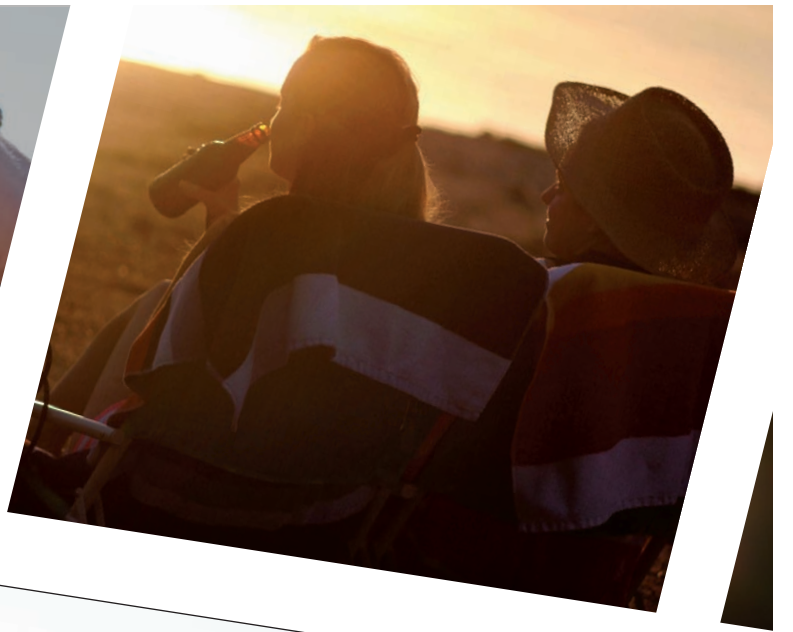


# THE DART

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY



# permission

# SKIP

Parents take different positions on allowing their daughters to drink over Spring Break

see page 2





# Moms weigh in on teen drinking



Over Spring Break, some parents let daughters travel to countries with lower drinking ages; others call these trips ‘the ultimate temptation’

by RACHEL SCHWARTZ  
Section Editor

Spring Break begins tomorrow and students, as well as parents, have already spent time and money preparing for their activities over the break that lasts until March 25. Some students will travel to countries where the drinking age is 18. With the lower drinking age, will the girls drink? What rules will parents set for their daughters?

There is no punishment for American citizens under 21 or STA students who consume alcohol in a foreign country where they are of the legal drinking age.

According to principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker, STA does not have a specific policy regarding student behavior at non-school functions. She says in her 16 years as an administrator, STA has never encountered a situation involving Spring Break which the school needed to be involved in.

“We have an expectation that students take care of their health and safety,” Hoecker said. “That is stated in the Community Membership Document. We don’t have a policy, per se, for non-school functions, but that doesn’t mean it wouldn’t impact us. It doesn’t mean we wouldn’t do something.”

Because the majority of seniors are 18, they will be able to drink legally in some foreign countries. Even though some seniors are not yet 18, the drinking age in the Bahamas and Mexico is rarely enforced, according to the *St. Petersburg Times*.

Ms. Donita Miller, senior Alex Miller’s mom, thinks seniors go to foreign places so they can drink legally, but she does not support this behavior.

“I think that the main reason they go is because they are not technically breaking the law,” Donita said. “Lots of parents will turn the other cheek because they

will say their daughters will drink anyway when they go to college...

“I just think that it is really simple; for me it’s illegal and against the law. It’s not really okay because [the girls] live in a country where the drinking age is not 18.”

Seniors Katherine Poppe, Hailey Caywood and five others will be going to Freeport, Bahamas. Senior Shannon Curry and eight friends are going to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Poppe, Caywood and Curry believe their parents are not oblivious to the fact that they will be drinking.

“[Our moms] know that we are going to drink, so they are not worried about that,” Curry said. “They just want us to be smart about everything.... They told us to always be with the group and call when we get back. One mom said not to drink the alcohol out of the dispensers in the [hotel] room because it is cheap.”

Curry believes the moms have different reasons for joining their daughters on Spring Break; some go to supervise them while others hope to have fun.

Curry’s mom, Ms. Kim Curry, just wants to be with Shannon for the “last hoorah” before she goes to college, but does have some rules to keep the girls safe.

“The main rule is that they go nowhere by themselves,” Kim said. “We have also chosen an all-inclusive resort, hoping that the desire to go into town will at least be somewhat diminished.”

Kim went on Spring Break with one of her daughters six years ago. She says “it was a good experi-

ence” and she is expecting the same thing this time around. Shannon is Kim’s third daughter, so Kim says she is not naïve about drinking. Kim trusts the girls and knows they will make “wise choices.”

“[The girls] will be of legal age,” Kim said. “So, yes, I do expect [drinking]. But, we are going with nine fairly intelligent young women so I do not anticipate any problems... I am not going to be naïve, though, and think that they will not have a beer. I am aware alcohol will be consumed.”

Donita and the Miller family are going to Boca Grande, Florida with senior Anne Tampke because Donita feels family is most important.

“I feel like Alex is going off to college soon and I would like for us to spend as many family vacations together as we can,” Donita said. “She is still a part of this family.... I just don’t see why we should do something special. Going to college is special enough.”

Donita feels going somewhere with minimal supervision where the drinking age is 18 is the “ultimate temptation.” She does not want her daughter to have to deal

“Alex has her whole life to figure out her drinking standards, so there is no rush.”

Ms. Donita Miller, mother of senior Alex

with that now.

“I feel like a lot of [Alex’s] friends are going on trips with minimal supervision and a lot of things may take place that some kids could regret,” Donita said. “Alex has her whole life to figure out her drinking standards, so there is no rush.”

According to Poppe, her mom is excited to go to the Bahamas and have fun, but she also has set some boundaries.

“My mom does not want us to be too independent and she will probably be with us most of the time,” Poppe said. “She just does not want us to get too out of control, in general. She wants me to know where

See Spring Break, page 23

## inside out



### Fine Arts:

Senior Audrey Copenhaver takes break from sports to play piano, wins numerous awards from state music

competitions.

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### Features:

Juniors, seniors leave school for week to participate in service for the community, meet people with

stories to impact rests of lives.

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## It's time for STA to rethink mod schedule

KATE RAINEY



CAMPUS CRIER

The modular schedule is one of the distinguishing features of STA. Most students cherish their free periods and variety in their schedule from day to day.

But this scheduling system has a serious negative aspect, which many teachers protest: the short class period.

Forty minutes is not enough time to learn or teach anything. So many of my classes are cut short and the interesting discussions interrupted and never revisited. It's so frustrating to get into an interesting discussion and hear the bell ring. Worse is knowing the discussion will be impossible to continue because the next class will contain a new bunch of girls.

I love my frees; I get a head start on homework, catch up on reading and have conversations with teachers. But these free periods take up time which could be spent in class. If I had to choose between free time and class time, I would choose to be in class. Providing enough class time trumps finishing math homework at school. Even adding 10 minutes would make a difference.

With short classes, teachers are frequently forced to rush through the material. In AP American history, we hustled to get through the 30 plus chapters in our textbook so we could know as much as possible for the AP test. I remember very little from American history because the class was about cramming for a test, not cultivating an understanding of the topic. Quantity over quality. Instead of sprinting through a topic to try to learn as much as we can, we should cover less with more depth. By spending more time on the topic, we develop a deep understanding of it, and therefore, are more likely to retain the information.

I realize students make the most of their education, and by no means do I blame anyone for my inability to retain American history. But time spent in class, as well as class structure, contributes to how well a student learns. A student can only learn so much on her own. And in high school, I question how much motivation students have to learn on their own. How many students will read "The Federalists" or David McCullough's "1776" to supplement their American history knowledge? More importantly, if a student made this extra effort, would she understand it? The classroom is important because it offers a student guidance, from the teacher and other students. We need to have teacher-student time, not just homework.

The point of high school, and the expressed goal of STA, is to prepare students for college. This means teaching us as much as they can in the four years we are their intellectual responsibility. The main justification for frees is they teach us to manage our time. Self-motivation is crucial in college, but frankly, not something the school can teach us; we learn it on our own. STA should focus on something it can provide us: a strong foundation in core subjects (science, math, English, history), as well as reading comprehension, communication and writing skills. To hone these skills, we must spend more time in the classroom. ★

## Campaign to fund new auditorium



**Auditorium additions** ★ The auditorium is scheduled to undergo renovations in June 2009. Additions include new seats, new paint jobs, removal of the organ and remodeling the stage. Seats will be available for purchase to fund the project. **PHOTOS BY JULIA STAPINSKI AND ALLISON POINTER**

### According to president Nan Bone, historic auditorium will undergo a \$1.5 million renovation in June 2009

by JULIA STAPINSKI  
Staff Writer

Five years ago at the last capital campaign meeting, committee members created a time line of improvements to be made to the school. This list included the recently remodeled commons and the new PA system, among other issues central to the school environment. According to school president Nan Bone, one item on the list was left untouched.

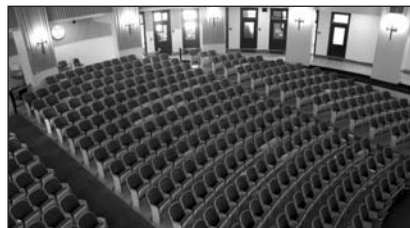
"Probably the last thing on the list for the capital campaign was the renovation of the auditorium, but we never really got around to it," Bone said.

Despite a few improvements, the auditorium has not been fully remodeled since the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet relocated St. Teresa's to its current location in 1909.

"We've done some small things, like put in a new sound system, but its basically the same auditorium with just a couple minor changes," Bone said.

Bone said the renovation, set to begin at the beginning of summer 2009, will include new paint, removal of the organ, a remodeled stage, and refurbished seating.

"We'll recover [the seats], repaint



them, reconstruct them, and put them right back where they were before," Bone said. "We're sending out... leaflets asking people to sponsor a seat to raise money so we can fund the renovation."

According to Bone, the budget for the renovation is about \$1.5 million, and the sponsored seats will fund a significant amount of the cost.

"The cost for each seat will be five hundred dollars," Bone said. "A little plaque will be placed on the back of each chair with an inscription by the person who paid for it...like the bricks."

Although the sponsored seats will contribute to the budget, they will not raise enough money to make all of the anticipated changes to the auditorium. Bone said a large sum of the cost will be covered by an upcoming capital campaign which will raise money for the school. The capi-

tal campaign committee will decide on a set price for a variety of modifications to the campus, including the purchase of new computers, the construction of an on-campus chapel, and the auditorium renovation.

"I think the fundraising will be a great way to raise awareness of our school around the community, especially to prospective students," Bone said. "After all, we're doing this for the girls."

Bone believes the atmosphere of the new auditorium will improve student morale.

"I think it'll be a huge morale booster," Bone said. "Anytime you see a change like that happening you get excited... Not only students will feel it but faculty and parents will too."

Choir director Shauna Moore agrees.

"I think the renovation of the auditorium will have a great effect two different ways," Moore said. "It will boost the students confidence [performing] in a nicer environment, and the audience will have a better experience."

Sophomore Allie Lueke has performed in two STA theater productions and has spent several hours rehearsing and performing in the auditorium.

"I think improving the auditorium is a great idea," Lueke said. "It will become a lot more enjoyable place to be for everyone." ★

## News ★ Briefs

### In loving memory of Sister Harriet Koutsoumpas, CSJ

by BIANCA DANG  
Staff Writer

Sister Harriet Koutsoumpas, dedicated teacher and Sister of St. Joseph, passed away on Saturday March 8 in St. Louis. Sr. Harriet was born on Sept. 2 in an undisclosed year.

She graduated from high school in 1945 and attended Fontbonne University where she studied chemistry, philosophy, math and education. Sr.

Harriet was baptized in 1950 during her senior year of college and five years later, she completed her final vows. She attended St. Louis University for graduate school and received her degree in 1957. Sr. Harriet took her permanent vows to the sisterhood that



Koutsoumpas

same year and began teaching at what was formerly the College of St. Teresa's Academy in 1961. Sr. Harriet returned to STA in 1979 after teaching in various schools in and out of state. She taught freshman religion and chemistry and eventually physics. Her theme, "Hate me now, love me later," was the way she ran her classroom and now Oct. 29 is Sr. Harriet Day at STA. Sr. Harriet retired from STA at the end of 2007 and is in the thoughts and prayers of the STA community. ★

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The Dart  
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St. Teresa's Academy



# Philanthropist promotes education

Greg Mortenson discusses founding schools for girls in the Middle East

by EMILY BECKER  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

While lost in the slopes of K2, the world's second tallest mountain, philanthropist Greg Mortenson found home. Mortenson was saved by the members of a local village and in gratitude for their actions, promised to build a school for the village. Fifteen years later, Mortenson has devoted his life to building schools in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan so the girls of the villages are able to receive an education. Mortenson visited Kansas City March 4 to promote the novel that tells his story, "Three Cups of Tea."

"It applies so much to what we're doing at St. Teresa's," said math teacher Diana Blessen, who attended the event. "His message is to educate girls to educate a community and is just on target with the objective of the school."

Mortenson spoke to a crowd of over 100 at Wyandotte County High School and said if the audience could take one thing away from the event it should be: "if you educate a boy, you educate an individual. If you educate a girl, you educate a village."

"I truly believe that the most important thing we can do is eradicate global illiteracy," Mortenson said.

Mortenson has found statistics that back up his claim for the need to educate girls. Several global studies show when a girl is educated to just the fifth grade level, the rate of infant mortality decreases, the population explosion is reduced and the basic qualities of life are improved.

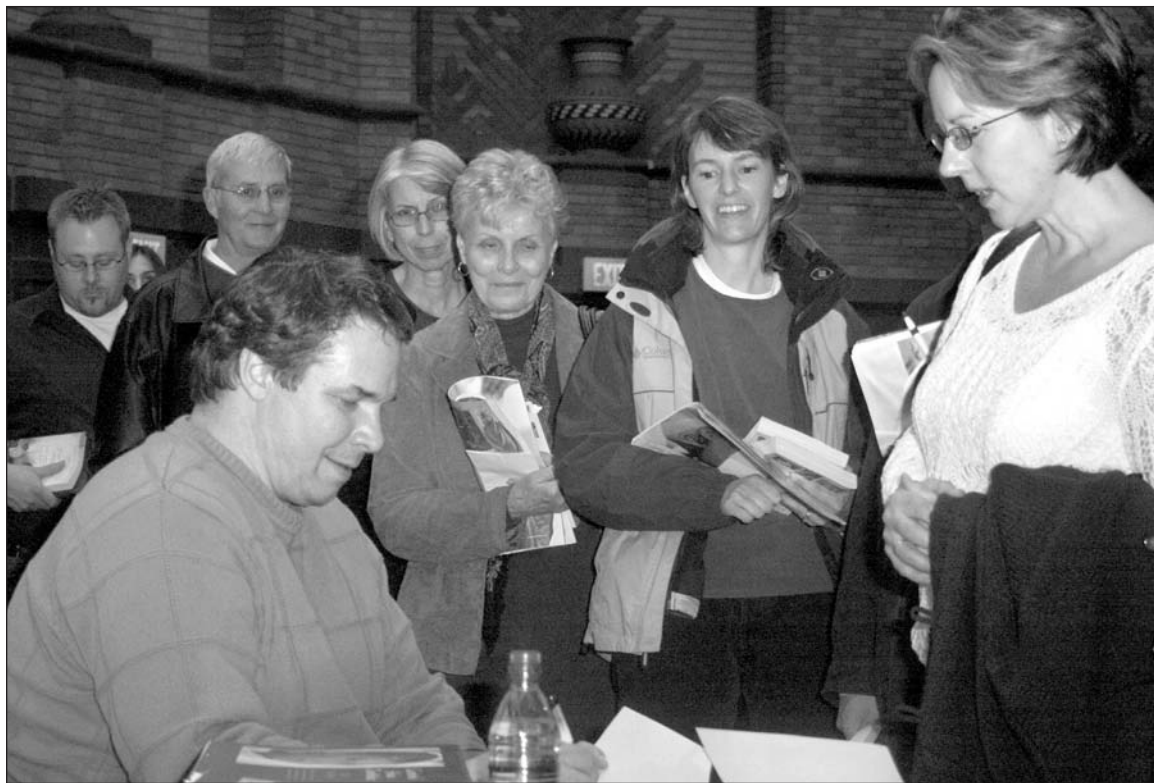
"Everywhere I go, I find the message of hope resonates through education," Mortenson said.

When Mortenson first arrived in the village, he was struck by the lifestyle of the people, but he was most impacted by the sight of the children of the village at school, drawing in the dirt with sticks.

"To truly understand or tackle poverty, you need to face poverty, [you] need to feel poverty, you need to smell poverty, you need to touch poverty," Mortenson said. "You can't solve poverty in a think tank in Washington, D.C."

Blessen connected with Mortenson with these words and feels similarly.

"Sometimes I think that's why people should go on mission trips," she said. "Not that we're going to change



**Tea time** ★ Author of "Three Cups of Tea" Greg Mortenson signs copies of his book during his visit to Wyandotte High School in Kansas City March 4. Mortenson wrote his book after his experiences trying to build schools in the Middle East. **PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY**

*"If you educate a boy, you educate an individual.  
If you educate a girl, you educate a village."*

Greg Mortenson, author

the country, but so you can see how people really live."

Since Mortenson's efforts center in Pakistan and Afghanistan, his motivations have been seen as an effort to eliminate terrorist organizations. But Mortenson maintains that "I don't do this to fight terrorism. I try to

promote peace."

This message was one of the main reasons the Kansas City Kansas Public Library System was interested in having Mortenson speak.

"We like the idea that Greg's book is very topical right now, but Greg isn't talking about war and extremists; he's talking about educating girls and we see our library as a life long learning place," said public relations coordinator Sonia Smith.

Mortenson is the co-founder of the Central Asia Institute and the Pennies for Peace program. "Three Cups of Tea" was a *New York Times* bestseller, but it has been a long journey for Mortenson to reach this point.

"When I fail, there's one thing that I remember: 'When it is dark, you can see the stars,'" said Mortenson. "If you have hope, you can do anything." ★

# Local Church officials reject science exhibit

Bodies Revealed sparks arguments over ethics, Bishops express dismay

by BIANCA DANG  
Staff Writer

Bodies Revealed, a new exhibit in Kansas City composed entirely of corpses, has sparked controversies in the area. Within the local Catholic Church, ethical and religious decisions regarding the exhibit have affected Catholic schools like St. Teresa's.

In a joint statement in *The Catholic Key*, the Most Revered Joseph F. Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas, and the Most Revered Joseph W. Finn, Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph, released this statement: "The bodies of the dead deserve respect and charity.... We do not believe that this exhibit is an appropriate destination for field trips by our Catholic schools."

STA will respect the Bishop's wishes and students will not see Bodies Revealed as a school-sponsored field trip.

The exhibit reveals inner anatomical structures of the human body in preserved corpses coated in plastic. These bodies are put in different poses for the public to view. The Archbishop and

Bishop's main reason for their decision is the Catholic belief of the dignity of life.

"My continuing objections to such commercial exhibits are rooted in strong Catholic teaching on the God-given dignity of the human person, who is a unity of body and soul," Finn said in his column in the *Catholic Key*. "[Our statement was] not primarily because of questions about the source of the human specimens, but because they use real persons' bodies for this kind of public display."

The Church believes that though the educational aspect of Bodies Revealed cannot be denied, other means could be used to give the same information.

"God's creation [of life] is beautiful and people will learn about the human body," said Respect Life Director for the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Adrienne Hynek. "However, a lot can be learned about it thorough other methods. [The Church] thinks that it would be more appropriate to use models, pictures and videos to educate."

The Catholic Church is not alone in their problems with the exhibit. Recently, the company responsible for Bodies Revealed, Premier Exhibitions, has come under scrutiny for a similar show. Information has surfaced, mainly credited to an ABC "20/20" investiga-

tion, that the company is acquiring bodies from people who never signed consent forms or gave permission to have their bodies used for science. Premier adamantly claims that all donated bodies were given with consent, but they also state they use unclaimed corpses. Many of these unclaimed bodies are thought to be executed Chinese prisoners.

After seeing an article exposing this possibility, junior Sally Nulton and her family decided to refrain from seeing the exhibit.

"I've grown up with my beliefs...believing in the dignity of every person," Nulton said. "Everyone should have the right to know how their body is used and if these people did not give their permission [for use in the exhibits], then we should respect that.... We should be given the right to decide what to do with our bodies when we die."

By targeting human curiosity in the unknown, such shows reveal human bodies in a way never seen before. Exhibitions like Bodies Revealed are not the only ones profiting from this fascination. According to ABC's investigation, plasticized bodies are sold on the Internet, there are body-processing factories in Eastern Europe and there are warehouses that store bodies in China. This is also a component of the Church's uneasiness



**Eyeing anatomy** ★ Opening Feb. 29, the exhibit Bodies Revealed at Union Station has attracted sold out crowds and attention from the Catholic Church in Kansas City. The exhibit will continue through to next September. **PHOTO COURTESY OF PREMIER EXHIBITIONS**

with the exhibit; it is not guaranteed that visitors are going purely for educational purposes.

"It has an 'edu-tainment' part to it," Hynek said. "People are going to see dead bodies for entertainment and the companies [who make the exhibits] will profit. They are making a lot of money off of this." ★



BY SARAH COOPER

**Feb. 19: Castro resigns**

Fidel Castro left his position as president and commander-in-chief of Cuba after almost 50 years in power. He will remain active in Cuba's government as the first secretary of the Communist Party. Fidel's brother, Raul, took over Fidel's position and maintained the dictatorship, eliminating the possibility for a reformed democratic system in Cuba. Fidel assumed power in 1959 and retired because of poor health.

**Feb. 20: Burmese reforms**

The militant government of Burma, called the junta, completed a draft of a new constitution which will be up for a referendum vote by the public in May. The country has been under military rule since 1990 and thousands of Burmese people, led by monks, participated in demonstrative marches against the military regime in the fall of 2007.

The United States and other nations have expressed doubts regarding the constitution's credibility and fairness, as it already bans pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi from candidacy in the proposed 2010 general election.

**March 10: Border conflict**

Venezuela restored diplomacy with bordering country Colombia nine days after Colombia's military killed 17 guerrillas on Venezuelan soil March 1. Venezuela's president Hugo Chavez claimed the raid violated his country's sovereignty. Both Ecuador and Venezuela expelled their Colombian ambassadors and deployed troops to their borders with Colombia. The leaders of the three bordering countries met at a regional conference March 7 in the Dominican Republic and resolved the conflict, at least temporarily. Colombian President Alvaro Uribe apologized for the raid. ★



**Peaceful plea** ★ Residents of the Venezuela-Colombia border town San Antonio, Venezuela, rally March 6, for peace between the two countries. The banner reads "We are United Brother Countries." Tensions between the two countries exploded after Colombian troops killed 17 Colombian guerrillas inside Ecuador. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez responded by threatening war if Colombian troops entered Venezuela. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

# Six charged with planning 9-11



**Silent message** ★ Ms. Zaynab Nawaz, 30, with Amnesty International, marched in support of closing the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba, during a rally in Washington, D.C. Jan. 11. The six men charged were held at Guantanamo Bay, which has been the source of a recent debate over whether or not torture is a valid form of criminal interrogation. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS.

## Prosecutors seek death penalties for detainees from Guantanamo Bay

by MICHELLE REICHMEIER  
Staff Writer

On Sept. 11, 2001, 2,974 Americans died when hijackers flew two jets into the World Trade Center in New York, another into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and one into a field in Pennsylvania.

The US military initiated charges Feb. 11 against six men, currently held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They will face trial and possibly the death penalty if officially charged with involvement in these attacks.

Jennifer Daskal, member of the senior counterterrorism counsel at Human Rights Watch, told Human Rights News, "The time to bring the masterminds and planners of 9/11 to justice is long overdue, but this needs to be done in a system that has credibility."

These cases, which will be held before a special military commission, are expected to ignite the lasting debate over the government's interrogation and detention policies for suspected terrorists. CIA Director Michael Hayden publicly confirmed Feb. 5 that three suspects were subjected to waterboarding, a torturous questioning technique designed to simulate the feeling of drowning. Hayden said it was used to "help us prevent catastrophic loss of life of Americans or their allies."

An important question is what evidence can be used at the trial.

"It's time for the United States to start rebuilding its moral authority and credibility around the world," Daskal said. "Possibly putting someone to death based on evidence obtained through waterboarding, or after prolonged periods of sleep deprivation while being forced into painful stress positions, is not the answer."

STA sophomore Kelsey Wendland agrees with Daskal.

"Torture is an unethical, inhumane way



**Take a knee** ★ Protesters from peace groups marched in support of closing the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba during a rally in Washington, D.C., Jan. 11. The group marched from the National Mall to the Supreme Court building, where a group of protesters were peacefully arrested for demonstrating. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

to treat another person," said Wendland. "I mean, no matter what, it's still a person, not an object. I think everyone should be given a second chance at life."

The use of torture as an interrogation technique has been in debate for decades.

"It's something you have to get a mindset around," theology teacher Betsy Hansbrough said. "We've become a people who see dignity of some lives essential and some lives irrelevant."

The Catholic Church voices strong opinions on the issue of torture and capital punishment. US Catholic Bishops introduced their Statement on Capital Punishment in 1980 stating that the death penalty does not automatically make society safer or relieve the pain of victims or families. Instead, it provides an illusion of a final solution.

"Terrorism is built on contempt for human life." Former Pope John Paul II said during a World Day of Peace celebration Jan. 1, 2002. "For this reason, not only does it commit intolerable crimes, but because it resorts to terror as a political and military means, it is itself a crime against humanity. There exists, therefore, a right to defend oneself against terrorism, a right which as always, must be exercised with respect for moral and legal limits in the choice of ends and means. The guilty must be identified, since criminal

culpability is always personal and cannot be extended to a nation, ethnic group, or religion to which terrorists may belong."

Air Force Brig. Gen. Thomas Hartmann, legal adviser for the Office of Military Commissions, says the trials will be fair and it is our obligation to move the process forward and give these people their rights. Detainees will receive rights virtually identical to those provided to military members.

Among the six detainees are alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, and Mohammad al-Qahtani, the alleged 20th hijacker. Others are accused of providing the hijackers with money, clothes and credit cards, leading flight schools and planning the overall hijacking mission.

The trials will occur in four basic steps: referral, arraignment, trial and appeal. Judge Susan J. Crawford will decide whether to approve the charges and the prosecutors' request to enact the death penalty. The government will pay for military lawyers for the detainees and they would then go through pleas within 30 days. After 120 days, a trial may begin. To carry out the death penalty, a jury of 12 officers must vote unanimously.

According to Hayden, the situation is "a crucial milestone on the road to justice for the victims of 9/11." ★

# Spring Break

## Safety should be key

We, as students and teenagers, are experiencing what some would call “the best years of our lives.” And today marks the beginning of Spring Break; that curious ritual where students trade their books for sunscreen and plane tickets, their uniforms for swimsuits and fly, drive or hike their way on a search for the ever-elusive time for fun.

Now, we need a break as much as the next students, but sometimes the search for fun can put people in unsafe and careless situations.

Two years ago, a University of Cincinnati student was drugged at a bar and woke up in an unfamiliar car in the parking lot of a hotel in Mexico. He was robbed and left with a disposable camera that contained pictures of the student passed out in the backseat of the car.

Now, we are not trying to say that you cannot have fun. It is not our place to determine what you do or do not do during Spring Break, but please be safe and smart in your effort to create the perfect vacation, especially if that effort takes you to a foreign country.

When you are in a place where the customs, laws and languages are different from your own, it is even more important to make smart decisions, like bringing a cell phone with you, traveling with another person, leaving your contact information with different people, not accepting drinks and other food items from strangers and watching the environment and behavior of those around you.

Three years ago, a recent high school grad-

uate from Alabama disappeared in Aruba on a graduation trip. Natalie Holloway never showed up for her return flight and her packed bags were found abandoned in her hotel room. Her location is still unknown.

It is also the responsibility of your parents to know your plans for Spring Break. Even if you are planning to be in a foreign country, it is still the role of your parents to understand what you will be doing. We know that sometimes we are not willing to answer questions, but our safety is worth a few awkward, unwilling responses.

The most important thing you can do while on Spring Break is to stay together as a group. When you are alone, you become vulnerable and are more apt to make destructive decisions that could lead to serious consequences. Your friends are not only your companions on your trip, but are also your lifeline and safety net. They are there to watch out for you. But it is also your responsibility to watch out for your friends. If you see someone acting in a way that could lead to a serious consequence, as their friend you should confront them even if it could lead to momentary conflict.

We are not trying to talk down to you and we know that you have probably heard all this before. But please be safe and make smart decisions during the next week and a half, no matter where you adventures my take you. And if you do not want to listen to us for yourself, then listen to us for the 530 other girls that are awaiting your return on March 25. ★

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




### Safety tips for Spring Break



- Know what will happen if you violate state or local laws
- Do not drive if you are under the influence of any drugs or alcohol
- Lock your hotel door
- Look through the peephole before opening your door (if someone claims to be staff, call the manager or concierge for confirmation)
- Use the buddy system at all times
- Do not climb on balconies or sit on balcony railings
- Do not allow yourself to be isolated or taken to another location by strangers
- Never go anywhere with someone you do not know
- Do not leave your drink unattended
- Do not accept open drinks or food from strangers
- Avoid overexposure in the sun (you can get a sunburn even when it is cloudy)
- Drink plenty of water and be aware of heat stress symptoms
- Never swim alone
- Watch out for traffic
- Make sure everyone you are with knows how to contact every other member of the group
- Know where the closest hospital or health clinic is in case of an emergency
- Tell the people you are with where you are going and when you will return, and have them do the same
- Use common sense

## Voice Off

compiled by Julia Stapinski  
100 students polled  
margin of error 8.81 percent

What are your plans for Spring Break?

Vacation with friends : **22 percent**   
Vacation with family: **30 percent**   
Stay in town: **35 percent** 

Complete service hours: **7 percent**   
Receive out of town visitors: **6 percent** 

## Letter to the Editor

Ms. Rainey's column on climate change was one-sided and has harmful implications. After beginning with the question, “What do you know and how do you know it?” the column neglected to acknowledge that the majority of credible scientists have agreed that the climate is being affected by human activities, and warming to an extent never previously recorded. To imply that global warming is a theory based on “unsettled science” is untrue and inaccurate.

As presented in “An Inconvenient Truth,” there is hard evidence of this climate shift and its impact on the environment. Scientists continually report that these environmental changes are occurring much more rapidly than they ever predicted. It is misleading to say it will be “decades or centuries” until we know if the global climate change is a severe problem caused by human activity. Many say that we have waited too long

to act and that within 10 years we will be looking at a completely different planet. The Earth goes through natural temperature fluctuations, but what is occurring now is beyond natural. It is important that we acknowledge that climate change is a problem and take action to fix it, rather than speculate on its validity and continue to waste energy and resources in the same way.

There is a possibility that science could be wrong, but when scientists are as concerned as they are now, we need to listen. Taking action to conserve energy consumption is different than making “impulsive life changes.”

We are headed in the right direction by enforcing environmental regulations. These regulations are not a violation of our rights, but rather a necessary step to unite us in a global effort. The only ones “putting on blinders” are those who refuse to acknowledge it as a problem when such contrary evidence is presented to them.

*Eleanor Dillon, senior*

## Photo Poll

compiled by Julia Stapinski

*Some students will be traveling during Spring Break while others will be required to stay home. Check out the story on page 2 for more information and the Staff Editorial above for The Dart's opinion.*

**Do you think parents should let their children go on Spring Break trips unsupervised?**



“It depends on the kid, where they're going, and what they'll be doing. But I think no matter what, they need some kind of supervision, you know, just in case.”  
– Laura Neenan, freshman



“I think that as a senior you should be able to go on Spring Break unsupervised because you'll be living on your own at college in a few months anyway.”  
– Maegan Kelly, sophomore



“It really depends on the student. I think it's better if the parents go, but they don't necessarily have to be with them every hour of the day.”  
– Julia Oldenburg, senior



# AP requirements are inconsistent but fair

AN OPINION BY



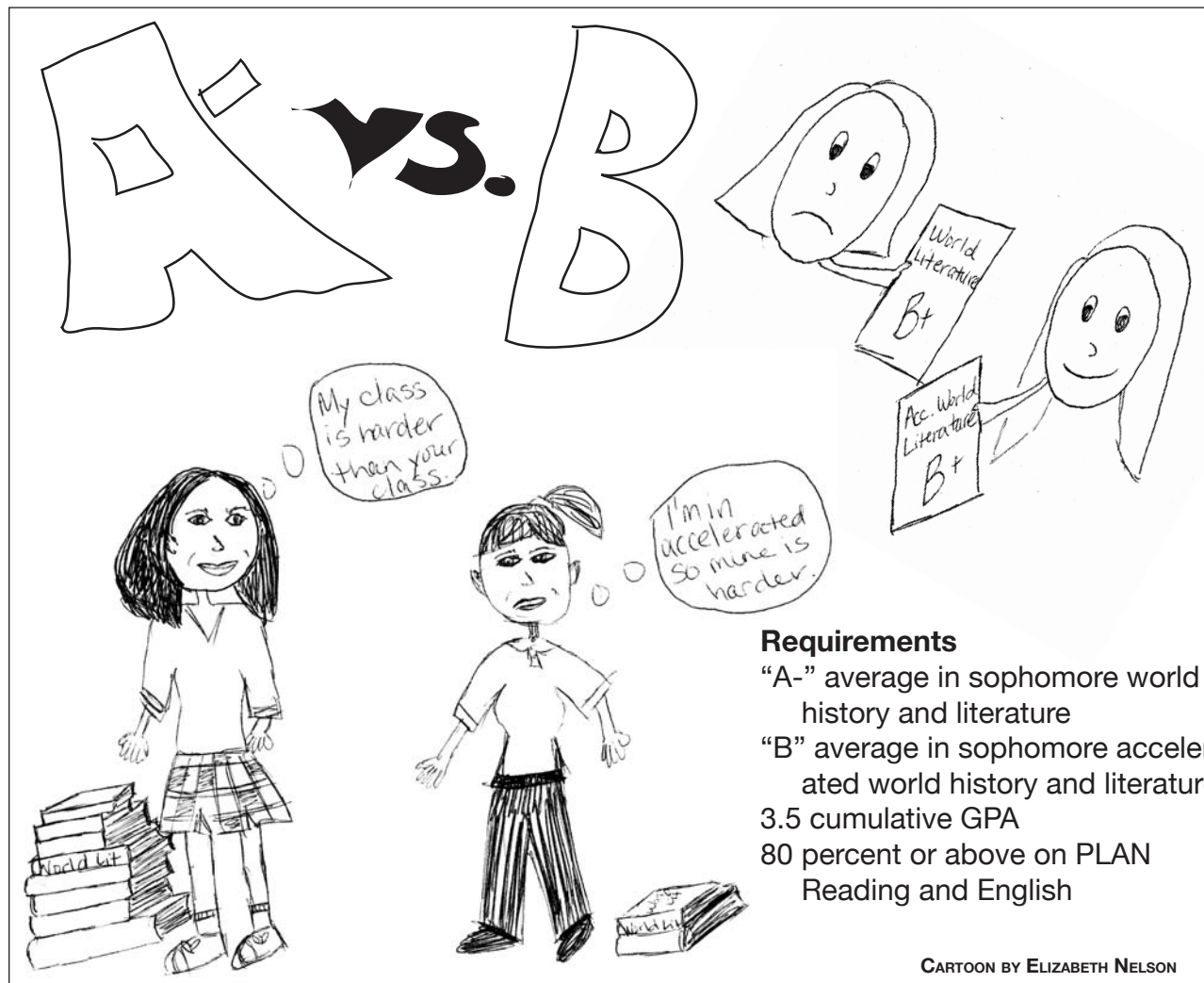
TAYLOR BROWN

As a sophomore at STA, I am somewhat nervous that in only a few months I will be taking on what is rumored to be the most difficult year of high school. I am fortunate enough to have already experienced a preview of the stressful life I will hesitantly welcome into my already chaotic schedule junior year. Over the last few months, I have been plagued with worry and pressure due to the various prerequisites required for juniors to take AP language and American literature and AP American history.

The current STA program of studies states that to be accepted into AP literature and AP history, a student must have a 3.5 cumulative GPA, score an 80 percent or above on the PLAN test, and have either an "A-" average in general world literature and world history or a "B" average in accelerated world literature and world history.

After examining the previously stated requirements for these AP classes, I decided the necessary criteria for AP classes are more than reasonable. These requirements may be somewhat inconsistent from class to class, but it is fair that sophomores currently taking the accelerated classes must meet a letter grade that is lower than students taking the general classes; by definition, the accelerated classes are more advanced and applied. So while I have been taking the accelerated history and literature classes this year, I had to keep a close eye on my GPA and class grade first semester to make sure that I would be eligible for AP classes next year.

Okay, so maybe getting into my desired AP class doesn't seem *that* stressful. But after completing the excessive amounts of reading, studying, projects and more in my current accelerated classes, it is only natural to be worried about not meeting the expected standards of the teachers. Although the requirements are fair and important, they added extra pressure to decisions I had



CARTOON BY ELIZABETH NELSON

to make for class registration.

Some students may ask, "Should there be any prerequisites for Advanced Placement classes at all? If we desire a challenge, shouldn't it be our choice whether or not to pursue it?"

The answer to this question is yes, there should be specific requirements each student must fulfill to be able to take AP classes.

Of course we are a college prep school so students are encouraged and welcome to challenge themselves, but it is the faculty and staff's job to decide which students can handle the challenge and which can't. This sounds harsh, but in the long-run it is true, helpful and necessary. This process of either elimination or acceptance relies on the fairest aspect possible: the work and be-

havior of the students in their previous classes.

In a syllabus written by AP literature teacher Mark Fudenberg and AP history teacher Craig Whitney, it is stated that a successful AP student "is widely read, independent, a critical and analytic reader, asks questions, is active in her own learning, enjoys reading writing and thinking, and has a main motivation of reading, writing and thinking rather than getting a grade." Therefore, students who don't meet the requirements most likely aren't capable of being a successful AP student, according to Fudenberg and Whitney.

Obviously there are exceptions to the previous statement, but I am speaking in general terms. Also in that case, the prerequisites for advanced placement

classes should not be close to impossible to fulfill, because then teachers would be purposely limiting students under no acceptable reasoning. However, having specific and legitimate criteria for advanced classes is important because students must be able to keep up with the terminology, speed and work of the class.

After I examined these requirements for AP/honors classes, I have a better feel of how I want to spend my junior year at STA. The classes I chose to take next year are AP literature and AP history. There is no way to avoid these stressful situations, but I already completed the challenge of choosing my classes so hopefully I am able to do the same next year when I must actually face the classes. ★

## Confession: my fear is a quiet Christmas

AN OPINION BY



ROSIE HODES

Laughing, crying, screaming, running, crashing, fighting, and hugging – a personal heaven for me. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without somebody getting in trouble for running around through the snow with someone else's new toy. Easter wouldn't be

the same without cousin sleepovers. And really, I'd be more surprised not to see a relative at mass than to see one. Yes, I have a huge family. I know you probably know. And come Sep. 26 when my oldest sister has her first baby, it will get bigger. Or will it?

Although the entire generation will expand, eventually my immediate family will be isolated. I have 67 first cousins, four of which attend St. Teresa's right now (shout out to Caitlin, Maria, Martha, and Mimi). For my kids to have that many, my four siblings and I would have to have 10 kids each and convince our in laws to step the baby making up a notch. My oldest sister Jessie is starting the

process, and I'm up for the task, but I'm pretty sure I'm alone in that area. Right now it seems as if we'll never escape our village of cousins, but our parents rarely see their cousins. No matter how much our cousins promise each other, we know we'll be too busy raising our own brats, which will sequentially be more difficult.

My grandpa says we all need to have a lot of children in order to fill the world with good people and I agree with him. We also need to have more children to help each other out because I know we're all helping to raise each other. I dread the day that I ever have to hire a babysitter outside the family.

Plenty of children grow up with

few cousins, and my kids probably won't know the difference, but my siblings and I will. I can see how happy it makes my parents when we talk about our experiences with our cousins. Now I'm thinking that if Jessie's having a baby right now, I have to hurry so her baby will be a friend of my baby.

Also, transitioning our attention from a laughing, crying, screaming, running, crashing, fighting and hugging party of 90 to a subdued party of 20 will be a challenge. We'll either be bored or we'll spoil them rotten. I know two things for sure: from Sep. 26 on, there will be non-stop cooing in the Hodes house. And, bring on the babies! ★

13 march 2008

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Some area high schools allow students to leave campus when they choose, if they do not have a scheduled class. With a modular schedule at STA, and open periods throughout the day, some have asked...

# Is an open campus right for STA?



Breanne Sigler  
Managing Editor of Visuals



Elizabeth Nelson  
Managing Editor of Design



Sarah Cooper  
Managing Editor of News

One of the many reasons STA is a unique school in Kansas City is the fact that we have a modular schedule, and more specifically, free periods. Modular scheduling is supposed to teach students how to manage their time by giving students free time to finish homework and study. STA is a college preparatory school, and frees are supposed to prepare us for all the free time we'll have in college between classes.

I don't know about anyone else, but realistically I doubt I'll spend all my free time between classes doing homework and studying. I'll probably catch up on some much needed sleep, grab a bite to eat or run errands. Of course, I'll do my schoolwork during that time, too, but college is a busy time where school and the rest of your life mixes together during the day.

This is one aspect where the modular schedule of STA fails. Juniors and seniors should be allowed to leave campus during their free periods. Students should be able to take a nap at home, pick up groceries for their mom or stop by the gym when they don't have a class scheduled. This is what students will be doing in college between classes.

An open campus would be a way for STA girls to realistically learn time management for college. We would be able to learn to balance school and the rest of our lives.

I understand the drawbacks to an open campus, like STA being liable for us while we're off campus, but I believe the positives outweigh the negatives. The learning experience STA students will gain from an open campus is invaluable to their future, especially college. I have full faith that current and future STA juniors and seniors are responsible enough to handle an open campus. ★

An open campus atmosphere at STA would be both educational and fun. And since we are here to learn, and also hope to have fun, it seems like a perfect fit. Every student at STA has free periods, but most would agree that it is not always easy to use them productively. There are days when I have four frees, but I end up going to the library after school because I was unable to get anything done.

Some students would abuse an open campus. They might skip classes, do illegal or inappropriate things when off-campus or they might choose to not return to class that day. But those students would be in the minority, and would suffer the consequences. Students can do those things anywhere, and while open campuses may lead more students to behave badly, it should not stop the administration from creating one. Another idea would be that parents could sign permission forms for their daughters if they would like them to be permitted to leave. That way, parents who wish for their students to remain on campus all day could require it.

Obviously, not all students should be given the same privileges. The process could be gradual and based on grade. Freshmen and sophomores could have the privilege to leave during lunch and activity while juniors and seniors could leave during lunch and frees. By starting from the beginning and getting the students on a more accountable mindset, most problems could be avoided. Any student who abused the privilege would lose it for the rest of the year.

At a college prep school, there is nothing wrong with giving students more responsibility for their own time and behavior. Unscheduled mods do prepare us for college, but by giving us more choice in what we do during them, we could prepare ourselves even further. ★

The allure of the open campus is obvious: who wouldn't want the freedom to spend her 40 minutes or activity period how and where she wants? However, this system at STA would only lead to wasted time and unfocused students.

STA is a college preparatory school; we should create our curriculum and rules to guide students to success in college.

The purpose of our modular schedule is to teach students how to use their time effectively. It is true that in college we'll be able to use our time however we like and we should try to emulate the college atmosphere in some aspects, but it is important to remember that we are still high school students.

By being forced to stay at school, we are encouraged to use STA's resources to focus on academics and develop solid study skills in our free time.

Besides, 40 minutes isn't enough time to leave campus, accomplish something and return, especially for those (like myself) who live too far away to spend this time at home.

Some may argue that they could use their time off campus to get school-related work done, but I doubt they are in the majority. It would be too tempting for me to waste that time with activities like shopping, eating or hanging out at a friend's house. And I know that if I made a run to QuikTrip and rifled through the racks of The Gap on the plaza, I would be in no mood to return to STA for my calculus class; a break from school would take me out of "the zone" and tempt me to skip.

If I had the opportunity to leave campus for 40 minutes during a free, I probably wouldn't take it. My time as a student is more valuably spent in the halls of STA. ★

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**Ownership and sponsorship:** *The Dart* is created by student members of the newspaper staff and is published with funds from the St. Teresa's Academy general operating fund and advertising revenue. St. Teresa's Academy is a Catholic, independent college preparatory school, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

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# Students clean to pay for school

STA girls scrub boards to earn tuition money with work-study group

by RACHEL FLATTERY  
Staff Writer

Many students at St. Teresa's Academy have not heard of the work-study group that goes on after school. Those who have heard of it don't know much about it.

St. Teresa's offers students a chance to have a paying job after school washing boards. They are paid minimum wage and work for an hour Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, they are given the day off so the janitors can clean.

Junior Sherie Wallace has been involved in the work-study program since 2006. She puts her money to good use by helping her mom pay for school tuition.

"I started to work to pay off tuition and help mom with money, being a single parent with a kid in a private school," Wallace said. "Whenever my mom needs money, I help her pay off tuition or the phone bill."

Sophomore Angelica DeSimio was involved in the program from freshman year to the beginning of sophomore year. She ended the job when she got a new job outside of school.

"I liked the job," DeSimio said. "It wasn't hard or time demanding. It was really fun."

STA principal of student affairs, Ms. Mary Anne Hoecker, is in charge of the work-study program.

"I heard about [the work study group] and I filled out an application," DeSimio said. "I could put the money [earned] and put it towards tuition or for extra cash."

Senior Olivia DeSimio remembers when she worked in the group. She took over for her friend and was involved in the program both her freshman and sophomore years.

"[The program] taught me a good work ethic," Olivia said. "It helped me spend money wisely. Anyone interested in volunteering should talk to Ms. Hoecker."

Wallace urges people interested in the work-study program to ask about it at the end of the school year or over the summer and to call Ms. Hoecker for details and to sign up.

"[The job] was a stress reliever," Wallace said. "It structured my time and was pretty quick to do. I wish [STA] offered other opportunities to work at the school."

Some of the girls' earnings each week either go towards extra money for themselves or towards tuition and family.

"For me it's a way to help my mom out," Wallace said. "Really I could have gone to a public school but she wants me to get a good education. I'm trying to help her out as much as possible."

Olivia looks back to when she worked in the program and recommends it to those who are looking for a job.

"It was fairly easy to clean the boards after school," Olivia said. "I got a chance to talk to the teachers who were still in their classrooms."

The work-study program is for students who are interested in getting more money that could be put to good use whether for school, family or for themselves.

"I plan on doing this next year," Wallace said. "I see no reason why to stop if it helps my mom and me out." ★



**Helping Hand** ★ Cleaning the boards in Donnelly Hall allows STA junior Sherie Wallace to earn money to help pay for her tuition. Wallace participates in the work-study program on campus. PHOTO BY BIANCA DANG

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## Open for business

The Dart looked into teachers' policies regarding open mods. Some teachers specify certain requirements when allowing students into their rooms, and not all requirements are listed here. These policies relate to mods 1-16 that a teacher has listed as "open" on his or her schedule. This list does not include Activity, but some of the same policies may apply. Some teachers do not have any free mods because of the number of classes they teach and others do not post a schedule and allow students into their room on a case by case basis.

## Key

- ★ Quiet/silent
- ✕ Under 10 students
- 10 to 20 students
- ▲ It varies (depends on if students need help, if other activities are going on, and on the amount of work teacher has, etc.)

### M&A

**Basement**  
Ms. Heid ●  
Ms. Hansbrough ● ★  
Ms. Prentiss ●

**Second Floor**  
Ms. Amick ● ★  
Ms. Bernal ●  
Mr. Thomas ●  
Ms. Jianas ▲  
Ms. Gargallo ●

**First Floor**  
Ms. Sinco ✕ ▲  
Ms. Colby ▲  
Ms. Good ▲  
Ms. Moore ●

**Third Floor**  
Ms. Coughlin ● ★  
Ms. Johnson ● ★  
Ms. Filipowicz ● ▲  
Ms. Dolan ● ▲  
Ms. Dunlay ●  
Mr. Fudemberg ●

### Goppert

Ms. Bode ▲  
Mr. Egner ▲

### Donnelly

**Basement**  
Mr. Shrock ●  
Ms. Wallerstedt ▲  
Ms. Dibble ▲  
Ms. Rueschhoff ● ★  
Mr. Whitney ▲  
Mr. Sirridge ✕ ★

**Second Floor**  
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Ms. Weller ● ▲  
Ms. McCarthy ▲

**First Floor**  
Dr. Joe ●

**Third Floor**  
Ms. Montag ●  
Ms. Carlson ▲  
Ms. Conner ●  
Ms. Marquis ●  
Ms. Rietbrock ●



# STA remains closed campus



**Pembroke pass time** ★ Pembroke High School seniors Peter Ingles, from left, Bryce Lochmann and Andrew Lewis play Halo after a 12:30 dismissal because of their schedules March 27. Lewis returned to campus for a 2:15 class after his lunch break.  
**PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY**

Seniors hope for privilege to leave during frees, lunch, school policy remains steady, allows for little leeway

by NICOLE GRAVINO  
Staff Writer

Modular scheduling brings the STA girl a beautiful thing: frees. Freshmen through junior year frees can be scarce, depending on the course load. They often save the day giving students time to finish homework from the previous day or get a start on homework for the next. However, students sometime have three or four frees in a row and have more time on their hands than their schoolwork can fill.

Looking at other private and public high schools in the Kansas City area, STA is not the only closed campus. The only local school that allows students to leave campus during the day at any time when they do not have a scheduled class is Pembroke Hill. This policy only applies to their seniors, though.

"It's awesome to be able to leave whenever we want," Pembroke senior Kathleen Quirk said. "It is convenient to be able to go home or out with friends if we do not have class. It is also nice with Pembroke's block schedule there are random days when I have a couple of hours off during the day so I do not really like staying at school doing nothing. It's awesome to leave when you want."

Notre Dame de Sion, Rockhurst, Archbishop O'Hara, Bishop Miege, Shawnee Mission East and Blue Valley North all require parent permission for a student to leave campus during the school day. Shawnee Mission East allows students to leave school for lunch if they have a parent sign a release form. Blue Valley North seniors with enough credits can take a class called "early out" which allows them to leave

before normal dismissal at 2:45 p.m.

STA also requires written or verbal consent from a parent or guardian before a student may leave campus. Seniors have the privilege to leave early if they have a 15/16 free, but cannot leave for lunch.

"We still believe as a college prep school, students should be in school from check-in to check-out," Mary Anne Hoecker, principal for student affairs, said. "STA is not a college campus. Students should be in class and on task during the school day."

Hoecker gave two reasons for not allowing students, particularly seniors, to come and go during the school day. The first was a safety concern. There is not enough time and students would often race back to get to class on time. Especially during the winter when the roads are icy or the weather is bad, there is a genuine concern for safety. The second reason involves the presence of the senior class.

"I don't want seniors gone because I don't want to have our most mature students not be on campus," Hoecker said. "I want them visible and engaged with students. If you have strong, intelligent and emotionally together seniors then you have great models in your school."

STA has never been an open campus and the administration does not plan to change that.

"It's not about going to classes," Hoecker said. "It is about the time in between. I do not think we will [become an open campus] because the expectation is you are in school for a certain amount of time. I don't see that meeting a college prep expectation." ★

## Dance entertains, promotes social skills

National Honor Society attends Horizon Academy event to involve students struggling with learning difficulties

by KYLIE HORNBECK  
Staff Writer

As Mariah Whited walked down the red carpet, several asked, "Are you famous? Can I have your autograph?" She giggled and continued strutting down the red carpet in her new black and green dress. She walked through a doorway into the main room where dazzling gold stars hung from the ceiling, palm trees lined the walls, images of Hollywood were projected as murals and colorful lights of blue, magenta and green shone on dancing students, 48 from Horizon Academy and 20 from the STA National Honor Society. For Whited, a seventh grader at Horizon Academy, the dance at Horizon Academy in Roeland Park last Friday was her first.

The dance gave Horizon Academy students the opportunity to experience a dance environment, which many, like Whited, were not familiar with.

"I never thought I could dance like that, but now, yeah, I think I'm pretty good," Whited said.

Horizon Academy is a school for children struggling with a variety of learn-

ing difficulties in areas such as reading, auditory processing, visual processing, long term memory loss, fine motor skills, organizational skills and social skills, according to the Horizon Academy founding executive director Sharyl Kennedy. Kennedy was recruited to Kansas City in 1999 to found the Horizon Academy.

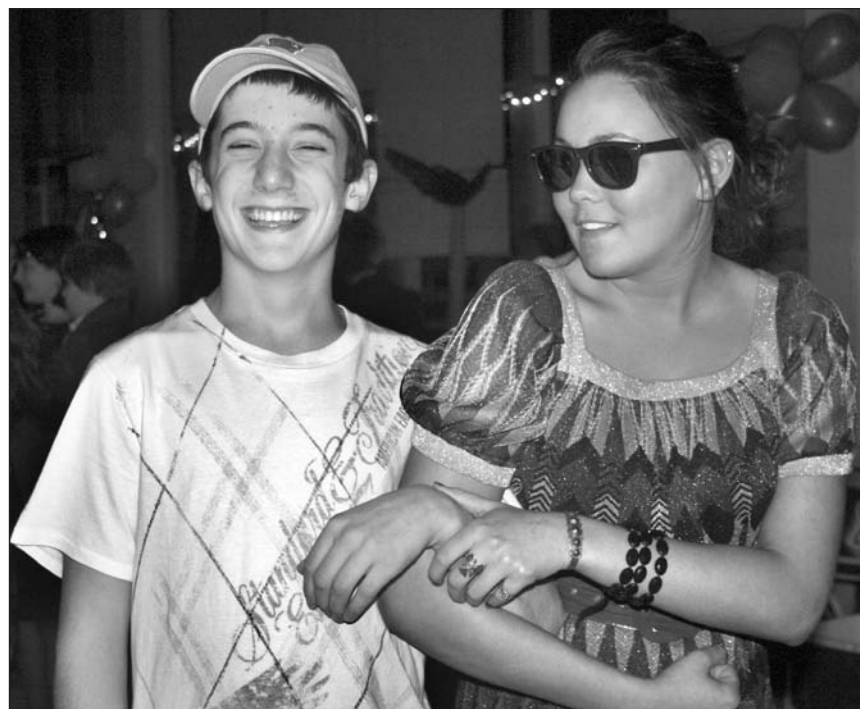
"I am dyslexic myself, so I decided to go into helping and teaching kids with learning disabilities," Kennedy said.

Since its beginning, the school has sent over 130 students to traditional schools, and currently has 72 students enrolled from first through twelfth grades. Forty-eight of the 51 invited Horizon Academy students were able to attend the dance, which allowed for students in grades sixth through twelfth to participate, according to Kennedy.

"I think [the dance] exceeded our expectations, truly, in how much fun everyone had and with the decorating and the turn out," Kennedy said.

Friday, Horizon Academy students spent their day at school preparing for the dance, which Kennedy believes had a positive effect on attendees.

"It was such a sweet, warm experi-



**Arm in arm** ★ Senior Jessica Marak puts a smile on 12 year old Joe Leiter's face at Horizon Academy last Friday. National Honor Society student volunteered to make the dance enjoyable for the kids. **PHOTO BY MADDY MCGANNON**

ence, seeing all the students getting along and having so much fun," Kennedy said. "It was a really good feeling to see so many happy faces."

Others also agreed that the dance was beneficial to the students of both STA and Horizon Academy. According to Horizon

See HORIZON, page 22



# Shopping provides stress outlet

Retail therapy gives relief to some struggling women after long, demanding days

by **CARLIE CAMPBELL**  
Staff Writer

Imagine this: you're feeling down. Maybe you got a bad grade on a test or you had a fight with your best friend or maybe you just had a rough day at school. What do you do to feel better? If you're first answer was "go shopping," you aren't alone.

In fact, so-called retail therapy is becoming largely recognized by psychologists as something people use to make themselves feel better in times of stress or trauma.

In a recent study by researchers from Carnegie Mellon, Harvard, Stanford and the University of Pittsburgh, two groups of subjects were shown different video clips; one group watched footage of grievors after a tragedy, the other watched a neutral scene from a nature show. It was found that, given a choice, the subjects who watched the tragedy

clip would spend an average of 300 percent more money on an everyday item, like a water bottle.

STA English teacher Katie Dolan works retail at Ann Taylor Loft on the Country Club Plaza. She says she sees a lot of people with a similar perspective on shopping.

"Women will make comments such as, 'I just needed to get out of the house,'" Dolan said. "Or sometimes, they'll say 'This feels so good, I've been so stressed.'"

Junior Mallory McDonald said shopping is an outlet for her emotions, both negative and positive.

"I shop for multiple reasons," McDonald said. "Sometimes, I get sad and go shopping. It makes me feel better, but it shouldn't."

McDonald said that after she and her boyfriend broke up, she went shopping and bought a shirt and that helped her deal with the difficult situation.

"I just walked into a store and bought a shirt, I didn't even try it on,"

See **SHOPPING**, page 22



**Retail therapy** ★ A recent study shows that people in stressful situations were likely to spend 300 percent more money while shopping. **PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CARLIE CAMPBELL**

# Students raise steaks for Lent

Girls make Lenten promises to abstain from meat, become "hungry for God," practice self discipline

by **KAYLA LOOSEN**  
Staff Writer

During Lent, the typical Catholic family has bigger fish to fry.

According to an article in the *Pittsburgh Catholic Paper*, fish markets see a 35 percent increase in sales during the Lenten season. This is largely due to the Christian observance of fasting from meat on Fridays during the 40 days of Lent.

At St. Teresa's Academy, a number of students have chosen to uphold this tradition by abstaining from meat for the entire Lenten season. These girls explained that by sacrificing their meat sources, they have reevaluated life's necessities and gained a new perspective not only on vegetarianism, but also how Jesus once lived. As a result of their fasting they have felt a religious growth in their Lenten experience.

"Older generations used to fast the entire Lent, but today the meat issue is more relaxed," noted sophomore Anna Gigliotti who abstained from eating meat last Lenten season. "I figured if

today's Catholics believe you don't eat meat on Fridays, then why don't I just go old-fashioned and do it the whole time? You give up something you really love so that way you can be hungry for God."

Last Lent, Gigliotti abstained from meat for the entire 40 days, only cheating once. The five months following Easter she remained a vegetarian after what she had learned surrounding meat production until her lack of protein began to interfere with her health.

"The STA environment also inspired me to continue [giving up meat] because people taught me about meat production and its effects on the environment," Gigliotti said. "I got the idea that I could help the poor little pigs in the factories and still do something for God, but I am too active to keep doing it healthily."

Sophomore Sadie McCue, who is also currently giving up meat for Lent, said this year she felt it was important to give Lent dedication by abstaining from something difficult for her.

"In years past, I gave up really cliché, typical things like chocolate or 'I'll be nice to my family,'" McCue said. "But this year I decided that because I'm growing up and becoming more religious, I needed to choose something I would stick to. I wanted to take a mature approach to Lent."

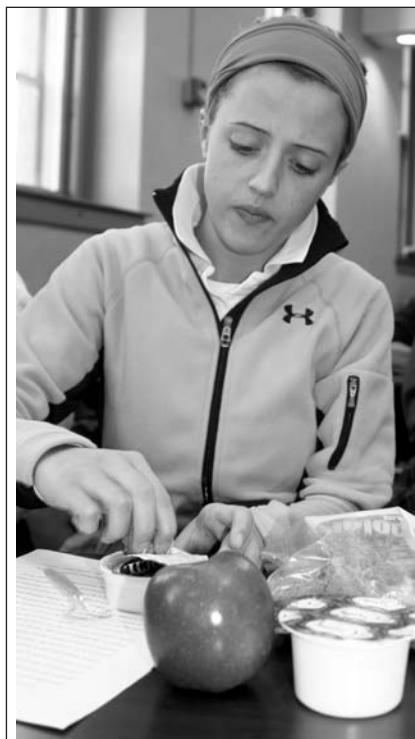
According to senior Sarah Coleman, who is also giving up meat this Lent, it is not until you take a drastic approach to Lent that you can understand the full experience of it.

"You realize how much something is a part of your life when it's gone," Coleman said. "I think about how Jesus fasted all the time, and how I'm actually doing something he once did; it's very enlightening."

According to Gigliotti, many of her peers today have lost touch with the Lenten spirit.

"I sometimes feel like Lent has become a diet for people," Gigliotti said. "People have this attitude of, 'I can give this up and lose weight!'. You shouldn't give something up for those reasons; it should be something you've put a lot of thought into."

See **LENT**, page 23

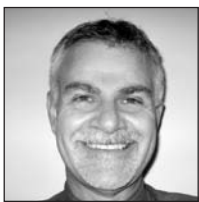


**No bologna** ★ Sophomore Sadie McCue eats an apple and yogurt for lunch Tuesday to keep her Lenten abstinence from meat. **PHOTO BY KAYLA LOOSEN**

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## Ask a Doctor ★ Dr. Daryl Lynch

COMPILED BY EMILY BECKER



**What are some signs that a classmate has an eating disorder?**

Eating disorders are as variable as people. Anorexia is characterized by restriction of food and calorie-containing drinks. This

can be complicated with vomiting, excessive doses of laxatives or other extreme limitations of food intake. Bulimia is generally thought of as eating a lot of food at once then making oneself vomit to avoid absorbing the calories. These two forms are often thought of as the only eating disorders. In reality, eating disorders vary. Extreme weight loss, constant worrying about weight and vomiting after meals are all common signs that should warrant more evaluation. The best thing to do for someone that you suspect has an eating problem is to talk to a trusted adult and get help. The psychological components

associated with eating disorders require professional intervention. Eating disorders can be dangerous and/or deadly.

**Should teenagers be taking vitamins regularly?**

Given the number of teens who eat on the run, vitamins may provide some basic building blocks that might fall short otherwise. One very important nutrient for adolescent girls is calcium. Teens should try to get around 1300 mg per day. One gets about 300 mg for each serving of dairy products or a cup of calcium-fortified orange juice. Tofu, sardines, milk, yogurt, cheese, broc-

coli, collards, kale, dried apricots and mustard greens contain calcium. Your stomach probably absorbs calcium from foods slightly better than from tablets. Another important mineral for menstruating females is iron. Sometimes when girls become anemic from iron deficiency, additional iron supplemental may be prescribed by a health care provider.

More is not always better with vitamins. In general, teens who want to take vitamins get all they need with an over-the-counter vitamin with iron and possibly a calcium supplement. ★



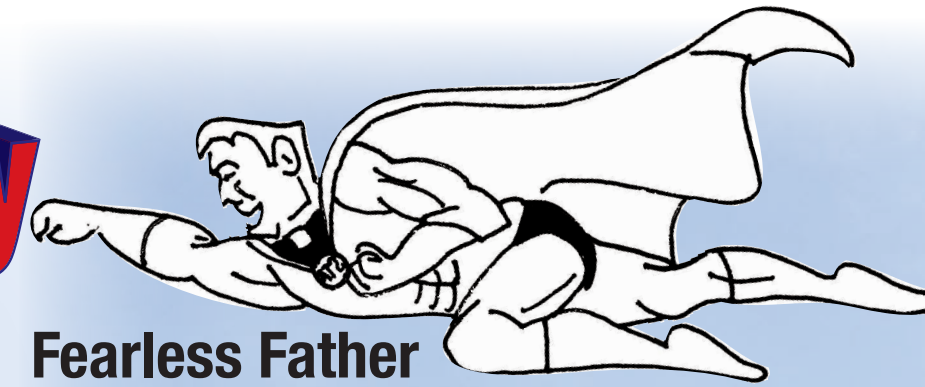
13 march 2008 ★ The Dart ★ St. Teresa's Academy



Super Sister

## M&A vs. Donnelly

building hall



Fearless Father

# THE SMACKDOWN

While STA has a unified campus, the Donnelly Hall and M&A building hold distinctive character and traditions

Take this quiz and add up the numbers following the answers you circled to determine which building best matches your personality.

**Amenities:** Chapel, The Commons, Language Lab, English Resource Center, College Resource Center, the black box theater, the auditorium.

**Subjects:** foreign languages, English, journalism, theology, music, theater

**Advisories:** 17

**History:** The M&A Building was the first building constructed on STA's second campus, Windmoor, in 1909. The building housed students and nuns, but the last Sisters to live there moved to a new location in the summer of 1980. In the winter of 2003, Kansas City Young Audiences (KCYA) moved its offices into the third and fourth floor of M&A.

**What's in a name?** The Sisters of St. Joseph were known for their education of women, but were considered experts in the arts. The students' tuition fees were not sufficient to support the school, so the Sisters made income from lessons given to both students and non-students in subjects like drawing, elocution, musical instruments and poise.

**Major changes:** Most of M&A's current layout is the same as the original, but some amenities moved when Donnelly Hall was constructed in 1942. For example, the original chapel was located on the third floor, where Mr. Fudenburg's classroom is now, the library was located in today's chorus room and the dining room was in our current chapel.

**Myths dispelled:** The Commons: Contrary to legend, The Commons was never a swimming pool. Rather, it was STA's gym until the Goppert Center was constructed in

1982. Formerly known as "the pit," the lunchroom was renovated in the summer of 2005.

The "haunted" fourth floor: While it is true that nuns lived in small rooms called "cells" on the fourth floor, no Sister ever died in a violent fashion there. Today the fourth floor is off-limits for students because it houses offices for KCYA.

The bowling alley: What is now the black box housed a bowling alley until 2004. The physical education classes for upperclassmen and intramural teams used the two lanes, which were removed in a major renovation of the basement of M&A. Physical education teacher Ann Bode-Rodriguez said the lanes are dearly missed as a hugely popular sport and a unique feature of STA. The lanes were operated manually; students set up the pins, rolled the balls back to their classmates from the end of the lane and kept score on paper.

**Quotes:**  
 Senior Stephanie Chapman: "I usually prefer the classes in M&A over those in Donnelly. I've never been a fan of math... My advisory is in there, the theater's in there... It's just where I belong."  
 Junior Brittany Cali: "I like M&A better because the teachers are much more laid-back."  
 Freshman Addie Thompson: "M&A just feels more relaxed."  
 Mr. Patrick Sirridge: "I feel like a foreigner in a strange land when I'm in M&A."  
 Compiled by Sarah Cooper

**Amenities:** computer lab, art room, library, Zahner lounge, Math and Science Resource Center, administrative offices

**Subjects:** math, science, art, Latin, theology, computers and social studies

**Advisories:** 12

**History:** In 1941, the building known as Donnelly sprang into existence, and became the first women's four-year college for higher learning in Kansas City.

"When I was at school here, the classes were only in the Music & Arts Building," said Ms. Marion Chartier, secretary for the Donnelly Building. "What's now the art room was the cafeteria, and this building was only used as a college."

The first class in Donnelly was held Sept. 15, 1941. At the time it was built, students had classes, such as home economics and meal planning, on the second and third floors, and the college was known for its strong nursing curriculum. The first floor held the administrative offices and Zahner lounge. "The lounge is where the Sisters and students would receive visitors," theology teacher Anita Reznicek said. "The Sisters lived in this building and if there was a dance, the students would have to bring their dates and introduce them there."

**What's in a name?** Donnelly was named for Father Bernard Donnelly, a generous benefactor to the Sisters of St. Joseph when they first appeared in the Kansas City area. He was a crucial individual to the establishment of STA as a whole, helping the Sisters to secure a spot on what was then called "Quality Hill."

**Major Changes:** Until 1962, Donnelly remained the college and M&A the secondary school. That year, the college moved south and changed its name to Avila University. The Donnelly Building was absorbed by the secondary school and is still used to house the administrative offices, classrooms and library today.

**Myths Dispelled:** The tunnel in Donnelly: A trapdoor in the basement floor leads to the tunnel which heads towards M&A, but the tunnel becomes too narrow for a person to continue. It is unknown what it was used for and if it really continues all the way to M&A.

**Quotes:**  
 Roni Katz, senior—"I basically live in the Donnelly building, in the art room and the library. My mom went here and my aunt used to have her room in the library."  
 Casey O'Flaherty, sophomore—"Montag's room is amazing and I love the basement. The greatest teachers are there."  
 Alex Miller, senior—"When you're in Donnelly, you really like academics. I love being on the second and third floors. Donnelly is a very independent kind of building."  
 Marion Chartier, administrator "The atmosphere of this building is very open. Because we have the administrative offices here, you see so many people flowing in and out."  
 Compiled by Aly Brownlee

- It's Monday and you have a free. You...
  - scramble to get all the homework you avoided on the week end finished (4 points)
  - are exhausted and looking for a place to nap (5)
  - meet your friends in the quad; this is your favorite free! (3)
  - Have no homework but want to get a jump-start on that research paper. The deadline may be 2 months away but might as well start now! (1)
  - head to the library too to catch up on history reading (2)
- Your schedule is ...
  - Labeled with your teacher's open mods; just in case you need extra help (2)
  - retyped and color-coded (1)
  - in a ball at the bottom of your backpack (3)
  - barely readable...you've attempted to label all the frees you and your friends have together (4)
- Your locker is...
  - a health hazard; full of past-expiration date, half-eaten snacks and dirty Tupperware (3)
  - complete with a locker shelf and magnetic pencil holder (2)
  - empty with the exception of the remnants of your advisory mail box (4)
  - organized in the order of your Friday mods (1)
- At lunch you opt for...
  - reheated ethnic food from the night before (4)
  - a microwavable Lean Cuisine, Stouffer's or South Beach meal (2)
  - an assortment of your friends' leftovers, along with a candy bar you mooched change to buy from the vending machine (5)
  - a neatly brown-bagged, well-balanced combo of a sandwich, fruit, bag of chips and desert (1)
- You have room for two college classes in your schedule senior year and choose to take ...
  - College Composition and Spanish IV (5)
  - AP portfolio (4)
  - Western Civilizations and AP Government (2)
  - AP Biology and AP Calculus (1)

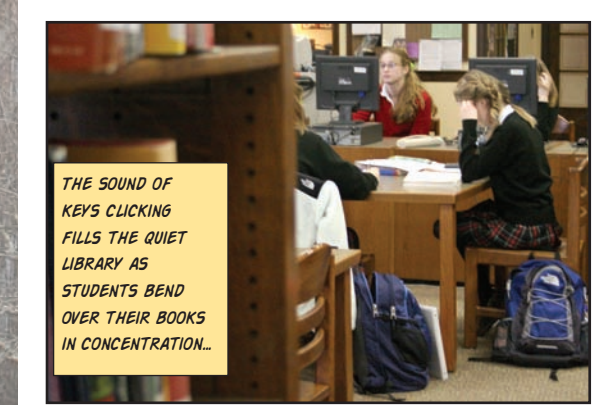
- Your favorite teacher at STA...
  - knows the Soulja Boy dance (4)
  - begs you to play with her hair and watch YouTube videos with her in frees (4)
  - is a doctor with his own parking spot (2)
  - is so organized that each of her students is handed two sheets of personal name labels on the first day of class (1)
  - never calls you by your actual name...you're not sure if he knows it (3)
- It's the 3:05 on Friday you are...
  - having a dance party in the parking lot (4)
  - getting booted out off a computer in the library by Ms. Hershewe; you're there so often she's used to it (1)
  - scrambling to get your accountability stamped (3)
  - meeting with a teacher; you're already stressing about a test you have on Monday (2)
- Your fondest STA memory will be...
  - directing a Student Production (5)
  - going all-out at one of the themed Sion volleyball games (3)
  - leading your team to a Science Bowl victory (1)
  - winning the Gateway Reading Award (2)

### Scoring Guide:

8-18 = Donnelly  
Congratulations! You're a true science and math girl. You're probably pretty organized and methodical. It wouldn't be surprising if you're really on top of your schoolwork. But don't worry, everyone knows Donnelly girls have fun, too.

19-23 = M&A  
Hey there, deep thinker. Whether it's through writing or theological philosophy, you enjoy showing your creative side. Be care though, sometimes your active imagination and laid-back attitude can make you a bit forgetful when it comes to homework!

Quiz by Haley Vondemkamp



PHOTOS BY CLAIRE MCINERNEY, ELIZABETH NELSON, MICHELLE REICHMEIER, TRACY BURNS-YOCUM AND HALEY VONDEMKAMP



# Stars attempt lacrosse

New lacrosse team learns fundamentals of sport, laughs through struggles

by CAROLINE QUINN  
Copy Editor

The field at Southwest High School looked like the typical setting for MTV's reality show "Made."

The soggy soil and bitter cold temperatures contributed to the "battleground" sentiment. Coaches lined the field and prepared to train the inexperienced. Enthusiasm, nerves and frustration swept the grounds. There was only one problem: before last week, only a handful of the 80 girls had ever touched a lacrosse stick. Combine this lack of basic skills with little knowledge of the sport, and there's a mass of people not sure what to do.

"Honestly, I don't think many people knew what they were doing," junior Jenny Gottsch said after the first practice March 3. "You know, [girls] were kind of looking around, like they were afraid to mess up."

After the excitement of getting their new sticks, foreheads wrinkled and some girls muttered "how do you even hold it?" Head coach Jessica Hanna gave a short tutorial of the basic anatomy of the stick. As the team hauled to the marsh with arctic winds blowing in their faces, a few players expressed feelings of regret for joining the team. Drills began, with players throwing balls 20 feet beyond their targets to a symphony of "oops," "my bad," and "sorry."

This lack of assurance may pose the biggest problem for STA's new lacrosse club, since self-belief and swank decide "about 75 percent of the success of the team," according to Hanna. Uncertainty forces the girls to play with hesitance, and this usually isn't favorable for the team, captain Emily Orndoff said.

"In lacrosse, you can't be timid, you



**Scoop it up** ★ Senior Lily Hough warms up at lacrosse practice with her teammates. The team began practicing March 3 at Southwest High School. They focused on the fundamentals of lacrosse, like cradling, throwing and catching. PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN

can't be scared," Orndoff said. "It's a sport where you need confidence."

Although the confidence level of the girls may be "all over the place," as Hanna described it, Orndoff believes some of her teammates are already growing into solid lacrosse players and "picking the sport up pretty easily."

Gottsch said one reason for such quick development is the support and encouragement among players.

"No one acts like they're really supe-

rior," Gottsch said. "It's nice because it seems like everyone really wants help each other and teach what they know."

Making sure everyone is on the same level and ensuring no one is behind is a key focus for Orndoff.

She believes interaction and support among different classes and skill levels will build unity and is important to the success of the team.

"If the girls are helping and cheering

See LACROSSE, page 23

## Senior's hard work on JV pays off

Student overcomes knee injury, will contribute skills to STA varsity team

by BREANNE SIGLER  
Managing Editor of Visuals

Senior Rachel Mize was vying for the ball, running and bumping into her opponent, during her indoor soccer game. All of a sudden, her cleat got caught on the turf, jerking her leg to a stop while the rest of her body kept moving forward.

"My knee twisted and I heard it pop," Mize said.

And just like that, she was out for the high school soccer season her sophomore year due to a torn ACL and meniscus.

"It was hard not to play," Mize said. "I'd never had a serious injury before."

After surgery, four weeks of crutches, physical therapy and no soccer for six months, Mize was back in the game playing for the JV soccer team her junior year.

This year, her senior year, was crucial, though. If she didn't make varsity, she wouldn't be able to play at all because of STA soccer's rule that does not allow seniors to play on JV.

Soccer tryouts were held Feb. 25

through 28 and consisted of two days of drills and running in the gym due to bad weather and two days scrimmaging on the field.

"I just did my best at tryouts," Mize said. "I guess you can say I gave it my all."

Mize had to wait until Thursday to find out whether she made the team after all her hard work. She said it was "up in the air."

The team list was posted on the doors at school and on the soccer team's website. Mize nervously checked in Thursday night and saw that her name was on the varsity list.

Sophomore Kerry Cummings played JV soccer with Mize last year and joined her on varsity this year. According to Cummings, Mize is a determined and smart player.

"She learned the game more during the off-season," Cummings said. "She makes better decisions about passing."

Cummings predicts that as a forward, Mize will be a leading scorer.

"She's been doing well in scrimmages against JV and scoring a lot," Cummings said.

Mize is excited to start the soccer season.

"There's a lot of good girls on the team," Mize said. "That's our goal: to do well and hopefully win state." ★



**Through the pain** ★ Senior Rachel Mize competes in a scrimmage during soccer tryouts at STA Feb. 28. Mize became a member of the JV team last year after battling a torn ACL sophomore year. Mize will be competing on the varsity soccer team this season. PHOTO BY ROSIE HODES

*Sexism becomes issue in athletics*

LINNY KAUFMAN



SPORTS EDITOR

A football player congratulates his teammate for knocking an opposing player unconscious with a powerful tackle. A coach scolds his male players for acting like "a bunch of girls" on the field. An injured player at halftime is told to suck it up and "take it like a man." All the while, young women in short skirts and midriff tops jump along the sidelines.

These are the images ingrained in my mind every time I watch an NFL game or a boy's basketball game at a coed high school. I am now realizing how sexist they are.

At St. Mary's Academy, a K-12 grade coed school in Topeka, sexism has recently proven itself a pressing issue. During a boy's basketball game at the school Feb. 2, referee Michelle Campbell was dressed and ready to begin officiating. However, her work was cut short when her partner, Mr. Darin Putthoff, alerted her before the game that she would not be allowed to officiate for one reason: she is a woman.

Putthoff was told by a school administrator that if Campbell were to officiate it would mean putting a woman in authority over boys, which is contrary to the beliefs of St. Mary's Academy. Upon hearing this, Putthoff refused to officiate and walked off the court by Campbell's side.

News of this event caught the attention of thousands. People were appalled at St. Mary's blatant sexism, and everyone seemed ready to condemn the school's administration (for good reason). We were disgusted.

And yet, many athletic programs are teaching us each day that boys are better than girls, and we do nothing. Millions of viewers tune in to watch the Super Bowl each year. And each year, it is no different; football players push each other down to prove their manhood, and women dance along the sidelines wearing next to nothing, no matter the temperature.

What sex are the football players? Male. The coaches? Male. And the referees? Male, of course.

I also have yet to see a male cheerleader dance along the sideline. The sexism goes both ways.

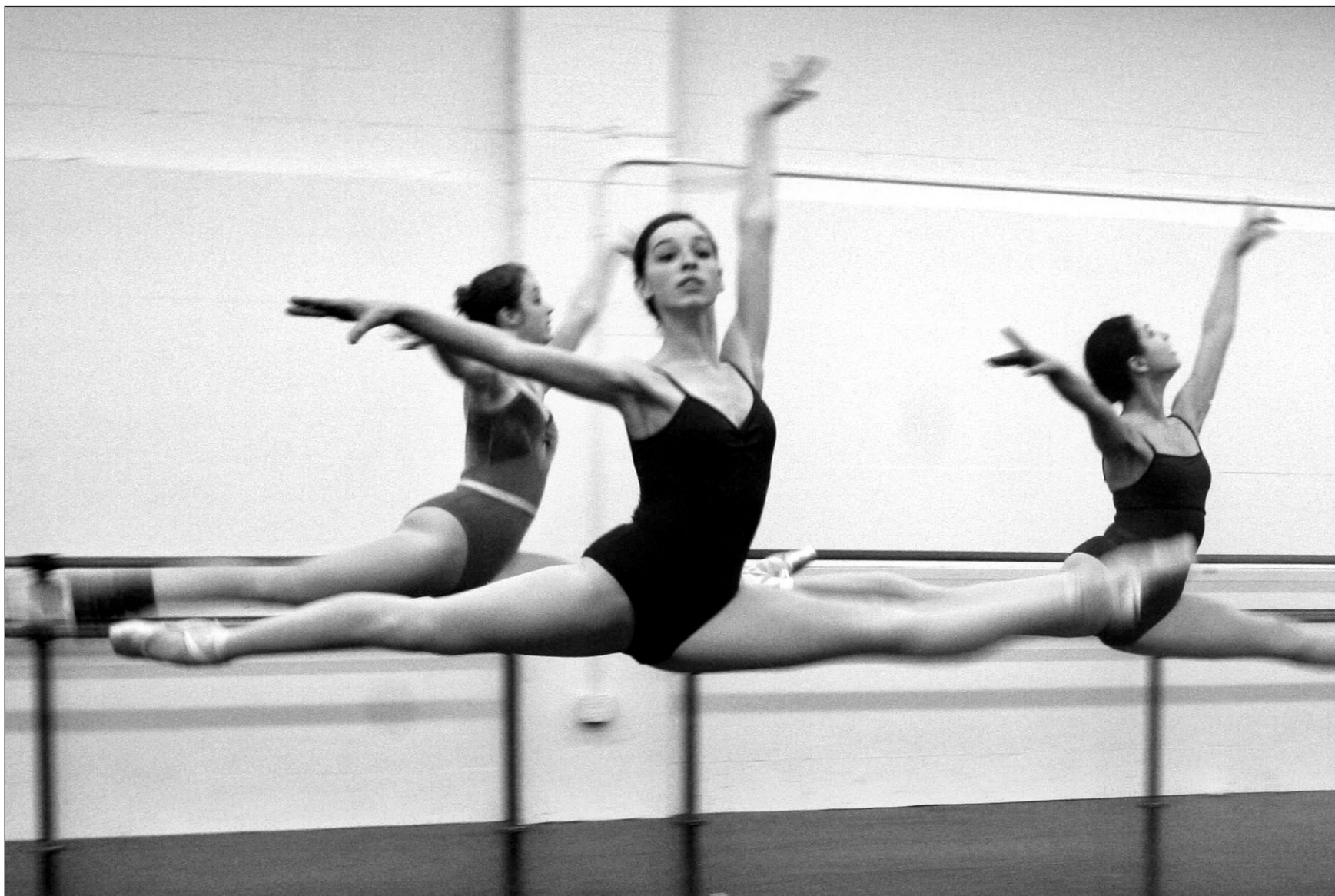
It is a difficult problem to fix. We can't just eliminate football or cheerleading; there are people who love being involved in both. And we can't force women who would rather dance to play football, or vice versa.

However, we can work for acceptance and an end to gender stereotypes. For example, when we watch the Super Bowl, we need to realize that although gender roles are strongly portrayed, we do not need to fill these roles to be accepted. Similarly, we must accept our peers for whichever path they choose to take. ★



# Junior leaps to success

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**Meyers leaps** ★ Junior Sally Cowdin, from left, STA junior Elizabeth Meyers and Shawnee Mission East freshman Rachel Duvall practice after ballet class Saturday, March 8 at the Kansas City Ballet School. Frequently dancers review steps after class to work on corrections given during the class. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**



**Perfectly posed** ★ Junior Elizabeth Meyers does simple bar stretches Tuesday, March 4 after a rehearsal class. Class for Meyers, on occasion, begins at 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. and often does not end until 9 p.m. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**

## Talents, dedication drive STA junior toward future dance career

by JAIME HENRY-WHITE  
*Staff Photographer*

STA junior Elizabeth Meyers focuses on the navy front chair in the front of studio two at Kansas City Ballet. She listens as dance teacher Sean Duus lectures on how adding more accents and risks to one's dancing is just like making the perfect Chipotle burrito. The mirror-covered wall in front of her reflects teenage girls in black leotards, tidy buns and pink tights, her fellow 6B/7 level class.

Girls in one corner of the room giggle and talk as she tries to pay attention. The class re-does the combination in an attempt to correct their mistakes. Duus watches, notes the girls who really listened, and as always, he counts on one student to have done as he had hoped, Meyers.

Meyers' abilities as a ballerina have stood out to many more than Duus. Evidence of Meyer's talents shows through the various amounts of scholarships she has received over the years for ballet intensive summer programs. In this year alone, The Washington School of Ballet and School of American Ballet, both prestigious schools, offered her full rides to their summer programs. The Pacific Northwest Ballet School offered her a partial scholarship. Meyers chose SAB as her first choice school and will attend a five-week intensive program in New York City.

"It's been a tremendous privilege to get the opportunity to teach her over the years," Duus said. "Over all the years you teach, you only get a student like her every 15 years and it has been a privilege to see her talent grow."

Meyers began dancing when she was six at the

Westport Ballet School. When Westport closed, Meyers switched to the KCB School. At this time, 11-year-old Meyers realized dancing meant something to her. She didn't just want to dance for fun, but wanted to become serious about dancing in the hopes of one day having a professional ballet career.

"Ever since I saw Elizabeth, I knew she had a very, very special talent," said Duus, a former Kansas City Ballet principal dancer of 15 years and current KCB School teacher. "I am incredibly proud of her and she is everything that could be asked of her. She should never lose her love for dancing because that's what makes her very unique. She needs to show off the immense amount of talent she has."

Meyers' passion for dance is not fueled by her talents.

"I think [what I love most about dancing] is getting away and just the feeling of dancing," Meyers said. "I mean there's the whole technical aspect, but, I don't know how to explain it; I just love to dance. It's just something good you know you can always work harder for. You just know it's always going to be there."

Now even closer to pursuing a professional career, Meyers dances at least 6 days and approximately 23 hours on a normal week at KCB, not including additional performance rehearsals. However, she is not alone in her pursuit. Around 25 girls, just in her level, such as home-schooled friend Sally Cowdin, are working toward that same goal.

"If you have the dedication and the confidence, I think you can go on to dance professionally," Cowdin said. "The people I want to watch have the confidence and when they dance, they're not bored with it. And I think Elizabeth has all of that."

Duus rolls out another dance combination for his class. As the piano begins again, his eyes span across the room. Seeing Meyers, he recognizes she is working

See MEYERS, page 22



# Dancers medal at State

## ★Scoreboard★



Dance team finishes with three awards at highest competition Feb. 23

by TRACY BURNS-YOCUM  
Staff Writer

STA's dance team received first place for their hip-hop dance, the Academic Award for highest GPA in the 3-A division and the Superior Award for their pom routine at Missouri's State competition Feb. 23 at Center High School.

"It did not matter to me if they got a medal or not," head dance team coach Jocelyn Lavender said. "They looked great and performed the best they've ever done."

The team's greatest conflict was internal.

"Our own team was our biggest competition," Lavender said. "The girls have been through so much this year."

The team's State performance was a perfect ending according to dance team captain, senior Maddy McGannon.

"I couldn't have asked for anything different," McGannon said.

The Stars began the season with a new head coach, only to have her move out of town. Lavender, the dance team's assistant coach, stepped up to assume the role.

"The start of the season was bumpy," McGannon said. "It was a tough year for

some people, but it helped us grow."

Lavender believes the team pulled together because of the personality and dedication of the girls.

"It was a learning experience that could've been negative," Lavender said. "But the girls turned it into a positive."

Sophomore Riley Cowing credits the team's finish at State to the captains who coped well with the situations the team faced and kept the team moving forward. Cowing also acknowledged Lavender's great job stepping in as head coach mid-season.

Growing and coming together was important to the team, Cowing thought. With seven freshmen, the squad hosted team building events to create a better bond.

The only dance team members who have been on the squad for more than two years will graduate this year. This means the current sophomores will have to step up as leaders next year. Cowing and fellow sophomore Rebecca Oyler will be the only veterans on the dance team come tryouts in April.

"It will be different," Lavender said. "But having this young team, they know what they have to do to get it."

Oyler also believes it will be a challenge, but nothing she and Cowing cannot handle.

"Most people have had three years to figure this dance team thing out," Oyler said. "We'll just have to step up." ★

### Varsity Basketball (14-13)

Feb. 7	Raymore-Peculiar	W
Feb. 8	Columbia Rock Bridge	L
Feb. 12	Lee's Summit	L
Feb. 13	O'Hara	W
Feb. 15	Savannah	W
Feb. 20	Belton	W
Feb. 22	Hickman Mills	L

★ The varsity basketball team finished the season with a winning record for the first time since the 2003-04 season, losing to Hickman Mills in the district tournament.

### JV Basketball (12-10)

Feb. 7	Raymore-Peculiar	W
Feb. 8	Columbia Rock Bridge	L
Feb. 13	O'Hara	W

★ The final record for JV basketball was 12-10. "[The season] went well," said freshman Catherine Arensburg. "It was really fun. We all got along really well, considering the fact it was four freshmen and the rest were upperclassmen. They weren't mean to us or anything."

### Swimming

Feb. 15-16	State Championship	
	200 Yd. Relay	35th
	100 Yd. Butterfly	43rd
	200 Yd. Freestyle Relay	25th
	100 Yd. Backstroke	20th

★ Senior Rebecca Rogers finished 43rd in the 100-yard butterfly and 20th in the 100-yard backstroke at State. Freshman Rachel Edmonds, senior Mary Clara Hutchison, Rogers and junior Ellie Mullane placed 35th in the 200-yard medley relay. Juniors Erin Nelson and Mandy Prather, Rogers, and Edmonds finished 25th in the 200-yard Freestyle Relay.

# Season ends, leaves Stars bittersweet

Players gain confidence from semi-final win, make it to District championship

by SYDNEY DEATHERAGE  
Staff Writer

It's been a season of fresh starts for STA varsity basketball: fresh coach, fresh game plan, freshman Caroline Gray.

What had varsity players excited at the season end Feb. 22, even after losing the District tournament, however, was the improvement the Stars have made this year in comparison to past seasons.

"I think our main goal for the season was to finish over 500," Gray said. To finish over 500 means to have more wins than losses. "We actually met that goal with Coach Collins. She said it's the first time in around seven years that we've finished over 500."

The Stars finished out the season with a 14-13 record, beating the Belton Pirates in a nail-biting semi-final District game Feb. 20 and then losing to the Hickman Mills Cougars in the championship round of the District tournament.

In the semi-final game, Belton maintained the lead until the fourth quarter, when junior Abby Duethman scored to tie the game at 48-48. With eight seconds left and STA leading 55-53, senior Jessica Nouri was fouled and made both free throws, increasing the lead to 57-53. Belton scored with two seconds on the clock, bringing the score to 57-55. STA brought in the ball beneath Belton's basket and threw the ball out of bounds on the opposite end of the court, causing a turnover to Belton underneath their own basket. Belton intercepted the ball, shot and was fouled, and missed both free throws with zero seconds left in the game, allowing STA to win the game.

"The win in there really boosted our confidence and got us really excited for the Hickman Mills game," Gray said. "It was

See BASKETBALL, page 23



Battle for the ball ★ Junior Kelsey McCormick attempts to steal the ball from a Hickman Mills player at the District championship game Feb. 22 at Hickman Mills High School. The Stars won the semi-final against Belton in a close game, then lost 76-50 to Hickman Mills, earning a second place district title. PHOTO BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE

### Dance Team

Feb. 22-23 State Tournament

★ In the 3A division, the dance team received first place for their hip-hop dance, the Academic Award for the highest GPA and the Superior Award for their pom routine at Missouri's state competition Feb. 23 at Center High School. The dance team tryouts for the 2008-2009 season will be held in mid-April.

### Rowing

Two St. Teresa's students, along with three other teammates, competed in the largest regatta in the world on Oct. 21, 2007. STA juniors Kit Landwehr and Elizabeth McNamara traveled to Boston to compete in the Head of the Charles Regatta, an annual international rowing race, which starts at Boston University and ends at Northeastern University, a 3.2-mile course.

"We saw some boats from China, Canada and Ireland," said Landwehr, who has been rowing for four years with the Kansas City Rowing Club. "There were over 300,000 spectators there, so it was really overwhelming at first, but it ended up being really fun."

The girls competed in the Youth 4 event, in which four girls row and one girl steers, with their teammates, Pembroke Hill School senior Meghan Schwend, St. Thomas Aquinas High School senior Haley King, and Notre Dame de Sion High School senior Mollie Smith. Ms. Jenn Jewett coached them.

McNamara said that the team worked hard for the race by practicing every day and talking about their strategies.

"I went to a rowing clinic the day before I left for the race," McNamara said. "I learned valuable rowing techniques. And before I left, my dad printed out a lot of informational packets about [the Head of the Charles] because it's a really hard course."

Although the girls didn't place in the race, they agreed that it was a great experience. ★



# Athlete reveals musical talent

Senior received many awards during her nine-year piano playing career

by ELIZABETH WILSON  
Staff Writer

As a young girl, senior Audrey Copenhaver had her piano piece memorized from front to back nine months prior to competition day. She could play the song with her eyes closed, and felt prepared for her first State competition. As soon as she walked into the room with the panel of judges, her heart started racing and she drew a blank. Crying, the judge had to tell her the first note.

Copenhaver started playing the piano when she was 7 years old and took lessons from piano teacher Ms. Kimberly Katz until she was 16.

"[Copenhaver] was a good student and a wonderful kid," Katz said. "She had a lot of ability and I enjoyed teaching her. I was sorry when she quit."

Copenhaver performed many different pieces from contrasting musical eras at the district and state levels. She received a Three-Year Award Plaque for achieving the perfect score, three years in a row, at the Kansas City Music Teachers Association Fall Festival and scored number one ratings at state competitions.

Copenhaver started playing the piano because her older siblings played.

"I wanted to play so my mom put me in lessons as soon as she could," Copenhaver said.

Copenhaver took private lessons from Katz once a week and would memorize songs from specific genres, eras and composers and perform them for a panel of judges at competitions.

According to Copenhaver, people became highly competitive during her final years of playing the piano.

"You can go play the piano in college, just like a sport," Copenhaver said. "I was



**Tickling the keys** ★ Senior Audrey Copenhaver plays a song from memory for her teammates at a STA soccer party. Copenhaver remembered parts of songs from past recitals and competitions. PHOTO BY ELIZABETH WILSON

competing against people that, all they do is play the piano, and I was trying to balance homework and club soccer and couldn't put in as much time."

Copenhaver stopped taking lessons when she was 16 because she just didn't have enough time.

"My teacher was getting really frustrated

with me and told me I had to choose: piano or soccer," Copenhaver said. "Obviously, I had to choose soccer."

Katz said piano and soccer took up the majority of Copenhaver's time and demanded a lot of devotion. She said Copenhaver was frequently out of town for soccer and didn't have time to practice the piano.

"She had a big decision to make between piano and soccer," Katz said. "She is a multi-talented girl with her piano abilities equal to her athletic abilities. She had split loyalties to both activities but obviously had a stronger passion for her athletics."

Senior Britney Scott said piano is **See PIANO, page 22**

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# Art students awarded, compete nationally

Art department relishes recognition for senior projects, Avila exhibition

by SYDNEY DEATHERAGE  
Staff Writer

Several STA fine arts students were honored with awards and recognition for their work in the past month.

The Scholastic Art Awards organization recognized seniors Jessica Marak and Elizabeth Keaveny with the Gold Key award for their submitted work. The Gold Key is an award given to accomplished high school artists. Winners advance to compete in the National Scholastic Art Awards in Pittsburg, Pen.

"I submitted stuff my sophomore year and didn't get [the Gold Key award]," Marak said. "So when I tried again this year and won, I was really excited."

Marak created her project in art portfolio, a class taught by Ms. Teresa Wallerstedt, and Keaveny created her jug in ceramics, taught by Ms. Lisa Dibble. Dibble and Wallerstedt chose and submitted student work to the Scholastic Art Awards.

Keaveny received the Gold Key for a colorful ceramic jug with facial features and Marak for a skirt woven from copper wire and a feather corset top that she designed.

"I was obsessed with the feathers," Marak said. "They were a really pretty brown and black, and I liked the copper because it reflected light."

In addition to Keaveny and Marak, other students

have also been recognized for their creativity. Seniors Abbey Dieterman, Jordan Leinen and Katie Embree were all featured in an art show at Avila University Feb. 17-22. ★



**Art abounding** ★ Seniors Elizabeth Keaveny and Jessica Marak created projects that were honored with the Gold Key Award by the Scholastic Art Awards organization. Keaveny's ceramic pot, top, and Marak's clothing entourage, right, are en route to Pennsylvania to compete nationally. PHOTOS SUBMITTED





## Black Dog brews coffee, atmosphere

EMILY BECKER



NO DIRECTIONS HOME

The Black Dog Coffeehouse at 12815 W. 87<sup>th</sup> St. Parkway in Lenexa was a beacon of warmth and caffeine in a storm of cold rain, chilly winds and dropping eyelids. I did not expect the Black Dog to be anything special or to have any characteristics that set it apart from every other coffeehouse I had ever been to. But I happily had my first impression proved wrong.

I almost missed the Black Dog. It blended in with the other stores in its strip mall, but the slogan, Coffee with a Bite!, caught my eye as I drove. My caffeine addition suddenly kicked in and I pulled into an open spot in front of the store.

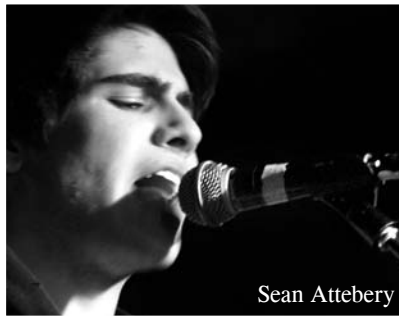
The weather outside was dreary, to be forgiving, and there was not much change in light as I entered the dimly lit coffeehouse. The first thing I noticed was the amount of space available in the Black Dog, more free space than I had ever seen in a coffeehouse so far. I did not have to worry about accidentally hitting the elbow of a college student trying to make his way through Shakespeare or tripping over the white power cord of someone's MacBook as I made my way to the counter. There was also a low hum of chatter as opposed to the tense whispering I normally hear in coffeehouses.

The signboard above the cash register was full. There were standard coffeehouse drinks, like cappuccinos and mochas, but also over a dozen of specialty lattes and coffee drinks. The baristas were eager to make my latte however I wanted, even if the combination was not on the signboard. This is not uncommon in a coffeehouse, but the baristas happily chatted with me while steaming the milk instead of thinking about kind of a person drinks a nonfat latte with white chocolate and marshmallow.

My favorite parts about the Black Dog were the little things that made the coffeehouse memorable. There was a glass canister of dog bones by the sugar packets on a table in the corner. Two of the three coffees brewed that day were fair-trade, far surpassing Starbucks' idea of supporting the fair trade movement.

In one word, the Black Dog was comfortable. The room was warm and inviting. The people were open and friendly. And the carrot cake I had was coated in so much cream cheese icing; I could feel my blood sugar level jump. The Black Dog is definitely a place I hope to return to when I am again in need of warmth and caffeine. ★

## thundermuffin: battle of the bands



Sean Attebery



Jeff Berry

# ROCK THE HOUSE

Four high school students compete in local show, take home second place



**Center stage** ★ Rockhurst High School senior Sean Attebery, from left, sings an original song with his band, Thundermuffin, as STA seniors Clare McFarland and Mary Clara Hutchinson sing along at the Gorilla Productions Battle of the Bands semi-finals at the Beaumont Club in Westport Feb. 24. **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

by PAIGE KUHLMANN  
 Staff Writer

The club was dark, steamy and loud as the four members of Thundermuffin took the stage and began playing their music at the Gorilla Productions Battle of the Bands Feb. 24.

"It was intimidating at first," recalls Rockhurst High School senior Sean Attebery, the lead singer of the band.

Whichever band sold the most tickets got to play last, giving that band an advantage. Thundermuffin, made up of Attebery, Rockhurst High School senior Jeff Berry, and Rockhurst High School sophomores Connor Doolan and Fritz Hutchinson, sold the second to most tickets with 88.

The winner of the battle was chosen based on which band received the loudest applause, and Thundermuffin ended up taking second in the battle.

When Berry received a call from a man in Cleveland about participating in the Gorilla Productions Battle of the Bands at the Beaumont Club, Thundermuffin had just come off the high of winning Rockhurst's annual Battle of the Bands on February 16.

Not only did they get first place at Rockhurst, they were also awarded Best Guitar and Best Drums.

Thundermuffin, as it is today, formed last year when Doolan and Hutchinson were freshmen, and Attebery and Berry were juniors. Doolan and Hutchinson were already part of the band called Thundermuffin when they joined forces with the other two boys.

"We spent a long time trying to figure out a name," Berry said. "Eventually we just kept [Doolan's and Hutchinson's] original name."

Hutchinson came up with the name while on a road trip to Branson. He stopped at a muffin-selling store where they sold huge muffins called "Thundermuffins," and the name stuck with him.

The newly formed Thundermuffin chose to have Attebery as the lead singer and a guitarist or bassist, Berry as a guitarist or bassist, Doolan as a guitarist, and Hutchinson as the drummer and back-up vocalist. According to the band members, each of them has their own separate influence.

"[Attebery's] is rock, like Pink Floyd, [Berry's] is the blues, [Hutchinson's] is jazz, and mine is techno and some jazz," Doolan said.

The boys will maintain these influences

in upcoming events like the band battle April 5 at the Gem Theater and a gig Apr. 26 at the Refuge. Thundermuffin will release a CD at the beginning of summer, or as soon as they have enough money to record it.

"We're short of monetary funds at the moment," Berry said, laughing. "Donations are always accepted."

The members of Thundermuffin don't know yet what will happen when Attebery and Berry head off to college. They won't be able to practice, but they might perform when they are all together. As for Doolan and Hutchinson, Doolan thinks they might form a separate band.

Regardless of next year, this year Thundermuffin is a local hit, with many fans, including junior Chelsea Beaven, who loves their song "Jif."

They have even greater support at their own school.

"[Attebery, Berry, Doolan, and Hutchinson] are four of the most musically talented boys our age," Rockhurst senior Paul Judge said. "They are very versatile musicians, they're a great band, and they have great musical futures."

Judge finished by teasing, "But they'll be unimportant when my CD comes out."

Watch out Thundermuffin. ★



Connor Doolan



Sean Attebery



Fritz Hutchinson



# 'Our Town' cast illuminates dark show



## Senior cast members steal spotlight in final performances on STA stage

by **HALEY VONDEMKAMP**  
Staff Writer

Audience members sporadically filtered into the M&A auditorium amongst a steady hum of giggling and chatter. They found their seats as the lights dimmed, music played and the curtain slowly opened, signaling the start of the show. Right way with the narration of sophomore Ellen Gude, a somber, heavy tone, quite unfamiliar to the STA stage, was established.

The audience shifted in their seats. The flamboyant costuming and set design of "Suessical the Musical" was noticeably missing. Gone were the vibrant, over the top characters of "Once Upon a Mattress." Also absent were the goofy one-liners of Student Productions.

As an STA audience member, I've become accustomed to comedy and flash. "Our Town," a play by Thornton Wilder, gave me and the audience something new to stew over.

Void of the in-your-face attention grabbers that trademark many of STA's always entertaining theatrical performances, "Our Town" was more subtle. The level of seriousness and depth set it apart from some of STA's most memorable past plays and musicals.

Our Town documents small-town life, chronicling the stories of the people of Grover's Corner. Emily Webb, played by senior Stephanie Chapman, and George Gibbs, played by Rockhurst sophomore Cary McRoberts, serve as the plot's focal points.

The audience follows them through their courtship as teenagers, their marriage as young adults, and eventually through Emily's death and even her afterlife. Insight is also given through other characters, most notably senior Anne Tampke's character, Mrs. Gibbs, and Kathleen Bryant's character, Mrs. Webb.

The play's themes are universal considering the isolated, small town setting it takes place in, Grover's Corner. The concept of carpe diem, or "seize the day" could definitely be applied. Also prevalent is the idea that no one and no place is perfect, even the seemingly picturesque Grover's Corner.

More essentially though, "Our Town" is a play about relationships. It examines relationships that remain ageless in any era, and that any audience member can relate to.

The hum-drum small town setting serves as the per-

fect backdrop to magnify and survey these relationships. The array of personal relationships allowed me to find relevance to my daily life within the portrayal of the characters.

Although the relationship between boy and girl is most central to the play's plot, the relationship between little sister and big brother, mother and daughter, father and daughter, neighbor and neighbor and husband and wife are all present in "Our Town."

The play timelessly portrays each individual relationship in a way that keeps it current and applicable to today's society.

The most memorable and noteworthy aspect of "Our Town" was the acting performances of Chapman, Tampke and Bryant. In their last show at STA, their tremendous talent was marvelously showcased. Chapman's innocence as Emily, Tampke's eeriness as the dead Mrs. Gibbs, and Bryant's chilling monologue as Mrs. Webb all were key contributors to the overall success of the show.

The girls got a chance to display their range as actors playing much more serious roles. Their ability to completely immerse themselves in their characters made the audience temporarily forget Bryant's hilarious portrayal of the queen in "Once Upon a Mattresses," and even Tampke's unique interpretation of Matt Stewart during last year's Student Productions, which was no small feat. ★

*"The level of seriousness and depth set ["Our Town"] apart from some of STA's most memorable past plays and musicals."*

### "Our Town"



"Our Town" opened and closed on consecutive nights: Friday Feb 22 and 23. Originally, opening night was scheduled for Feb 21, but due to weather, it was postponed.

Director: Ms. Shauna Prentiss  
Stage Manager/Narrator: Ellen Gude  
Mrs. Gibbs: Anne Tampke  
Mrs. Webb: Kathleen Bryant  
Emily Webb: Stephanie Chapman

Student Productions will be the next theater event to take stage at STA. The five student-directed performances will be showing Friday April 25 and Saturday April 26.

**Star gazing** ★ STA junior Laura Nendick and Rockhurst High School sophomore Cary McRoberts practice a scene from the play "Our Town" in a dress rehearsal Feb. 20 in the Auditorium. The show, written by playwright Thornton Wilder, focuses on the "little things" in life, such as conversation between siblings. **PHOTO BY CHARLIE CAMPBELL**

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## movie



There were few things that jumped to my interest in the movie "Jumper." With little plot development, as well as loose ends that were never tied, the enjoyable aspects of the movie were the eye candy and the special effects. Rachel Bilson and an occasionally shirtless Haden Christenson looked highly attractive, grabbing the attention of both sexes. Also, the special effects, regardless of the plot-line, were mind-blowing. The characters jumped from America to London to Rome in seconds. The best effect was when a character jumped from Tokyo to Egypt along with an entire bus.

-Paige Kuhlmann

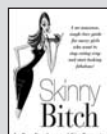
## cd



Jack Johnson returns to the scene with his new album "Sleeping Through the Static" rated number one on the Billboard charts for three consecutive weeks since its debut Feb. 5. The slow rolling tempo and island-flavored vibe is present throughout the former pro surfer's fourth solo album. The calm, carefree melodies are similar to those of past albums. However, "Sleeping through the Static" lacks catchy lyrics such as "Banana Pancakes" and many of the songs sound similar throughout. The gentle, rolling rhythms of Johnson's music and the nature-inspired language his fans have grown to love are what make this album successful and highly enjoyable.

-Michelle Reichmeier

## book



Rory Freedman and Kim Barnoui are two women with unrestricted sass preaching a change of lifestyle to their readers through "Skinny Bitch." Although they only address eating and exercise habits, their instructions seem life-changing. Freedman and Barnouin promote veganism. They back up their opinions against animal products with scientific and political jargon which can be boring, but the book always hits readers with humor. I learned plenty from these skinny bitches and am contemplating vegetarianism. I recommend this book to anyone who eats, unless they want to continue eating meat gag-free.

-Rosie Hodes

## tv



ABC's new show "Eli Stone" is about a successful, talented lawyer who starts having ridiculous musical hallucinations that his friend, an acupuncturist and theologian, tells him could possibly be God-sent visions telling him to use his talents as a lawyer to work for a greater good. While Eli struggles to adjust to the changes in his life, he begins to see what his visions really mean. While "Eli Stone" isn't your typical prime time drama or comedy, it is a clever mixture of the two. The show isn't afraid to tackle sensitive issues, from autism to racism, and it handles them tastefully.

-Charlie Campbell

## song



You know those songs whose lyrics are so poetically vague that you sigh or tear up, because you know the artist is singing right to you? "15 Step" from Radiohead's new album "In Rainbows" is one of those songs. At first the weird rhythm that characterizes Radiohead songs threw me off guard, but when a beautiful, melodious guitar floated in after the song's intro, I fell in love with "15 Step" and how it could match any mood I was feeling. The song and especially its lyrics made me feel depressed, restless and hopeful all at once. If you live your life through songs, "15 Step" is for you.

-Sydney Deatherage





## A passion for life

*Hospice patient looks back on 99 years*

by SARAH SMITH  
Section Editor

"Ooh wee, this must be the life," hollered 99-year-old John Allen as four STA hospice volunteers walked into his nursing home room. His big, strong hands with knobby knuckles and age-spotted skin held onto a Styrofoam cup with his favorite "cold stuff" inside. The walls were clad with pictures of his pet cats. He claimed to have had 20 of them at one point.

"John is a big, big hearted man," Sally Johnson, Allen's hospice home health aid, said. "He thinks that nothing or no one should ever go hungry."

This mind set comes from personal experience. Allen may not hear very well anymore but he is always willing to tell his story. He ran away from home when he was a teenager with nothing but 13 cents in his pocket. He said he rode the train for a few days with no food until he bought three crackers for one penny in Kansas City. He spent a few more years without a home and rode all over the Midwest, sleeping in train cars. He can still tell you where all the train stations are in Kansas.

Allen has been on hospice care for four months. Six seniors from STA chose Good Shepherd Hospice as their service agency.

"I chose Hospice because I thought it was really interesting that all the patients are terminally ill," senior Libby Hastert said. "It was something I was kind of uneasy about but I wanted to challenge myself and so far it has been really rewarding."

Allen will be 100 in August and the hospice staff hopes that he can hang on until then.

*"Every time I get another day it's like being in heaven."*

John Allen, Hospice patient

"Oh, I'm doing all right, yes I think I'm doing just great," Allen assured his visitors as he started to roll himself over in bed. He knew it was almost time for lunch.

"Once I get sat up, you girls might be in danger," he said with a smile. "Cause I'm hungry!"

He pauses for a second and brings his hand to his sunken in mouth.

"Oh darn, I've lost my teeth again," he said as he looked around for his dentures. That didn't stop him from thinking about food.

"I would love a T-bone steak and an egg and a potato," he said.

The tray of pureed vegetables brought in by the nurse would have to suffice for the moment.

Allen keeps an old toolbox by his bedside. Occasionally at the end of a meal he will stash the extra food in his box.

"Every time I go there, it's more of an adventure than a visit," Johnson said. She is often the one who cleans the food out of his box after he forgets about it.

"John has nothing, but he is so appreciative," Johnson said. She recalled one time that he started crying because he was so grateful when Hospice volunteers brought him new socks and a hat. "And, he has an amazing sense of humor for a 99-year-old."

Apparently ready for an after lunch nap, John started falling asleep mid-sentence. He pulled his long fragile legs back onto the bed and rested his wispy white head of hair on the pillow.

"Every time I get another day, it's like being in heaven," Allen said as he closed his eyes and fell asleep. ★



**Hospice help** ★ Hospice patient John Allen visits with senior Libby Hastert at his North Kansas City nursing home last Wednesday. Allen is 99 years old and has been with hospice for four months. **PHOTOS BY SARAH SMITH**



# sagas

Each year, STA juniors and seniors devote the last week in February to a service agency in Kansas City. Here are the stories of a few unforgettable characters they met along the way.

## A painful past

*Auschwitz survivor's experiences inspire students*

by JAIME HENRY-WHITE  
Section Editor

Walking into her small bedroom full of flowers, family photos and representations of her Catholic background, greeted by an “Oh ho, Hello...” and a small giggle, Vida Fantasma has all the make-up of an individual who has lived a normal, family-led, American life. The only hint that leads you to question a different past is her soft, but heavy Slavic accent.

“You come to visit me? Oh, well goodness it’s good to see you girls again!” she giggles. “Here, you sit here...”

Fantasma is one of over 100 residents who live at the Little Sisters of the Poor’s Jeanne Jugan Center in Kansas City, a nonprofit nursing home. This year, 10 STA juniors chose to volunteer at this organization during junior/senior service week.

“It changed my whole view on [the elderly] when they told me about their previous life,” junior Nicolette Anderson said. “They’re just like us but with different faces. They just think the world is for young people when really they are the people who have helped our generation today.”

On one of many visits to residents’ rooms, Anderson, as well as others, listened to stories of Fantasma’s life. After telling them about her love story with her husband, the restaurant she owned in Northeast Kansas City and her five children with grandchildren spread across the city, they never would have guessed that

Fantasma’s gray and blue eyes hide a more serious and dark past.

“I know her past is a lot of what she is today,” said Little Sisters’ activities director of 16 years Pat Benyo. “She is very cut and dry on how you should live your life type of thing.”

Long ago, in a painful time beginning in 1938, German Nazis took over and destroyed her hometown of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her family, friends and everything that made her 14-year-old self happiest vanished all around her.

“First they took the children away from the families,” Fantasma recalls, staring out the window, with a deep sigh before continuing. “They pick the young boys. Then, all at once, they take the rest to concentration [camps].”

One after the other, Nazis destroyed everything that made Ljubljana both functional and beautiful to Fantasma. Wheat farms and churches were set ablaze by grenades and flattened by tanks. Surplus potatoes stored underground in houses were poisoned. Towns all over the mountainous country fell into destruction. Nazi soldiers used Slovenia’s world-recognized holy land as grazing ground for their horses. People hanged from beloved apple trees by the highway.

“Such a long story, see. It’s a long story,” she said, staring blankly into the grey skies outside.

Over time, all of Fantasma’s family was hoarded into concentration camps and eventually killed. Fantasma was sent to Auschwitz. She still has no idea why she was sent.

“They threw children in a pile,” said Fantasma. “Just



**A gentle smile** ★ Little Sisters of the Poor two-year resident Vida Fantasma sits by the window in her room last Sunday. Ten STA juniors chose this agency to perform their service. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

like you throw the wood. I see myself. They made them die. I saw their arms still moving. Sometimes I don’t even want to talk about it; it was so cruel.”

In a blurred memory of events, Fantasma was told she was taking a shower, ended up escaping the gas chambers where many of her friends died and fled and hid within a Milan orphanage.

“They was always looking for me because I didn’t go back home, they took my citizen papers,” Fantasma said with another pause and sigh. “So I just closed my eyes and say, ‘Goodbye everybody.’ Lot of courage, right?”

Never to return home again, Fantasma choose to immigrate to America, arriving in Ohio in 1951.

“I love it here,” concluded Fantasma. “I take it as my own country. It’s not bad, I’m happy and it’s an opportunity.” ★

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**Soulful singing** ★ Jerome Seton sings his favorite gospel song in the cafeteria at New Mark Middle School last Friday. Seton moved to the America seven months ago from a refugee camp in Ghana. PHOTO BY SARAH SMITH

## Soaring to success

*Student finds new life away from refugee camp*

by SARAH SMITH  
Section Editor

“I want to be a pilot when I grow up,” said 12-year-old Jerome Seton with a toothy grin, despite the fact that seven months ago he had never even been on an airplane. He had also never been to the dentist, to a cafeteria for lunch, to a science class or to the United States.

Seton was born in Liberia, but moved to a refugee camp in Ghana called Budumburam where he lived for three years. He then moved to the United States with his father and brother. Seton attends New Mark Middle School where former STA Spanish teacher Ms. Heather Macintosh teaches English as a Second Language. Juniors Mary Jantsch and Linny Kaufman spent their service week there.

“Jerome is a sweet, sweet boy,” Macintosh said. “He is very hard working and always wants to learn.”

Kaufman also noticed his determined work ethic while tutoring him.

“Doing homework and taking tests is just a chore for [some students], but he is always so eager to do it,” she said.

Seton said school was very different in Ghana and sometimes there were 50 students in a class. While in Africa, he spoke a low level of conversational English because that was the only language all of the refugees had in common.

Seton’s mother and uncles are still in Ghana.

“When I grow up, I want to send for her,” he said. When Seton turns 18, he can begin the paperwork to bring his mother over. ★



# Taste of class's originality leaves me wanting more

JAIME HENRY-WHITE



TALK TO YOU LATER

My class never ceases to teach me something new about myself and the person I want to become. My classmates' outgoing personalities, irreplaceable qualities and ability to be themselves are huge building blocks in my high school world, a place prone to many lapses as well as growth. Here and there I find a hint of somebody's bright aura that I'd love to acquire. I discover a dash of generosity and achingly want to be just as selfless. And sometimes I

even sight the secret zest of another's newfound knowledge in the classroom that leaves me hungry to reiterate the same wisdom. What is so beautiful is how each ingredient of our junior class blends together to produce an indescribable flavor of originality and complete uniqueness found nowhere else. So, in a feeble attempt, I will try to compose a recipe of how to make our class, based on the wisdom I have found in the past month.

Step 1: Gather some spunk. First, add a giant Dalmatian. Then, add a multi-colored chicken. Throw in a bit of a hippie in metallic gold spandex full-out dancing to techno in the middle of the street. Let set for a while, and soon you've got a junior class scavenger hunt. Kicking up the spices. That's what we juniors do best. This was clearly shown when I pulled up to the start of my student created class scavenger hunt at Loose Park. Nowhere else

can you find a lion, turtle and people in purple unitards nonchalantly asking police officers for piggy back rides and Chipotle if you could make your own burrito.

Step 2: Somehow you have to mix all the ingredients together. Before creating the finished product, one has to blend everything together for that common cause. For us, this process could be called the junior ring ceremony. A ring could never mean so many things to so many people, yet also mean only one thing. Despite our differences and various interests, we share the unique quality of being able to love, have and express our own characters as an STA class.

Step 3: Finally, there has to be a means of baking the junior class into itself. And the way in which I think the juniors accomplished this task this month was through service week. Through nurturing others, we in turn

tended even more to ourselves. Our actions not only helped those at our service agencies, but hopefully helped us realize something new about ourselves and the type of world around us. When we join as a community and commit ourselves to service, we find a cause greater than ourselves that can drive us to challenge the comfort zone of daily.

Step 4: Enjoy! Before you know it, you've got one awesome and distinctive junior class. Without one ingredient, all is basically lost for the total product, at least the one I love and enjoy so much. Each aspect of our class is different for a reason and I love that the reason is just because that's who we are as a part of STA. Freshmen, sophomores and seniors certainly have an incredible bond to each other I will never really know. But, if you happen to encounter this delicacy of an STA class and give it a taste, I hope you glimpse what I luckily see all around me every day. ★

## Shopping: women purchase items to alleviate anxiety

Continued from page 11

McDonald said. She compared shopping to an emotion you can't turn on and off.

"There are those moments when I'm feeling kind of down or someone's hurt my feelings and I shop just to spite them."

McDonald tries to be financially responsible for her purchases, however.

"Actually, I'm kind of weird," McDonald said. "Because I have this problem of shopping, I have a debit card just for shopping."

McDonald explained that when she started having to pay for her own car insurance, she set up a second bank account to keep track of the money she spends shopping as opposed to what she spends on things like insurance and gas. Dolan, however, said she often witnesses people who spend large amounts of money on clothes, but don't seem worried or concerned that they've put such a dent in their budget.

"I don't know if it's because they don't have financial issues or if they just don't worry about their money," Dolan said.

McDonald said she often goes shopping with something specific in mind to purchase. Dolan said that she sees people shopping with a purpose like that sometimes, but more often, people come in to shop with no idea of what they want.

"I see it as a social event," Dolan said. "People go shopping with their girlfriends to look and try clothes on." ★

## Piano: Copenhaver chose to pursue soccer over piano

Continued from page 17

Copenhaver's hidden talent. She said she doesn't tell a lot of people about it because she is embarrassed for them to find out.

"I know a lot about her past with piano, though," Scott said. "I was in beginning piano and she helped me out, like with 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' and 'Titanic.'"

Copenhaver said she still has all of her old books from past recitals and competitions. She said she pulls them out every once in a while and picks up her forgotten talent once she starts playing an old song.

"I guess people don't really know [I played] because I've never played at assemblies or mass and I don't really talk about it since I stopped [playing] when I was a sophomore," Copenhaver said.

Katz said many people may not know about Copenhaver's past with the piano because she may just want to keep it confidential.

"Audrey won many awards and just had natural, innate ability," Katz said. "She was the sweetest girl. I miss her a lot and wish her the best." ★

## Correction

In issue 4 of *The Dart*, the headlines on the front page and page 2 mischaracterized the decision to drop the essentials of algebra course. The decision was made by STA's administration.

## Horizon: students from both schools enjoy evening

Continued from page 10

Junior Stephen Breiby, last Friday's dance was an "awesome event." He enjoyed being able to meet new people and spend time with his friends.

"Without you guys at St. Teresa's, [the dance] wouldn't be so fun," Breiby said. "You are the life of the party."

The STA girls who attended the dance had the chance to interact with students from the school. STA junior Kate Bohnert opted to participate in the Horizon Academy's dance rather than attend STA's junior ring dance.

"I still have more dances at STA, and I decided that I'd take this opportunity [to go to the dance at Horizon Academy]," said Bohnert. "I thought it'd be a more valuable experience."

Bohnert enjoyed the Horizon Academy dance experience where she joined other students in dancing, laughing, and mingling.

"It was an uplifting experience," Bohnert said. "For me to realize that I can make someone's evening by just dancing with them altered my viewpoint on life and makes me appreciate the little things."

Kennedy hopes to host a similar dance at Horizon Academy next year. It brought out many smiling faces, and she appreciated the immediate connection between students of the two schools.

Bohnert also enjoyed the night and the experience.

"It makes me so happy that our school can participate in these activities," Bohnert said. "By participating in them, I think we fulfill the mission of St. Teresa's." ★

## News ★ Briefs

### Class of 2013 registers for freshman courses

Freshmen Registration night was Feb. 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Goppert Center. This year, 143 freshmen registered, which is around the usual amount of students in a class. Coordinators have a process for planning the event, and according to director of admissions and marketing Roseann Hudnall everything ran smoothly. They checked forms concerning new criteria carefully. The Star Shop made thousands of dollars in profit. The faculty met the class of 2012 for the first time. "You could feel the enthusiasm and spirit in the room," Hudnall said. ★

### Language department revises lab policies

The foreign language department will implement a new policy for the language lab next year. Levels one and two will have assigned lab times each week, but levels three and four will not. Each level will have class five times a week because of teachers' desire to have more interaction time. According to department head Alice Amick, the fifth day of class and group discussion will prepare students for advanced placement testing and college better than independent work in the lab. ★

## Meyers: Instructor praises junior's humble attitude

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on a correction he gave her almost a month ago.

"She is the perfect student," Duus said. "She's very, very nice to all other dancers around her and she is very humble for a dancer. In other words, for how talented she is she doesn't let it go to her head. She not selfish at all and she's very willing to help other people."

As Meyers waits her turn to dance again, her mind wanders to the summer programs that have accepted her. She looks about the room, wondering if other students have received letters as well. Though she's both curious and excited, she decides to wait until someone else

brings up the subject.

"Basically it's just really, really exciting [to receive a letter of acceptance]," Meyers said. "I don't like telling people a lot, but there are a lot of people who are really supportive, like Sally is really supportive. But even to Sally I don't want to be like 'Sally, guess what I got my letter!' so I just keep quiet."

As class concludes, students pass by Duus with quick curtsies and thank yous. Meyers approaches, wanting to ask a few questions of advice. Eventually she says "goodbye" and walks into the noisy hall of chatting girls to once again join the mass of pink and black.

"She's developed into a very incredible young lady," Duus said. ★



# Law bans cyber-bullying

by MADDY McGANNON  
Section Editor

Last November, the death of 13-year-old Missouri Megan Meier created national attention regarding cyber bullying. Meier began chatting with Josh Evans through MySpace, and his hurtful comments resulted in her suicide. After the police investigated her death, it was concluded that "Josh Evans" was Lori Drew, the mother of a friend Meier had been fighting with. Meier's family immediately searched for some kind of punishment for Drew's actions, yet there was no law to be found.

As a result of the suicide situation, Missouri created a cyber-bullying law. Governor Matt Blunt formed an Internet Harassment Task Force in January. This proposed that harassing someone through an electronic device would be considered a crime, as well as state education officials considering requiring a computer ethics and etiquette class. Harassment is defined under the law as causing a reasonable person to suffer "substantial emotional distress." However, guidance counselor Karen Sinco believes the term "cyber-bullying" is too broad.

"This type of bullying is very common and is a growing problem," Sinco said. "It means more than just saying 'You're fat and ugly.' [Cyber-bullying] can include girls sharing secrets or posting embarrassing photos."

An anonymous STA student was cyber-bullied by a girl in her grade through a personal website called Xanga.

"I think she bullied me to feel better about herself," she said. "She even told another classmate that she needed to get liposuction. Luckily, what she said to me wasn't too hurtful."

Both Sinco and the student agree teens find it easier to bully over the internet rather than in person. Harassing someone over the internet is now punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and 90 days in jail. According to *USA Today*, states including Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey and Oregon passed cyber-bullying laws in 2007 and Maryland, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont are considering similar legislation this year.

"I think [cyber-bullying] can really get inside of your head," the student said. "You could always erase the words from the website but it will never go away." ★

# Lacrosse: Team learns basics, gains confidence

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for each other, there's no need to feel nervous and the girls can play better," Orndoff said.

The team jumped into action last Sunday when they faced Notre Dame de Sion High School at Rockhurst High School. STA was losing 10-0 at halftime and the scorekeepers stopped counting, but the team will have some practice time before their next game in early April.

Orndoff believes it will still be two or three weeks before the majority of the players will feel comfortable with the sport. Both her and Hanna's goal is to win at least one game this season, but Orndoff said that even if that doesn't happen, this season will be a success because it has broken barriers.

"We just want to get people interested in lacrosse and spread the interest throughout the school," Orndoff said. "I think all the girls are enjoying learning something new and having fun." ★

# Basketball: Stars pleased with season despite loss

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just really good to get a win in."

Sophomore varsity player Avery Adams agreed with Gray.

"We were really excited because it was the first time STA has gotten to the district championship in a while," Adams said.

According to Adams, in the following championship game Feb. 22, STA came out strong and did better than expected.

"We were only down by nine at the half," Adams said. "That was really a good thing for us because we all went to the locker room pumped since we had previously lost by a lot to them."

By the end of the third quarter, the Stars were down by five.

"It was exciting being within five points of Hickman Mills when they are such gifted athletes," Adams said. "During the same point of the game earlier in

the season we were down by like 40, so that was a big turn-around."

Gray said Coach Collins encouraged the girls not to be intimidated by Hickman Mills.

"[Coach Collins] just said that we have nothing to lose," Gray said. "She said it's all on their shoulders for being 25 and 0. She just wanted us to play hard and go out there to play our best."

Hickman Mills defeated the Stars after STA lost the tight point spread they had gained.

"Everyone in the locker room was disappointed, but it wasn't that bad," Adams said. "We all knew it was the end of a really long season and everyone was really happy about that."

STA was awarded a trophy and a plaque in the shape of Missouri for taking second place at district.

"We don't get a banner," Adams said. "But we get a sweet plaque!" ★

# Lent: Students challenge themselves during holy season

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Coleman also explained that many people have strayed from Lent's purpose, but fasting meat has revived the season.

"You're asked to fast four Fridays of 365 days and some people can't even do that," Coleman said. "You begin to realize how a simple piece of chicken gives you energy and gives you back life. You remember that Lent takes self discipline."

McCue has decided that after Lent

she will likely become a vegetarian, however, Coleman will not. McCue explained that her dependence on meat has been unnecessary and she, Coleman and Gigliotti agreed that their Lenten practice has unleashed a self discovery.

"[Giving up meat] has made me aware of what you do and don't need to rely on," McCue said. "God has always said He will sustain us and give us what we need, so the process has given me more reliance in Him." ★

# Spring Break: Parents determine expectations for drinking

Continued from page 2

I am at all times and she wants to know where I am too... She has lectured me about my surroundings."

Caywood, on the other hand, knows her mom's reasoning for coming is not to be a chaperone. Ms. Catherine Caywood, Hailey's mom, says that while she does want the girls to have fun, she also wants them to make smart decisions.

"[I just want them] to have fun and be safe and responsible," Catherine said. "They should enjoy Spring Break and have fun with their friends. I do not know if I necessarily have any rules per se."

Hailey feels that her parents have realistic expectations.

"I think that my parents' rules are pretty lenient," Hailey said. "There are certain family structures that work on rules. My family has never been one for strict rules."

## strut your stuff



**Walking in the rain** ★ Seniors Libby Ring, left and Molly Hamid walk down the catwalk at the Mother Daughter Luncheon/Fashion Show last Sunday. Both were decked out in full J.Crew while other girls supported clothing from stores such as Francesca's, The Tennis Set, Under the Palm Tree and more. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**



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**Dancing with the Stars** ★ Keely Wallace practices a cheer leading routine she learned at school. Wallace's mother is an alumna of STA. PHOTO BY SARAH SMITH



**Throw your hands up** ★ Lucy Wagner practices hula hooping. PHOTO BY SARAH SMITH



**Runway drama** ★ Above: Keely Wallace, left and Susan Kearns walk the runway in their dress-up clothes at Girls Just Wanna Have Fun March 2. Five girls from the Down's Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City came for a day of crafts, cookies and dancing with members of STA's National Honor Society. Left: Senior Betsy Koehne, left, dances with Grace Walline. PHOTO BY SARAH SMITH



## NHS members plan **Girls' Day Out**

St. Teresa's Academy's NHS service committee hosted a party called "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" for young girls with Down syndrome March 2 in Verheyen. NHS paired with an organization called the Down Syndrome Guild to invite the girls to enjoy a fun-filled day with activities and food.

The festivities consisted of ribbon twirling, hula hooping, a fashion show, cookie decorating, picture frame decorating, pizza and more. Five girls, ages 8-12, were guided by NHS members in the activities.

Most of the girls invited to the party agreed that NHS met their goal of providing an enjoyable time for the girls with Down syndrome.

"Ribbon twirling was my favorite part because I am the best at it," 10-year-old Susan Kearns said at the party. "It was fun to have a fashion show and pose for pictures while I twirled the ribbon."

The service committee used a portion of NHS's fund-raising account to buy supplies for "Girls Just Want to Have Fun." This was NHS's second year participating in the occasion and they plan for it to become an annual event.

"I think the whole day turned out really well," senior service committee member Maddie Hickey said. "You could tell that the girls were having a lot of fun. It made them feel special because the whole day was all about them." Story by Taylor Brown



**Strut your stuff** ★ Above right: Susan Kearns, left, steals senior Bailey Lynch's wig during a dress up session. Above: Lucy Wagner, left, and senior Claire Hickey show off their outfits for a runway show. PHOTO BY SARAH SMITH