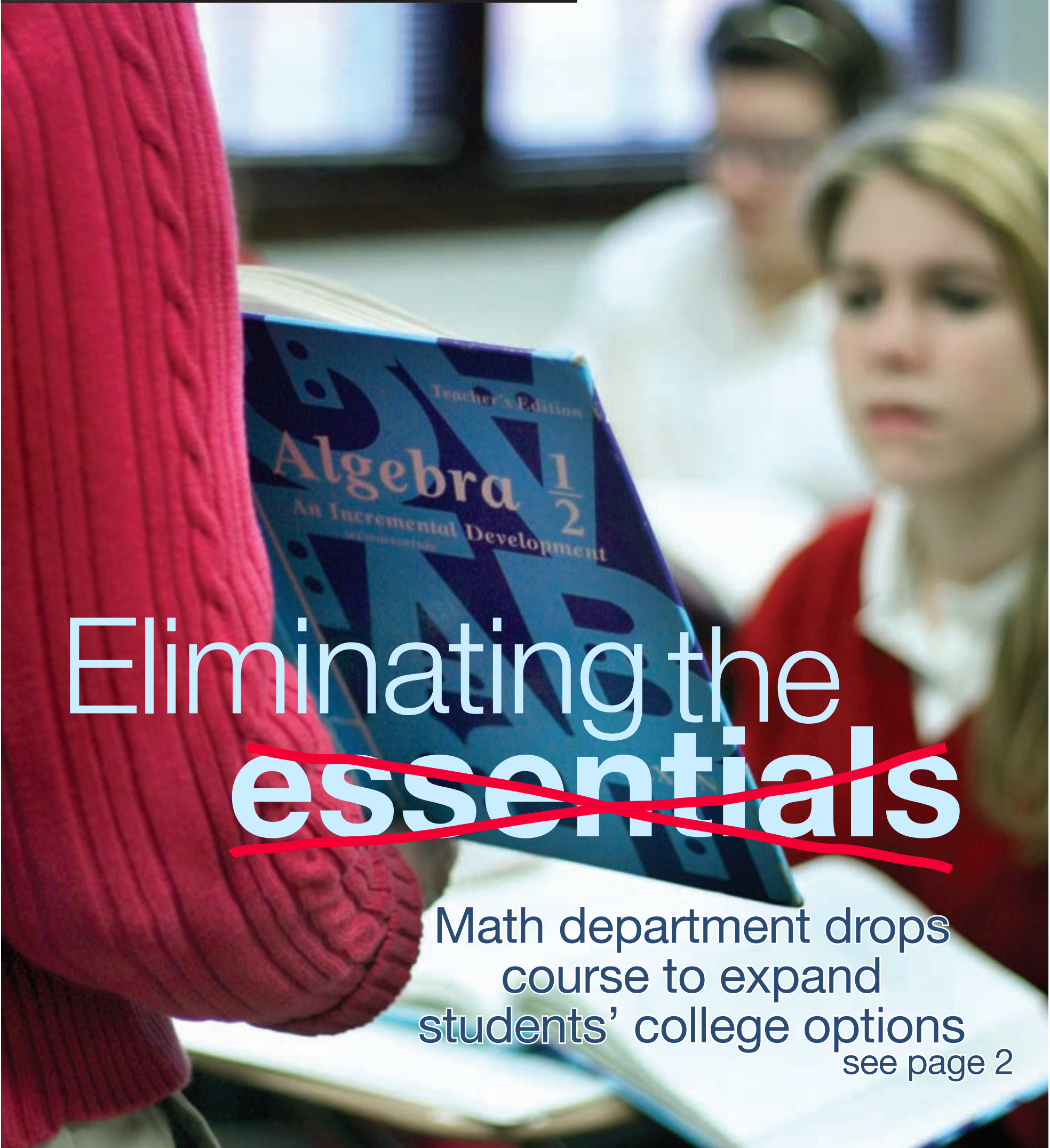


THE DART

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY



Eliminating the ~~essentials~~

Math department drops
course to expand
students' college options

see page 2

Math department cuts class



Studying closely ★ Freshman Lindsay Macartney learns about proportions during the Essentials of Algebra class last Friday. The administration has decided not to continue teaching Essentials of Algebra beginning with the class of 2012. PHOTO BY CLAIRE McINERNEY

Administration removes algebra course in hopes of improving its college preparatory standards

by **BIANCA DANG**
Staff Writer

Students, parents and faculty alike have deliberated over the necessity of STA's freshman level math course, essentials of algebra. Beginning with STA's class of 2012, the course will no longer be offered.

This fall, students will begin STA in math courses of algebra I or higher. Previously, girls who did not score high enough on the High School Placement Test math section were recommended summer school as well as taking the essentials course. According to President Nan Bone, this could potentially hurt students.

"[An advantage of the course] is that it is a good review of some essential math facts that will help them be successful at STA, which we like, but disadvantages of essentials is that essentials counts as

credit at St. Teresa's but doesn't transfer to [any] colleges," Bone said.

Many universities, such as the University of Missouri, require four years of math from their incoming freshmen. These math classes have to be at algebra I level or higher. If students do not fulfill that requirement, they must take a summer course to obtain the credit. This has been a problem in the past for students who want to attend such universities but do not want to attend summer school before their freshman year.

Part of the reasoning behind removing essentials from the course list is due to student concern that the class was shrinking their options for college.

"This is just part of evaluating our practices and looking at what is best for all girls at St. Teresa's," Bone said. "[The essentials of algebra course] did come up in our [student] focus groups. I had some students that wanted us to look at it."

Senior Hannah Bailey was in essentials her freshman year. Since Bailey only has three credits of math that transfer to MU, she would be required to take a summer math course. This was a factor in her decision to attend Creighton University instead of MU.

"Someone who is going to a college prep school shouldn't have to be in remedial math before college," Bailey said.

Alumna Marisa Henderson also faced the task of catching up on math credits. After beginning freshman year in essentials, Henderson earned four credits by doubling up on math classes junior year. Henderson had personal reasons for making sure she had four credits of math and she also fulfilled the credit requirement of her current college, Florida State University.

"The way I was placed [through the HSPT] was not the level I needed to be at - it was lower," Henderson said. "In order to work up to what I should have been at, I doubled up on math junior year. I took geometry and algebra II [junior year] and trig senior year. I did it mostly for myself, in order to be where everyone else was at the normal graduation level."

In conjunction with eliminating essentials, STA will now offer summer school on campus for both math and language arts instead of having students go to Rockhurst High School, as was done in the past. The school believes this will also help students become accustomed to the STA atmosphere and academics.

College requirements



University of Kansas: 3 years of mathematics at the algebra I level and beyond

University of Missouri at Kansas City: 4 units of mathematics algebra I or higher

William Jewell College: 3 units of mathematics algebra I and higher units

Rockhurst University: 3 units of mathematics algebra I or higher

Kansas State University: 3 units of math, 1 unit each of algebra I, algebra II and geometry

"[In on-campus summer school], we'll be teaching girls what we expect for our math courses," said academic counselor Bernie Colby. "It will be

See MATH, page 23

inside out



Sports:

Junior Emily Schapker discovers passion for cyclocross competitions; hopes to race in college and

become bicycle designer.

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Features:

Senior Mary Clara Hutchison and her six other siblings clash and bond over personalities and

expectations for separation next year. See Pages 20-21

Climate change debate becomes about emotion, not about logic

KATE RAINEY



CAMPUS CRIER

A wise scientist told me the first thing he learned in college was to ask:

What do you know and how do you know it?

This question is essential to solving any problem. But with the issue of climate change, those who ask it are often written off as nuts. Climate change is a big argument in the scientific world, but the general consensus – in the media and politics – is that “An Inconvenient Truth” is gospel. The idea that one cannot ask a question is disturbing and unscientific. Scientists question, examine tangible data and find answers as best they can. Even after a conclusion is reached, few things remain unaltered.

What does this have to do with STA? We are active environmentalists. I have no issue with this activism in itself. If someone wants to be a good steward by picking up garbage in the Quad, I respect that. But if someone makes those concessions because Al Gore’s movie scared the bejeezus out of her, I ask her to step back and check her premises.

Questions are OK; they drive scientists to make discoveries. To think science is infallible is to turn science into a religion; one needs a lot of faith to believe that. There are myriad instances when scientists make a discovery, which years or months later, is proven wrong. Remember how the medical community pronounced eggs bad for us, then decided they’re actually good? Both statements are based on experimentation and observation, but which is right? If we base our eating habits on these pronouncements, we would oscillate nervously between eating and not eating eggs. We must recognize most science is about ideas and not laws, and eat what sounds good for breakfast.

We must approach climate change the same way. We are making impulsive life changes based on unsettled science. These changes have their own harmful effects. The recycling process sends pollutants into the air; biofuel production would take up a lot of our farmland and compete with our food supply; BBC News reported fluorescent light bulbs can cause migraines and leak mercury when decomposing.

There are consequences many environmentalists refuse to consider. Someone can use fluorescent light bulbs if they want. But when the government starts legislating “environmentally friendly” changes, we should worry. To force everyone to make these changes violates our rights and logic.

We must think beyond our emotional reactions. If human activity changes the climate, then we must think carefully about the changes we make because they could be just as harmful (if not more so). If the Earth’s climate fluctuates regardless of our activity, even then we should be conscientious of our actions. But it will be decades, maybe centuries, before we know the truth. Until that time, our best chance is to ask questions and evaluate constantly, not to put on blinders and make rash decisions. ★

Transfer student discovers new niche



Walk and talk★ From left, freshmen Amy Wendland, Megan Harper, junior JoEllen Redlingshafer and freshman Cassie Redlingshafer walk together to carpool Monday. After transferring from Shawnee Mission East High School, Harper joined the carpool with fellow St. Ann’s grade school girls. PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

Freshman Megan Harper transfers, finds herself suited to STA atmosphere

by HALEY VONDEMKAMP
Staff Writer

For the first time in months, Megan Harper woke up eager to go to school. Her new carpool arrived and she anxiously hopped into the back seat among old grade school classmates. With mixed emotions she was slightly jittery, not quite able to sit still.

Although she’d already spent a full semester as a high school student, this was to be her first day at the school where she was sure she belonged.

“Each year we lose a couple of [transfer] students per grade as well as gain some,” said Ms. Roseann Hudnall, director of admissions at STA. Freshman Megan Harper is the most recent addition to the STA community, transferring this semester from Shawnee Mission East. She claims that after two weeks spent at East, she knew it wasn’t the school for her.

“I honestly just made the decision,” Harper said. “There were no second thoughts.”

As her freshman year approached, Harper considered attending STA but settled on East in the search of a “public school experience” where she thought she’d find more opportunity.

She quickly realized the large, public

school atmosphere was not what she desired. After hearing such positive feedback from her friends already attending STA, and having a great shadow experience, Harper decided STA would be a better fit.

“With the people and the atmosphere [at East], there was a big difference between it and a private school,” said Harper.

Once a transfer student has chosen STA as her preferred high school, there is a certain process she must undergo. According to Hudnall, the student must fill out an application with basic information and state why she wishes to attend STA. The student must also provide two letters of recommendation from teachers of her current high school.

“[Student’s] cannot have any ‘Ds’ or ‘Fs’ on their transcripts,” Hudnall said. “If they do, we can’t consider that student for transfer to STA. Sadly, not every student who applies is admitted. But the administration is aware how important it is that students not be admitted to a college prep environment like STA if we don’t feel they have the academic background and social skills to succeed here.”

Hudnall also discussed the points in which students are allowed to transfer in. Only freshmen, like Harper, are admitted mid-year. Other students must wait until fall to transfer. Only in rare cases of moving in from out of town are students permitted to start their attendance at STA after their junior year.

Students wishing to transfer must also be willing to make major adjustments. In Harper’s case, coming from a public co-ed

high school to a much smaller, private single-sex school, there was plenty to become acclimated to.

“I didn’t know if I’d be ahead or behind [in my classes],” said Harper.

The unique form of scheduling has also been a speed bump for the new student.

“It’s hard making sure I know where to go and that I always have [my schedule] with me because I don’t know every little part yet,” she said.

According to Harper, coming mid-year also made it somewhat difficult socially even despite what she describes as an extremely welcoming student body.

“Everyone’s really comfortable around each other because they already know each other,” Harper said. “That’s been the hardest part.”

Despite these difficulties, there have been things about STA which have made for a smooth transition.

According to Harper, her advisor and the rest of her teachers have made her feel at ease by lending both extra help and advice.

“I’ve just felt really welcomed,” Harper said.

Despite the weight of the decision to transfer, Harper claims to have no regrets. She is quick to say she’s confident in the choice she has made.

“I’ve been excited to go to school,” Harper said. “I’ve been able to meet a lot of new people. So far it’s been a really good experience and I just really hope it continues to be.” ★

News ★ Briefs

Local activists honored at annual award ceremony

BY SYNDEY DEATHERAGE

STA’s Mother Evelyn O’Neill Awards for social justice and community stewardship are to be awarded this March to Ms. SuEllen Fried of Prairie Village and Ms. Nancy Dillingham of Kansas City, respectively.

Fried, born in 1932, traveled several different career tracks before becoming a deeply involved social activist. Utilizing her experience in dance and theater,

Fried has both professionally and voluntarily participated in dance therapy. For 17 years, Fried worked with psychiatric patients in Osawatimie, Kan. to produce musicals that the patients subsequently performed statewide, challenging common perceptions of psychiatric patients.

Fried has also been an advocate for the prevention of child abuse and bullying. She is the founder of several anti-bullying organizations and is a national voice on the issue.

Dillingham has exhibited utilization of the community’s resources through her active involvement with the American

Royal and her commitment to enhancing local wildlife. She began working at the American Royal in 1973 and is still an active chairman of several committees there. Dillingham has also been an active member of Friends of the River, a board formed to draw attention to the Kansas City riverfront.

The two women’s devotion to the community and social advocacy have made them the winners of this year’s Mother Evelyn O’Neill award.

The Mother Evelyn O’Neill Award ceremony will be held March 6 in the Goppert center. ★

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St. Teresa’s Academy

Westboro Church to protest play

Rockhurst High School administration faces safety issues surrounding production of 'The Laramie Project'

by SYDNEY DEATHERAGE
Staff Writer

Local news media have covered Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) followers led by the Rev. Fred Phelps during their picketing and protesting of local and national events, ranging from gay pride festivals to soldiers' funerals. The church group now plans to protest Rockhurst High School's main stage production of "The Laramie Project" Feb. 15.

Rockhurst juniors Jacob Davis and Sean McKibbin were organizing a student counter-protest. However, the Student Government Association of Rockhurst (SGA), in conjunction with the administration, forced the students to cancel the protest for safety reasons.

"The Laramie Project" is a play that explores the social injustices surrounding the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay college student from Laramie, Wyo. The character of Phelps, played by senior Ben Donnelly-Strait, protests Shepard's funeral as an expression of his outspoken views against homosexuality.

Phelps and the roughly 70 members of the WBC, who mainly live and congregate in Topeka, Kan., are widely considered a radical hate group by media and hate-watch organizations. Their numerous websites include godhatesamerica.com, hatemongers.com and americaisdoomed.com, and proclaim the view that God is rightfully punishing the US with soldiers' deaths because the nation fosters homosexuality. Phelps and the WBC target numerous groups with their messages of hate, but especially the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

"I've played evil people, and I've played murderers, and I've played sinister awful men, but never like this—never a real person," Donnelly-Strait said. "So trying to tap into that hatred for other people that he has...I just don't understand it and it's going to take me a while to get it right. Hating is hard if you don't do it naturally."

Phelps and the WBC attempt to protest "The Laramie Project" wherever it is staged

because, according to WBC websites, they feel Phelps is inaccurately portrayed. However, Donnelly-Strait believes differently.

"I see Fred Phelps in the show, but he seems to be written as a symbolic character," Donnelly-Strait said. "He's not three dimensional; he's not as dynamic as the other characters. He's there, he's hateful, and he is big, loud and angry. I see that as a symbol and I'm going to play that as a symbol."

The Rockhurst administration was first informed that the WBC would be picketing "The Laramie Project" when the Kansas City Missouri Police Department called to warn them of the event and offer advice and support. According to SGA president senior William Boesen, police will be present at the protest to offer as much control as constitutionally possible.

Boesen said the presence of the police may be necessary to separate the WBC picketers from the protesting students. Donnelly-Strait agreed.

"Rockhurst guys have a very strong sense of brotherhood, regardless of what's going on," Donnelly-Strait said. "If we see someone attacking one of us, our ability to band together and become very aggressive, very passionate, and [do so] very quickly...it's legendary. I was just afraid that somebody was going to shout at one of our guys, we would just all get out of control...there would be violence. I told everyone I heard talking about [the counter-protest] that it was a bad idea."

When junior Jacob Davis organized a counter-protest, he didn't anticipate such widespread effects. The response and support for the cause was overwhelming. Lots of hype was generated, with high schools students throughout Kansas City voicing anti-Phelps sentiments.

However, when the administration and SGA realized that over 2,500 teenagers (and counting) had sent RSVPs on the Facebook social networking site to attend the counter-protest against the WBC, measures were taken to prevent incidents.

"Basically, we decided that the best way to protest Phelps was to completely ignore



Standing out ★ Notre Dame de Sion High School senior Annie Davis performs a monologue during rehearsal for "The Laramie Project" at Rockhurst High School Jan. 28. The play is about the murder investigation of gay college student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyo. **PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY**

him," Boesen said. "SGA decided to have everyone wear white shirts and ties to the play and to protest in that way instead."

Officially, the protest is cancelled. Nonetheless, Davis, Boesen and Donnelly-Strait anticipate that many will still attend. ★

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St. Teresa's Academy

Book aims to spread awareness of homelessness

St. Teresa's community members join coalition to publish book documenting conditions of poverty

by NICOLE GRAVINO
Staff Writer

Cynthia Larcom keeps the Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City running. Last fall she published a sixty-page book titled "Perspectives" about homelessness in Kansas City through the eyes of children. Mr. Richard Warwick, father of senior Elizabeth and sophomore Mary, met Larcom at a function last fall where she presented her book to him and expressed a desire to produce a follow up. Warwick agreed to help create a book that will appeal to a broader audience and push the cause forward.

"It's meant to bring an awareness of the homeless in Kansas City and the Midwest," Warwick said. "I bring my writing and design abilities to the project and am responsible for coordinating all the other folks."

Warwick has experience working at Hallmark designing cards and has his own art studio, emmedia.

"It will be a much better final product," Larcom said of the new book. "These people work on copy and design for a living and are doing this during their evenings, weekends and free time."

Sophomore Sydney Deatherage and STA alumna Kathleen Pointer contribute their photography talent to this project. Currently there are six people working on this project, which is tentatively scheduled to be published Sept. 1.

The Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City is a nonprofit organization, hoping to sell this book for \$6 to \$8. All proceeds will go directly back into the coalition to address the situation of the homeless in Kansas City.

"One thing I have learned that a lot of people probably don't know is one of the best things

that can come out of this book," Warwick said. "In France, you can dial a number, 211; the idea is that it's a three digit number you can call that will tell where food and shelter can be found. This is especially ben-



Book talk ★ Mr. Rich Warwick sits in his living room chair Sunday while answering questions about his latest project, a follow-up to the book "Perspectives." The book is meant to help people become more aware of the homelessness problem in the Kansas City area. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**

See **BOOK**, page 22

BY CAROLINE QUINN

Dec. 27: Kenyan riots

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki won a second term Dec. 27 amid allegations that the government fixed the vote. The controversy prompted fatal riots concentrated in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, as furious protesters burned homes and shouted "Kibaki must go!" Soon after the results were announced, the government suspended live television broadcasts and the slums, home to thousands of opposition supporters, erupted into violence. The bloodshed has been a dramatic turn of events, as Kenya has become one of the most developed countries in Africa, with a flourishing tourism industry and one of Africa's highest growth rates. The Kenyan government says up to 650 have been killed, while the opposition places the death toll at 1,000. Most foreign intervention has failed, leaving many to believe this "ethnic cleansing" could lead to genocide.



Protecting patients ★ Kenyan opposition Railla Odinga (center) rejected calls for a political compromise with President Mwai Kibaki, who Odinga believes stole the disputed election in Kenya Jan. 3. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Jan. 23: Egypt-Gaza border falls

Tens of thousands of people fled Gaza for Egypt Jan. 23, dismantling coils of barbed wire and blowing holes in walls in a rush to buy food and fuel. Palestinians broke through a wall separating Egypt from Gaza and Egyptian guards did not intervene as hundreds of men, encouraged by children shouting "God is great," washed over fences along the border and into Egypt. Food and other provisions have been in short supply in Gaza since an Israeli blockade left residents in the Hamas-run territory struggling with severe power outages. Egyptian and Hamas security forces have begun to seal parts of the Gaza-Egypt border to decrease the flow of Palestinians into Egypt.

Jan. 30: Winter ravages China

China's worst winter in more than 50 years showed no signs of letting up as forecasters told citizens to prepare for three more days of snow and sleet last Wednesday. The unusually intense snow and sleet has left 300,000 stuck at Guangzhou train station. Prime Minister Wen Jiabao apologized to a mass of people stranded in this and other train stations across his country, which is considered a rare action for a Chinese politician. The weather came at an unfortunate time as millions of Chinese workers were trying to leave the cities where they work to go home to their families for the Lunar New Year holiday, the Xinhua news agency reported. ★

McCain maintains lead



Polls and primaries ★ Sophomore Sydney Deatherage, from left, juniors Linny Kaufman and Caroline Quinn converse with students as senior Kim Kennaley votes in the STA 2008 presidential primaries sponsored by the *The Dart* Jan. 30. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

Clinton, Obama remain head-to-head in race while McCain gains momentum

by EMILY BECKER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain won the Missouri presidential primaries Tuesday. Voters in 24 states cast ballots in what is known as "Super Tuesday." McCain won the majority of GOP elections, while Obama and Hillary Clinton split victories across the country.

"[The presidential primary] comes down to Super Tuesday," said Dr. Beth Miller, a political science professor at University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Obama won 55 percent of the vote in Jackson County, similar to the results of the mock primary elections STA participated in last week. Students and faculty voted for any candidate, regardless of party affiliations, and Obama won with 67 percent of the votes. Students from the staff of *The Dart* organized the student primary and counted results.

In an exit survey at the STA mock primaries, 71 percent of voters stated their personal beliefs have the greatest influence on their political beliefs, over influences like their parents, friends and religious values.

The Missouri Democratic primary remained too close to call until the results from 98 percent of the voting precincts were reported. It was predicted earlier that Obama would also be victorious in the Kansas Democratic caucus.

"In terms of historical proportions, it's almost hard to give [Obama's win] an adjective," said Miller.

Clinton won the majority of counties in Missouri, but the six counties won by Obama contained major metropolitan areas, like St. Louis and Kansas City. Overall, Obama won a greater number of states, but Clinton was able to win the states with the greater number of delegates.

Each candidate remained strong in

their core constituencies; that is, Clinton continued to carry women and Hispanic voters, and Obama continued to obtain votes from young Americans and African Americans.

McCain managed to win the counties surrounding St. Louis, giving him the votes needed to pull ahead of original Missouri front runner Mike Huckabee. In Jackson County, Mitt Romney received the majority of the votes, although it was not enough for him to win the state.

Nationwide, McCain's victories marked him as the front-runner in the GOP race. Huckabee remained strong in the South, carrying conservative Christians. Romney won in states like Massachusetts and Utah because of strong support from his hometown and fellow Mormons.

For many seniors at STA, Super Tuesday was the first time they could vote in an election.

"I choose to vote because it was the first time I was eligible to vote, so I was excited to exercise that right," senior Maddie Hickey said.

Because there was a polling place located in the Goppert Center, Hickey and many others were able to vote during a free period.

"It was a lot faster and simpler than I thought it would be, so that was reassuring," Hickey said.

But there were also those like senior Jessica Nouri who woke up early to vote before school because they had extracurricular activities after school on Tuesday. Nouri voted at the Longview Community College Recreation.

The purpose of presidential primary elections is to win delegates from a state. These delegates vote for a specific candidate at the national convention. The candidate with the most delegate votes wins the party nomination.

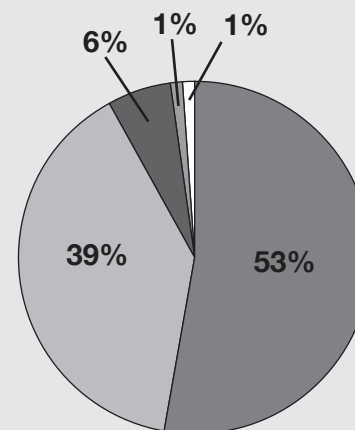
According to *The New York Times*, Clinton currently holds 845 delegates to Obama's 765 while the nearest rival to McCain's 613 delegates is Romney with 269. The Democratic National Convention will be held Aug. 25-28 in Denver. The Republican National Convention will be held Sept. 1-4 in Minneapolis-St. Paul. ★

STA Primary Election Results

Below are the percentages and winners of the STA Primary Election. A total of 305 people voted.

1. Barack Obama 67%
2. Hilary Clinton 15%
3. John McCain 6%
4. Mike Huckabee 4%
5. Ron Paul 3%

What were your motivations in voting for Barack Obama?



- Plans for office 53%
- Beliefs/Values 39%
- Personality/Demeanor 6%
- Experience 1%
- Gender/Race 1%

Source: STA Primary Election surveys and votes

Environmentalism

It's worth the inconvenience

We attend a school that is full of conscientious and environmentally aware students. There are those of us who ride our bikes to school and recycle our plastic bottles. But there are also those of us who do neither. We sit back and let the other students make announcements and we insist on driving ourselves to school, even though there are others who travel the same roads.

But no longer should we let others be the only ones to change the world. No longer should we waste paper and gas. We cannot turn St. Teresa's to the direction of a green future without the help of each student, teacher and administrator.

There is no way to replace our environment. We have only one world and one environment and it is up to us to protect it. Our environment is the only one that present and future generations can enjoy. Why would we waste or risk the health of such a resource?

We don't need to suddenly stop taking showers or dye all of our white polos tie-dye in order to be green. There are simple steps we can take in order to help the environment:

Use a lunch box: it may be convenient to simply throw a paper bag away after eating, but a lunch box more cost-effective and saves trees.

Recycle plastic bottles: PB&J has worked hard to have recycling containers on campus, so please use them. According to sustaining engineer Pablo Pastor, it takes 6.74 gallons of water energy to create, transport and store one bottle of water. Better yet, buy a water bottle to bring and refill at school everyday.

Carpool: Seniors love to leave early, but 40 minutes of working on homework or lying on the floor of a teacher's room is worth the gas saved by not driving home and then returning at 3 p.m. for the carpool. Also, having someone in the car with you makes the drive at 7 a.m. more enjoyable.

Recycle paper: We go through so much notebook paper and so many worksheets over the course of a week and giving that paper back to be recycled is our penance for attending a college preparatory school. We won't even mind if we find a few issues of *The Dart* in the bin out back.

Being environmentally friendly is not a question of whether or not we believe global warming exists; it is a question of whether or not we believe it is right to be selfish enough to deplete the environment. We cannot force you to be environmentally friendly, but why would you decide to deprive your children and your children's children from the beauty of nature you currently enjoy?

The environment is being depleted. According to the website of *National Geographic*, the United States consumes 61 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity and plastic trash kills over a million seabirds each year.

In 2006, 2.7 trillion miles were driven in the US. Every second, one and a half acres of rainforest are cut down. In the next 70 years, during the lifetime of each STA student, the world's supply of petroleum will be in a steep decline, meaning we will no longer be able to heat our houses, sew our clothes, cook our meals, drive our cars or wash our laundry. These are facts we cannot dispute or ignore any longer. ★

The staff editorial represents the views of *The Dart* editors
11 out of 12 editors voted in support of this editorial.

Presidential candidates on the environment

Hillary Clinton: created comprehensive energy plan, would like to cut greenhouse-gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, focuses on efficiency and alternatives and would like to reduce dependence on foreign oil.

Mike Huckabee: says energy independence will be his first priority as President, but does not believe in global warming and says he will increase the budget for alternative energy.

John McCain: says global warming will be a key issue during his presidency, cosponsored bill in Senate for mandatory reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions, has been a critic of Bush administration's lack of action against climate change and opposed drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Barack Obama: supported liquefied coal earlier in his campaign, but released an energy plan in Oct. 2007, would like to cut greenhouse-gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, would invest \$150 billion to create "green-collar jobs" and promote cleaner energy and promotes public transportation.

Ron Paul: has little to say about climate or energy, opposes central government control over energy, supports finding alternative fuel sources, voted to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mitt Romney: acknowledges existence of climate change but is unsure how much, if at all, humans have contributed to it, calls for energy independence and less greenhouse-gas emissions, supports drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and supports finding alternative fuel sources.

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Voice Off

compiled by Sarah Cooper
 96 students, 4 faculty polled
 margin of error 8.81 percent

What is the best way for STA to increase its racial diversity?

Admit a minimum number of students of racial minorities for each incoming class: **5 percent**

Offer race-based scholarships for minority students who qualify: **23 percent**

Market to more racially diverse elementary and middle schools in the area: **64 percent**

Nothing, STA is already diverse enough and does not need to take any steps: **8 percent**

30 seconds with Nnedima Anya

compiled by Sarah Cooper



Junior Nnedima Anya spent three weeks in Nigeria over the holiday season. The majority of her extended family lives in Abuja, Nigeria.

Q. What is Abuja like?

A. "[In Nigeria], it's a big city, but to us it's not. A lot of things there are modeled after European cities. They don't have skyscrapers, just big buildings...it's sort of like the Brookside-Westport area."

Q. How did you celebrate Christmas?

A. "I went to my uncle's house. We ate, talked and went to Mass."

Q. How is Christmas in Nigeria different from Christmas in the United States?

A. "In Nigeria it's more about seeing your family and praising God. [The holiday] is about new life."

Q. If you had a choice in the future, would you spend Christmas in the United States or in Nigeria?

A. "I would pick Christmas in Nigeria, because I get to see my family!" ★

Photo Poll

compiled by Carlie Campbell & Rachel Flattery

The environment is a subject that many STA students have become involved in.

Check out the Center Spread on pages 12 and 13 for more information and the Staff Editorial above for The Dart's opinion.

What does STA need to do to become more environmentally-friendly?



"I don't think we're doing enough, but we are trying. We have a good awareness of it, but we need to hear more about it."

– Nicolette Anderson, junior



"I think STA has taken great strides to help by recycling, but we still...need to make it a united effort to conserve. Just reuse, reduce and recycle."

– Bailey Lynch, senior



"I think that we need to have more recycling bins for cans and bottles and cardboard available for students, faculty and staff."

– Karen Johnson, English teacher

Four masses every year is not enough

AN OPINION BY



ELIZABETH WILSON

By definition, Catholic schools aim to develop their students through participation in the sacramental life of the Church, study of religion and theology, a full curriculum in secular subjects and a variety of extra-curricular activities.

When people ask me about what it's like to go to a Catholic school, one of their first questions is usually, "Do you have to go to Mass a lot?"

Answering on behalf of most Catholic schools, my answer would be "yes." But, at St. Teresa's, we do not attend Mass half as much as we should.

At the end of this school year, a total of 10 months, each student will have attended Mass at STA only four times, two of which were holy days of obligation. While there are seven opportunities throughout the year to attend Parent-Daughter Liturgies at 7:00 a.m., most students, including myself, do not want to wake up any earlier than necessary, especially for something that is not required.

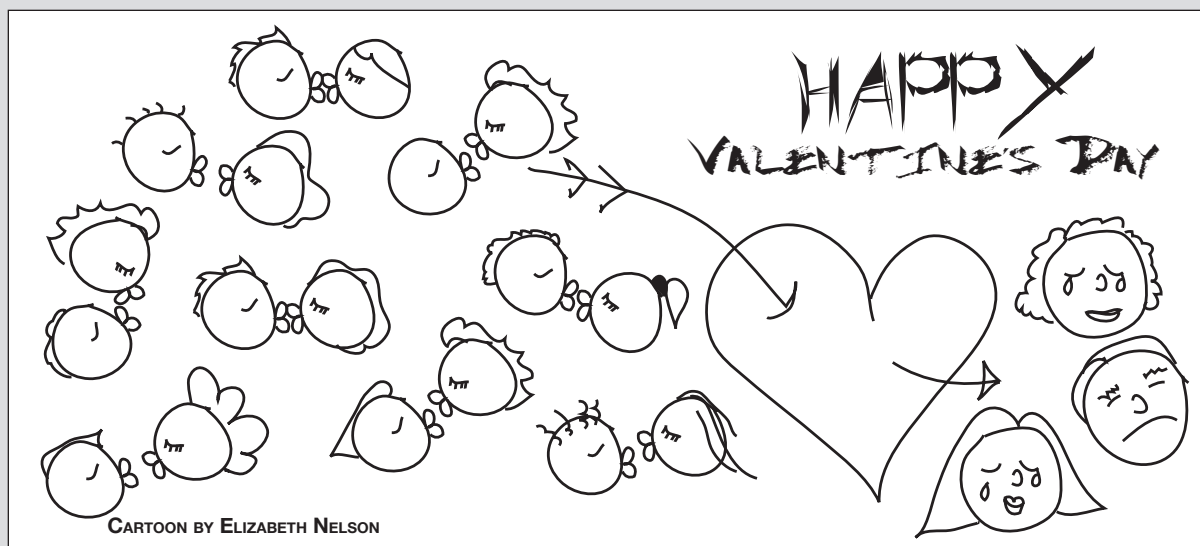
The point of this column is not to bash the people who put together and organize the Masses. Actually, every Mass we have is beautiful and well-done, which is why I wish we would have them more frequently. I understand it is probably hard to schedule in time for Mass in the midst of our jam-packed schedule or to acquire priests from time to time, but let us, the student body, help! There are many of us who would like to help with the Masses but don't know how to get involved. Let us know what we can do to help play our part.

Mass is the key place in which we are educated on the importance of service to the poor through the teachings of Jesus. Jesus said, "...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:43-45).

Mass is also the key place in which we are educated on the importance of love for others. In the gospel of John, he writes, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

With the desire of service to the poor and the power of love, what could stand in our way? So, why not hold Mass more frequently at STA? If attending Mass educates students even the least bit on two of the fundamental beliefs of Catholicism, why shouldn't we have Mass more frequently? We should have an all school Mass at least once a month. I'm sure teachers would be willing to sacrifice ten minutes from class, once a month, for their students to attend Mass. After all, Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). ★

Some snuggle, others sit alone



CARTOON BY ELIZABETH NELSON

AN OPINION BY



RACHEL SCHWARTZ

News Flash: Exactly a week from today is the day that people all over will be gathered, or coupled, saying "I love you" and being all mushy. For some, this night will be spent at a romantic restaurant. Others will take walks around a park or cuddle up by a fire. But then, there will be some people, like myself, at home, alone, doing homework or watching television. Welcome to Valentine's Day.

I have never understood this holiday. Really. So, I decided to rack my brain and do a little research. Here is what I found, but it is not much. Valentine's Day is the feast day of Saint Valentine; but no one really knows exactly who he was. Whatever the case, he was a martyr who died on February 14. Hence, that is his feast day. Following so far?

Okay, well, here is the lovey-dovey

romantic bit. Actually, there are a couple of theories. One story says that while in prison, Saint Valentine fell in love with the prison keeper's daughter. Scandal! And before he was killed he wrote her a love letter. That is actually kind of cute.

Then, there's some theory about birds. It was said, back in the olden days, that birds chose their mates on February 14. So, that is why we think of it as such a romantic holiday? How cute...

Now that we have the origin settled, we can move on to the day itself. The day is about love and relationships. And, evidently, there is no better way to say "I love you" than by giving gifts. Frazzled teenage boys and older men can be seen scrambling around, buying last minute bouquets of roses, boxes of delightful chocolates or even crazy beautiful jewelry. Then comes the romantic part; the men pick up their respective ladies and take them out for the perfect night.

However, there are some ladies, old and young (like me), who spend their night alone. Honestly, it's dumb. I don't even see how anyone has time to go out on a weeknight, especially my fellow teenagers. I mean, hello, homework! But, still, the holiday is kind of

depressing. It makes some feel lonely. It is just a dumb, (now) commercial holiday. This holiday seems to be meant to separate all the coupled from those that are single. I might as well walk around with a stamp on my head that says "SINGLE" just so that everyone can be sure. That sounds just perfect...

That is enough with the negatives, now. Instead, I will try to think of any and all positives for my fellow single ladies out there.

First off, since there is no one to give us amazingly delectable chocolate, we needn't worry about our weight or unnecessary calories. And, then, there are probably some girls out there who are stuck with Valentines that they have just realized they do not even like! Too bad for them, but not for us! There is also the whole figuring out what to wear issue. We don't have to worry about that! Finally, what are those taken ladies to do when they get home late at night and realize they have yet to start their homework? I have no idea, and, frankly, I don't care. I will have all night to do my homework!

I bet you girls in relationships are really jealous of me and everyone who's single now, aren't you? O, the joys of being single... O, how I LOVE Valentine's Day... ★

Expensive campaigns degrade political system

AN OPINION BY



ALY BROWNLEE

So you want to run for President? Great! But, while you're deciding your position on major issues and sizing up the competition, don't forget about the financial requirements. There are ads to create and distribute, souvenirs to produce and sell, advisors and staff to pay and trips to take. Somehow, all of these expenses must be provided for, and you are the main contributor.

The 2008 Presidential race promises to be one of the most expensive in history, and Fortune Magazine recently projected the overall cost to be around \$3 billion. As the market prices for goods continue to rise, candidates are

required to raise more and more money to compete with each other. Campaigns are turning into races for money, not for nominations. According to the Associated Press, Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney is already buying \$800,000 in air time on television. That's more money than most people make in a year. Even Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama's staff must pay for his souvenirs: \$20.08 for a t-shirt and \$2.50 for placards. In the 2004 election, President Bush and Democratic nominee John Kerry spent a total \$572 million dollars on their campaigns. Over half of that, \$312 million, was spent on political advisors. Republican candidate John McCain pays his top advisor, Mr. John Weaver, a total of \$15,000 per month.

Fundraising and donations make up a part of the money these candidates spend. Much of that comes through connections, such as friends who have financial means, and other parts of the campaign are funded directly from a candidate's pocket. Romney has already lent \$2.35 million to his own

campaign. Our Constitution states there are certain requirements to becoming President: you must be at least 35 years old, a "natural born citizen" and have been in the residence of the United States for at least 14 years. Nowhere in these qualifications is money ever mentioned. It doesn't say that a candidate must use X amount of dollars in a campaign, or spend over a quarter of a million to advertise themselves.

So much money can breed corruption. The hefty donations made by various corporations can influence a candidate on a political view, or make them feel obligated to support certain stances. It can also create an unequal playing field for all the candidates, leaving those with less financial means at the disadvantage of not being heard over those who have more.

So while the candidates plan their strategies and struggle to balance checkbooks with large donations, Americans should remember how much an election can cost. Elections shouldn't be a race for money, but rather a race to see who will be best suited to run our country. ★

7 february 2008

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The presidential candidates have a variety of experience, personalities, and plans. With many people unable to decide who they support, the...

Presidential primary sparks discussion



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Breanne Sigler
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**supports
John McCain**

Elizabeth Nelson
Managing Editor of Design

Democratic Senator Barack Obama has the most inspiring and exciting candidacy in this race. In a time of fear-mongering and pessimism, he offers a message of unity and optimism. Obama encourages us to hope for a better future as individuals and as a nation.

However, Obama does more than spout ideals and promises. Americans are clearly ready for changes in the way the government operates, and Obama promises to deliver with plans that reflect his values. He will raise salaries for teachers, cut taxes for the elderly, care for veterans and invest in college education for young people.

But it is important to remember that the president does not have to power to legislate; the real challenge lies in working with Congress to actually pass these policies. Obama has an approach that will ease bipartisan tension. He emphasizes the value of community and understands that it will require cooperation and consensus among the American people to put his ideas into action.

It is time for America to embrace a new perspective. People of racial minorities should have a bigger voice in Washington; the possibility of an African-American president is exciting and worth celebrating. Obama is also young, but his youth is often twisted into implications that he is not adequately prepared for the job. Obama rebuts these attacks by citing his experience as a senator and community organizer. He spins his position as an outsider in Washington into a positive quality; he is not jaded like so many there and has remained connected to the people of America. Obama will bring a fresh attitude to the White House.

My curiosity in the presidential race developed into passion after I found a candidate to believe in. Barack Obama truly has our best interests at heart, and I will watch the nomination process with eagerness and a fervent hope that Americans will give Obama the chance to lead us into the next chapter of American history. ★

Is America ready for a female president? The resounding answer is “yes.” Is Hilary Clinton the woman for the job? Perhaps. Clinton is obviously a strong and determined woman with clear goals in mind. Though everyone may not agree with her ideas, she has a fair chance of winning the Democratic nomination, and eventually the presidential election.

One of Clinton’s biggest issues is strengthening the middle class. The wage gap has increased over the past few years, along with the cost of health care and college tuition. Clinton plans to create middle class tax cuts, make health care available to all Americans, balance the national budget and create new jobs dealing with alternative energy. The actuality of these plans depends on whether the Democrats still control Congress after the November elections. Other important issues in Clinton’s campaign include immigration and education.

Since health care has become a major national concern, it will probably be the most likely to be addressed first. Clinton plans to change the existing health care system by providing tax credits for working families, making health care portable if you change or lose your job and not allowing insurance companies to deny coverage due to pre-existing conditions.

One of the weaker components of Clinton’s campaign is her plan for Iraq. Clinton’s Iraq plan seems hasty. Her website states that within 60 days of her entering the presidency she would begin bringing the troops home, which is unrealistic. Skeptics of Clinton also worry that her husband, former President Bill Clinton, would have too much influence. Bill has been very active in his wife’s campaign, especially recently when he publicly criticized Senator Barack Obama, Clinton’s major opponent for the Democratic nomination.

If Clinton is able to rally and beat Obama in the primaries, she will be one step away from the opportunity to become America’s first female president. ★

Arizona Senator John McCain has more experience than both New York Senator Hilary Clinton and Illinois Senator Barack Obama combined. And of all the candidates, he still can claim the most political and leadership experience.

McCain’s positions are simple but clear: fix the economy, lower taxes, strengthen education, gain back Americans’ trust of the government and protect the sanctity of life.

He offers a fresh perspective, something the other candidates all promise, but his strategies are both effective and have evidence to back them up.

McCain served in the United States Navy from 1958 to 1981 and he was held as a prisoner of war in Vietnam for more than five years. It is this experience that is needed in the midst of a war. He understands how our military operates and will work to fix the situation in Iraq.

McCain’s stance on health care is proactive and possible. He wants to educate people in the hopes of preventing illnesses, like obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure, before they start. He also wants to freeze health care costs and promote more choices in insurance and treatment.

He also offers a practical approach to education. His views may be the answer many families are looking for. “If a school will not change, the student should be able to change schools,” he wrote on his website. His point is, wealthier people have the opportunity and the means to choose their children’s schools, but those with less resources are forced to send their kids to schools that are unaccredited or unsafe.

Though McCain is the oldest candidate in the race, he is the most qualified. With the numerous problems facing our country, we need a leader who can boast actual experience, not just minority status. ★

7 february 2008
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Seniors create economics course

Social studies teacher gives students a chance to learn during their free periods

by ELIZABETH NELSON
Managing Editor

The idea came from two seniors: Anna Boisseau and Hannah Girardeau. Not hoping to gain anything except new knowledge, eight girls now give up a free every Thursday.

Economics, the study of production and distribution of money and goods, was taught by social studies teacher Jack Garvin, but the class disappeared three years ago because there was not enough student interest. This year, several girls went to social studies teacher Craig Whitney in the hopes of bringing the class back.

"This [economics class] is completely student centered and student interested," Whitney said. "They are not specifically interested in economics, but they are interested in social issues and the role economics plays in them."

The students use the economics textbook that STA students used several years ago, and Whitney also teaches from a book called "The Economics of Social Issues." The students are interested in furthering their understanding of the complicated topic because they recognize the role economics plays throughout the world. Whitney hopes this group of girls will learn from the material he gives them, understand the fundamentals of economics and then apply what they have learned to what is going on in the world today.

"Economics is essential for a lot of college majors, and a lot of other high schools offer it," senior Maddie Hickey said. She was also involved in the development of the class. "A lot of topics covered in American History and Government are related to economics. We want to understand the underlying causes."

With several other students showing interest beyond the group of eight girls, Whitney is putting together a proposal to have the class added next year. It will focus especially on the role economics plays in all aspects of life.

"This is the first year students want-



Deep thinking ★ History teacher Craig Whitney, from left, answers questions about America's social security and banking system to seniors Lily Hough, Hannah Girardeau and Anna Boisseau during a planned free to discuss economics Jan. 24. Several seniors approached Whitney with an interest in discussing economics once a week and an actual economics class is under consideration by the administration for next year. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

ed to learn and [came to me] to find out about economics," Whitney said. "Guys tend to be more interested in economics, but now there is some interest [at STA]."

The class does not focus specifically on what the former economics class studied. Whitney said there is not much about entrepreneurship or business; instead they focus on poverty, social security and trade. The group meets Thursdays during mods 11-12 and began Jan.

10. The eight students who meet during this time are Boisseau, Girardeau, Hickey, seniors Ellen Jantsch, Anna Martin, Ashtin Bryde, Kellyn Smith and Lily Hough. Other students do not have this period free, including seniors Meredith Pavicic and Sarah Luecke, but they have the materials and are learning on their own time.

"STA has prepared me for college, but, if I don't [study] economics in college, I won't know anything about

it," Luecke said. "I feel unprepared for things I see my parents doing, like choosing stocks or investments."

Luecke hopes to read the materials the other girls are reading, then go in and talk with Whitney and the girls during other periods.

"I [want] to gain some knowledge before I move out and have to deal with this on my own," Luecke said.

Boisseau credits her intended major

See **ECONOMICS**, page 23

School rule allows students to fail, then gain credit

Students pass some classes by earning a C- or higher during second semester

by ELIZABETH WILSON
Staff Writer

If you turn to page 10 of your planner, you will find academic statuses five through seven, continued from page eight. Number six reads:

"In case of a first semester failure in certain full year courses (Mathematics, Science, Foreign Language), credit for a full year will be granted provided the second semester grade is a C- or better."

Years ago, a student only had to get a D- second semester to change the F, but now that the school is designated college preparatory by North Central, students are required to get a minimum of a C- for second semester.

"Some classes are building blocks,"

principal of academic affairs Nancy Hand said. "[Say a student fails first semester.] If at the end of the year in Spanish I, the student has a C- or better, a student's grade is changed to a D- for first semester. The student was able to build up the missing block."

Math teacher Dr. Joe Grantham said math falls under this academic status because of its nature.

"Everything we do [in math] is cumulative," Grantham said.

According to English teacher Karen Johnson, English has a lot of specific content and is not as cumulative as math, science, or foreign languages, which accounts for why it does not apply to this academic status.

Hand said English and social studies don't apply to this academic status because each semester of those classes is contained, as if it were its own course each semester.

"Certain information is given to students each semester and it's not building from one

point to the next, such as in algebra I where you need the skills of factoring to solve an equation," Hand said. "World history is a good example. You might learn about one continent [in] the first semester but study another the second semester. Or in American History, you study early Native American history and the Civil War first semester but second semester you study World War II and the Vietnam War."

According to Johnson, English also does not apply to this academic status for creditable reasons.

"St. Teresa's is a college prep academy, and the ability to communicate effectively is a fundamental skill every student needs to learn in order to succeed in college," Johnson said. "In my opinion, it is in everyone's best interest, especially the student's, if they fail a semester of English, to attend summer school or to get a tutor so that they may be as prepared as everyone else for college."

Grantham feels that the academic status

is fair in pertaining to math, science and foreign languages because in order for a student who failed the first semester to get a C- second semester, they would have had to pick up what they didn't understand in the first semester.

"Obviously you've learned and were able to pull it together in [the] second semester," Grantham said.

All F's in the second semester of required courses must be made up in summer school in order for the student to return the following year. Summer school grades are not calculated into a student's GPA but they are noted on the transcript.

"If you know enough to pass first semester but not enough to pass second semester, you don't know the basic things well enough," Grantham said.

When asked what a student's options were when she fails the first semester of English or social studies but passes the second semester, Hand's reply was, "summer school." ★

Board discusses diversity at STA

Members form committee to increase racial diversity of the STA community

by KATE RAINEY
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Love of neighbor without distinction. This phrase appears in the mission statement of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and is a principle that motivates STA's Board.

The spirit of reaching out to all members of the community prompted the Board to create a subcommittee to focus on STA's diversity. According to chairwoman of the subcommittee Bonnie Vontz, the Sisters have always focused on diversity.

"I don't think the Sisters have ever not been involved in diversity," Vontz said.

According to Vontz, diversity has been an important aspect of STA for a long time. But over the past 15 years, the percentage of racial diversity has decreased, mostly due to the rise in tuition costs, director of admissions and marketing Roseann Hudnall said.

"There has always been a goal that we wanted to maintain a certain diversity - 20 percent - but in recent years it has become obvious that's not practical," Hudnall said. "It's been hard because increased tuition puts a block on that; it makes it harder."

Vontz and president Nan Bone would like to ensure STA has a large endowment to provide financial aid and scholarships to perspective students, especially minority students.

STA currently has 12 percent minority students. The administration would like to raise that to 15 percent.

English teacher Mark Fudenberg has noticed the decrease in minority students at STA. He has about 100 students in his English I class, but only one is African American. In previous years, his class-



After school chat ★ Sophomores from left, Shay Bell, Madeline O'Rear, Cierra Marzett, Alexandra Calia and Alexis Banks hang out after school in the Music & Arts Building Jan. 31. Twelve percent of the student body at STA is made up of minority students. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**

room had more racial diversity, which added more perspective to classroom discussion, Fudenberg said.

Fudenberg believes STA is diverse in other ways, but racial diversity is the most important.

"Geographically, we draw kids from all over the city; socioeconomically, we're pretty diverse," Fudenberg said. "Race

trumps those things. The fact that you might live in North Kansas City is less significant in terms of forming your identity and who you are than race. How much does where you live shape your identity?"

Hudnall also believes racial diversity is important to the school environment.

"[Diversity] enhances our learning, prepares us for the real world," Hudnall said.

"We see the value of it and we want it to stay strong. In looking at focus groups, [diversity] is something people value at this school. All of us agree to best prepare students for the world, it helps to have them understand and learn from people from varied backgrounds."

Because the Board is in the process of

See DIVERSITY, page 22

Stressed test-takers receive second chance

STA provides students with option to retake high school placement test

by SARAH SMITH
Section Editor

Cure of Ars eighth grader Emory Hall's stomach dropped when her proctor called time Jan. 12 at the High School Placement Test. Hall had followed her tutor's strategy but did not have time to transfer all of her answers to the Scantron sheet. A section with 20 blank bubbles daunted her as she scanned the walls of Ms. Sue Marquis' Latin classroom, wondering if she had ruined her chances of attending STA.

Hall is not the only eighth grader who had test anxiety that day. Some policy changes this year may assuage the fears of the 174 girls who took the test. For the first time, STA is allowing students who performed poorly to retake the HSPT as well as allowing time and a half for girls with a diagnosed learning disability.

"The bottom line is that we want girls to be successful here," president Nan Bone said. "We will still tell some people they aren't accepted but this gives everyone one more shot."

Hall's classmate Colleen McInerney could relate to the stress eighth graders feel about the test.

"We want to get in so bad," she said. "If we don't we will feel so stupid. So, we have to get in, but then we put so much pressure on ourselves that we convince ourselves that we aren't going to do as well."

Many eighth graders prepare months in advance and sign up for classes and tutors. St. Peter's eighth grader Celia O'Flaherty was relieved to find that the actual test was not as difficult as her practice exams.

"For those who didn't feel very confident that they did okay [the re-test] is a good chance that might really help," O'Flaherty

said.

Just as college level placement tests like the ACT aren't only administered once, the STA admissions staff reached the decision about the re-test after discussing it with the president of Rockhurst High School, where the policy is already in place.

"I don't see any cons for allowing the re-test," Bone said. "We don't want to base it all on one test, one day."

STA director of admissions Roseann Hudnall confirmed this.

"The HSPT is one small part of the admission process," she said. "We also look at grades, Iowa Test of Basic Skills scores and teacher recommendations."

About 30 letters went out offering the option for the re-test. The alternate version of the HSPT was administered Feb. 1.

Next year, the essentials of algebra class will no longer be part of the freshmen curriculum. Potentially, all the girls who would have enrolled in that class would be required to take summer school.

"Another change is that summer school will be offered at STA this year [instead of Rockhurst]," Bone said. "That way, we can tailor it so each girl gets exactly what she needs. We look at each girl and if we think if she retook the test it would decrease her chance of going to summer school, then we will offer it."

Bone says the administration increasing the rigor of the school all the time. These changes aren't intended to make the process more lenient but more inclusive, giving each girl a fair chance.

"I'm really excited that I might get another chance," Hall said. "It would have been really disappointing not to get in just because of that. I would think of it as a pretty big missed opportunity." ★



Future freshmen ★ Senior Maureen McMahon, right, mingles with two eighth graders during the break time of the high school placement test January 12. Changes to STA's placement will directly affect the upcoming class. **PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY**

Burnt out

Q&A With Ms. Renee Blake

by MADDY MCGANNON
Section Editor

- Q:** How often do you tan?
A: I have tanned in a salon fairly regularly since I was 16 years old, but I tan in my own tanning bed once every week/week and a half. And my husband tans more than I do!
- Q:** How long have you owned a tanning bed?
A: 5 years
- Q:** Do you allow your kids to tan?
A: No, but once my 13-year-old daughter Jen is 16, she can use our tanning bed if she chooses to. There will be restrictions and time limits, though; she will have to ease into tanning.
- Q:** Do you ever worry you are setting a bad example for your kids?
A: Yeah, I sometimes worry I'm setting a bad example for my kids, but I think they'll be mature enough to make their own decisions.
- Q:** Are you worried about getting skin cancer?
A: Not really, I think if I get skin cancer it will be from the sun exposure I had when I was a kid. I used to just bake in the sun all summer and I put baby oil all over my body. It was bad.
- Q:** Do you think tanning in a bed is addicting?
A: Yeah, I think tanning is addicting. I can tell especially in the winter. I tan more often to perk me up so I'm not so down. In the spring and summer, I tan just to be tan and so I don't fry in the sun.

Teenagers tan to enhance beauty

Tanning causes addiction for some, others steer clear because of effects

by MADDY MCGANNON
Section Editor

According to a poll taken of 75 students at STA, 47 percent of students choose to artificially tan. As teens living in a more advanced era than our parents and grandparents, many students are aware of the negative effects of tanning beds, but tan anyway.

Senior Jordan Behnken has worked at Celsius Tannery for almost five months, and chooses to tan once every week and a half. This is approximately 35 tans per year, and does not include the extra tans before spring break and Teresian. According to Behnken, she tans because she doesn't like being pale during the winter. However, a plus to her situation is she

does not have to pay for her tans. She says if she did have to pay, she would not tan as often.

"I think tanning is addicting," Behnken said. "A lot of customers come in and say, 'I didn't want to tan a lot this month but I feel like I have to!' I think it's addicting because it's relaxing and you just come out tan."

On the other hand, a blonde, pale skinned senior Maddie Hickey has never stepped foot inside a tanning bed.

"I like my natural skin color and with my hair, eye color and complexion, I would look fake if I got a spray tan or went to a tanning bed."

According to Hickey, her mother was very adamant and vocal starting in 8th grade and the beginning of high school that she did not approve of tanning beds. Hickey said she would shove articles in their faces about the negative effects and she was not allowed to tan.

"Beauty has shifted from having pale, rosy cheeks to this tan exotic woman," Hickey said. "I think around dance times a lot of girls are like, 'let's go tanning together!' It's a fun event, and people who don't tan could feel left out. I know I've felt left out before."

Hickey wears SPF 45 in the summer because she has very sensitive skin, and says she is careful about applying sun screen.

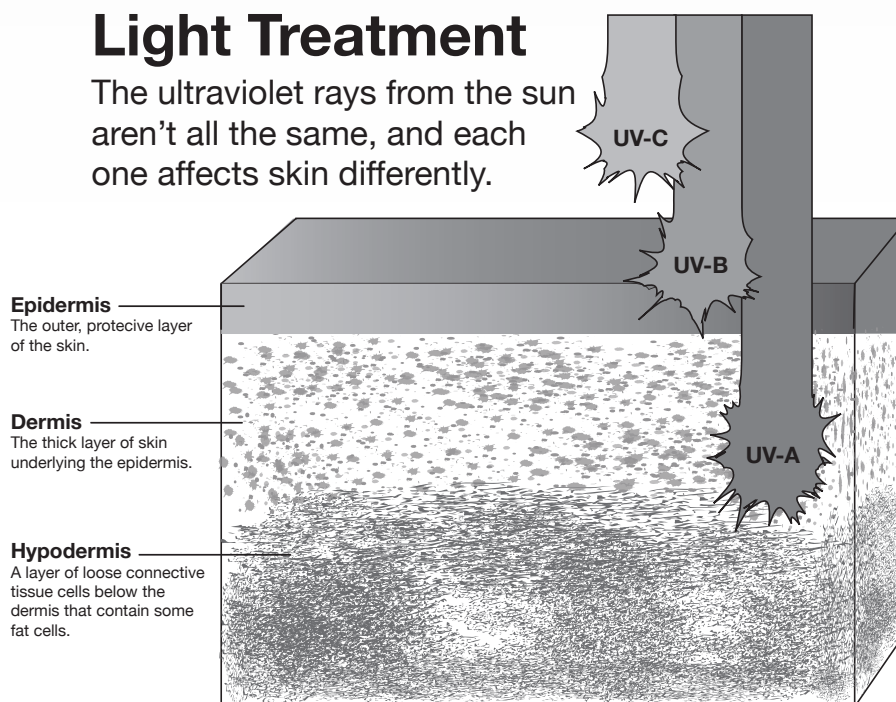
"My mom laid out in the sun with tanning oil and she fried," Hickey said. "She doesn't want us to have the same skin problems she has had."

Hickey notices the compliments teens associate with having a bronzed body, and links that with tan celebrities and the media.

"I feel like when [teens] come back from vacations people say, 'Oh! You look so cute, you are so tan,'" Hickey said. ★

Light Treatment

The ultraviolet rays from the sun aren't all the same, and each one affects skin differently.



Types of Ultraviolet Radiation

Ultraviolet A (UV-A)

This is the most common form of radiation, and these rays are found in tanning booths. Excessive amounts are known to cause aging, toughening of the skin, spots and wrinkles and suppression of the immune system. These rays have also been a cause of skin cancer.

Ultraviolet B (UV-B)

These rays do not penetrate the skin as deeply as the UV-A rays, but they are more dangerous because they are the most potent rays to reach the Earth. UV-B rays are most commonly associated with skin cancer, and are the main cause of sunburns.

Ultraviolet C (UV-C)

UV-C rays have the shortest wavelength of any ultraviolet ray, but they are burned off by the Earth's ozone layer and do not penetrate the atmosphere.

Sources: <http://www.olay.com/skincare/>
Biology by Sylvia S. Mader

GRAPHIC BY ALY BROWNLEE

7 February 2008 • The Dart • St. Teresa's Academy

Junior makes effort to aid environment

by RACHEL SCHWARTZ
Section Editor

Before deciding her weekend plans, junior Kate Bohnert takes into account the amount of driving she will have to do. This is not because she hates driving nor is it because she does not want to waste too much money on gas. She is looking out for the environment.

Bohnert has always made an effort to help the environment. Although she has become more involved in helping the environment here at STA, it has always been a part of Bohnert's life.

"My dad makes recycling a big part of our family," Bohnert said. "He has a passion for helping the environment and it has impacted on to me through the years."

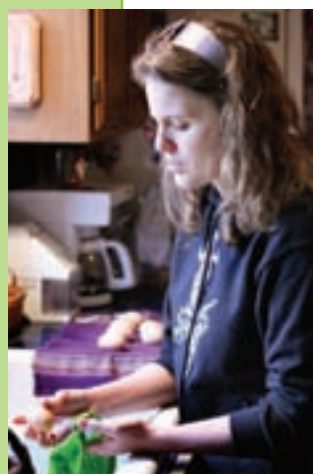
According to Bohnert, she takes the environment into consideration in most everything she does from recycling to buying organic foods

to carpooling.

"We just try to be overall resourceful with what we have," Bohnert said. "I make a conscious effort to try to help the environment in my everyday life. I even walk places sometimes."

Bohnert thinks everyone should help the environment. But, according to her, "you don't have to be extreme or radical." It is simply "the little things [that help]."

"I just feel that our world gives us so much and is such a beautiful place," Bohnert said. "I feel we should give back to it. And if that is just recycling a can a day, that would still make it just that much better of a place."



Conservative chickens ★ After gathering eggs from her chicken coop, junior Kate Bohnert washes one in warm water at her house in Harrisonville last Sunday. Bohnert's family raises their own eggs, catfish and, during the summer, crops. PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY

Club promotes clean community

by RACHEL SCHWARTZ
Section Editor

Students filed into Starbucks one night, one after the other. Each teenager ordered the same thing, Fair Trade coffee. Starbucks only carried one bag of Fair Trade coffee, though, so they soon ran out. But the students did not care; they were trying to make a point. They were trying to take an environmental stand.

This incident, which happened three years ago, was led by the Kansas City Youth Activist Coalition (KCYAC), which consists of students from Rockhurst High School, Notre Dame de Sion High School and St. Teresa's Academy. A majority of these students from STA were from the Peace Biodiversity and Justice Club (PB&J).

PB&J has done many things to help the environment, according to seniors Anna Martin and Hannah Girardeau. The recycling program was previously started by former PB&J leaders. For this program, different students gather the recycling from around the school and take it to a recycling center.

Currently, Martin and Gi-

rardeau lead the group.

"Last semester, we wanted to focus on making STA more environmentally friendly," Martin said. "This semester, we wanted to be more international and maybe do an Invisible Children fundraiser again."

According to Girardeau, in the past, the group has met monthly. This has not been the case this year, but Martin and Girardeau are trying to fix that.

"Hannah and I did not estimate proper time, so we have been slacking because of college applications and stuff," said Martin. "But we are trying to work on that."

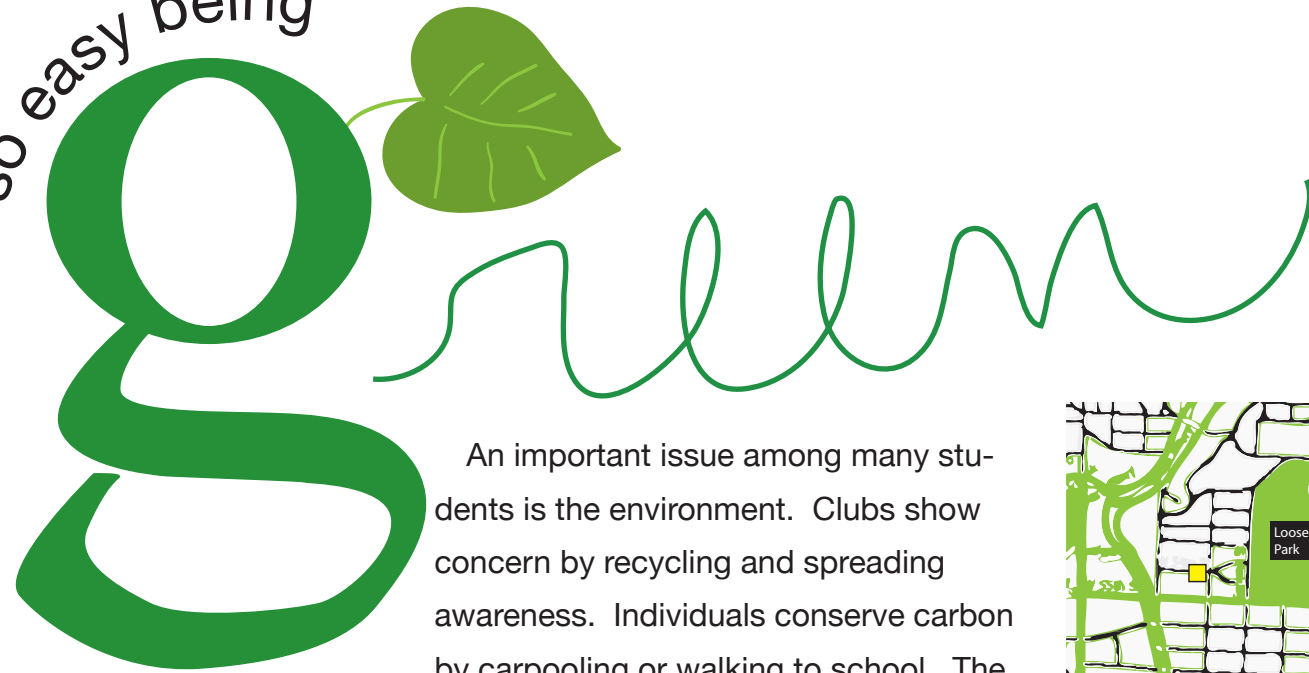
Girardeau believes protecting and saving the environment is a very important issue.

"I know this is really going to be a serious problem for the world when we take over," Girardeau said. "I want to help as much as I can while I know about it and it's not a huge deal."



Debating demonstration ★ Senior Kate Rainey, left, and junior Elizabeth McNamara, along with other students, represented politicians during a PB&J meeting Monday in the auditorium. The school was encouraged to hear the stances of the politicians before the primary elections. PHOTO BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE

It's so easy being



An important issue among many students is the environment. Clubs show concern by recycling and spreading awareness. Individuals conserve carbon by carpooling or walking to school. The administration plans an environmentally friendly campus. STA is going green.

Driving the point home

by SARAH SMITH
Section Editor

Been feeling some pain at the pump lately? The average STA girl, driving 10 miles round-trip, will spend over \$50 on gas each month just to get to school. To fill the parking lots at STA means that over \$450 worth of gas is guzzled each day. The American Automobile Association reports carpooling with two people can cut fuel costs by as much as two thirds.

Perhaps the idea of carpooling puts a damper on the newfound autonomy of a driver's license. The overflow of cars in the STA parking lot is testament to this. But, as if the cash incentive wasn't enough, carpooling is one of the most efficient ways to reduce carbon emissions.

Senior Jessica Fahey lives about 20 minutes from school and has always had a carpool.

"[Driving] gets pretty expensive," Fahey said. "I'm totally not a morning person and I'm never ready on time but I probably save about \$30 each month and it's nice not to be lonely in the morning."

According to the 2000 census report, Missouri ranked 39th in the country for carpooling with only 9 percent of drivers using any kind of carpool for daily driving.

Senior Anna Boisseau tries to get a ride home with a new senior every day.

"I've gotten 67 people so far," Boisseau said. "I hope there are enough days left for the other 64 [seniors]."

Boisseau attributes student's lack of enthusiasm about carpooling to an aversion to riding with someone they are not friends with. But, with over 20 girls making the 15 mile drive from Lee's Summit and others trekking 20 miles from Belton, Harrisonville and Liberty, it might be time to make some new friends. Even students who live less than two miles from school often drive themselves.

"We need more of the bike-to-school days," senior Sophie Briend said. "People may have taken it as a joke but they participated anyway. The solution is not a bigger parking lot; it is fewer cars."

Western Suburbs
Fairway, Prairie Village, Shawnee Mission
Approx. number of Students: 49
Distance from STA to St. Ann's Parish: 4.25 mi.
Distance from STA to Holy Cross Parish: 9.7 mi.

Southern Suburbs
Leawood, Olathe, Overland Park, Lenexa
Approx. number of students: 63
Distance from STA to Cure of Ars Parish: 7.0 mi.
Distance from STA to Church of the Nativity Parish: 9.83 mi.

Eastern Suburbs
Lee's Summit, Independence, Belton
Approx. number of Students: 43
Distance from STA to Presentation Parish: 16.84
Distance from STA to St. John LaLande Parish: 20.93 mi.

How to organize a carpool:

- Scout out your neighborhood for fellow STA students.
- Set a schedule and make gas money agreements.
- Plan your time: Make sure you have enough time in the morning to pick everyone up and be on time.
- Have fun! Make CDs and plan a snack schedule; bonding with your fellow carpoolers can make the rides to school enjoyable.

Other Helpful Sources:
<http://www.carpool.ca/calculator.asp> (Helps calculate carpool savings)

The Lazy Environmentalist: Your Guide to Easy, Stylish, Green Living by Josh Dorfman



GRAPHIC BY CARLIE CAMPBELL



Bone favors environment

by RACHEL SCHWARTZ
Section Editor

Brown cardboard boxes rest under teacher's desks. Green trash cans sit in the cafeteria and in Donnelly Hall. Trash receptacles? I think not. These are recycling bins for paper and plastic.

Students play a big part in the recycling here at STA. But, the teachers try too. Overall, the school as a whole tries to help the environment from recycling to building plans. Yes, the environment will even be considered in STA's Five Year Strategic Plan.

President Nan Bone says the environment is something to be taken into consideration when discussing and planning the school's future. Although the plans are not yet set in stone, according to Bone, the possible effects on the environment will always be taken into account.



Nan Bone

"If we would add or build onto the campus, we are looking to do that with the smallest footprint on the environment," Bone said. "We would be sure to meet the environmental codes."

Bone is very aware of the environmentalism at STA. She notices not only the efforts of the students, but also the efforts of Sister Joan.

"The Sisters of St. Joseph's mission is the environment," Bone said. "They were some of the first environmentalists! So, our models are the sisters. Sister Joan does all of our recycling because it is part of their mission."

Besides considering the environment at school, Bone makes it part of her life.

"I carry a Chico [reusable] bag on my purse," Bone said. "I gave them to my five sisters for Christmas!"

Bone feels that if everyone just does a little bit for the environment, it will help.

"If we each just changed our light bulbs, that would make a huge impact," Bone said.

Down with disposable

by SARAH SMITH
Section Editor

Many STA advisory parties are pure glutony. Gallons of Rotel dip are used to wash down 3-foot-wide chocolate cakes with icing towering to the ceiling. There's enough Waldo Pizza grease to fill a swimming pool and carbonated high fructose corn syrup fizzes away under the fluorescent lights. But that's what they're for, right?

Clogged arteries aside, the average STA consumer does not think twice about what happens to the Styrofoam cups or paper plates, plastic forks, napkins or cardboard boxes that lay heaped in the wake of one of

these food frenzies.

Ms. Betsy Hansbrough saw the magnitude of each casually pitched Styrofoam cup. Joining the push to "go green," she is taking small steps to help the environment.

"The trash from an advisory lunch would haunt me all afternoon - 'we're going into the landfill'" Hansbrough said. "[Parties] generate a tremendous amount of trash; anytime you can cut that down it's a good thing."

The advisory purchased reusable plates, cups and silverware that they take turns washing after each party.

Mr. Craig Whitney's advisory is attempting to follow suit.

"[Mr. Whitney] has all the forks and cups there," senior Jordan Leinen said. "People are just lazy, though. It's so much more convenient to grab a plastic one."

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, there were more than 950 thousand tons of paper cups and plates and 700 thousand tons of Styrofoam thrown away in 2003.

"We are always trying to save time," Hansbrough said. "[People] don't want to save the planet; they want to save time."



Pizza on plastic ★ Ms. Betsy Hansbrough's advisory sports colorful plastic cups and plates during a Waldo Pizza advisory party Jan. 8. "I like using the plastic ware," advisee junior Emma Spencer said. "I know Ms. Hansbrough really wants to help the environment and has gotten us concerned with it too. Plus they are colorful!" PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

Relay swims to state



Flying by ★ Freshman Dominique Brawner swims the butterfly during the JV swim meet Jan. 30 at the Harrisonville Community Center. The team went on to place second in the meet. **PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY**

Four STA swimmers qualify for State in 200 yard freestyle relay race at meet, improve previous time

by **ROSIE HODES**
Staff Writer

Senior Rebecca Rogers, juniors Mandy Prather and Erin Nelson and freshman Rachel Edmonds qualified for State in the 200-yard freestyle relay at a swim meet hosted by Belton High School Jan. 30. They finished the race in 1 minute 48 seconds, one second faster than their previous time.

Although these four varsity swimmers were at the meet to improve their time, the rest of the meet was for JV swimmers.

The team competed in all 12 events and placed second overall. They swam against girls from Belton High School, Warrensburg High School, Harrisonville High School and Marshall Senior High.

According to coach Miranda Spini, freshman Sarah Wirtz was a top swimmer for STA at the meet.

Spirit club planned to attend this event clad in snorkel gear, but no club members attended.

"Thank you everyone for coming," senior Molly Hamid said to the five STA students supporting from the pool's edge.

Spini complimented her team on swimming well at the meet and making many personal records.

"We just have to stay consistent through the races," Spini said. "We need to put all our energy into it."

After placing second in the 200-yard freestyle relay, which is 20 laps, freshman Mary Franke was out of energy.

"I'm about to fall over," Franke said.

Swimmers described the meet as laid back. It did not last as long as meets usually do; everyone on STA's team was out of the community center by 6:30 p.m. ★



Breath of fresh air ★ Freshman Kelly Clay competes in the JV swim meet at Harrisonville Community Center Jan. 30. **PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY**

Bone approves lacrosse team

Non-school-sanctioned club team authorized; students excited to begin

by **PAIGE KUHLMANN**
Staff Writer

President Nan Bone recently approved the formation of a club lacrosse team that will use St. Teresa's as its name.

However, the team will not be school-sanctioned, so it will not be able to compete against Missouri State High School Activities Association approved schools. This means it won't be able to enter a league with teams that are sponsored by a high school and will only be able to play against other club teams from St. Joseph, Columbia, Wichita and Omaha. They will also play the Kansas City Girls Lacrosse team, which consists of mostly Notre Dame de Sion High School students.

According to athletic director Mike Egner, there are two main reasons for not sanctioning the team. He said the most important reason is there is no one around the Kansas City area to play yet. Second, lacrosse is a spring sport, meaning the lacrosse team would have nowhere to play because the STA soccer team will be using the field for games and practice.

On top of being limited in whom and where they play, the girls interested in

forming the team had another problem. They couldn't find a coach.

"Originally we wanted someone who knew how to coach lacrosse," said senior Sarah Coleman, whose father is the varsity lacrosse coach at Rockhurst High School. "Now we are just looking for someone who knows how to coach. We could teach them the game of lacrosse."

She's hoping they will have a solid and competitive team formed by the time of the Gateway Tournament, a St. Louis tournament at Busch Soccer Park that ends the lacrosse season. The St. Louis lacrosse teams are supportive of the newly forming Kansas City teams and have offered to host a coaching clinic.

Coleman's fear of not finding a coach was alleviated when Ms. Jessie Hanna, a recent graduate of Kansas University, accepted the coaching job.

"[Hanna] has never coached before, but she knows all the rules because she played at [Kansas University]," said junior Emily Orndoff, who has played lacrosse before and is interested in joining the new team. "Plus, she works close to [St. Teresa's], so transportation [for her] will be easy."

Orndoff is hoping this new sport will be a fun way for everyone to get involved in the school. She thinks it will provide the opportunity for less competitive tryouts.

What is Lacrosse?

Lacrosse originated with the North American Indians, and was adopted by Canada, and later the United States. It was called lacrosse because the stick looked like a bishop's crosier.

The game itself is similar to hockey, but is played in the air instead of on the ground, and on grass rather than ice. Each player has her own stick with a net on the end, with which she throws and catches a small rubber ball. Points are scored by throwing the ball into the other team's goal, which resembles an ice hockey goal. Players are allowed to run with the ball in their sticks until they pass it or an opposing team member knocks the ball out. Opposing team members are allowed to hit the person carrying the ball with their stick, although some types of hits are considered illegal.

Men play the game with 10 players per side, and women play with 12 per side.

Super Bowl ads: my top list

LINNY KAUFMAN



SPORTS EDITOR

According to *The Kansas City Star*, last year over 93 million Americans watched the Super Bowl. It makes sense, then, with almost one third of the entire nation watching, that one 30-second Super Bowl ad costs \$2.7 million. After all, for many viewers, it's not even about the football; it's about the ads.

And this year's ads were a strange variety. Some looked like poorly made local commercials, some were hilarious and many involved animals...but most were entertaining.

After enjoying the ads during the game, and then once again on www.myspace.com/superbowlads, I have carefully compiled a list of my top three favorite 2008 Super Bowl ads.

#3. FedEx (Pigeons)

This one is truly bizarre. It involves giant carrier pigeons (with GPS and night vision) which one company is using to transport its goods. The pigeons are creepy, but the guy is adorable. And the message is clear as the cameras pan out to view the giant pigeons wreaking havoc in the city streets, dropping boxes and giant feathers on cars: this company needs to switch to FedEx.

#2. Planters Cashews (Woman with unibrow)

This ad is classic. A short, heavier woman with a unibrow, a bad make-up and hair job, and a huge mole on her cheek, walks around town while men run into glass doors and cars when she catches their eye. Throughout the entire ad, this woman smiles knowingly and nods at the men. At the end, her secret of attraction is unveiled: the scent of Planters cashews. Apparently rubbing them all over her neck and chest makes her irresistible to men because they are "instinctively good." I doubt I'll try it; it would probably only make me irresistible to my dogs. But I'll watch the ad again.

#1. e*trade (The Baby)

I was dying laughing watching the two e*trade ads. During the first commercial, a baby on a webcam talks about how he uses e*trade. He says a lot of people think he's too young to invest in the markets, but "A. Don't worry about it. I just look young. You don't know how old I am. And B. I use e*trade." At the end he throws up. In the second commercial, the same talking baby (who has now made a ton of money on e*trade) has rented a clown with "all [his] extra coin." I'm not even sure I learned what e*trade is, but this company's ads were easily the most entertaining of the Super Bowl.

So, there are my top three favorite ads of Super Bowl XLII. They were good, but I'm still trying to decide if they were worth \$2.7 million. ★

Student races after dream

15 sports features



Biking star ★ Lounging outside of Trek Store in Shawnee, junior Emily Schapker takes a break from her job at the bike shop. Schapker is involved in competitive cyclocross in the Kansas City area. PHOTO BY BIANCA DANG

Junior Emily Schapker competes in bike racing called cyclocross, discovers passion, competition

by ROSIE HODES
Staff Writer

Snow falls, then melts and mud is formed. Hundreds of bike tires create skinny lines through the mud. Next, the freeze hits and these lines become solid tracks. A tire becomes captured in a track, and the cyclist braces for the crash.

Her mind focuses on the dream of standing on a podium, and the cyclist flies chest first into handlebars and lies in the snow for five minutes before anyone notices her. Then a stretcher carries her off the course.

It may seem dangerous, but this is the scene junior Emily Schapker was in four days after recovering from mono and two days before finals last semester.

"I was kind of being an idiot," Schapker said. "I couldn't force myself to skip the race."

Schapker competes in cyclocross. She describes it as a mix between road racing and mountain biking with a balance of competition and laid-back fun. Race coordinators rope off a winding 2-meter wide course through rugged terrain. According to Mr. Sean Hermes, Schapker's coworker at Kansas City's Trek Store, the courses contain road and off-road portions. There are mandatory dismounts in which racers must carry their bikes either over hurdles or over long, steep hills. It is a timed event and racers attempt to complete as many laps as possible in 30 to 45 minutes.

Cyclocross bikes are road bikes with different tires and stronger brakes. Many have clips on the pedals, and if Schapker's shoe gets caught while dismounting, she fears she could "break her face." Cyclocross-ers often use a helmet as their only protection.

"It wouldn't be as much fun if it wasn't dangerous," Schapker said.

Cyclocross-ers compete in any weather extreme. "They won't cancel a race unless there is literally a tornado over the course," Schapker said.

The tornado over Schapker's life was the mono she contracted last semester. Instead of riding her bike every day like she was used to, she was ordered by the doctor to refrain from bicycling for a month.

"It was torture," Schapker said. "The purest form of hell."

When Schapker is healthy and the weather isn't frigid, she rides every day. She mountain bikes with junior Elizabeth McNamara and takes group rides with her coworkers who taught Schapker how to race.

"She had been riding a lot, but then was talked into racing," Hermes said.

According to Schapker, there were no baby steps. The summer before her freshman year, Schapker's coworkers let her borrow a "super nice" several thousand dollar bike and told her to keep up and that she would figure it out. She did. Schapker placed third in her first race and won \$50. Also, she would have placed at nationals in Kansas City this year had she not crashed.

"I watched her race once or twice," McNamara said. "It's pretty intense. She works hard, and she's good at it."

Although Schapker races on a sponsored team, cyclocross can be expensive. Schapker receives employee discounts and help from her coworkers.

"I maintain her bike and replace whatever she breaks," Hermes said.

Schapker will continue her work at the Trek Store throughout high school.

"It's fun to have a job that's challenging," Schapker said. "Your coworkers and customers respect you. It's better than flipping burgers."

Another challenge Schapker faces is her parents' feelings about her racing.

"They hate it," Schapker said. "They can stop me until college."

Schapker plans to race in college, preferably at Stan-



Riding along ★ Junior Emily Schapker pedals down 58th street Jan. 30 after school. Schapker frequently drops her bike off at junior Elizabeth McNamara's house before school if the weather is too cold and comes by after school to pick it up and ride for a few miles. If the weather is pleasant, Schapker rides to school, which takes about 30 minutes. PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

ford, and she wants to become a bicycle designer or mechanic. For now, Schapker races for fun.

"It's the best feeling in the world," Schapker said. "I feel like a little kid covered head to toe in mud." ★

7 february 2008

★
The Dart
★
St. Teresa's Academy

Stars lose momentum

Basketball team loses to Blue Valley North High School at the buzzer 42-45

by TRACY BURNS-YOCUM
Staff Writer

Blue Valley North High School's three-point shot with less than three seconds remaining sank STA's hope of breaking a four-game losing skid. STA had the lead for most of the game Monday, but BVN scored a three pointer with 1:52 left in the game. After STA lost the ball, BVN was able to hold the ball for a last-second shot.

The Stars' defense throughout the game forced the Mustang's to take low-percentage shots, like the one that eventually won the game.

"We have lost the last three games by three points," sophomore post player Brady Essmann said. "It is disappointing. Really it is frustrating the most, but I think it will motivate us to do better in the next game."

Although the Stars have struggled to win games in the second half of their season, varsity basketball coach Jamie Collins believes the girls have nothing to hang their heads about.

"I just have to tell them 'Hey, you played a hell of a game,'" Collins said. "There are those games where you play really, really well and you do not win. It happens."

Senior guard Jessica Nouri said this is the best season she has ever had and that even with the losses, the team has a good chance of finishing over .500.

The players think Collins's approach of taking each weakness on a game-by-game basis has helped the team. When Collins finds a problem, she goes to work on fixing it.

"Two of our weaknesses are boxing out and rebounding," Essmann said. "There were two whole practices of just boxing out and rebounding drills, no offense at all."

See BASKETBALL, page 23



Quick snatch ★ STA freshman Caroline Gray snatches the ball from Blue Valley North player Erlisha Tamplin Monday at a varsity home game in the Goppert Center. North eventually won 45-42, although STA was in the lead for the majority of the game. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

Dancers overcome challenges

Young group, coaching changes create numerous obstacles for dance team

by BREANNE SIGLER
Managing Editor of Visuals

This year has been a rebuilding year for the dance team, according to co-captain Betsy Koehne. After a slow start to the season, the dance team won awards at the Kansas Spectacular Jan. 26 and the St. Charles Classic last Saturday.

At Kansas Spectacular the team received the Sweepstakes Award, Judges Award for jazz and hip-hop, Best Overall Precision and the Guissie Nell Davis Award. The three dance team officers, seniors Maddy McGannon, Kyle Hougland and Koehne, won five awards for their officer trio dance. At St. Charles Classic, the team received fifth place in jazz, second place in pom and first place in hip-hop.

"That was really satisfying because we worked really hard," Koehne said. "That was how we were supposed to be doing."

Last year, the team consisted of 10 upperclassmen and 4 underclassmen. This year there are 5 upperclassmen and 11 un-

derclassmen, with no juniors. This means the current sophomores will have to step up as leaders next year.

"It'll be hard for the sophomores to take over, but they'll do well," Koehne said.

Senior Sarah Luecke agrees.

"A lot has to do with the freshmen looking up to the sophomores," Luecke said. "I've been watching...the freshmen and sophomores get along really well. Next year, they'll be good and it'll all come together."

The dance team also had to deal with a mid-season coaching change in December when head coach Lindsay Phillips moved to Los Angeles and assistant coach Jocelyn Lavender took over. Koehne and Luecke both thought it was a positive change.

"We've all been really happy with [Lavender]," Koehne said. "She's really organized and focused. She really knows a lot about how dances should look."

Koehne believes next year will be a "unity year" for the dance team.

"I see the girls coming together really well," Koehne said.

The dance team will compete in the State competition at Center High School the weekend of Feb. 23. ★



Jazzy moves ★ STA dance team seniors Katie Embree, from left, and Sarah Luecke perform their Michael Jackson jazz routine Monday during half time at a home varsity basketball game against Blue Valley North in the Goppert Center. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

★Scoreboard★

Varsity Basketball (11-9)

Jan. 4	Helias	L
Jan. 8	Notre Dame de Sion	W
Jan. 10	Spring Hill	W
Jan. 15	St. Joseph Benton	W
Jan. 17	Platte County	L
Jan. 19	Holton	L
Jan. 23	St. Joseph Lafayette	W
Jan. 25	Columbia Hickman	L
Jan. 29	Blue Springs	L
Jan. 31	Pembroke Hill	L
Feb. 2	St. Joe Benton	L
Feb. 4	Blue Valley North	L

★ The varsity Stars will take on Raymore-Peculiar High School tonight. The team has won the opening game of all three tournaments it has entered this season, and hopes to continue the trend in the Districts tournament, which begins Feb. 18 at Hickman Mills High School.

JV Basketball (11-9)

Jan. 4	Helias	L
Jan. 8	Notre Dame de Sion	W
Jan. 10	Spring Hill	L
Jan. 14	Bishop Miege	L
Jan. 15	Blue Springs	L
Jan. 16	Notre Dame de Sion	W
Jan. 23	St. Joseph Lafayette	W
Jan. 24	St. James Academy	W
Jan. 25	Columbia Hickman	W
Jan. 29	Blue Springs	L
Jan. 31	Pembroke Hill	W
Feb. 2	St. Joe Benton	W
Feb. 4	Blue Valley North	L

★ Top scorer is sophomore post and shooting guard Caitlin Campbell. Sophomore Kelsie Fiss and freshman Emily Wilson will suit up with the varsity team after the JV season ends.

Freshman Basketball (13-5)

Jan. 7	Notre Dame de Sion	W
Jan. 9	Aquinas	L
Jan. 10	Lawrence South	W
Jan. 16	O'Hara	W
Jan. 21	Shawnee Mission East	W
Jan. 22	Pleasant Hill	W
Jan. 24	Aquinas	L
Jan. 28	Lee's Summit North	W
Jan. 30	South Valley of Liberty	W
Jan. 31	Lee's Summit West	L

★ This year's team holds the best season record of any STA freshman team in the past five years. Five freshmen players have joined the JV squad for the rest of its season.

Swimming

Dec. 21	Blue Springs Relays	8th place
Jan. 5	Park Hill	10th place
Jan. 9	Raytown	1st place
Jan. 12	Sedalia Smith-Cotton	1st place
Jan. 18	Raytown	3rd place
Jan. 19	GKC Meet	3rd place
Jan. 26	Springfield Glendale	14th place
Jan. 30	Belton	1st place

★ Senior Rebecca Rogers, juniors Mandy Prather and Erin Nelson and freshman Rachel Edmonds, qualified for State Jan. 30.

Dance Team

Jan. 25-26	Kansas Spectacular
Feb. 1-2	St. Charles Classic

★ At the Kansas Spectacular, the team won numerous awards, including the Guissie Nell Davis award. At the St. Charles Classic, the team received 1st in hip-hop, 2nd in poms and 5th in jazz.

STA home to Grammy nominees

Local choir, director earn recognition for record, enjoy increased CD sales

by KAYLA LOOSEN
Staff Writer

Each school day, hundreds of St. Teresa's Academy students pass by the doors of the Kansas City Young Arts School located on the top floors of the M&A Building. They pass by, rushing to class, anticipating lunch or cramming for an exam. All the while, these students are unaware that the office of 2008 five-time Grammy nominated choir, the Kansas City Chorale, sits on the other side of the doors.

By the end of its 25th season this year, the Kansas City Chorale, a professional choral group, will have nabbed five Grammy nominations in the categories of Best Engineered Album, Best Classical Album, Best Surround Sound Album, Best Choral Performance and Producer of the Year for their record "Passion Week." Critically acclaimed conductor Charles Bruffy has directed the ensemble since 1988 and has contributed to the group's Grammy nominations. The Kansas City Chorale shares the Grammy recognition with Bruffy's other choir, The Phoenix Bach Choir, whom the Chorale collaborated with for the record. The Chorale moved to STA in 2004 from its former location in midtown.

STA director of advancement Kevin Flattery explained that three years ago STA offered business space to art programs in the community. The Chorale relocate to become more associated with the fine arts community. When people heard groups like the Kansas City Chorale would be occupying STA's vacant space, supporters who do not usually donate were inspired to do so.

"In the future, we hope to renovate the auditorium and reconstruct the stage, acoustics and seating," Flattery said. "If we do, we'll consult with the Chorale so they have what they need for [STA] to be their home base. So not only are [the Chorale's] offices here, but

through [these offices] they have become involved with the Academy."

Since the nominations Don Loncasty, seven-year executive director of the Chorale, explained he has been swamped with organizing tours, preparing for the Grammys and shipping CDs. Record sales brought in \$10,000 the week following the nomination announcements in contrast to the \$3,000 made on weekly sales.

"One of our key strategies each year is to differentiate ourselves from the rest of the choral groups in the city and to get publicity and awareness of who the Chorale is and how great they are," Loncasty said. "All the sudden, we have this huge awareness now because the critics and *The Kansas City Star* have just given us page after page of coverage."

Loncasty described the day of the Grammys as being a thrilling but busy experience and expressed anticipation for the exclusive nominee party.

"It will be fun actually being in the Grammy's, watching Amy Winehouse sing about rehab," Loncasty said. "It's basically going to be about five hours of free concert. To be in the same room with these people is going to be a blast."

This past May, the *BBC Magazine* declared the album "Passion Week" as the Choral CD of the month. Loncasty expressed this as the beginning of the Chorale's public success in the months following.

"Both of the two albums released last year were received by the international critic community as 'Wow' records," Loncasty said. "Not just, 'Oh, this is good,' but, 'Wow.' With [this publicity] people started noticing, people started buying the records and all the sudden the Grammy's were here."

With this exposure, the Chorale's agent is currently making an attempt to begin a March 2009 tour in New York City at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. STA music teacher Shauna Moore agrees the Chorale is held in high enough esteem within the music field to participate in a



Chorale's conductor ★ Conductor Charles Bruffy stands in front of the choir, posing for a professional photograph of the Kansas City Chorale. Bruffy has been the director of the ensemble for twenty years now. **PHOTO SUBMITTED**

prestigious tour like this.

"The chorale is highly respected," Moore said. "Not just here in Kansas City, but everywhere basically."

The critical acclaim and success have increased office and chorale activity over the past months, Loncasty said.

"Growth has been phenomenal," Loncasty said. "Our Christmas concerts sold out, record sales have been amazing and new patrons are coming to our concerts saying, 'Oh wow, I didn't realize you guys were so good.'"

Moore, who considers herself a fan of the Kansas City Chorale, expands

on why she feels they deserve these awards.

"Their performance is beautiful with a really flawless sound," Moore said. "As a musician, their overall sound inspires me to try and emulate that sound with my students."

Despite the busy and hectic days to come, Loncasty remains confident and ready for what the future might bring the Kansas City Chorale.

"I think our opportunities that are coming up next are going to be really big," Loncasty said. "It's just going to be tons and tons and tons of fun." ★

Girls promote safety, learn self defense

Six years after Ali Kemp's death, thousands remember her through annual fashion show fund-raiser

by KYLIE HORNBECK
Staff Writer

The story of one girl's fate that will live on in the hearts of many is one of brutal harassment, strangulation and murder. The Ali's Runway prom fashion show and The Ali Kemp Educational (TAKE) Defense Training self-defense class were held for local teenage girls at the Overland Park Convention Center Jan. 12 and 13. The event benefited TAKE Foundation in remembrance of this girl's life and story.

Nearly six years ago on June 18, 19-year-old Ali Kemp suffered a fatal attack at a neighborhood pool in Leawood. Having finished her freshman year of college, Kemp was working as a pool attendant for the summer. About two hours after her murder, her father discovered her battered body in the pool's pump room under a tarp. National campaigns were set up to find Kemp's killer, and in 2006, Benjamin Appleby was convicted of capital murder and attempted rape. TAKE Foundation was created in her name and honor to promote safety awareness and educate women in self-defense, according to the

foundation's website.

The seven STA students who participated in the event included seniors Katie Embree, Jessica Fahey, Jessica Marak and Tess Palmer; junior Molly O'Byrne; and sophomores Tess Distefano and Ali Morgan. During the two-day event, the girls took part in the Ali Kemp TAKE Defense Training self-defense class the first evening and modeled in the Ali's Runway prom fashion show the following afternoon.

All participants were required to sell 25 tickets at \$5 each for the fashion show, and over 7,000 people attended to benefit the TAKE Foundation.

This was the first year STA academic/college advisor Stephanie Hart, who arranged for STA students to attend, was involved, and she says it will not be the last. In fact, Hart has arranged and scheduled for TAKE Defense Training self-defense class to come to STA April 13.

"[TAKE self-defense class] is an opportunity to learn about yourself, your strengths and your weaknesses, and it's an opportunity to personally contribute to an organization that's making a difference in our community," Hart said.

Hart believes the students who participated benefited

from the two-day event, and it was a worthwhile event for STA to become involved in.

During the self-defense class, a variety of defense techniques were demonstrated, and students then had the opportunity to practice those skills. Sophomore Tess Distefano, who agreed to participate because she liked the idea of learning to defend herself, was thrilled by the experience.

"The self-defense class was really fun because they had these dummies that you got to practice on and that you got to just beat the crap out of," Distefano said. "It was awesome."

According to sophomore Ali Morgan, the fashion show was an exhilarating an experience, though frightening at first.

"I was really nervous [to walk down the runway]," Morgan said. "I fall a lot, and I thought I would fall, but once I got up there, it felt natural and fun. I want to go back there now and walk down the runway again. It was a great feeling."

Distefano feels that, although Kemp was unable to survive her attack several years ago, the TAKE Foundation's event has helped students become stronger, more aware and better able to defend themselves if attacked.

"[The whole experience] has really built up my confidence," Distefano said. "If I'm in a situation, I won't freak out, and I'll know what to do." ★



Hart

Jewels of Independence undiscovered

EMILY BECKER



NO DIRECTIONS HOME

I was really rooting for Independence. I started my adventure down 24 Highway confident that there had to be a diamond in this rough city known for its crime and methamphetamines.

I passed mile after mile of buildings with peeling paint, boarded up windows and overgrown parking lots. Buildings painted bright orange and pink and with multi-colored roofs. Buildings that used to house unique, one of a kind places.

The more potholes I hit, the more frustrated I became. I had intended to shed some positive light on Independence, but I began to see that most of this city consisted of rundown buildings, fast food restaurants and local bars with neon signs for Bud Light and Michelob in the windows. I passed residential areas, but no local restaurants. I wondered where all the residents went to dinner on the weekend and I shuddered at the thought of family bonding over greasy plastic tables at the nearest McDonald's.

The closest I came to reaching my goal was Independence Square, nine blocks of local restaurants and stores. But none of them especially peaked my interest. There was Gilbert Whitney & Co, a locally owned grocery store that carried a surprising amount of gourmet and imported food. But the other half of the building was the standard kitchen stores my mom continually drags me to. Across the street was the Uptown Boutique. The clothes displayed in the windows were cute and stylish, but the \$200 price tag immediately made me ready to head back into the biting cold wind outside.

I was longing for somewhere to write about, preferably inside, when I spotted the Main Street Coffeehouse. I was immediately warmed by the smell of brewing coffee when I entered, but the signboard only promised a few drink options. I turned toward the door.

The Square was not all bad. Clinton's Soda Fountain was complete with barstools, a mirrored wall and one of the best grilled cheese sandwiches and chocolate shakes I had ever had, but I had already visited Clinton's in the past, eliminating it from the list of options.

As I walked around the Square, something just did not fight right. Maybe it was the fact that there were few people about and those I ran into were not friendly. Or maybe it was the piped in classical music that followed me where ever I went. But despite the fact that I seem to have failed this time, I am confident that there is a jewel waiting to be discovered somewhere in Independence. ★

Annual assembly celebrates diversity from Japan, Scotland, Latin America

About 20 years ago, former St. Teresa's Academy social studies teacher Bob Cox started an annual tradition at STA. This convention, the Cultural Awareness Assembly, has lasted to the present. This year the STA community celebrated it Feb. 1. For approximately 10 years, English teacher Mark Fudenberg has been the official coordinator of this assembly at STA.

"STA hosts this event to support or illustrate the school philosophy and to share hidden talents with the broader student body," Fudenberg said. "For example, you wouldn't necessarily know that [STA junior] Carlie Campbell is a Scottish dancer without this assembly."

Ms. Chartier gave a series of announcements to STA faculty and students inviting them to participate in the assembly. They were asked to share any dances, songs, readings or other performances that exemplify a specific culture they are a part of.

The following acts

were included in the 2008 Cultural Awareness Assembly: a group of STA singers performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing," junior Carlie Campbell and St. Elizabeth's eighth grader Katie Wilhelmus presented Scottish dances, juniors Megan Owara and Akiko Yoneda discussed Japanese clothing, poetry and holidays, sophomore Mollie Pointer, freshman Molly Kenny, junior Caitlin O'Rourke and her younger sister Colleen performed Irish dances and junior Lauren Bly and her dance partner Toyance Coleman presented a Mexican dance. Mika Casey and Juan Carlos closed the assembly with other Mexican dances. ★



Ethnic Expression

stories by TAYLOR BROWN
photos by ALLISON POINTER



1

Cousins preform Mexican dances, continue embracing heritage through tradition

A Mexican charro suit, a traditional Jalisco dress, one cowboy hat and a swirling skirt paired with

tapping feet.

This describes the 2008 performance of St. Teresa's Academy junior Mika Casey and her cousin Juan Carlos at STA's annual Cultural Awareness Assembly.

Casey attributes her Mexican culture to her family's move from Leon, Mexico to Kansas City about 50 years ago. Ever since, Casey's family has been practicing their culture here. Her mother's family owns a popular Mexican restaurant and her aunt started a Mexican dance studio.

Originally, this dance studio was for Casey's four male cousins, but eventually it grew larger. Casey has been dancing with the group since she was three years old. They have traveled to Mexico for numerous competitions and in 1992 they competed in Spain.

At the Feb. 1 assembly, Casey and Carlos performed three dances from the state of Jalisco, Mexico. Carlos presented the first dance, a Mexican cowboy dance called El Gavilancillo, as a solo. Then, Carlos and Casey together danced La Negra. Lastly, the two invited STA students from the audience on stage to learn a dance called El Jarabe. The pair performed wearing costumes chosen by Carlos' mother and ordered from Mexico.

According to Casey, her culture is important to her and her family.

"I just like showing [my culture] off," Casey said. "I think that the dances we performed are really different from anything [STA] has seen. I just like showing people the more traditional side of Mexico." ★



2



4

1 From left, sophomore Shay Bell, freshman Grace Whitley and junior Sherie Wallace sing the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice And Sing" to open the Cultural Awareness Assembly Feb. 1.

2 Juan Carlos, left, stands with his cousin, junior Mikaela Casey during the assembly. Carlos danced a solo and then was joined by Casey for a dance together, making it their third year performing.

3 Exchange student Akiko Yoneda presents a traditional Japanese poem with the help of junior Megan Owara.

4 Casey, left, and Carlos dance to their own heritage music in front of the school.

Interactive exhibit draws sports fans

College Basketball Experience, Hall of Fame presents venue to honor collegiate basketball

by MICHELLE REICHMEIER
Staff Writer

When planning an exciting weekend with my friends, visiting a museum is never the first thing that comes to mind. The College Basketball Experience and National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame at Sprint Center, however, is not your ordinary museum. Instead, it is an extremely interactive, high-energy venue where fans of all ages can engross themselves in the game of men's college basketball and put their physical skill and knowledge to the test. The museum features hands-on exhibits that place guests in electrifying game-like situations, such as three point challenges and dunking contests.

The 41,500 square-foot building, located at the new Sprint Center in Kansas City's Power and Light District, stimulates enthusiasm when visitors first arrive with giant images and vibrant lights.

Guests explore the game of basketball from an insider's perspective. Chills go down your spine as you jog out a team locker room beginning your experience with a cheering crowd, announcers' voices and flashing lights from the media.

In "Beat the Clock" fans strive to sink the game-winning shot before time runs out in a high-pressure situation. Randomly illuminated circles on the ground show the players where to next attempt their jump shot as they hear game audio.

Fans are given the opportunity to measure up to their favorite basketball players. Literally. Visitors compare



Collegiate Collection ★ The College Basketball Experience, which is in the Sprint Center in downtown Kansas City, houses many different basketball experiences for all ages. Visitors can either play basketball, practice their jump shot or learn about the past experts of the game. **PHOTO BY CLAIRE McINERNEY**

physical attributes such as their hand size, shoe size, height and wingspan to players ranging from Shaquille O'Neil to Muggsy Bogues, one of the shortest players in NBA history.

In addition, guests can assess their skills in various challenges. Have you ever wondered what it is like to attempt clutch free throws in a hostile arena surrounded with thousands of screaming fans? Guests can enter a similar environment and try to make

as many consecutive free throws in a short amount of time as possible. A green screen positioned behind the basket features a video of enthusiastic fans challenging the free throw.

From sinking the game-winning shot in an intense situation, to announcing the play-by-play from an ESPN broadcast desk, there are activities suitable for all ages, sizes and skill levels.

After sweating and testing their skills in extreme play, guests venture downstairs to test their knowledge in the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame educates guests on the great coaches and players who have contributed significantly to men's college basketball. Visitors also learn the unique role Kansas City played in the history and development of the game.

The Honor Theater projects a large film that highlights the passion and intensity of college basketball.

Presented in eight segments, the film is a striking tribute to the game of basketball, noting its significance throughout history both on and off the court.

Inside the Gallery of Honor, guests show their respect to players and coaches in the Hall of Fame. In the dark room, projectors light up names along the wall while inspirational quotes and famous game segments echo throughout.

The College Basketball Experience and Hall of Fame is a great place to go with friends or family. To fully appreciate what the venue has to offer, one should be somewhat familiar with the game of college basketball. It reminds visitors what makes the game so great today.

The mission of the College Basketball Experience and Hall of Fame is to present a nationally recognized setting that commemorates men's college basketball and its history. It does just that. ★

College Basketball Experience

★
Sprint Center
1407 Grand Boulevard
Kansas City, Mo. 64106
816-949-7000
Free for Children (5 and under)
\$7.00 for Youth (6-17 years of age)

7 february 2008
★
The Dart
★
St. Teresa's Academy

movie



Always a bridesmaid never a bride. This is the cliché painstakingly portrayed in the movie "27 Dresses" starring Katherine Heigl. Jane (Heigl) is a perpetual bridesmaid who's been a part of a shocking 27 wedding parties. She's a hopeless romantic pining over her prince-charming-like boss. When she's finally ready to profess her love, her beautiful younger sister upstages her once again, capturing his heart and a marriage proposal. Although initially the concept appears fresh enough, as the story progresses, it becomes clear that "27 Dresses" is nothing more than just another slightly entertaining, yet forgettable romantic comedy.

- Haley Vondenkamp

cd



The soundtrack from the recently released independent film "Juno" is a quirky mix of new music, remastered classics, and instrumental segments from the movie. The Kimya Dawson songs echo the film's script: seemingly playful and candid, but with a more intricate meaning and purpose. The music included on the soundtrack is inextricably connected with the movie's plot, mainly because the music progresses the film's script almost as much as the dialogue. The album ends, as the film does, with the two stars of the movie, singing Dawson's "Anyone Else but You," an oddly sweet love song that perfectly captures Page and Cera's characters' romance in the film.

- Carlie Campbell

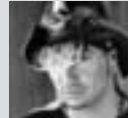
book



Michael Pollen's latest mantra is if your great grandmother wouldn't recognize it as food, then you shouldn't eat it. In his book "The Omnivore's Dilemma," he explores the mysterious terrain of an American grocery store and the food chains that sustain us. He looks at the problems of industrial agriculture, local food production and sustainability. His engaging conversational style is full of scientific truths to enforce how disconnected we are from our food sources. Pollen addresses a "national eating disorder" based on super-size industrial consumption. I would recommend this book to anyone who eats.

- Sarah Smith

tv



Flava Flav! I mean, Bret Michaels! For all the Vh1 addicts out there, "Rock of Love," the spin-off of the reality show "Flavor of Love," is hosting its second season. It airs on Sundays at 8 p.m. This show features the lead vocalist for the rock band Poison, Bret Michaels, trying to find someone to "rock his world." Romantic, right? Not exactly. Although highly entertaining, with catty fights and drunken dance parties, this is not high-class television. Blotted out nudity, reference to drug use and an excess of sex make "Rock of Love" a bit trashy. The show as a whole will make moms scream, "Get this trash off my television!"

- Paige Kuhlmann

song



Matt Costa's song Mr. Pitiful is a nice break from the similar-sounding pop songs that are repetitively played on the radio. The upbeat piano notes and unique voice of Costa make this song all his own. Although this is a change for Costa, whose songs are usually folk with guitar than pop with piano, it is still delightful. In this self-written song, Costa sings about a person who is too self-involved and prideful to be friends again. That is an easy-to-relate-to topic for teenagers. So, that makes this song a double bonus: it has lyrics that are relatable to life and it has a catchy tune.

-Rachel Schwartz

Family Matters



7 february 2008
★
The Dart
★
St. Teresa's Academy

As the oldest of seven children, senior Mary Clara Hutchison works to balance homework, siblings and the thought of leaving for college

by LINNY KAUFMAN
Section Editor

Senior Mary Clara Hutchison lists the members of her family, struggling to determine ages and grade levels.

"Hey Charlie, come back in here! I need your help!"

"With what?"

"How old is Maggie? Is she nine or ten?"

"I think she's 11."

"Are you sure? No she's not... I think she's ten. MAG-GIEEE! Is Maggie here? Oh well, I'll just say she's 11 then."

As the oldest of seven, Mary Clara understands not only what it means to look after others, but also the importance of being productive no matter the circumstances, even screaming children. As far as striving for productivity goes, homework is no exception.

A number of STA students return home after school to six or more siblings. Families like the Schraders and Tilsons dominate Visitation Grade School, Rockhurst High School and STA. St. Peter's parents watch in awe as the line of children exits the Nulton's big blue van seems to never end. Siblings of these huge families are everywhere, but the dynamics of these families aren't always clear. For those STA students who live in a relatively quiet house, with siblings in college or no siblings at all, it may be difficult to conceive how a family with seven children manages to operate. Mary Clara is well equipped to explain.

Ten Minutes Alone

Mary Clara checks her cell phone after school Wednesday, Jan. 23 and finds one new voice-message. As she listens to the message, left ten minutes earlier, she grows nervous.

"It was an urgent message from my mom," Mary Clara said. "I freaked out because I thought maybe I was supposed to pick up the kids from school. It turns out she just wants me to pay the cleaning lady when I get home. I don't know why she thought that was urgent."

When she arrives at 6758 Pennsylvania, Mary Clara parks her blue mini-van, in front of her house. She com-

ments that the house looks clean today and trudges upstairs to her room, tossing her backpack and keys on the bed. Before she can start her Trigonometry homework, Mary Clara runs downstairs to make a sandwich, enjoying the rare stillness of a nearly empty house.

"When I come home from school, I have about ten minutes of peace and quiet," Mary Clara said. "And then the door opens, and it explodes. Someone is always fighting with someone. I go to my room and attempt to do my homework, then I go to swim practice, and then I come home and try to do more homework. It's loud most of the time. So I always try to enjoy those ten minutes I have alone."

With four minutes of the precious ten gone, Mary Clara moves back upstairs and sits on her bed, enjoying her sandwich.

The house is generally empty when Mary Clara arrives home from STA each day because her siblings are still at school, and both of her parents work. Her father, Mr. Pete Hutchison, is an attorney, and her mother, Ms. Judy Hutchison, is a physical therapist. Mary Clara is the only child able to enjoy this time alone. And as Mary Clara's brother Rockhurst sophomore Fritz Hutchison tells it, Mary Clara has always been the most "spoiled" child of the family.

"Mary Clara was pretty spoiled as a little kid," Fritz

said. "On our home videos, there's about 14 hours of Mary Clara as a baby, and she's not even doing anything. She's just sitting there. And then there's maybe an hour or two of me, and about a minute of [Rockhurst freshman Charlie Hutchison]. There's nothing of anyone else on there... I think my parents kind of gave up."

Pete agrees Mary Clara was spoiled as a child. This treatment has somehow worn off after seven kids.

"When Mary Clara was in kindergarten, I would put her clothes in the dryer before school so they would be warm when she put them on," Pete said. "Now I yell 'MARY CLARA!' in the morning to wake her up, and that's basically it. She was spoiled when she was younger."

Spoiled or not, Mary Clara continues to enjoy her quiet time alone. She unzips her backpack and pulls out her Trigonometry book and notebook. Thirty seconds later, her cell phone rings.

"It's my mom again," Mary Clara said.

'Kids just materialize'

Setting her homework on her bed, Mary Clara walks downstairs to follow her mom's instructions. She preheats the oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit and retrieves a pack of lasagna from the freezer. The clock reaches the ten minute marker, and Fritz and Charlie burst through the front door.

"You're making dinner?" a surprised Fritz asks Mary Clara as he spots the lasagna on the counter.

"Yeah, mom asked me to," replies Mary Clara. "Do you want the rest of this sandwich?"

Fritz takes the remainder of Mary Clara's own dinner and grabs a bag of Ruffles from the cabinet. Although the two high school boys found a ride home today, Mary Clara said that many days, this is not the case.

"Charlie and Fritz are supposed to find their own rides home after school," Mary Clara said. "Sometimes they do, but sometimes I have to drive out and get them. But the annoying part is that they refuse to meet up! One day Charlie called and asked if I could come pick him up, so I did. Then, by the time I was already all the way back home with Charlie, Fritz called and asked for a ride. So I had to go out and pick him up too. It would save so much time if they would just meet up after school!"

Within a minute, the door opens again to a loud burst of sound and children. Four more Hutchisons enter the house, home from St. Peters Grade School: Rose, 13, Maggie, 11, Oliver, 9, and Jojo, 6.

The Hutchisons used to live in a house down the street but were forced to move when they needed more room for arriving children. Mary Clara is the only child with her own room; Rose and Maggie share a room adjoining Mary Clara's through a bathroom, Oliver and Jojo share a room across the hallway, and Fritz and Charlie share a room on the third floor.

Although she and her siblings have their fights, nothing can replace the friendships they have formed.

"The best part about having a big family is having so many built in best friends," Mary Clara said. "When my brother [Fritz] was born, it was like we were automatically best friends. My Kairos group practically thinks Fritz is their brother because I talked about him so much during the retreat. Since Fritz and I are the oldest of all the kids, we have a common bond; Fritz, Charlie and I are kind of united against the little kids. Not that I'm not close to the younger kids; Fritz and I are just joined at the hip."

Fritz finishes his chips as Mary Clara pours herself a glass of milk.

"Kids just materialize," Fritz comments.

Mary Clara puts the lasagna in the now heated oven and moves back upstairs to begin her homework away from the noise.

The Trunk

Mary Clara remembers what happened when she waited until the last minute to do her homework over summer break this year.

"At the end of the summer, my entire family went to the lake," Mary Clara said. "There wasn't enough room in our SUV for everybody to have their own seats, and nobody wants to double-buckle for the four hour drive. So the kids each took turns riding in the trunk; I enjoyed my time back there. I had put off my summer reading, so it was a chance for me to finish it in peace and quiet. I was actually most productive in the trunk because I didn't have any distractions. I just sat back there and worked."

Perhaps realizing that the closest space to the trunk in her

house is her room, Mary Clara opens her Trig books and begins to work, finding comfort in her bed.

A mixture of laughter, yelling and foot-stomping floats upstairs to her bedroom, but Mary Clara doesn't seem to notice. Fritz walks pasts her room, sticks his head in to say hello, and retreats to his room on the third floor to play guitar, adding to the background noise. Mary Clara makes a dent in her math homework, working for about 15 minutes uninterrupted, until a loud fight breaks out downstairs.

"LET ME PLAY!"

"NO! I DON'T HAVE TO!"

"YES YOU DO! IT'S MY TURN! YOU ARE SO MEAN!"

Loud screams travel upstairs and, unable to block out her siblings high-pitched sobs, Mary Clara is forced to break her concentration. Fritz comes into Mary Clara's room and grabs her pink winter earmuffs, placing them on his ears.

"These aren't helping," he comments.

Rose appears shortly after, while someone continues to scream downstairs.

"Joe kicked me off the couch!" Rose says. "So all I did was turn off the video game!"

Fritz asks Rose why she didn't just leave it on, and they form their own argument about the original fight.

"Why are you two having this conversation here?" Mary Clara asks.

"Because you're working here!" Fritz jokingly replies.

After a few last words, Fritz and Rose leave her room, and Mary Clara is free to continue her homework.

'FRITZ!'

Many STA parents find it difficult to watch their daughters leave for college, especially if their daughter is the oldest child. Many siblings left at home find it just as difficult to say goodbye. Mary Clara is not only the oldest child, but she also has to leave four brothers and two sisters who have become her best friends.

Mary Clara replies to the common question, "Where are you thinking about going to school?" with a long list of possible universities, ranging from Rice University in Texas to Truman State in Kirksville, Mo. Regardless of where she ends up, leaving her family will be one of the hardest things she's ever had to do.

"On the day I leave for college, I know I'm going to cry... a lot," Mary Clara said. "All the little kids will probably be really annoying and hanging on me. Charlie will probably say something like 'I'm going to take your room!' because he's always in my room on my bed. And Fritz... I don't know what Fritz will do. It will be weird. But I'm going to come back and visit all of my siblings a lot. I really don't want to be that distant older sister. It's already going to be so weird without seeing all of them everyday."

Having aborted a major crisis, Mary Clara once again blocks out the surrounding sounds of her siblings while they play, sing and argue.

Meanwhile, her mom, returns home. Judy walks by Mary Clara's room and says hello, and then helps Oliver find a missing toy. The scent of lasagna wafts upstairs, and Mary Clara, finishing her Trig homework, moves to her College Comp reading. Soon after, Judy sticks her head in the doorway next to Mary Clara's to talk to her oldest son.

"FRITZ!" Judy yells up the stairs to no answer.

"FRITZ!" Pete yells from the first floor, attempting to help his wife.

"Fritz! When are your drum lessons?" Judy yells.

"WHAT?" Fritz finally replies.

"When are your drum lessons?"

"5:30!"

"TODAY?"

"No!"

"WHEN then?"

"He's out of town!"

"When is your next lesson then?"

Receiving no reply, Judy eventually sighs.

"I give up."

Judy turns to face another question: "Mom, when is the lasagna going to be ready?"

and then, another: "Mom, Fritz and Charlie won't let me play video games with them." ★



Jojo



Pete



Judy



Mary Clara



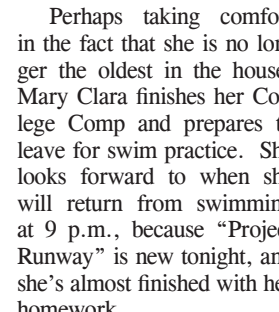
Maggie



Jojo



Oliver



Charlie

PHOTOS BY CLAIRE McINERNEY

"Even though it can get annoying, having a big family is always better than having a small family," Mary Clara said. "It'd be weird to have anything less than the [amount of siblings] I have. Even if I have to drive people around, it's just more fun always having something to do, always being around the different personalities. In 20 or 30 years, I hope we are all living close together. Maybe not on the same block, because we would probably kill each other if we were neighbors. But I'd like everyone to live within at least an hour of each other. I guess I'm just so used to being surrounded by my family [members] that I can't imagine not being around them when I'm older." ★

Obama rally inspires hope



Obama oration ★ Illinois Senator Barack Obama speaks at a Kansas City campaign rally at the Municipal Auditorium last Tuesday.
PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

JAIME HENRY-WHITE



TALK TO YOU LATER

Editor's Note: Jaime Henry-White will write an interactive column each issue of The Dart. We welcome you to write your own stories or responses, in 100 words or less, to her column. Drop your writing in room M205 and your work will be published in The Dart!

Before seeing Illinois Senator Barack Obama speak to Kansas City as a part of his 2008 presidential political campaign last Tuesday at the Municipal Auditorium, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. The moment I stepped into the actual auditorium where he was speaking, an incredible rush ran threw me. Engulfed into the crowd of thousands, I knew I was going to experience something unforgettable.

If you tried to imagine the roar and political spirit of the people supporting Obama in the room, it would be like if you were at an STA vs. Sion game, but with 100 times the spirit, noise and excitement. That alone says something astounding. Blue signs of "Change we

can believe in" and "Obama 0'8" waved from the floor to the balcony. Oldies pop music pumped up the already energetic atmosphere. Spotlights blinded the stage with a warm white color. My anticipation grew with every shout, chant and bustle. And when Obama walked onto the stage, my stomach flip-flopped with excitement.

Going into the event, I knew I was coming to see a promising presidential candidate speak. Yet, I was still unsure which candidate would win my favor. I found that what I believed in most about Obama and what he said was his level of sincerity, integrity and confidence. He truly made me believe that, if president, he had the skills, ideas and capability to create the much needed change, block by block, America has lacked to accomplish in many years. Though many politicians provide the same promise of change to their supporters, his outstanding oration fully caught my attention. Whether the way in which he will remove troops from Iraq or insure better standards for teachers and inner-city school systems, I realized that something real could really happen. Within minutes, I, and no doubt many others in the crowd, was inspired to be a presence of someone that could capture a diverse crowd with so many interests. Nevertheless, what inspired me more was that diverse crowd itself.

In no way am I trying to endorse others to switch their political support to Obama, for I know many other candidates may

show them the same leadership Obama showed me at this rally. However, what I am trying to emphasize is how, even at sixteen, I, along with many others, can experience a kind of political spirit that I have never noticed nor come into contact with before. I watched Obama, a silhouette in the midst of the camera flashes and a sea of cheering people, the representative figure of their political hopes for the future, and was hit with the theme of the event. Now or never, people, young and old and of various backgrounds, are ready for change. They're just waiting for the right individual to initiate that change with them. With the sheer amount of men, women and families in Kansas City already getting involved in the political issues for this upcoming presidential election, no matter which candidate they support, an impatience for change has begun to overwhelm society.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to vote in the 2008 November presidential elections. That doesn't stop me from advocating the changes I am ready to experience as I grow into an adult, especially now that I have realized my capability to do so with many others beside me. Knowing that someday, someone will have one or two fewer problems to worry about is more than good enough for me. Just like the hand-painted sign I saw draped from the auditorium balcony, I am "ready to hope" and more importantly, ready to change. ★

Book: donations fund philanthropic effort

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official during this time of year when it is so cold and many freeze to death overnight."

United Way set up this kind of program in Kansas City in 2006. Anywhere in a 23-county area surrounding Kansas City, dialing 211 will lead directly to a service providing information on homeless shelters and food

pantries nearby as well as counseling and job training. One purpose of this book is to make sure more people know about these services and make use of them.

The budget for producing the book comes directly from donations. They hope to produce adequate funds to publish 5,000 copies. They are negotiating with local Barnes & Noble stores with the hope

they will agree to carry the book along with other local bookstores. Anyone is encouraged to donate his or her time, talent, or money to the project. They are still looking for writers, drawers, and photographers with a dedication to this cause. Donations for the publication of this book or the coalition may be sent directly to Cynthia Larcom. ★

Basketball: Stars to face tough teams

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Their effort on shutting down other teams' offense was effective for the most part in Monday's game. STA's defense held BVN senior, 6'1" Callan Taylor, who normally averages 15 points a game, to just eight points.

"Most of the teams we play are man-to-man and St. Teresa's zone really threw us off," Taylor said. "It forced us to play outside instead of just post play."

With only four games left until the start of districts, STA has a 10-10 record. Essmann feels it still is not a hard task to get motivated for these upcoming games.

"You just have to get in the zone," Essmann said. "All of the reminders from your teammates and coaches get you into the game because you know what you have to do."

Collins has faith that her team can regain the momentum they had at the beginning of their season. She is also proud that even without the results they want, the players are working hard in the games.

"The team is continuing to improve," Collins said. "We have a tough second half schedule, though."

While the second half of their season may be a challenge, Collins thinks it will actually be to their benefit come districts.

"I believe that if [we] play good teams...it will help us down the road," Collins said. ★

Diversity: Board looks into options

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creating a new strategic plan, it decided now was the time to focus on diversity.

"Making a committee had been kicked around for so long, [creating it now] seemed like a good idea with the new strategic plan," Vontz said.

The subcommittee spent many meetings trying to narrow its definition of diversity. Vontz said the Board welcomes all kinds of diversity – socioeconomic, religious, cultural, etc. – but it emphasizes racial diversity.

The subcommittee plans to hold focus groups in February and March. These groups will consist of current minority students, parents of minority students, recent minority alumnae and parents of minority alumnae. They will include questions about the curriculum and activities, and how STA makes minority students feel welcome and unwelcome. Bone hopes these groups will answer: "How can we continue to grow [and] make ourselves a more diverse student body?"

"[We have] no brand new ideas right now, but we think there are other ideas, and we're interested in what those are," Vontz said. "We have a lot of faith."

The subcommittee will analyze the focus groups' suggestions and advise the Board on what it can do to be more welcoming to minority students. The committee wrote a mission statement, which the Board was scheduled to vote on yesterday. ★

Corrections

★ The graphic on page 22 of Issue 3 incorrectly stated the school's operating budget. According to STA business manager and comptroller Judy Merriman, STA's budget is just a little over \$5 million.

The Dart regrets this errors.

team spirit



Gothic cheers ★ From left, seniors Hannah Bailey, Maddie Hickey and Charlotte Adams cheer at the STA vs. Pembroke Hill School basketball game Jan. 31. The theme for the game was "goth" and several girls were in full black costumes. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**

Economics: group informally studies monetary problems

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as the reason for wanting to study economics this year. She plans to major in international relations and knows she will be required to take economics next year.

"There is an AP [Economics] test, so a lot of other students are getting the opportunity to take it," Boisseau said. "I think it gives a different understanding of how the world works. I am idealistic and I want to [know] I have understanding [of the] real world."

Another aspect to the class is the focus on what is going on in America's economy and how it is impacting the rest of the world today.

"Our discussions are based off current events," Martin said. "It's pretty informal, but we are learning a lot."

The girls mentioned one underlying theme: the 2008 election. Hickey points out that all the girls will be voting.

"When it comes to economics, I have no idea what [the candidates] are talking about," Martin said.

With the possible addition of an economics class next year, the girls are hopeful.

"I am jealous of the [opportunity]," Luecke said. "I hope girls take advantage of it. Girls might think it is boring because they hear the word 'economics' and don't understand what it is, but they don't know the importance it plays in their lives." ★

News ★ Brief

STA organizes to help local women

For Catholic Schools Week, Campus Ministry organized an inter-class contest titled "They Need Help (Period)." The students donated sealed boxes of tampons, panty liners and pads for women from the Sheffield Place, a domestic shelter. Over four days, 18,736 products were donated. The seniors won the contest, earning a dress-down day.

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Math: change allows future students to earn more credits

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taught by our teachers and will be [based on what] they want our girls to know."

Also beginning with next year's freshman class, students will be required to have four credits of math to graduate. This is an increase from three credits in previous years.

"For the most part, it was a small, small percentage of girls that didn't take a fourth year of math," Colby said. "They are just implementing what usually happened."

Seniors will no longer have the option of dropping a math course unless they have previous math credits that transfer. The math department is currently devising plans for the new setup for STA math, including the possibility of hiring a part-time teacher for the increase of classes and to add extra support in the math resource center. The department may also add a course in order to give next year's freshmen an option of what math to take their senior year.

"I think [the fourth year of math] is really practical because it's nice to have options because nobody wants to be forced to take a class, which is probably why a lot of people dropped math senior year," Bailey said. "They can take what they think would best prepare them rather than be pushed into it."

The additional math course and removal of essentials will not affect the math grading scale nor will it affect any students in higher level courses. Bone said math classes will stay roughly the same size and the change will focus on girls struggling

in the subject.

"[The school's] emphasis is now, 'Can we still support them and how can we get them where they need to be when they are entering institutions that needs four years of math like MU,'" Bone said.

Colby does not believe this rigorous course load will necessarily negatively affect students who would normally be placed in essentials their freshman year.

"Math isn't everybody's strong suit," Colby said. "Some people are better in lit and some are better in math. There will always be some that struggle... [Students] are placed where they test so when they go to algebra, they'll be ready because our summer school will take care of that deficiency before [the course]."

Henderson also believes that having algebra I freshman year will not be much different than taking the essentials course.

"[Removing the essentials course] will be good because I'm sure it's beneficial for some people who need more help on math but, truly, the level above essentials is not too much of a step up," Henderson said. "They'll be moving at a pace that's not much faster than what they would be going in essentials. It was mostly about the pace people could go in math classes."

All the changes in the math department are intended to help students, both in their math careers and their applications to college.

"[The administration's] intent is to prepare young women for four years of math," Bone said. "[STA] wants to stay true to our mission, which is college prep." ★

Lacrosse: new spring sport sparks interest in students

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"Soccer is so hardcore here," she said. "We just want something that everyone can do."

On Feb. 7 there will be a parent and player meeting at 7 p.m. in the Verheyen room in the Goppert Center. Tryouts will be the last week of February or the first week of March.

All grade levels have expressed interest in the new team, according to Coleman. Someone already wants to be the team manager. And, Coleman said, lacrosse is not an expensive sport in comparison to other high school sports. There is one last perk.

"The uniforms are going to be hot because they're going to be designed by me," Coleman said, laughing. ★



Lobbying for lacrosse ★ Junior Emily Orndoff, left, and senior Sarah Coleman strike a pose with their lacrosse sticks last Friday. Both girls plan to attend the informational lacrosse team meeting tonight in Verheyen. **PHOTO BY JULIA STAPINSKI**



Fierce

Ready position ★ Above left: Freshman Morgan Barrett, far right, questions the score while her partner freshman Elise Pavicic listens to the other team come to a decision. **Center:** Freshmen Morgan Barrett, left, and Taylor Kramer discuss strategies during intramural ping-pong last Friday in the Goppert Center. **Above right:** Freshman Sarah Schulte returns a serve during table tennis during activity period. **PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY**

Competition



Power play ★ Jumping out of the way, freshman Anne Bachofer, left, watches the ball intensely as her teammate Cydney Chibnall hits the ball. **PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY**

Freshmen get fired up for intramural ping-pong during activity periods

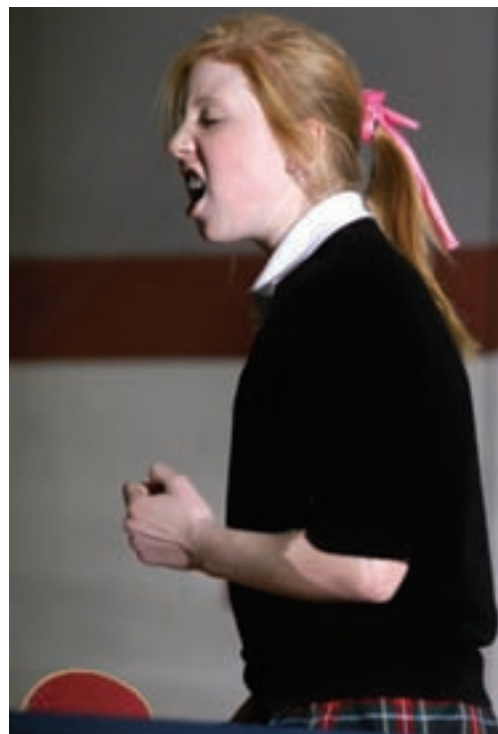
Dozens of girls race down the Goppert Center stairs. They toss their backpacks to the side and shove their accountabilities at Physical Education teacher Ann Bode and science teacher Renee Blake in hopes of being one of the 24 girls accepted to participate in intramural ping-pong each day.

"It's a lot of fun," freshman Morgan Barrett said. "It gives us something to do during activity."

Blake and Bode supervise various intramural games during activity periods, such as dodge ball, ping-pong, and badminton. Even though all grades are welcome to partake, only freshmen choose to participate.

The girls scream, cheer and jump around as they keep track of wins and losses in efforts of being one of the students to win a T-shirt reading "Ping-Pong champs."

"It gets really intense," freshman Taylor Kramer said. "[Morgan and I] have only lost one game but [freshmen] Ally Franken and Anna White are probably the team to beat." **STORY BY TAYLOR BROWN**



Game face ★ Celebrating a point, freshman Taylor Kramer cheers during intramural ping-pong in the Goppert Center Jan. 29. **PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY**

