling. My father calls it "nonlinear storytelling," but I like to think of it as a Robin Williams stand-up routine. The shows start out with the main plot, but go off on tangents and random flashbacks, which keep them interesting. For "Scrubs," this is where most of the slapstick jokes and puns come in. For "Earl," this is where most of the back story takes place. Unlike Robin Williams, these shows are easy to follow.

"Earl," which airs Thursdays at 8 p.m., is unexpected because the basic message is: simplicity equals smart. Earl and Randy say some of the stupidest things I've ever heard, but they also seem to open people's eyes to things they would normally overlook. All the characters are ignorant and ridiculous, but their simplicity allows them to discover the truths in life. It's like the Benjamin Hoff novel, *The Tao of Pooh*. Winnie the Pooh is the wisest creature in *Hundred Acre Wood* because he's simpleminded.

The jokes on "Earl" are also smart because it takes a lot of thought to come up with that situations that Randy and Earl get themselves into. At the same time, the show is so believable it's scary. There are people out there who put ketchup on their spaghetti. I even heard someone say they had friends like Randy and Earl in junior high. The fact that people would actually get into these situations is what makes it funny and horrifying.

"Scrubs," which airs back-to-back on Tuesdays at 8 and 8:30 p.m., is the opposite - on this show, smart equals stupid. It is set in a hospital, which (if you've seen "ER") is a high-pressure, dramatic place to work. But "Scrubs" has the dumbest, most dysfunctional characters. They are unsure of themselves and, more frightening, full of themselves. Very little of the show deals with the patient; it's mostly about their own neuroses.

The jokes are mostly physical humor and puns, which I wouldn't expect in a hospital setting. I would expect medical jokes that fly over everyone's heads. The physical humor and puns are hard to pull off without being boring and childish. "Scrubs" teeters on the verge of being cheesy. There are some episodes when I gag a little at the sickly sweetness. But somehow they manage to make it work and not drown themselves in the sappy deep end.

Without exceptional writers and actors, these shows would slowly fade away, or get trashed by critics. It would have been easy for "Earl" to slap a bushy mustache on an actor, give him a Southern drawl, and leave it at that. But both shows took it to the next level, making them more believable and relatable. ★

The Academy VS The Academy

St. Teresa's Academy

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

The 78th annual Academy Awards were presented Sunday and televised live on ABC.

The Dart asked 100 freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who they wanted to win.

- ★Best performance by an actor in a supporting role:
 - 9% George Clooney in "Syriana"
 - 35% Matt Dillon in "Crash"
 - 17% Paul Giamatti in "Cinderella Man"
 - 39% Jake Gyllenhaal in "Brokeback Mountain"
 - 0% William Hurt in "A History of Violence"

- ★Best performance by an actress in a supporting role:
 - 7% Amy Adams in "Junebug"
 - 10% Catherine Keener in "Capote"
 - 13% Frances McDormand in "North Country"
 - 17% Rachel Weisz in "the Constant Gardener"
 - 53% Michelle Williams in "Brokeback Mountain"

- ★Best performance by an actor in a leading role:
 - 6% Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Capote"
 - 7% Terrence Howard in "Hustle & Flow"
 - 35% Heath Ledger in "Brokeback Mountain"
 - 50% Joaquin Phoenix in "Walk the Line"
 - 2% David Strathairn in "Good Night, and Good Luck"

- ★Best performance by an actress in a leading role:
 - 1% Judi Dench in "Mrs. Henderson Presents"
 - 6% Felicity Huffman in "Transamerica"
 - 35% Keira Knightley in "Pride & Prejudice"
 - 11% Charlize Theron in "North Country"
 - 47% Reese Witherspoon in "Walk the Line"

- ★Best motion picture of the year:
 - 39% "Brokeback Mountain"
 - 4% "Capote"
 - 44% "Crash"
 - 9% "Good Night, and Good Luck"
 - 4% "Munich"

And the Oscar goes to...

- ★Best performance by an actor in a supporting role:

George Clooney in "Syriana"

- ★Best performance by an actress in a supporting role:

Rachel Weisz in "The Constant Gardener"

- ★Best performance by an actor in a leading role:

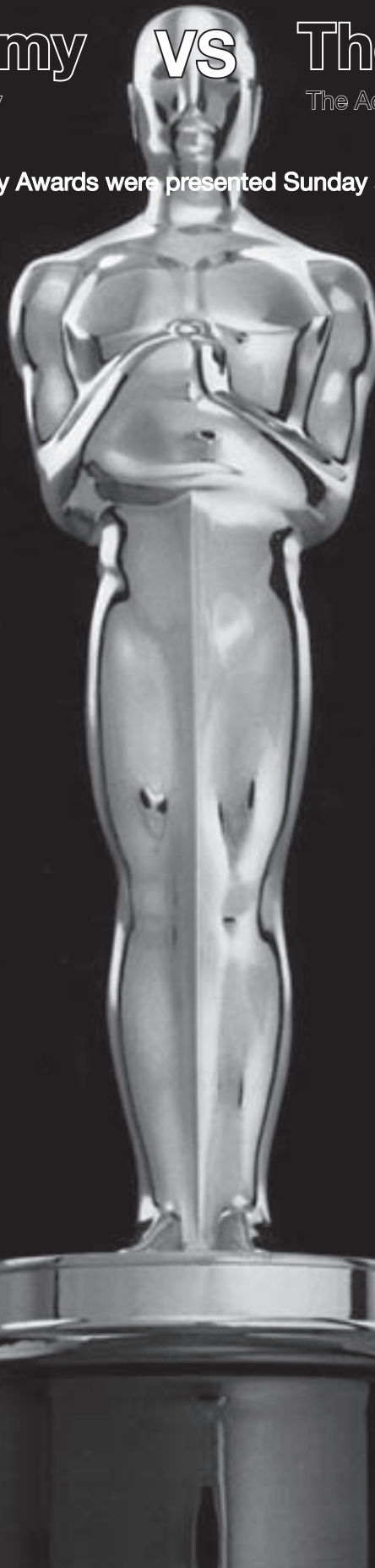
Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Capote"

- ★Best performance by an actress in a leading role:

Reese Witherspoon in "Walk the Line"

- ★Best motion picture of the year:

"Crash"



'Date Movie' tries too hard to get laughs

Emphasis on comedy leaves plot line unclear

Staff Writer Libby Conwell

When I saw the preview for "Date Movie" I moaned and thought about how horrible it would be. Written by two of the six writers of "Scary Movie," the story pokes fun of various chick-flicks such as "The Wedding Planner," "Meet the Parents" and "My Best Friend's Wedding." If none of these movies are your favorite, you may enjoy some of "Date Movie's" crude humor.

The film begins when Julia Jones (Alyson Hannigan), a hopeless romantic,

meets a guy Grant Fonckyerdoder (Adam Campbell), who she finds perfect. He meets her parents, who hate him, but they decide to get married with a big wedding anyway while his best girl friend tries to stop them.

I knew the movie hit rock bottom when a Jennifer Lopez impersonator is introduced as the wedding planner, Jello and a Will Smith midget is brought in as a match maker. From the wise cracks made from the teenagers sitting behind me to the couple yawning next to me, I knew I was not the only one disliking this movie. At times, the immature 13 year-old boys sitting in-front laughed but they were the only ones who found humor in the cheesy jokes. There were also completely random references thrown in such as a Paris Hil-

ton look-alike imitating a Hardee's ad she appeared in and Michael Jackson moon walking in the background of a scene.

The actors were fine, but the plot ruined it for them. I know "Date Movie" is a parody of different date movies but it was overdone. It was definitely a step down for Alyson Hannigan, who appeared in the American Pie movies. Adam Campbell, the attractive lead male actor, was my only form of fondness for the movie. I could tell the writers were trying way too hard to make it funny.

At the end of the movie, I was so relieved that it was over and everyone else in the theatre seemed to feel the same way. It might have been the longest hour and 25 minutes of my life and a complete waste of \$6.50. ★

9 march 2006

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The Dart

★
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Following its recent Oscar success, the film "Crash" is being re-released in theatres Friday. Lionsgate Films announced Tuesday that the film will play in "150-plus" theaters in the US. The film's theatrical release is open-ended, according to Lionsgate, pending its performance.

"Crash" has been available on DVD since Sept. and the production company is currently arranging its release in overseas English-speaking countries.

Ghost Hunter's Guide:

the odyssey through KC's most notorious haunted houses

Ricky Road

Location: Raytown, Missouri

Open to the public: Sure, just drive on through.

Story: Supposedly haunted by the ghost of some teens who went hill jumping on prom night and crashed.



Hotel Savoy

Location: 219 W 9th St, Kansas City, Missouri

Open to the Public: Only if you are a guest staying there.

Story: The ghost of Betsy Ward haunts room 505 in this historic, old building where she died in her bathtub.



Staff Writer
Aly Brownlee

From the outside, the mansion definitely appears as if it could be haunted. A rooftop, with intricate iron-work that mirrors the iron fence surrounding the house, rises out of the middle of a large plot of land, standing out in this neighborhood of tightly-packed houses. Thorn bushes line the sidewalk, and Victorian carvings adorn the exterior of the house. On a cloudy day, with the skeletal trees whipping in the bitter wind, it is easy to see why the Vaile Mansion in Independence, Missouri has inspired rumors of supernatural activity.

"The architecture alone is very spooky," said Ms. Kristin Griffin, a grade school teacher who visited the mansion for a school report with her son. "It's very detailed and ornate, and houses just aren't built in that style anymore."

The mansion was built in 1881, by Colonel and Ms. Harvey Vaile. The interior is very grand, complete with murals on some ceilings, 31 rooms and nine marble fireplaces. The woodwork in one of the halls was designed to appear as though some of the knots were faces.

A few years after the house was built, Colonel Vaile was accused of mail fraud and faced a jail sentence. Ms. Vaile, shocked at hearing the accusations, took an overdose of morphine and died. Later, Mr. Vaile was found innocent, and lived another five years after his wife's death in 1889. A version of the story said that he put his

wife into a glass coffin, and left it on the premises of the mansion, but this is merely a myth. According to legend, the ghost of Ms. Vaile wanders the halls, searching for her husband. However, the Vaile Mansion is not the only place in Kansas City that is rumored to be haunted by ghosts.

"We went to a cemetery in Atchison, Kansas in 1990, where the ghost of a train conductor was supposed to lurk," said Mr. Larry Moore, anchorman for KMBC-9 News. "He had been driving a train, and a bridge was on fire, and he had the choice to save the cars with the passengers, or the engine. He chose to save the cars, and the engine went over the bridge and crashed."

In 1987, Moore began a series of televised investigations into rumored haunted places in the Metro area. Out of these, he said this was one of the most supernatural encounters he had.

"It was rainy and snowy, the wind was howling, and while we were shooting, the gates to the cemetery closed and locked," said Moore. "These gates were manual and couldn't have been blown shut. We saw a ghostly figure in the wind and snow, and we had to climb the fence, and get the grounds keeper to get us back out. There was a spooky feeling about the place."

Another infamous haunted house is the Sauer Castle in Kansas City, Kansas. Though the house is closed, and not open to the public, a Rockhurst High School student who wished to remain anonymous since he could be charged with trespassing, has seen the interior.

"I went there at night, and when I

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The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Dictionary terms commonly used in context to haunted houses according to Webster's:

demon - (n) an evil spirit

ghost - (n) a disembodied soul; a faint shadowy trace; a false image in a photographic image, a red blood cell that has lost its hemoglobin

ghoul - (n) a legendary evil thing that robs graves and feeds on corpses

haunt - (v) to have a disquieting or harmful effect on, to visit or inhabit as a ghost (see above)

witch - (n) one credited with having malignant supernatural powers, an ugly old woman or a charming young girl

Vaile Mansion

Location: 1500 N. Liberty Street, in Independence

Open to the Public: April 1-Oct. 31, Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Story: It is said that the ghost of Ms. Vaile haunts the mansion where she killed herself after hearing wrongful accusations and jail sentence of Colonel Vaile. She seeks her husband, who was eventually found innocent.



ELIZABETH NELSON

was in the basement, it was very dark and creepy," said the student. "[The basement] was totally unfinished, very run-down looking, and it had a huge crater in the center. I don't know why that was there, but it was frightening, and made the whole place scary."

According to legend, Colonel and Mrs. Sauer were a wealthy couple who had recently moved to America from England. Soon after, Colonel Sauer enlisted in the Civil War. He later wrote his wife and told her that he would be coming home on a ferry, and exactly when and where she could meet him. When the ferry landed, Mrs. Sauer watched all of the troops get off, but did not see her husband. Thinking he had died in the war, she went home and hung herself, overcome with grief in the house's bell tower. Unknown to Mrs. Sauer, her husband had not died in the war, but rather had just missed his ferry. When he went home, and found his wife's body, he was so forlorn that he pulled out his pistol and shot himself. It is said that on Halloween at midnight, you can see

the two figures dancing in the bell tower.

"I didn't see anything really strange, but while I was standing outside, I swear I saw movements in the second floor window, even though there was no one there," the student said. "I don't know if the place was haunted, but it certainly was scary."

Is Kansas City haunted? There have been many rumored places in the city, and legends continue to circulate to this day.

"There are certainly things that can't be explained," Griffin said. "But, I suppose whether a place is haunted or not depends on your point of view."

Standing outside the iron fence, one feels safer watching the Vaile Mansion from a distance.

It looms on the horizon, its dark interior still sending shivers to the body. The ornate woodwork seems out of place in the modern era, as do the long, thin windows. A flutter of curtain lace suddenly catches the eye. Was it the wind? Your imagination? Or maybe, the ghost of Ms. Vaile waving goodbye as you walk away. ★

"There are certainly things that can't be explained. But I suppose whether a place is haunted or not depends on your point of view."

teacher, Kristin Griffin

Donaldson House

Location: 4415 Warwick Blvd.

Open to the Public: No. This house is now owned by the Kansas City Art Institute.

Story: Eight spirits have been rumored to haunt this house. Reportedly, only one of the spirits is friendly. Not much is known about them, but there have been orb lights sighted, and stories of objects being thrown along with sounds of footsteps. Supposedly, the second floor telephone rings at around three or four in the morning, every morning.

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★
The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Words commonly linked with haunted houses according to Webster:

spirit
apparition
demon
phenomenon
vampire
sorceress
sorcerer
warlock
devil
evil
horror
tragedy
terror
fear
panic
disturb
cobwebs
spiders
fright
scare
zombie
haunt
castle
mansion
death

Epperson House

Location: 5200 Cherry, on the UMKC Campus

Open to the Public: Not really. This is now the school of architecture for UMKC, and mainly it is the students who are allowed in the building.

Story: The house is listed on the National Register of Haunted Houses and it has been showcased on "Unsolved Mysteries." The ghost of a young woman haunts the house where she killed herself after being banned from seeing a young man she was dating.

Sauer Castle

Location: On Shawnee Road in Kansas City, Kansas.

Open to the public: No.

Story: Legend has it that this old mansion is haunted by the ghost of a woman who killed herself after she believed her husband was dead. When her husband found her body, he too committed suicide, and now haunts this house.

STA honors two women their efforts in community

Annual assembly follows tradition by awarding inspirational leaders

Editor-in-Chief
Julia McQueeney-Thorpe

On Friday, March 3 STA congratulated the two newest recipients of the Mother Evelyn O'Neil award. The honors were bestowed to Ms. Anita Gorman and Ms. Rita Valenciano.

Each March, STA acknowledges two women during National Women's History Month. The women selected to receive the award must exemplify on the core values of the school: assisting the poor, justice in the world, community stewardship and excellence in education. This year, Gorman accepted the award for her community stewardship and Valenciano for her social justice.

The first to receive her award was Gorman. The Honorable Carol Marinovich introduced Gorman as a "tenacious committed" member of society. In her speech Marinovich quoted Mayor Kay Barnes on Gorman, who said:

"Anita has been and will continue to be a committed leader in Kansas City."

Gorman was acknowledged for her efforts in conservation. She was the first and only woman appointed to the Missouri Conservation Commission in 1993. Gorman is most well known for her work on the Kansas City Discovery Center; she convinced the Conservation Commission of the project's importance and raised 40 percent of the \$10 million funding.

"The Discovery Center would not have become a reality without Anita Gorman staying with it every step of the way," said Governor Bob Holden to the Kansas City Star after the opening of the center in 1995.

In her acceptance, Gorman gave advice to STA. Of these keys, she named "making peace with God" as the most important. She also expressed duties as Americans.

"It's a wonderful time to be alive, it's a fine time to be American," said Gorman. "We are expected to make the world a better place."

Other projects Gorman has worked on include establishing the venison donation program, education partnership with the Kansas City Zoo, wetland restorations and the establishment of the Runge Conservation



KATHLEEN POINTER

Ms. Anita Gorman, left, Ms. Mamie Hughe and the Honorable Carol Marinovich take a moment to relax after the Mother Evelyn O'Neil award ceremony March 3. The ceremony honored Gorman for community stewardship and Ms. Rita Valenciano, a STA alumnae for her social justice work.

Nature Center in Jefferson City.

"I've been fortunate in being the first woman on a lot of things," said Gorman. "I mean men can't help it they aren't women."

Valenciano has also been instrumental in a number of community projects. However, she is known for her works of social justice, especially in the Latino community.

"I get involved a lot when there are Latino people," said Valenciano. "There have been a number of incidents where I go to be the community mouth."

Valenciano was a student activist for civil rights in the 1970s at the University of Missouri Kansas City. She has served and worked in Kansas City's Human Rights Department, she chairs the Civil Rights

Committee for the Coalition of Hispanic Organization and conducts diversity training. Valenciano graduated from STA in 1969.

"I remember walking through those doors [of STA] and thinking this is going to change my life," said Valenciano.

Ms. Mary Lou Jaramillo, who was honored in 2002, compared Valenciano to an Olympic torch bearer.

"She has guts," said Jaramillo. "She has the courage to carry the torch."

Jaramillo has been friends with Valenciano for 20 years and noted the 26 organizations to which Valenciano belongs. Additionally, Jaramillo mentioned how Valenciano has the chief-of-police programmed into her phone, who she calls frequently.

"Whenever I bring a complaint I always

follow with assistance," said Valenciano.

Gorman and Valenciano both agree that of their accomplishments the ones that bring them most pride is their families.

"I know marriage is not in the cards for everyone," said Gorman. "But for me finding the right man and staying with him for 50 plus years and starting my family is the most important."

Gorman has two daughters and five grandchildren. Valenciano shares this idea with Gorman. Valenciano has three children who often accompanied her to meetings when they were younger.

"They survived in spite of me," said Valenciano. "But allowing them to observe my work at such a young age is kind of passing it on to other generations." ★

9 march 2006

★

The Dart

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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

A 12-year-old boy on a school visit to the Detroit Institute of Arts stuck a piece of chewing gum on Helen Frankenthaler's abstract painting "The Bay," a landmark in the artist's career and a prize of the museum's collection, damaging the work, which now needs repair, The Detroit Free Press reported. Museum officials said that the painting, valued at \$1.5 million, would remain on view while conservationists determined the solvent to be used to remove chemical residue about the size of a quarter. The boy has been suspended from school and his parents have taken disciplinary action.

Tricky language, challenging poses: yoga pushes limits

Not simply meditation, yoga offers intense work out, peaceful blessing

Alison Raybould



Undercover

"Namaste," my instructor Jen said goodbye, bowing to us, hands folded. "Nmte," I mumbled back slightly bending my neck. She then relayed next week's schedule to the class, and in spite of my better judgment, I took a mental note of the times. My sore arms rolled up the borrowed yoga mat as quickly as possible, but I found myself unable to leave. Part of this hesitation may have been due to my immobile legs, but more so, I was confused by her parting goodbye.

I will be the first to admit that yoga is no new trend on the cutting edge of health and fitness. In fact, I have been sporadically at-

tending classes for over two years.

However, my most recent experience after a five month dry spell at the Athletic Club of Overland Park was something new, for me, at the very least. It was not my typical 24 Hour Fitness yoga that consisted primarily of light stretching and an abundance of meditation completed with lavender eye pillows. This yoga was one of the most challenging athletic experiences of my life, requiring nearly as much mental toughness as a 5K cross-country race or a 90-minute soccer game. And neither of those are easy tasks.

Somewhere in between downward dog and warrior one poses, the esoteric language completely muddled my form. I knew that I would be rusty on my terminology and technique, but I did not expect to have to continually check if I was doing the same as everyone else. The Virabhadrasanas and Balasanas were definitely messing with my concentration, and when she said Adho Mukha Vrksasana, I knew I was in trouble.

With those three cryptic words, everyone shuffled their mats over to the walls and began to do headstands, supported only by the wall and their forearms. The headstand was uncharted waters for me and my begin-

ner's yoga. As I tried to kick myself into an upright position, twice my feet slammed against the hard wood floor. On the third time, however, I succeeded, and while it felt like I should be celebrating my victory in overcoming the tricky pose, tears began to silently stream down my face. At nearly six feet tall, I felt as if my legs were about to collapse and cause my neck to snap in two. I immediately curled back into the fetal position (child's pose), shielding my tears from the rest of the class.

Although the headstand was intended to be the most difficult part of our workout, I could never get back into the swing of things, stumbling on the simple Utkatasana (chair pose).

So when Jen gave us that final "Namaste," I was halfway relieved, but more so confused.

"What did this mean?" I asked her after class. She told me that gesture acknowledges the soul of one in the soul of another. To break it down, "Nama" means bow, "as" means I, and "te" means you. Therefore, Namaste literally means "I bow to you."

I was able to leave my challenging yoga experience a little more enlightened and a little less proud. But my advice to you: try the poses at least once and check your ego at the door. A neck brace would also come in handy, as well. With this knowledge you will be able to truly share in the peaceful bond of "Namaste." ★

CORRECTIONS

ISSUE 4

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In the Kansas City Rowing Club story on page 15, it wasn't mentioned that freshmen Kit Landwehr and Cynthia Livingston are members of the team along with Amelia McGannon and Elizabeth McNamara. Also in the corresponding side bar, the word "oar" was misspelled. The word "ore" refers to iron ore, the word "oar" refers to rowing paddles.

★
On page 9, Erica Hougland's name appears misspelled twice as "Houghland." in both captions for Calculus and Off Campus photos. *The Dart* is very apologetic for this mistake.

★
Katherine Poppe's name appeared misspelled on page 21 in the feature of sophomore Rachel Schwartz. "Power of Prayer". We apologize for this mistake.

★
On page 5, we incorrectly labeled Anel Sharon as the "former Prime Minister" of Israel. however, he is still the Prime Minister. Mr. Ehud Olbert is the interim Prime Minister in Sharon's absence. We regret this mistake.



W cross r d

ACROSS

- 2 number of democratic elections held in Iraq
- 6 This group supplies money for female political candidates
- 12 The website that Mr. Jack Garvin met his wife on. (minus the '.com')
- 13 The first belt color in the karate sequence
- 16 Netflix hub city
- 17 The device GM has placed in cars, also found in planes
- 18 Where the track and field practices
- 19 Track and field head coach

DOWN

- 1 The Big Twelve is celebrating it's ___ anniversary
- 3 Consumers are drawn to "Netflix for it's no ___ fees"

- 4 This democratic Senator gained support for a 2008 presidential nomination.
- 5 The two new distance coaches for track and field
- 6 Israeli Prime Minister who suffered from a stroke Jan. 4
- 7 The clause in the first ammendment deals with seperation of church and state
- 8 Where Houglund has been taking karate for the past five years
- 9 The NAIA men's basketball championship is held here.
- 10 This ballet company gave freshman Elizabeth Meyers a scholarship for a summer camp
- 11 Number of pints of blood collected at STA
- 14 Downtown construction is causing this problem.
- 15 The light crew use ___ project for psychedelic images on the stage

9 march 2006

★
The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Stewart Jenkins, 33, was arrested in Des Moines, Iowa, in November for allegedly pulling a gun on a man he apparently thought was disrespecting him. According to the police report, Jenkins and Patrick Hickey passed each other in an alley, and Jenkins asked, "What's up?" Hickey responded: "What's up?" Jenkins asked again: "What's up?" Hickey (again): "What's up?" Jenkins: "I'll show you what's up!" He ran into a nearby house and emerged angrily with a .38-caliber handgun. (Unfortunately for him, Patrick Hickey is a plainclothes police officer. He arrested Jenkins and recovered about 15 grams of suspected crack cocaine from the house.)

Chess: Students compete at State

Continued from page 1

State level in Jefferson City, Missouri on Feb. 25. Schapker and Duesing competed on different boards, but both were awarded the honor of "Top Girl." Schapker and Duesing both competed to qualify for the Polgar Tournament of High School State Champions.

"If you win, you're the best female chess player," Duesing said of the Polgar tournament. "There are only four girls so Emily and I are going to have to play each other."

Schapker and Duesing were two members of a three-way tie for first place, however neither girl will compete at the Polgar tournament.

Schapker plans to compete at the National High School Championships, which are held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in mid-April.

"Bad players don't really go because they don't want to drive all the way to Wisconsin," Schapker said.

To prepare themselves for tournaments, both Schapker and Duesing practice extensively. Both girls use chess workbooks, which Schapker says are like "math problems for chess."

"They condition your mind to think logically and to notice abstract options," she said.

On Fridays, Schapker and Duesing both go to various Kansas City coffee houses and play against college-level players. "I just ask people to randomly play a game of chess," she said.

Schapker carries a portable chessboard with her, throughout the day and plays during her free periods.

"[Carrying my board] is a good recruitment method; I just talk to people with a chessboard and a smile," Schapker said. ★

Blood Drive: Students, teachers band together to donate 33 pints

Continued from page 3

had cancer and needed several blood transfusions when she was young. According to Hansbrough, her daughter would have died without the blood. Hansbrough has also seen the effects of the patients who receive the blood.

"I have given blood and watched [patients] come to life," said Hansbrough. "It is a huge gift to give."

Sirridge has given more than a gallon of blood. The blood center calls him to give blood because he has a "universal" blood type, meaning that his blood does not have to be the exact same type as the receiver's.

According to Sirridge, his mother was one of the founders of the Com-

munity Blood Center. He believes there is a constant need for blood in hospitals because blood is limited.

"There is also a psychological factor that you feel better after you give. You feel like you are giving something very personal to someone else, it is like the gift of yourself."

Junior Mallory Finn agreed.

"[I donated blood] because I know there are people that need blood," said Finn, a first-time donor. "I do it to help

other people because I know they would do the same for me."

According to Hansbrough, the blood drive was an overall success. She was proud thinking about what the drive will do for others.

"If one pint can save a life, imagine what 33 can do," said Hansbrough. ★

"I have given blood and watched [patients] come to life"
teacher, Betsy Hansbrough

a look at next issue...

april 2006

★ Follow STA students in their mock trials in downtown Kansas City.



KATHLEEN POINTER

Michele Cox dances as a student at the UMKC Conservatory of Music. She choreographs and dances her own pieces. She is not apart of the Alvin Ailey group, but was called to perform for the STA show. She danced a dramatic and uptempo piece during the assembly. The Alvin Ailey troupe used African dances from past styles to more recent styles.

Alvin Ailey's dancing troupe hypnotizes students with

Movement

9 march 2006

★
The Dart
★
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

History of Alvin Ailey according to www.alvin-ailey.org:

Alvin Ailey, Jr. was born in 1931. He began his dance training from notable Katherine Dunham's Dance Company and Lester Horton's classes. Having grown up in Texas, he pulled native blues, spirituals, and gospel pieces into his dances referred to as : blood memories." In 1958, he began his own dance company featuring African American dancers and since its creation over 170 by more than 65 choreographers have been performed by his troupe. He created 79 ballots by the time of his death in 1989.

For their second presentation at STA, the dance company performs African dance combinations

Copy Editor
Mollie Esposito

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater came to perform at STA on Feb. 7. Dancers, Deanna Hieh, Winston Brown, Latra Wilson and Michele Cox came to perform "Setting the Stage," which is a combination of dance, art and spoken word that chronicles the evolution of African-American dance. Along with music and dance from each style "Setting the Stage" included a PowerPoint presentation of photographs from each period. The performance was made possible by the STA dance club, who raised funds at a bake sale earlier in the school year. They also organized the event. ★



Winston Dynamite Brown began his career in dance at the Smith Sisters Dance Studio in KC. Other companies he has danced with include the Missouri State Ballet, The Center Dance, and Wyllyams Henry Danse Theatre. He was awarded the Lorna Strassler Award for Excellence. Brown is a three-time fellowship recipient at Alvin Ailey. Here he dances a solo in the auditorium.



KATHLEEN POINTER

Deanna Hieh danced during the presentation in the auditorium. The audience viewed this performance during her solo.