

the

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

dart

volume 68★ issue 9 ★ may 14, 2009

SENIOR  
i s s u e 2009



letting go

Senior Class of 2009  
says their good-byes

# last Jantsch

Like her three sisters and three cousins before her, senior Mary Jantsch is graduating and leaving behind tattered, hand-me-down STA polo shirts as she heads off to college

by ELIZABETH WILSON  
Managing Editor of Copy

There is a story behind the brick in the middle of the quad that reads, “which Jantsch are you?” It is the same story behind the holes in senior Mary Jantsch’s STA polo shirts, the reason social studies teacher Patrick Sirridge is always saying, “[Jantsch], you’re a walking uniform fine,” the same reason math teacher Jo Weller has a tendency to call Jantsch by her older sister’s name, ‘08 alumna Ellen Jantsch, every day and the same reason why social studies teacher Denise Rueschhoff asks Mary whether she is Ellen or Mary, even though Mary is in Rueschhoff’s World Cultures Club.

Seven Jantsches have been in and out the doors of STA in the past eight years and Sunday, the last Jantsch will graduate.

According to Mr. John Jantsch, father of

four of the seven Jantsch alumnae (’04 alumna Jenna Jantsch, ’05 alumna Sara Jantsch, Ellen and Mary), he and his wife, Ms. Carol Jantsch, purchased the brick in the quad when Jenna, their eldest, was a freshman.

“Teachers would always say, ‘which Jantsch are you?’ [because] Jenna [and her cousins, ’04 alumnae] Jenny and Diana [Jantsch were all in the same grade],” John said.

Jenny also has a sister, ’07 alumna Michelle Jantsch — that makes seven.

Each Jantsch was involved in several different activities during her time at STA. Namely, sports. According to Mary, when people hear, “Jantsch,” they expect to find an athlete.

“People think I’m going to be really good at sports,” Mary said. “[Head soccer coach Scott] Siegel and [assistant soccer coach Jeremy] McElduff expected me to be really good. When I tried out freshman year, they were asking me about club teams and I was like, ‘I just like to play soccer.’ [Fine arts teacher Lisa] Dibble was like, ‘You’re an athlete, you’re not going to be good at art.’”

John believes he and Carol have attended nearly 200 to 300 STA sporting events among their four girls over the past eight years.

John said going into it, he and Carol knew their girls would probably be involved in many activities, just as they were in grade school. He said they often did a “divide and conquer” kind of thing, and Carol added that attending all of their events was never a chore.

According to Mary, although the Jantsches are known to be athletes, her parents have always supported and emphasized her doing her own thing, which she has done as a member of the *Teresian* yearbook staff.

“[They’ve emphasized that] I don’t have to do sports if I don’t want to,” Mary said. “They were open to letting me do what I wanted to do.”

John and Carol sent their girls to STA because they about live two minutes away and because they wanted them to get a good education.

“It was between STA and [Notre Dame De] Sion and the girls just wanted to go to STA,” Carol said.

John and Carol also wanted their girls to know the value of traditions, have close friends and be prepared for college. They believe STA has made a positive impact on each of their girls.

“They are independent women — that’s for sure,” John said. “They are very open-minded and accepting of people and school had a lot to do with that.”

When reminiscing upon what Jenna’s first day of high school was like eight years ago, Carol jokingly said, “who knows.” What John and Carol do know, however, is that Mary’s first day of high school was less dramatic than Jenna’s.

“We knew what to expect,” Carol said.

Mary commented that this is why there are five pictures of her and a “million” of Jenna.

Each year, with the exception of Jenna’s freshman year and this year, John and Carol have had two girls at STA since Jenna started



**End of an era** ★ Senior Mary Jantsch poses with her family’s brick. Jantsch, who has three older sisters and three older cousins who graduated from STA, will be the last Jantsch to graduate from STA Sunday. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

high school. Sara was one year behind Jenna, Mary is one year behind Ellen and Sara was a senior when Ellen was a freshman.

According to Mary, it has not been all that different being the only Jantsch at STA this year.

“Teachers still call me Ellen,” Mary said. “Ellen and I would drive together in the morning. I get there 15 minutes later without



**Family pride** ★ Senior Mary Jantsch places her hand on her family’s brick in STA’s Quad. This branch of the Jantsch family, which has four daughters who attended STA, purchased the brick because teachers would always ask, “which Jantsch are you?” PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

Ellen.”

John and Carol believe this year has been a little slower paced, having only half the activities to attend. Carol said she will be teary-eyed at graduation and added they have been saying everything is the “last” time they will do things.

“It was the ‘last’ spring break, the ‘last’ prom,” Carol said.

Mary said she and John tried really hard in the annual Father Daughter Dance competition since it was their last shot.

Through their four daughters, several dozen high school dances and hundreds of STA sporting events, Carol believes she and John have mastered a few things in their eight years of experience of having a daughter at STA.

“[We’ve mastered] making peanut butter sandwiches at 6:30 [a.m.] and we’re done,” Carol said with a laugh.

Carol said it has been nice having daughter at STA for eight years.

“We’ve thoroughly enjoyed it,” Carol said.

John also believes it has been nice getting to go through the same traditions and activities with each girl. He said Mary’s sisters have enjoyed hearing about her going through the same things they went through in high school.

John and Carol are unsure as to whether or not they will continue to attend STA events once Mary graduates, as they have already been to most of them, several times. But, they said they will be doing other things with their time like traveling to Spokane, Wash. where Mary will be attending Gonzaga University in the fall.

“We’ll move on to the new things that everyone’s doing,” Carol said.

And as for Mary who has been wearing the same STA polo shirts Jenna wore when she was in high school, whose holes are frayed at the seams, her days of having her parents tell her, “Mary, you just have to hang on,” are over. At least for now. ★

## The four Jantsch sisters

and their activities at STA

### Mary senior

- ★ volleyball (3 years)
- ★ soccer (1 year)
- ★ lacrosse (1 year)
- ★ yearbook (3 years)



### Ellen

’08 alumna

- ★ volleyball (3 years)
- ★ soccer (4 years)



### Sara

’05 alumna

- ★ volleyball (2 years)
- ★ dive team (2 years)



### Jenna

’04 alumna

- ★ volleyball (4 years)
- ★ swim team (2 years)
- ★ basketball (1 year)



# Roommates continue the sisterhood

Graduating seniors decide whether to dorm with a friend or stranger in college

by KYLIE HORNBECK  
Page Editor

As the class of 2009 seniors near graduation, they bid their farewells not only to the academy but also their lives as high school students. Many look forward to attending a college or university in the fall where they will be surrounded by a multitude of unfamiliar faces in mostly unfamiliar environments. A number of these soon-to-be college freshmen also await a new form of accommodation: the dorm.

Students will have to learn a brand new lifestyle in which they will live predominantly on their own. Many colleges and universities give students the option to either select her roommate or to “go potluck” and spend her entire freshman year with a randomly chosen girl. According to STA senior Kenzie Robbins, there are many girls who plan to room with one another as well as a number of girls who are going with the potluck choice this year.

Robbins, who plans to room with best friend senior Leah Barthol at the University of Missouri in the fall, believes that this rooming situation will ease her transition into college life.

“It would be fun to room with a new person, but I think Leah and I are going to be perfect,” Robbins said.

According to Robbins, the two have known each other since third grade and have recently grown exceptionally close.

“[Barthol and I] always have so much fun together,” Robbins said. “I’m just excited to room with her and meet new people together. And if we can get along so well, why not room together and stay together?”

Similarly, Barthol believes that sharing college experiences



**Laugh it up** ★ Seniors Leah Barthol, left, and Kenzie Robbins joke around while getting ready for a night on the town May 10. The pair decided to room together next year at the University of Missouri. PHOTO BY AVERY ADAMS

with Robbins will allow them to keep a close relationship. The two discuss plans for their room nearly every day and have decided to decorate it with a “beach” theme. They hope that their room will become “the party room” and that they will fill their freshmen year with many memorable moments.

“We have such a good relationship,” Barthol said. “We never fight. We just get along so well. And also, we like to have memories together and laugh at the past, so we want to create

more memories together.”

According to Barthol, she and Robbins are in an ideal situation despite the fact that some of their classmates believe that rooming with a close friend will result in conflict.

“There’s the stereotype that since you’re friends, it won’t work out well, but I know for a fact that with Kenzie it will,” Barthol said. “We don’t dwell on the stereotype because we know that [our situation] will work out.”

On the contrary, STA senior Molly Fakoury, who will attend

Texas Christian University in the fall, prefers the potluck option. After watching her brother go through an unpleasant experience from sharing a dorm room with a close friend his freshman year, Fakoury decided that she did not want to room with someone she knew.

“Now that there are several people going [to TCU] that I do know, I want to meet more people,” Fakoury said. “[It will be nice] just that I’ll meet someone completely new with potluck and have a new group of friends. I’m

kind of nervous as to the kind of person I’ll get [as a roommate] but either way, things will work out.”

Although she believes there will be challenges in learning to share a living space with someone she has never met, Fakoury is optimistic about her situation. According to Fakoury, choosing a roommate may be the right decision for some people, but she is excited to room with a completely new person. The most important hurdle will be learning to adjust to college life itself, she said. ★

## ‘Rowdy’ class leaves legacy of happiness, not disappointment

A GUEST COLUMN BY



SALLY NULTON

Ever since I was little it has been my nature to get myself into trouble. It’s not that I was a bad kid; it’s that no one understood that a sense of humor was the only way I make it through the school day.

This is why I feel that I fit perfectly into my Class of 2009. We are not necessarily the easiest bunch to tame. Whether it is dancing on top of cars in the parking lot before and after school, setting off alarms inside our lockers or throwing cats into classrooms, our class will leave our mark as the rowdy bunch.

Though this is a quality we possess, I have also come to know that my class is extremely intelligent. The young women I have been blessed to attend this fine academy with for four years are some of the most inspirational people I know. I find it pretty contradicting that we even thought to call ourselves “the disappointments,” when in fact we are anything but disappointing.

We are leaving a legacy that I hope the other classes following us will carry with them. The talent my grade contains seems unreal. I read pieces of writing and gaze at artwork created by my own classmates and they amaze me.

Sometimes the greatest things aren’t placed

right in front of us. Sometimes we have to look. This definitely applies to my class. Judging from the cover we are

“Whether it is dancing on top of cars in the parking lot before and after school, setting off alarms inside our lockers or throwing cats into classrooms, our class will leave our mark as the rowdy bunch.”

Sally Nulton, senior

130 wild girls just looking to have fun. But if someone really took the time to explore our class they would find talented artists, amazing writers, singers that bring tears to your eyes, passionate athletes, and genuine friends.

The most important things that have helped form me as an individual are the memories I have created with these outstanding young women. Many moments at St. Teresa’s are merely measured by hours, minutes and seconds, and then slowly lost. But there are some moments that linger in our brains and create an everlasting memo-

ry that we cannot erase.

I have been fortunate to have been given the opportunity to surround myself with classmates who, just like me, wanted to make school as fun as possible. I can pretty much say that I have done everything I wanted to in high school thanks to my class. I pride myself on being able to say that I looked forward to every day of my high school career not only because I learned so much from my outstanding teachers, but because my grade made the learning atmosphere fun.

The Class of 2009 brought life into those three brick buildings and I feel sorry that we all have to leave so soon. Even though I’m sure that it is a calming thought to think that the obnoxious seniors are now replaced by calm hallways, I know we will be missed.

So the question is: Are the girls who make up the Class of 2009 disappointments? Well I would definitely be disappointed if I had to spend time at the Academy without the girls that make up my class. So the answer in fact is yes. I’m sorry we’ve disappointed you in knowing that you’ll have to stick it out without us. ★

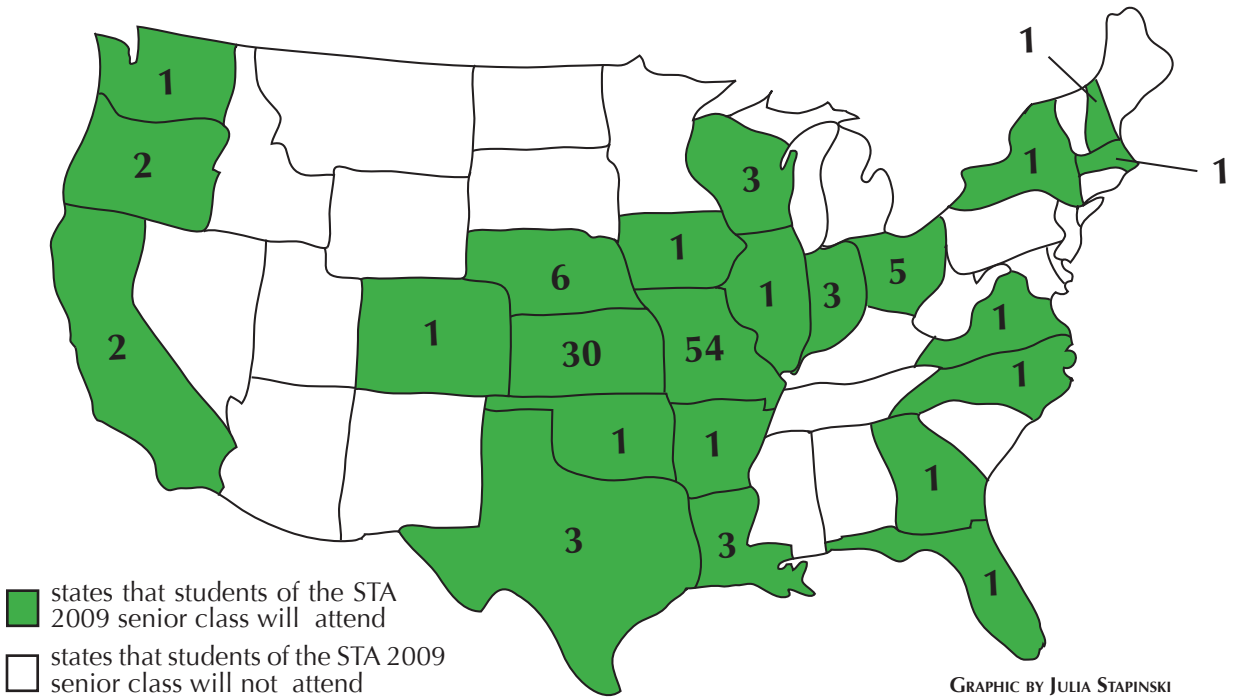
# Coast to Coast

## Top 10 Colleges:

The following is a list of the 10 most popular colleges and universities the STA class of 2009 will attend in the fall, the number of students and the percentage of the graduating class attending each school.

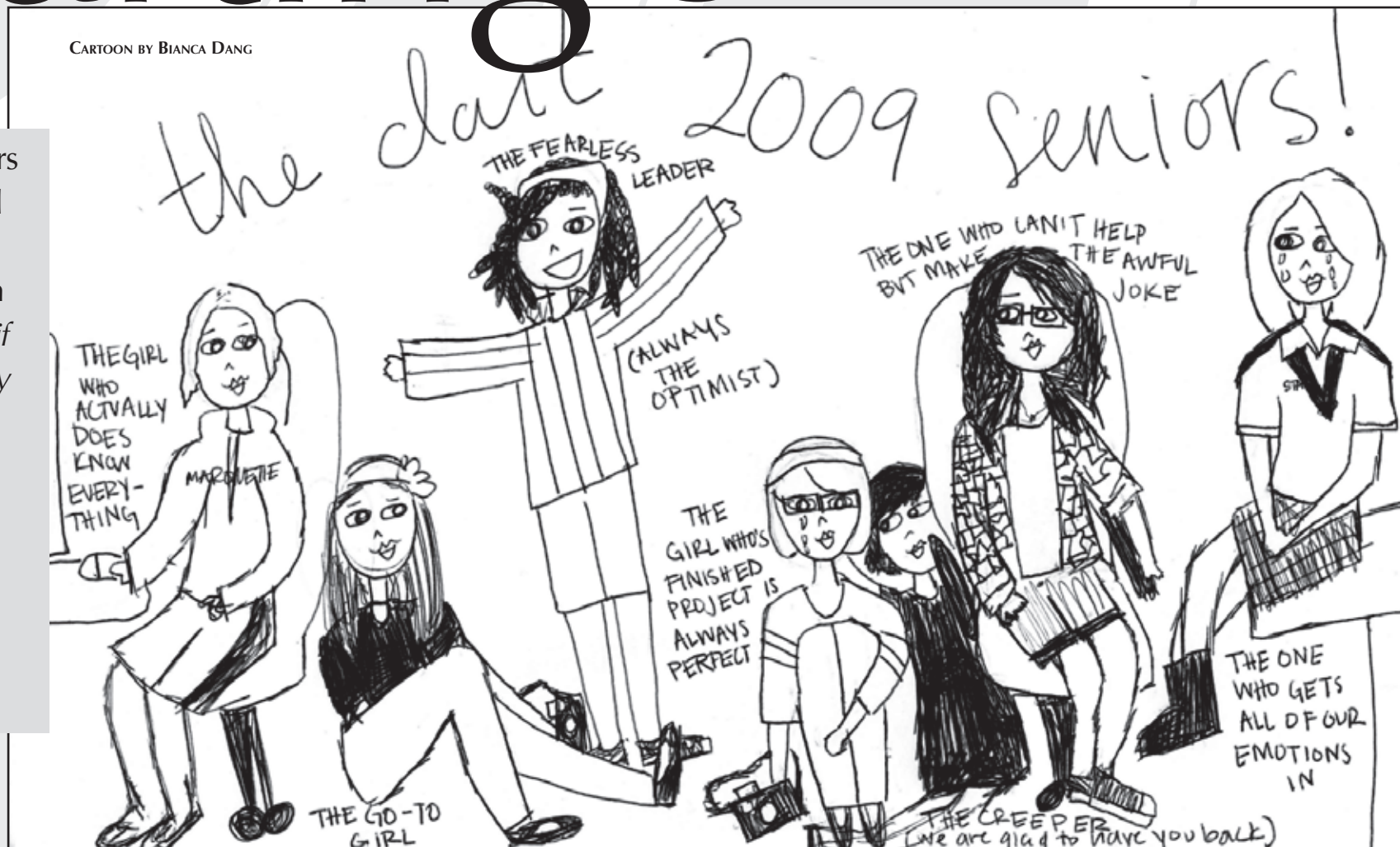
- 1. University of Missouri Columbia: 30 students will attend to account for 23.1% of the class of 2009's student population**
- 2. University of Kansas: 21 students (16.1%)**
- 3. Kansas State University: 10 students (7.7%)**
- 4. University of Central Missouri: 7 students (5.4%)**
- 5. Creighton University: 6 students (4.6%)**
- 6. Saint Louis University: 4 students (3.1%)**
- 7. Marquette University: 3 students (2.3%)**
- 8. Missouri State University: 3 students (2.3%)**
- 9. Texas Christian University: 3 students (2.3%)**
- 10. University of Dayton: 3 students (2.3%)**

The 2009 senior class will send its **130** graduating students to **42** schools in **23** states next fall. See the class' distribution based on number of students planning to attend each state:



# Darting off

Dart staff seniors share their final submissions to be published in *The Dart*. See if you can identify the newspaper seniors in the cartoon. Then, you can check it against the answer key on the page "g."



## Once upon a publication night

by ALLISON POINTER  
Dart Senior

3:00 p.m. "Biancaaa!"  
"Haley stop whining and get over it."  
"Bianca, shut up."  
A typical start to a typical publication night. Bianca Dang rolls her eyes to Haley Vondemkamp's plea as the rest of *The Dart* staff continue on normally, being quite accustomed to the unending bicker. Normal being the irony here. Normal consists of Sydney Deatherage meowing throughout the night. Normal consists of Jaime Henry-White having an emotional breakdown, due to some kind catastrophic "tragedy." Normal consists of Rosie Hodes continually making sarcastic remarks at every possible moment. Normal consists of eavesdropping on Kayla Loosen's phone conversations: "Oh my god. Shut up! Nuh uh! How could she do that?" Normal consists of Caroline Quinn frequently asking everyone to settle down but is just as frequently unsuccessful. This is normal. This is our routine.  
5:00 p.m. The next argument of the night arises.  
"I say chipotle."  
"Haley, when do you not want chipotle?"  
"Hey! Hey! I am a vegetarian! No chipotle!"

"Shut up Bianca."  
6:00 p.m. Dinner arrives. Due to being banned to eat in M205, we make our way down to The Commons. Here we answer the "question of the night" or obsess over every possible move Mr. Thomas's daughter Ella makes, arguing who she likes more or who she wants to sit by, only to be rejected. By a three-year-old.  
8:00 p.m. The freaking out kicks in. Mr. Thomas makes his way around the computers, showing us the exact way to make the text box fit, only to press the dreaded 'undo' button. The next twenty minutes consists of searching for some miracle to undo his undo instead of figuring it out on our own.  
8:15 p.m. Haley and Bianca fight.  
8:30 p.m. Crunch time, and it's not pretty.  
9:30 p.m. In a perfect world this would be when we would export the paper.  
9:45 p.m. Bianca and Haley make up just in time for Haley to give Bianca a ride home.  
10:00. The long-awaited departure.  
It is easy for me to say that even though publication nights kept me up way too late and stressed me out to the point of non-focus, I consider them to be some of the best nights of high school. To all of my fellow Darters, you are the best newspaper sisters a girl could ask for. You all made the chaotic nights that much more perfect. ★

## I'll miss STA, Critter, & everything between

by LINNY KAUFMAN  
Dart Senior

As I was stalling for extra time on our gorgeous campus after our final day of school last Tuesday, I found a five-inch-long Chihuahua resting in my palm. Naturally, I took this Chihuahua inside of M&A, not Nardy, and first revealed her to Ms. Berardi and her daughter, Marin, who didn't believe she was a real dog.  
Next, Brady and I carried the pup to my second home at STA, the publications room, hoping to find Mr. Thomas and maybe some other yearbook, newspaper or advisory stragglers. Upon my arrival, Mr. Thomas seemed hardly surprised. "This would only happen at STA," he commented, for once seeming to enjoy my antics, probably just because the puppy was so cute.  
After searching a bit more around the school to no avail, I went back out to the Quad. I noticed Betsy Tampke slyly sleuthing behind a tree by Verheyen, and I summoned her over to see my new best friend. She approached apprehensively, clearly worried I was planning some prankage and my hands were actually filled with water balloons or some type of powerful, spraying squeeze cheese.  
Feeling a bit rejected from my friends con-

stant assumptions that I was pulling a prank (although probably for good reason), I reminded myself that I was snuggling with an adorable puppy the size of my hand, and I tried to pretend today wasn't my last day as a student at the Academy. Wallowing in sorrow, I peered towards Donnelly only to observe the most beautiful sight I possibly could have witnessed at that moment: Critter, in all his glory, prancing across the Quad.  
His handsome, wild fur and brisk strut made me realize I didn't need hand-held Chihuahuas to keep me company in the absence of my 530 plaid-skirted sisters. I knew in that moment that Critter's spirit, STA's pranks and humor, and the love of the Academy would be with me for eternity.  
I'll miss random moments like the Chihuahua shenanigans on my last day of school. I'll miss our beautiful publications room and staff. I'll miss student productions and pep rallies, volleyball and theme games, Kairos and the campus ministry workroom, beginning piano and the second floor of M&A, roaming the schools hallways and everything in between.  
But I'm completely convinced that I'll never forget the amazing memories I've made at our school. Thanks for four wonderful years, STA- you rule! ★

## I hereby bequeath...

The last will and testament of each Dart staff senior



Caroline Quinn

...to Rosie Hodes: glueing articles to contest entry forms until the cows come home



Linny Kaufman

...to Cassie Redlingshafer: academic teams beat brief



Bianca Dang

...to Morgan Said: my token minority status

# MAD LIBS

by CAROLINE QUINN  
Dart Senior

Throw on a skirt and come with me. Today we're going to take a stroll through the historical Music and Arts Building of St. Teresa's Academy in Kansas City, MO. At this fine 142-year-old school, you'll find the second floor gang throwing helpless girls into **(plural noun)**, "and if by chance you take my place, I'll take my fist and smash yo face!!!" scribbled on bathroom stalls and girls jumping **(adjective)** through choir room doors with no glass plate.

First stop: the motherboard of this establishment - the M&A office. Here, a Ms. Julia Berardi throws **(plural noun)** at unruly students who refuse to leave the office, or ones who make convenient 11 a.m. calls to their parents, saying they forgot they had a **(weird sort of doctor)** appointment.

We'll take the stairs down now to the lower layer, where a teacher has been awarded best "moon shoes and **(kind adjective)** sweaters" by Association for Theology Teachers.

Next door, Ms. P the drama teachers rants about something like, "I'm Director of Performing Arts - spread it."

Let's skip the second floor for now and go right to the third floor. You might want to grab your ear **(protective item)**, apparently the English teachers think the louder they lecture, the more students get out of it. From the center of the hallway one can hear 17 voices scream that they would never marry a **(type of monster)** who expected them to have children, and see 20 unsuspecting freshmen staring at a J. Crew-draped woman sitting cross-legged in her chair, laughing uncontrollably into her Diet Coke.

Yes, we'll finally hitch it to the famous second

floor. We must warn you: go behind the partition at your own risk. Be careful not to **(verb)** Linny's spine or you may be sporting a black eye for the week. And if you get a chance, check out her socks - they never match, and usually are discolored with **(plural noun)**. While you're back there, you'll spot Haley **(verb)** under her breath "uhhhhhh, my parents seriously said I am not allowed to eat at Kin Lin" while her barefoot toes slide across the floor. At this point, Bianca is likely to say "wow, Haley, you are such a brat" for the **(large number)** time this hour. Bianca looks around, slyly minimizes her features page, and begins to scroll through the

pages of the **(prestigious college)** web site. Allison glides like a gazelle through the room, barely lifting her feet from the floor and not making a sound. She's been finished with her pages since **(historical date)** and they look like they're from *The New Yorker*. Jaime is nowhere to be found. Thirty minutes after this "publication

night" has begun, she tries to waltz in unnoticed. But the girls fire questions at her, and she throws her hands defenselessly in the air and **(sad verb)** at the computer, staring at an empty front page until 7 p.m. All the while the web editor works on her *Carlie* blog - duh, what else would you call it? - interjecting every so often with a cutting remark like "sweeeeet guys" or a loud **(exclamation)**.

I suppose we could move on to the other building now, but something tells me we should stay. Things are settling down for the minute, and one can find an odd comfort in the swift united taps of keyboards, the low hums of Taylor Swift, cell phones buzzing, and outbursts of "meows," "blah-hh," and "Mr. Thomas!" ★

## HOW TO PLAY

Grab a buddy and have her fill in the blanks. Don't read it until all the blanks are filled. If she knows the story before doing the MadLibs, it won't be as fun!

## The Dart: Love it, hate it, do whatever

by HALEY VONDEMKA  
Dart Senior

You've heard every senior say it. It's thrown around nonchalantly with other classic clichés. "STA is my second home." But this one, I use not to be cheesy or overly sentimental. I say it because honestly, I can't think of a better way to describe this place. So, I state with no apologies, STA is like my second home.

Each morning, I stroll into the front doors of Donnelly, never too worried that the advisory bell rang as I was still making my way down Wornall, and instantly, I'm in my comfort zone. Instantly, I can just be.

You couldn't convince me there's another high school where I could waltz into the President's office to steal mini Butterfingers. No-where else would I feel at home enough to, much to Mr. Thomas' dismay, spend more than half my time barefooted.

But, I'd be lying if I said I've felt this in my element since freshman year, when instead of coolly strolling through Donnelly's halls, I was falling hard onto its tile floor, the one I now know as a seasoned senior takes the phrase "slippery when wet" to an entirely new level.

Here's where *The Dart* fits in.

I joined *The Dart* my junior year and found my first home at STA behind the infamous partition. Whether I was poking fun at my van-driving self in a silly column or writing about real teens suffering through depression in a news story, I had a voice that mattered at STA.

In my second year on *The Dart*, I've not only

maintained my home, but I've found a family within a family. Whether breaking it down on the dance floor at journalism mixers, dealing with notorious flashers at camp or scarfing down way more Waldo pizza than should ever be consumed at publication nights, there's never a place I'd rather be when I'm with the *Dart* staff.

There are six of you, though, that kind of take the cake. My fellow seniors, my partners in journalistic crime, I want to wrap up my last *Dart* column in homage to you.

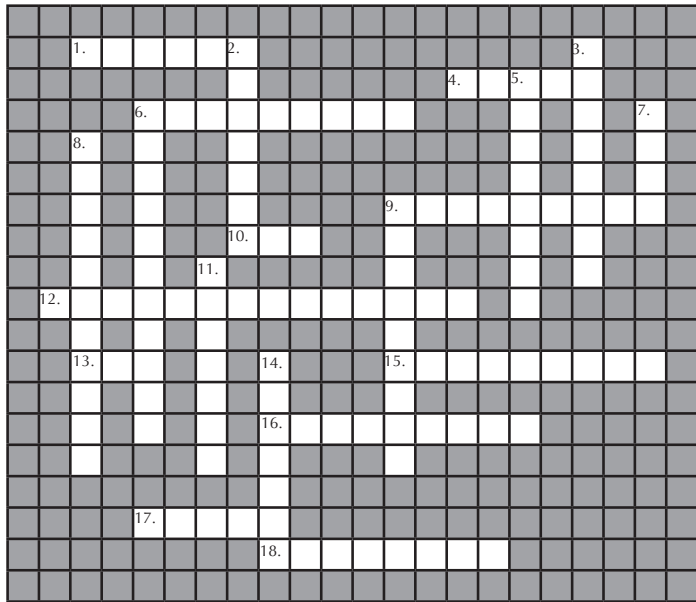
Bianca, as your ever-present Stanford sweat-shirt never ceases to remind me, I dread the day I must look farther than the next iMac to bicker with you. Caroline, I hope our telepathy will defy state lines so we can keep laughing at the things only we find hilarious. Allison, you'll take your "listening skills" to a new level at KU. I can't wait for frequent text updates. Carlie, even without Mr. T's influence, I'll still be calling you Caroline when reunion time comes. Linny, go tone a photo. In all seriousness though...a dime a dozen. And Jaime, we've probably cried enough for the entire student body of Agnes Scott. Let's keep the tears flowin' and bump our average up to five phone calls a week night.

Now that I've thoroughly confused my readership, I'll end just as cheesily as I began. To my *Dart* staff, by helping to build my first home at STA, you made all the experiences I've had as a resident of this entire Academy that much better. I love you, I'll miss you. *The Dart: Love it, hate it, do whatever.* ★



**Jaime's Last Photo** ★ Award-winning academics beat brief writer Linny Kaufman creeps on Managing Editor of Visuals Jaime Henry-White, while editor-in-chief Caroline Quinn canoodles an unidentified cat-like staffer, as managing editor of design Allison Pointer slyly listens in on the never-ending battle between page editors Haley Vondemkamp and Bianca Dang below her, and all-knowing webmaster Carlie Campbell wonders why she is even there.. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

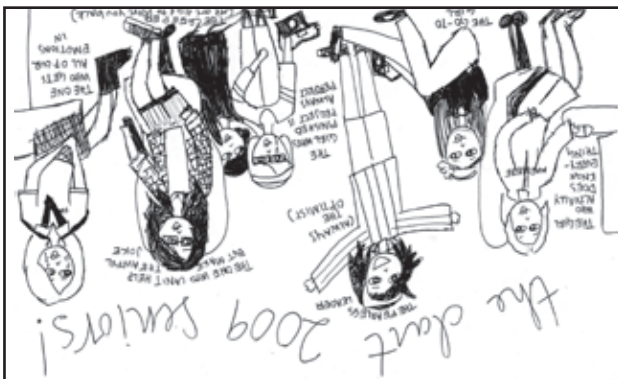
### [carlie's senior crossword]



**Down-** 2. Last November, I woke up for a "fire drill" at 2a.m. in \_\_\_\_\_ at the NSPA convention. 3. Last Tuesday, I celebrated my last \_\_\_\_\_ party. 5. I will miss doughnuts on \_\_\_\_\_ mornings. 6. \_\_\_\_\_ already misses the Student Productions cast. 7. I will miss yard days and eating in the \_\_\_\_\_. 8. I already miss newspaper \_\_\_\_\_ nights with *the Dart*! 9. I will miss donning ridiculous costumes each December for the \_\_\_\_\_ dance. 11. April 30 was the last day I will ever wear my \_\_\_\_\_. 14. I will miss random bursts of "Happy Birthday" in the \_\_\_\_\_ at lunch.

**Across-** 1. Freshman year was the only year I played \_\_\_\_\_. 4. This year, I \_\_\_\_\_ in the presidential election. 6. I will miss driving around on \_\_\_\_\_ collecting for Food for Thought. 9. This is the last \_\_\_\_\_ I will create for *the Dart*. 10. I have only received one \_\_\_\_\_ for the past four years. 12. I enjoyed being without an \_\_\_\_\_ this year. 13. I will miss seeing Goppert filled with ridiculous stuff during \_\_\_\_\_. 15. The senior class loves to surprise STA on Fridays with \_\_\_\_\_. 16. I am excited to attend Marquette University in \_\_\_\_\_ next fall. 17. I spend almost every day mods 1-2 in the \_\_\_\_\_ classroom. 18. On April 29, I attended my very first Fine Arts \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answers- Down:** 2. St. Louis 3. advisory 5. Thursday 6. Harry Potter 9. Halloween 10. SBR 12. accountability 13. TNT 15. Theme Days 16. Milwaukee 17. Latin 18. Showcase



**CARTOON ANSWERS** ★ The girl who actually does know everything: Carlie Campbell. The Go-To Girl: Allison Pointer. The Fearless Leader: Caroline Quinn. The girl whose finished product is always perfect: Jaime. The creeper: Linny Kaufman. The one who can't help but make the awful joke: Bianca Dang. The one who gets all of our emotions in: Haley Vondemkamp.



**Jaime Henry-White**  
...to Avery Adams: creepy photoshopping while I should be working on pages



**Allison Pointer**  
...to Mollie Pointer: model photoshoots



**Haley Vondemkamp**  
...to Taylor Brown: leftover Waldo Pizza and tub of ranch dressing



**Carlie Campbell**  
...to Sydney Deatherage: www.dartnewsonline.com

# Seeya, seniors

Seven girls, seven personalities, one Dart: A farewell from the remaining Dart staff to our graduating seniors

We love you seniors, oh yes we do. We love you seniors, and we'll be true. When you're not near us...

Wait. Why wouldn't you be near us? Doesn't time stop in May and we spend the rest of our lives together eating, looking at pictures of Ella and Owen and spurring Haley and Bianca's arguments?

It's time to face the facts. Time goes on and our favorite seven girls are going off to face the real world on the other side of the partition. We have no doubt that you'll face the world with poise, but for us it means we have enormous, stylish shoes to fill.

Carlie's kind shoes: No matter who loses "nose goes," Carlie hops right out of her chair and makes the trek down stairs. She might tell us we're lazy before she goes, but that doesn't make it any less kind. Hey Carlie, who's the patron saint of journalists and accomplished deadlines?

Bianca's creepy shoes: Bianca's man dance, her tendency to follow Mr. Thomas anywhere he goes, and her awkward additions to conversations make her presence vital for *The Dart*. Who else could bring our conversations to such a point of ridiculousness that we must abandon them and start focusing again?

Jaime's attentive shoes: A word of advice: don't sit next to Jaime if you want to quietly throw out random expletives to yourself and not be laughed at. Also, witness the process of Jaime agonizing over four front page possibilities, asking anyone's opinion, saying "Ughh, I don't know!" and starting over to create a

masterpiece.

Linny's distracting shoes: She could be showing you pictures from Paraguay, sporting eye-catching socks, or simply talking your ear off. Linny makes getting the job done a more difficult, yet more enjoyable task.

Allison's quiet shoes: It's not the quiet moments we treasure about Allison, they just make the incredible one-liners that much better. Sometimes what she's saying isn't even that funny, but because it's Allison we laugh ten times harder. Also, how on God's green earth do you manage to work on your pages for days, completely start over with two hours left, and still create beautiful pages?

Caroline's shoes: Caroline doesn't even need an adjective because it's *everything*. Dedication, leadership, hard-work, humor – you name it. Caroline keeps us at a perfect balance of fun and seriousness. Also, who's going to write every centerspread story next year?

Haley's whiny shoes: Just kidding Haley – Bianca whines more. You've got talent, humor, and a huge appetite. You're always a good friend when getting thirds at dinner. Not to mention your beautiful thumbs.


So, it's safe to say that you seven are the best *Dart* seniors in the history of the newspaper. We'll try our best to make you proud.

It's a rare thing for us to say anything serious behind the partition, but in all seriousness, we love you guys and you've made this year's *Dart* the best it could be. ★

## top nine [[things to do before graduation]]

- 9 Discover whether or not the underground passageway from M&A to Donnelly actually exists
- 8 Run through the quad like a maniac and observe the underclassmen's reactions
- 7 Participate in a see-who-can-go-the-longest-without-shaving-their-legs contest
- 6 Pretend you "accidentally" let Critter inside
- 5 Find out which teachers have candy (Ms. Conner, Mr. Bertalott, Mr. Egner, etc. The rest are for you to find)
- 4 Boogie at a parking-lot dance party
- 3 Take one last nap in a unsuspecting teacher's classroom
- 2 Chill with Ms. Berardi and "go to a doctor's appointment" during lunch/activity
- 1 Scatter hundreds of dead fish in the Quad

COMPILED BY ELIZABETH WILSON AND MORGAN SAID


<p>“Seniors should be able to go out to lunch as long as they're back for classes.” – Ashley Zondca, senior</p>		<p>“In Algebra 1 you have to get a C+ or above to move up to the next math class...I don't think that's fair. At any other school as long as you don't get an F, you get to move on.” – Kaitlin Arnold, senior</p>
---	---	--


<p><b>Say WHAT?</b></p> <p>“When you're a senior, you should be able to leave for lunch if you're not on accountability.” – Abby Deuthman, senior</p>	<p><b>What would you change?</b></p> <p>Compiled by Megan Schaff</p> <p>“I would make the parking lot bigger and I would have an open campus.” – Megan Owara, senior</p>
---	--


## looking BACK


From wild bolts to Goppert for pizza, to pencil bags stuffed with hamster wood chips, to volleyball practices after dancing in the rain—it's all been a part of four great years at STA

COMPILED BY LAUREN PASZKIEWICZ

	<p><b>Emily Orndoff</b></p> <p>My favorite moment at STA senior year can't be narrowed down to one. I have had so many great conversations in the CRC with people that I haven't talked to in months or even years. One of the best moments is one during activity period when me and five seniors couldn't find a place to go and the CRC was closed but the door was open so we decided to sneak in. We sat on the floor and under the table for Activity period. Activity was over and we were all about to leave but when we stood up someone saw Ms. Colby and we all dropped to the floor. She obviously saw us and walked in and couldn't believe seniors were hiding on the floor and under tables. No one got in trouble but it did scare all of us and it is a great story to tell. ★</p>
---	---

	<p><b>Kate Bohnert</b></p> <p>My favorite memory from STA would have to be this year during clubs. When Mr. Shrock came on the announcements telling the school that SADD club had one pizza left and to stop by his room, I dropped everything. I bolted out of the auditorium, abandoning my Drama Club meeting (I'm president, so that makes it even worse). I sprinted out the front doors of M&amp;A, nearly knocking over Mrs. Hudson and Ms. Dunlay. Other girls from French and Community Service Club ran with me across the quad. I saw girls lose shoes and sweaters. We stampeded into Donnelly, only to find out that the pizza was gone already. Never in my four years have I run so fast, nor have I witnessed such energy amongst the girls at STA on a Friday afternoon. ★</p>
--	--

	<p><b>Kaitlin Zidar</b></p> <p>One of my favorite memories at STA happened second semester freshman year in the back of Mrs. Blake's double mod Honors Biology class. I sat at a table with Linny Kaufman and Molly Fakoury every Tuesday. Linny and I stole Molly's pencil bag just to watch her reaction, but she didn't notice it was missing. So we thought it would be funny to hide the bag in the hamster cage. Then we filled it with the hamster mulch from the cage. After we slyly hid the bag, we were dying laughing like on the verge of tears, when Mrs. Blake stops the lecture and asks us if something was wrong. When really, we had no clue what we were learning because we had been spraying Molly's legs with the cleaning spray the entire class. Only at STA... ★</p>
---	--

	<p><b>Nicolette Anderson</b></p> <p>Freshman year our freshman volleyball team had practice at 5:30 after school one day after varsity practiced. We were all hanging out in the cafeteria as we would everyday before practice, eating graham crackers and popcorn. Suddenly it started pouring down rain and our entire team ran outside and played in the storm in our quad for like 20 minutes. Coach Dolan got mad at us and told us to come in because we were going to be all wet for practice, but we didn't care so we practiced in our soaking wet clothes. I will never forget it because frosh volleyball was where I made some of my closest friends I have today. ★</p>
---	---



loser  
geek  
slacker  
goth  
feminist  
nerd  
emo  
cheerleader  
punk  
player  
ghetto  
fatty  
poser  
dork  
burnout

# Pushing Stereotypes

Culture and subconscious influence  
preconceived notions of teenagers

See page 6 - 7



# Committee selects new principal

New principal comes to STA Thursday to meet teachers, get acquainted with school

by KAYLA LOOSEN  
Multimedia Editor

After searching for nearly two months, the STA search committee announced Apr. 30 that current Our Lady of Peace catholic grade school principal Barbara McCormack will fulfill the position of STA principal for academic affairs at the conclusion of this school year.

For the past 37 years, STA's academic affairs have been led by current principal for academic affairs Nancy Hand. However, Hand was recently asked to resign after President Nan Bone initiated steps to build her own team of administrators and staff. In doing this, Bone created a search committee to assist in the hiring process of the new principal. The committee was composed of STA faculty and affiliates who work directly with the president including principal for student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker, administrative assistants Marion Chartier and Kelly Drummond, teacher representative Mary Montag, CSJ Sister Ruth Stukel, college counselor Debi Hudson and admissions director Roseann Hudnall. It was this team who came to the consensus that McCormack embodied all of the qualities for the administrative position.

"We had a committee which represented every aspect of St. Teresa's from when students enter until they leave," Bone said. "During the interviewing process, we had a list of questions that we felt were very important in getting to know all of our candidates."

According to Bone and Hudnall, there were roughly 15 to 20 applicants who applied for the position. However, only four were interviewed for the job and asked questions about their experience dealing with curriculum, parents and teaching.

"Before those interviews, [the search committee] discussed ahead of time topics that we thought would be pertinent to everybody in the school," Hudnall said. "Basically we just asked a lot of questions that we thought would be an opportunity for [McCormack] to get her educational philosophy out on the table."

According to Bone and Hudnall, the requirements for the position were a master's degree in secondary administration or curriculum and an experienced administrator. In addition to having all of these things, McCormack had something extra.

"I'm working on Education Specialist degree as well at [University of Central Missouri] and my goal is to eventually have a superintendent's license as well as a secondary administrator license," McCormack said. "So I have a lot of ambitions and probably even further down the road, a doctorate."

Currently, the position of principal for academic affairs entails being in charge of student aca-



**First Appearance** ★ Newly chosen principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormack, left, greets the STA faculty and staff as President Nan Bone looks on. McCormack is coming to STA from Our Lady of Peace grade school. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

demical life, curriculum, scheduling, hiring faculty, the curriculum council, the financing committee, the diversity committee, the athletic boosters, the guidance department and working with the athletic director. Despite these many jobs, Hudnall realized after the interviewing process that McCormack will accomplish all of these tasks and more.

"You know, we just kind of figured out what our feeling was after [each applicant] left us and there were some applicants where we had strong feelings that they would be a great administrator someday but maybe not for us right now," Hudnall said. "Fortunately, after [McCormack] left we were pretty blown away. We just kind of walked away saying 'wow.' I mean, no one could really come up with an area she needed to work on and I didn't know that I would feel that strongly about any person."

Although McCormack has worked as principal of a grade school for the past 10 years, Bone also believes she is capable and will easily adapt to the high school environment.

"There's certainly going to be a learning curve for Barb," Bone said. "The difference is that as an elementary person you don't really have the depth of the curriculum but you have the breadth of the curriculum. Is Barbara very capable of learning the rest? Absolutely. It doesn't take long if you look at the program of studies, visit with curriculum council and figure out how a student moves through the system."

Likewise, McCormack believes she will flourish at STA and has not let the differences between STA and her former occupations intimidate her.

"I believe that STA has the sense of community and legacy that brought me to actually considering it as a job opportunity," McCormack said. "It



**Laugh It Up** ★ Ms. Barbara McCormack, Principal of academic affairs, shares a laugh with her new co-workers. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

has a faith-based formation, rigorous curriculum and you see success in students which is definitely well-proven through the achievements your students have been getting."

Last Thursday McCormack visited STA for a meet-and-greet reception and on Friday came to speak to the staff and become further oriented with the school and staff. According to McCormack, the entire hiring process has been an excit-

## Staff gains new athletic director

Sorting through resumes, administration chooses new athletic director

by MEGAN SCHAFF  
Opinion Editor

After receiving over 80 applications and interviewing 10 candidates, president Nan Bone and the STA administration have chosen Mr. Mark Hough to fill the Athletic Director position.

Hough is currently the assistant Athletic Director and sports information director at Greenhill School in Addison, Texas. Hough also serves as the sports information director for the southwest preparatory conference, which includes "producing and maintaining the official conference website and collaborating media relations for the conference, made up of 18 private schools in Texas and Oklahoma," Bone said in an letter the school is sending out to STA parents, informing them about the new director.

"I think you will find [Hough] a very approachable athletic administrator," Bone wrote. "I believe he will collaborate with coaches, athletes and parents to develop the full potential of each of our young women athletes."

Hough will be replacing current part-time Athletic Director Mike Egner, who has held the position for 10 years. Next year, Egner will become a full-time social studies teacher and devote his time completely to teaching in his classroom in the back of the Goppert Center. ★

ing one.

"You know, a new experience always brings out the jitters or the butterflies you might say," McCormack explained. "I enjoy taking risks and challenging myself and setting the bar high. So it brings about a new sense of enthusiasm and energy and motivation for me to take this step."

Hudnall explained that she thinks there is no one better suited for the job than McCormack.

"In my opinion I am not glad that she is going to be our principal because she was the best to choose from," Hudnall said. "I'm glad that she's going to be our principal because I think she is simply the best and that's a huge difference in my mind. We were really fortunate that we found the best. To be honest, I could not have created a principal that will meet our needs better than [McCormack]."★

## inside out



### Centerspread:

The Dart explores stereotypes and discovers what STA students think.

See Pages 6-7



### Feature:

Sophomore Süe Seemani struggles as her mother battles the AIDS disease.

See Page 8-9



### Entertainment:

Kicking off summer vacation, The Dart put together activities to keep you busy this summer.

See Page 11

# From the minors to the majors

Years after bad experience, junior hopes to hit the right notes at Kauffman Stadium

by ROSIE HODES & ELIZABETH WILSON  
Editor-in-Chief & Managing Editor of Copy

When junior Hope Stillwell stands on the field to sing at the Royals game against the Cleveland Indians Wednesday, she will try her hardest not to relive the disappointment of her first "National Anthem" performance.

In 2002, clad in her red cowboy hat, butterfly boots and white dress, Stillwell's fourth grade self stood before the crowd at a T-Bone's baseball game, including her mom, Ms. Amy Stillwell, siblings, and dad, Mr. Robert Stillwell, with a video camera.

She began singing the National Anthem and, after the first line, realized her microphone was not on. Hope continued singing, although she had begun to cry, and soon developed a nose bleed. After T-Bones officials started playing recorded music over Hope's singing, she walked off the field to a medical station where she met Slugger, the T-Bones mascot, and changed into complimentary, blood-free T-Bones apparel. Later, a recovered Hope sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh inning stretch.

"No nose bleeds or mic mess-ups that time," said Hope, now a junior at STA.

Since Hope's T-Bone's performance, she has performed at many Kansas City sporting events including Wizards and Royals games.

Hope has the opportunity to sing for the Royals because she distributed CDs of her singing to local sports teams a few years ago and received invitations to sing the past two summers and, most recently, for next week's game.

Although Hope is accustomed to performing in front of crowds, she is nervous for her performance because she has to concentrate while singing to avoid falling into the trap of listening to the "ridiculous" echo a large stadium creates. Hope's mother feels nervous for performances also.

"I always wonder, 'How is she really feeling?'" Amy said. "Sometimes I can't tell because she has so much poise."

According to her father Robert, Hope has had confidence in her singing from a young age. In the past, Robert and Amy often listened to music in the car with Hope and were surprised when she could sing with what Amy called a "little vibrato...coming out of a little child."

Hope began taking singing lessons in



**Don't Stop Singing**★ Junior Hope Stillwell, who will sing the National Anthem at a May Royals game, has been singing since she was in third grade. In 2002, Stillwell, left, participated in a Radio Disney contest and placed third and in 2008, sang the National Anthem at a Wizards game. **SUBMITTED PHOTOS**



third grade and has been involved in several performances including STA's "Little Women." She said the intimate atmosphere of a school musical actually makes her more nervous than a Royals game. Amy expects the upcoming Royals game to be Hope's largest crowd so far because it is College Night and the Royals have been in first place in their division recently.

"It is so much easier [to sing] at a Royals game," Hope said. "I will never see those people again. But at school I know like three fourths of the people in the audience and that's way more intimidating."

According to Hope, her parents try to attend all of her performances, large or small scale. They support her singing career, which Hope

would like to continue in the future, but is wary about the unpredictability of the profession.

"I am hoping she keeps it going forever, even if it's just for Church," Robert said.

## Want to sing at the K?

To apply to sing at the Kauffman Stadium, an applicant must send a CD of themselves singing to the main office or send an email with name, address and phone number, along with an attached audition file, to [perform@royals.com](mailto:perform@royals.com). All prospective National Anthem performances must be 90 seconds or less in length, the traditional rendition and A Capella. Anyone is welcome to apply.

"[When I see Hope performing], I get a sense of awe. I am so proud of her I almost want to cry sometimes."

Amy feels there is "nothing better" than seeing Hope perform and that singing is a passion that will always be a part of her life. She believes opportunities like singing at the Royals game are great things for Hope to

experience.

"I always tell her, 'God doesn't give you a gift without opening doors to use it in some way'," Amy said.★

## DARTBOARD

by MICHELLE REICHMEIER

### Math team fourth in state

The STA Math Team placed fourth out of 42 schools in the Missouri Math League Competition March 24, earning the title of regional champions. They beat Lee's Summit West High School by one point in the six-round competition.

"The girls are always strong and always do well [in competitions]," moderator Ms. Jo Weller said.

The goal of the Math League competitions is to cultivate student confidence and interest in mathematics through teamwork and problem solving.

The in-school contest consisted of six rounds with six questions per round with a 30-minute limit. Members of the team split up into two groups to efficiently tackle each problem. Contest questions, ranging from Algebra I to Calculus, were designed to cover a variety of mathematical knowledge for each grade level.

"We love getting new people because the more people we have, the better it is for the in-class tests," junior Stacy Hymer said. "But, we always have interesting days where we can't agree."

Hymer recollects a humorous moment that occurred during an in-school test.

"Once when we went to fill out the answer sheet, we had a 15-minute heated debate on why a certain answer was the way it was and filled up all the chalkboards in [Weller's] room," Hymer said. "She was giggling at her desk because, as the moderator, she couldn't say anything."

Weller encourages students from different grades and skill levels to join the team.

### "Little Women" nominated

The fall theater production of "Little Women" received two Blue Star Award nominations May 4 for the 2008-2009 school year. The nominations include Outstanding Scenic Design and Group Ensemble.

The Blue Star Awards Ceremony is May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Starlight Theater. The ceremony is open to the public, and cast and crew members encourage students and faculty to attend and support the theater department.

Sponsored by Starlight Theater and Blue Cross Blue Shield, Blue Star annually recognizes the work of high school musical theater programs in Kansas City.

Last year, junior Julia Barnett won the Outstanding Character Performance award for her role as King Sextimus in "Once Upon a Mattress."

## the dart staff

Adviser  
**Mr. Eric Thomas**

Editor-in-Chief  
**Rosie Hodes**

Managing Editor of Copy  
**Elizabeth Wilson**

Managing Editor of Photos  
**Tracy Burns-Yocum**

Web Editor-In-Chief  
**Sydney Deatherage**

Centerspread Editor  
**Taylor Brown**

Sports Editor  
**Mollie Pointer**

Managing Editor of Web  
**Morgan Said**

In Focus Editor  
**Taylor Irwin**

Photographer  
**Avery Adams**

Web Multimedia Editor  
**Kayla Loosen**

News Editor  
**Shaughnessy Miller**

Graphics Editor  
**Julia Stapinski**

Web Technology Editor  
**Michelle Reichmeier**

Opinion Editor  
**Megan Schaff**

Features Editor  
**Madalyne Bird**

Writers & Photographers  
**Susie Ancona  
Lauren Paszkiewicz**

Lifestyles Editor  
**Caroline Thompson**

Page Editor  
**Kylie Hornbeck**

Entertainment Editor  
**Micah Wilkins**

**Ownership and sponsorship:** The Dart is created by the student newspaper staff and is published by general operating funds of St. Teresa's Academy, a Catholic institution sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The Dart will not publish opinions that contradict the teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church, whether on a diocesan or worldwide level.

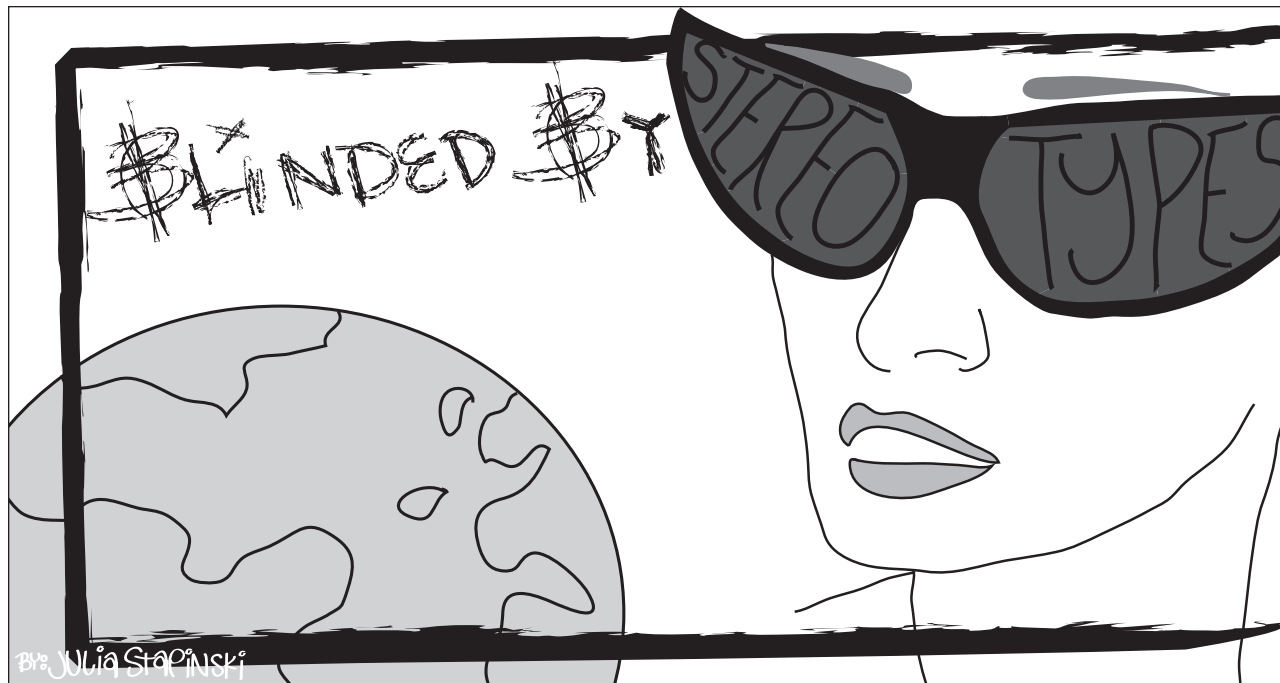
**Editorial Policy:** The staff of the Dart is subject to prior review by the St. Teresa's Academy administrative team in circumstances that concern student safety and illegal behaviors by students. Otherwise, the policies above will guide the Dart. The Dart intends to be a public forum for voices regardless of diverse ages, sexes, races, cultures, religions, or beliefs. Signed columns reflect the opinions of the individual, not necessarily the newspaper staff or the school community.

**Letters Policy:** The Dart encourages letter to the editor about topics covered by the paper or other issues. Letters can be sent in the following ways: in person to Mr. Eric Thomas in Music & Arts 205; by mail to St. Teresa's Academy, Attn: Eric Thomas, 5600 Main Street, Kansas City, Mo 64113; or by e-mail to [ethomas@stteresasacademy.org](mailto:ethomas@stteresasacademy.org) or to [dartopinions@hotmail.com](mailto:dartopinions@hotmail.com). Letters should be limited to 250 words. The Dart staff reserves the right to edit or shorten letters for publication.

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

**Corrections Policy:** The Dart will print corrections as soon as possible after the error is discovered.

## Here Comes the Sun



# Freaks, geeks, goths and snobs: stomping out stereotypes

People who attend private schools are snobs. Teens who play sports are stupid. Students who excel in honors classes are geeks. The kids who wear dark clothing are goths. Women are weak. Children who attend inner city schools live in "the ghetto."

Stereotypes are all around us. They can be found in the media, school or between individuals. In today's society stereotypes are just the beginning of a cycle of oppression and prejudice.

But, what stereotypes do outsiders have of STA? The most common ones we hear are that we are preppy, stuck-up and pretentious. Usually there are comments about being spoon-fed, but we wonder if these outsiders know just how many students attending STA are here on scholarships or who pay for their tuition themselves. STA provides over \$400,000 yearly in financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

Another common theme that arises from stereotypes about STA and most private schools is that the students are sheltered. It begs the question: are we missing out on real lessons in our life because we do not attend a school with a high diversity level?

As a single-sex school, the STA student body

is constantly faced with being labeled as a bunch of feminists. Although STA has the staple of empowering young women and minds, it is radical to label a whole student body as feminist. This title may be true for some, but not for all.

Dr. Bailey Jackson, a professor at the Uni-

versity of Massachusetts, lists the reasons for this cycle of stereotypes.

According to his work entitled "Cycle of Prejudice and Oppression" [the cycle] begins when a person is born into a society. This person is then exposed to a systematic training where they are taught by myths, stereotypes, misinformation, missing information and a biased history. These thoughts only continue to be taught and reinforced by family, friends, religious institutions, the media, the government and cultural "standards."

Eventually, these thoughts are internalized by a person and they begin to believe that the stereotypes and lies are the truth, seeing differences among humans as a negative thing. The reason why this cycle is rarely broken is because of the societal message that most are raised with is "do not make waves and do not challenge the status quo" as stated in Jackson's work. The bottom line is that when a person immediately jumps to a conclusion about another, they are robbed of the opportunity to expand their comfort zones when meeting someone new. Our DNA makeup and human nature makes it essential that we group people into categories and make assumptions about them. People depend on stereotypes to make it through the day. By placing people in their own categories, such as the freaks, geeks and the popular kids, our minds are put to ease thinking we understand that person's general personality.

Stereotypes are a common part of everyday life. Yet, the mere existence of them damages our view of people, places, and communities. They blind us from real life and the opportunity to grow together, as classmates and sisters. So think twice, STA, before we allow stereotypes

The staff editorial represents the views of *The Dart* editors

**16 out of 16 editors voted in support of this editorial.**

Dr. Bailey Jackson, a professor at the University of Massachusetts, lists the reasons for this cycle of stereotypes. According to his work entitled "Cycle of Prejudice and Oppression" [the cycle] begins when a person is born into a society. This person is then exposed to a systematic training where they are taught by myths, stereotypes, misinformation, missing information and a biased history. These thoughts only continue to be taught and reinforced by family, friends, religious institutions, the media, the

"The stereotype of all-girls private schools has been set in society for so long... It is so easy for people outside of our community to be stuck in their presumptions because they have no idea what really goes on inside of STA's walls."

— Mollie Caffey, senior  
Compiled by Megan Schaff



"STA is stereotyped because of its unique all girls environment. People use stereotypes on things they don't know or don't understand. And I guess people don't truly understand how great our school is."

— Kelsie Fiss, junior



## Say WHAT?

### Why do people stereotype girls at STA?



"We go to a really nice school and that makes people want to target us. It's not like girls at STA are brats about money, but that's how some people want to perceive us."

— Elise Ferron, sophomore



"Going to an all-girls school is relatively uncommon. Because we're different than everyone else, it's easier for people to stereotype us."

— Katie Hyde, freshman

## 30 seconds with ...

Compiled by Megan Schaff

**Alexis Collins**

**Q How does it feel to finally be leaving STA?**

**A** It's unbelievable. The past four years have gone by so fast. It's sad, but at the same time it's really exciting.

**Q What was your last day like?**

**A** It was kind of surreal. It hasn't really hit me yet... I couldn't even fathom not going here and not being on campus and not being a part of the community.

**Q What are you going to miss about STA?**

**A** Everything. I'm going to miss the Quad..., star cookies, the food. Everything.



**Q What are you looking forward to about college?**

**A** I'm looking forward to a new experience. It's just a whole new chapter and I get to meet new people. It's a whole new step.

**Q Do you have any advice for next year's senior class?**

**A** Stay focused and don't get ready to leave too quickly because it goes by so fast. And don't get senioritis... It's important to stick it out until the end because after that, it's over.

# STA teachers plan grade-A summer fun

Once grades are submitted, teachers flee the classroom and begin plans for break

by MORGAN SAID  
Managing Editor of Web

## Four-wheeling fun

After a week of preparation and loading their helmets, elbow pads, kneepads, chest protectors and riding boots into their camper, a family of three will venture into their RV in the early morning fog to begin their sixteen-hour drive to Moab, Utah. As math teacher Ms. Jeannella Clark and husband Mr. Stacy Clark load their five-year-old daughter, Valerie, into their camper and attach their three four-wheelers onto the back, they're finally all set to go.



Clark

From the day he was born, Stacy was a devoted horseback rider. That is, until he laid his eyes on a dirt bike.

"I managed to talk my folks into buying me my first dirt bike for \$100," Stacy said. "That was a mistake for them...bye, bye horses, hello horsepower."

Now, twenty-two years later, Stacy has owned over twenty dirt bikes and four-wheelers and is still in pursuit of the "perfect ride." Stacy said that Moab, Utah is his favorite place to travel due to the magnificent scenery and off-road friendly community; this is why he is so eager to take his family along for the ride.

"It's great to see stuff as a family that so few get to see because it is too far to walk and cars won't make it in and out of," Stacy said. "Also, being out in the woods kind of brings you back to nature and less electronic overload."

Although Stacy and Jeannella have never taken Valerie with them on a four-wheeling trip, Jeannella feels as though Valerie is excited.

"She'd definitely be willing... to go ride with her dad and I," Jeannella said.

This four-wheeling trip isn't yet a running tradition, but it may very well become one.

## Movie mania

After critiquing his first movie, "Bridget Jones's Diary", in 2001, world literature and accelerated world literature teacher Mr. Stephen Himes began his new-found passion and became a movie reviewer.



Himes

"My friend and I made up a stupid, pre-historic website," Himes said. "Five weeks later, an email came from a New York film critic asking me to join and write for them."

Shortly after Himes started updating his website frequently, over 600,000 people visited his page per month.

Himes has also received feedback from international columnists who state that he has "personally attacked" them through his critiques.

"I look at films like novels," Himes said. "You do active reading in literature just like you do active viewing in films."

However, Himes eventually began to slack in his movie-reviews due to his teaching

# Bright Ideas

High prices making you sweat? Consider these cheap activities for summer fun

by CAROLINE THOMPSON  
Lifestyles Editor

PHOTOS BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE



"[My friends and I] like to have game nights. We bring a game that we all like. You don't have to pay and it's good for a smaller group. We have a great time laughing about all the funny things that come out!"

-Becca Sommerhauser, junior

"You should go to Krispy Kreme Doughnuts after they close. [The employees] bring out all their extra doughnuts and give them to you for free! [My friends and I] got two trash bags full of them! Now what you do with them is up to you..."

-Mandy Prather, senior



## Play ball!

Kansas City Royals baseball games offer special nights, like Buck Night, in which snacks and drinks are \$1 each. Also, enjoy a firework show after the game on Fridays!



"I went to IHOP at 3:23 a.m. with some friends one night during break and it was entertaining to see who was there. It was fun to eat pancakes and people watch."

-Anne Marie Whitehead, junior



"It's really fun to have scavenger hunts in the summer! It's free and you just make lists and divide into teams. It can be on the Plaza or all over!"

-Ellie Hart, junior

"One summer my friend had a birthday party in her backyard. We set up a projector and put a screen against the fence. Everyone brought food and we camped out. It was really fun!"

-Megan Schilling, freshman



"In the summer, I always go to a neighborhood pool with friends. We meet up and get some pizza. It's cheap and there's no limit to how many people can come."

-Taylor Kramer, sophomore



## Movie under the stars

Watch free outdoor movies at Prairie Village Shops in Prairie Village, Kan. or Crown Center Plaza Friday nights.

## French fanatics

year, and critiqued about 75 movies a year.

"I just did it," Himes said. "I just happened to get noticed and it snowballed from there."

position and beginning law school. His plans for this summer include re-activating a website, which his wife is helping to build. His best friend is also contributing by helping to create a site logo.

According to Himes, his wife is an avid movie watcher, and they enjoy receiving movies in DVD form while they're still in theaters, due to the producers trying to get the movie publicized.

Also included in Himes' summer plans are resuming his position as an officer on the Kansas City Film Critics Circle (KCFCC) and to review both Hollywood and independent films.

"[My favorite part about critiquing movies is] figuring out what I think," Himes said. "Whenever I watch a film, it's like 'what's really going on here? What are the characters trying to say?'"

Since the beginning of his movie-reviewing career, Himes has viewed over 150 movies a

Beginning on June 18, French teacher Ms. Alice Amick will chaperone fourteen STA sophomores and juniors alongside Ms. Martha Breckenridge to France, to learn about the French language, heritage and customs.

"The students chose this trip because language matters," Amick said. "[Ms. Bernal] took her Spanish students on a trip two summers ago and this is our first French trip."

According to Amick, in order for students to qualify for this trip, they must have completed at least two years of French and must comply to speak purely French throughout the whole trip.

Once the caravan arrives in Paris, they will go to Aix-en-Provence, which is south of France, Amick said. From there, the students will have "family stays" for a period of six nights. According to Amick, the students are already corresponding with their "families" via Facebook and email and familiarizing themselves with what they should prepare for.

"I'm excited for the whole [trip]," junior Jenny Platten said. "I'm nervous for the families but I think it'll be the best experience."

Amick is also eager about the trip. "[I hope] the girls raise their comfort level in every day communication," Amick said. "It's one thing to learn from a book but it's another thing to speak the language." ★



Amick

# What do you see?

Variety of factors, influences among teens cause formation of stereotypes amidst students

by SUSIE ANCONA  
Staff writer

Freshman year, junior Molly Fox was showing her school spirit at an away STA basketball game. As she made her way to the concession stand, Fox and junior Allé Scott were greeted with stares and harsh whispers due to their school uniforms. In the rather long line, the two girls heard, "Well don't you two just look like Christmas trees?" from a student from another school who was leaning against the wall. Fox and Scott had encountered stereotypical behavior mainly based on their school uniforms, which, according to other Catholic school girls, is not rare.

## What are stereotypes and what are they based on?

Stereotypes are a common encounter in the lives of high school students, according to educational experts. Definitely, a stereotype is "a simplified and standardized conception or image invested with special meaning and held in common by members of a group."

According to psychologists, fear and a lack of familiarity stand as the stemming place for stereotypes. Psychologist Dr. Frederick Grossman said stereotypes are "typically related to the culture or subculture we live in."

"At the root of every stereotype is irrationality," Grossman said. "The truth is, the stereotypic issues more relate to social psychology rather than physical psychology. But it's not necessarily a physiological issue, but rather a cultural brain-washing."

Social concerns teacher Matthew Bertalott finds stereotypes to be "illogical, inaccurate and incomplete because you're making everybody fit a particular set image, and not everybody does."

Ultimately though, Bertalott feels stereotypes are a product of human nature.

"We have to make decisions and in order to make decisions, we have to make judgments," Bertalott said. "Stereotypes will enter into the thinking process. The evil of stereotypes is that it takes away from the uniqueness of individuals."

Physically, stereotypes branch from the part of the brain that deals with emotions, known scientifically as the mamalyga. Essentially, the frontal lobe, which is the largest and most advanced section of the brain, affects planning, organizing and controlling, specifically the controlling of emotions. Thus, categorical thinking ensues.

In Gordon Allport's book, "The Nature of Prejudice," he delved past the social, economic and historical facets of prejudice by proposing that "prejudice is [also] partly an outgrowth of human functioning."

"The human mind must think with the aid of categories," Allport stated in his book. "Once formed, categories are the basis for normal prejudgment. We cannot possibly avoid this process. Orderly living depends upon it."

"Diversity of color, personality, religion, are all things that make the world a rainbow, rather than if you mix all the colors together and result in black."

Dr. Frederick Grossman,  
Psychologist

## How do coed schools affect stereotypes of high school students? Single-sex schools?

Pembroke Hill High School junior Elizabeth You believes that as opposed to the gender composition of private high schools, socioeconomic standards are a main cause of stereotypes. According to You, the assumption is that Pembroke students "get handed everything with a silver spoon."

"The biggest stereotype basically is that people who go to Pembroke have to be rich," You said. "I guess [that is because] a lot of people don't realize that there are a percentage of our students who come on terms of financial aid and scholarships."

Students feel their chances of upholding or falling victim to stereotypes can reach highs and lows based on pressures of assumptions and expectations of others. Rockhurst High School junior Nicholas Schilling thinks that within Rockhurst, it is easier to avoid stereotypes because of the single-sex environment. He said it allows students to be better acquainted with their classmates. But, he feels his school is vulnerable to being stereotyped.

"We're really well known in the area, not to be conceited," Schilling said. "So in that case, it's always easier to pick on a target that is visible, [plus the fact that] we're all guys."

Schilling mentioned that stereotypes regarding homosexuality can become fairly vicious. But, he believes stereotyping is more a source of humor than anything else.

"I think that stereotypes are used to make a joke and when it comes down to it at the end of the day, it doesn't matter what we say,"

Schilling said.

In terms of vulnerability to stereotypes, Grossman thinks coed schools could benefit from this vulnerability. But, it does not have to be a problem in single-sex schools.

"In terms of understanding the opposite sex, often time there is more protection in a single-sex environment," Grossman said. "Girls don't have to worry about impressing boys all the time. Boys are a little different than girls, but I think that since they don't have

to impress girls, they can connect in different ways. The issue is how the school looks on diversity, no matter what the diversity is."

## Why do teens stereotype one another?

You feels stereotypical behavior is most prevalent among teens because they "have not experienced as much." She also feels stereotyping may satisfy a desire for superiority within the initiator.

"When you see and don't understand differences, then that fear goes to your brain," Grossman said. "But it's not engendered by the brain, but by the fear and the constructs of what people are."

According to Grossman, stereotypes arise from teens' conjured expectations, which make it difficult to accept differences.

"Diversity in a setting like a school encourages people to meet others different from them," Grossman said. "They realize [those students] are not



**Fantastic three** ★ *The Dart* used Daniel Connor, from left, Claire O'Neill and Ben Reiser to demonstrate and investigate school environments, whether it be single-sex or coed. For the results of the experiment, see the box to the upper right.

monsters or evil, since prejudice comes from people thinking that they are not like you. And when you think people are more like you, then that prejudice dissolves."

Grossman feels stereotypes are a result of society's influence and a lack of familiarity with others. You admitted she judges schools in light of people she knows who attend those schools.

Grossman states: "if you don't know people from a group, it is easier to buy into stereotypes."

Likewise, You believes personal experience helps prevent this behavior.

"[You know there is diversity] when challenges what you think you know about stereotypes," You said. "It's what you see with your own eyes, not with the glasses that you put upon you. With more diversity, the more thinking is encouraged."

## The makings of a rainbow

According to You, stereotypes have existed for centuries and the cycle will most likely continue in the future.

"Because it's a social issue, it will t



# To be... or not to be

Compiled by TAYLOR BROWN and MEGAN SCHAFF

The Dart showed random students throughout the Kansas City area a photo of a student from St. Teresa's Academy, Pembroke Hill High School and Rockhurst High School. First the photos were shown with only the descriptions of "teenage girl" and "teenage boy" and participants were asked to list a few of their immediate responses (the set of words above each image). Next, we showed the participants the same photos, this time identifying the school the pictured person attends (the set of words below each image).

\*The larger the word, the more often used.

## When those surveyed did not know the students' school

Outgoing Stressed  
Gossip Athletic  
Hormonal  
Preppy Cute



Smart Athletic  
Attractive  
Comfortable  
Thin Plain Casual



Nerd Proper  
Unstylish Smart  
Preppy  
Comfortable  
Athletic Attractive



## When those surveyed knew the students' school

Comfortable Easy-going  
Intelligent  
Outgoing Social  
Confident Athletic



"I expected them to say that I was preppy and privileged and cocky - not how I actually am... My school doesn't change who I am. I don't conform to stereotypes of my school. I am my own person."

**Name:** Claire O'Neill  
**School:** St. Teresa's Academy  
**Grade:** Junior  
**Activities:** Cross country, Peer Helpers, NHS, Care Club

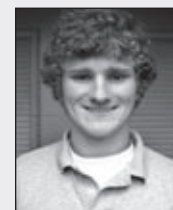
Smart Athletic  
Preppy Popular  
Cocky Rich  
Comfortable Snobby Stylish



"People should get to know me better because I'm not really any of those things - at least I hope I'm not... I'm surprised about the comment that I 'care about what people think of me.' Just because I don't wear uniforms to school, doesn't mean I dress to impress."

**Name:** Ben Reiser  
**School:** Pembroke Hill High School  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Activities:** Lifeguarding, Spanish Club, Freshman Facilitators

Athletic  
Smart Bro  
Outgoing  
Cocky Skinny



"What they said describes a typical Rockhurst stereotype. Some of the stuff is right though... I'm surprised by the difference between the things they said when they knew I went to Rockhurst and when they didn't know."

**Name:** Daniel Connor  
**School:** Rockhurst High School  
**Grade:** Sophomore  
**Activities:** Hockey, lacrosse, Student Government, piano

ate the presence and effect of stereotypes on teenagers and their ht. PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN

n somebody and existing judge with society puts re individual

repress stereotypes," You said. "But as the human race, I think we have to maintain a sense of dignity, and that dignity is what we need to place upon others as well, and our individual actions will shape how we want others to see who we are."

Grossman senses stereotypes will continue unless we get to know people who are different, embrace those differences and not be frightened of them.

"Diversity of color, personality, religion, are all things that make the world a rainbow, rather than if you mix all the colors together and result in black," Grossman said. ★

e generated ely continue take time to

**What is a stereotype?:** Professionals, teachers and students attempt to describe the term "stereotype."

Graphic by JULIA STAPINSKI, compiled by SUSIE ANCONA

Name	Definition
counselor Amanda James	"A collection of falsely generalized beliefs that is a compartmentalization of characteristics that end up having a negative impact on the targeted group."
theology teacher Matthew Bertalott	"A description or characteristic of a whole group of people that is incomplete, inaccurate and illogical."
Pembroke junior Elizabeth You	"A prejudgment upon a second party without a specific knowledge of that person's personality or their situation."
Rockhurst junior Nicholas Schilling	"Anything that categorizes someone based solely on appearance or what they do."



# Love conquers AIDS

Despite setbacks of AIDS, bipolar disorder, mother provides future for daughter

by SYDNEY DEATHERAGE  
Web Editor-in-Chief

It is not the medicines Ms. Bester Seemani consumes each day, the countless visits to the doctor or the healthy lifestyle she leads. It is not money, medical treatment or luck. Yet Bester, mother to sophomore Süe Seemani, is conquering the unconquerable disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), relying on one all-powerful medication: her daughter.

Though she will eventually die from AIDS, Bester lives for Süe.

#### Stuck

Bester was diagnosed with AIDS in May 2000 at the end of a three-year business study in the United States. Bester's diagnosis came just weeks before she was scheduled to return to her hometown of Lusaka in Zambia, where 6 year-old Süe had been living with her Bester's friend Val. The long separation had been difficult for Bester and Süe, and the separation would now be prolonged for another year.

"It was really hard to stay [in the U.S.] without my daughter," Bester said. "I would rather go home, see her for two months and then die. At least then I will have seen her."

Following the diagnosis, Bester had the choice of returning to Zambia where no medication was available or remaining in the U.S. and waiting for Süe to join her. Bester made the decision to stay in the U.S. According to Bester, her doctors told her she could live for a long time if she remained in the U.S. because organizations like Kansas City Free Health Care Clinic could provide her AIDS medication.

This medication would help to protect Bester's weakened immune system. According to [www.aids.org](http://www.aids.org), AIDS is caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which slowly weakens the immune system by attacking white blood cells (CD4 cells). A person is diagnosed with AIDS once their CD4 cell count reaches below 14 percent. An individual does not die from HIV/AIDS, but rather from illnesses that a weakened immune system cannot prevent.

#### Rebuilding a life

When Süe first rejoined Bester, a local AIDS clinic providing Bester's housing forced her to evacuate because the clinic could not support extraneous persons. After her former business-study sponsor offered Bester a job working at the Holiday Inn off I-71, Bester moved into a hotel room with Süe. Because Bester and Süe had to appear in court to seek asylum to remain in the U.S., Bester wanted Süe to under-

"I would rather go home, see her for two months and then die. At least then I will have seen her."

Bester Seemani, mother

stand her diagnosis so that she wasn't taken by surprise.

"I had been helping [Bester] make 'drug cocktails,'" Süe said. "Just a bunch of [pills] put together so she can take them during the weekdays. She just sat me down on the couch one day and she's like, 'I need to talk to you--I'm really sick.'"

Though her new life with Süe presented difficulties, Bester obtained a regular job that provided an apartment and car for she and Süe. During this time, Bester was enrolled at Penn Valley Community College. Bester and Süe frequented St. Elizabeth's Parish and since Bester tithed to the parish, in sixth grade Süe began attending St. Elizabeth's Elementary School (STE).

Despite her setbacks, Bester was accomplishing her goals and providing for her daughter. Soon, however, Bester's life spun out of her control.

#### Against the odds

According to [www.aids.org](http://www.aids.org), while AIDS medication helps to protect the victim, it also has harmful side effects such as avascular necrosis (death of bone, generally of the femur-hip area). Due to this onset, Bester decided to forgo her medication, not wanting to treat one disease with another.

In Süe's eighth grade year at STE Bester had been off medication, but still dealt with the effects of avascular necrosis. She was in need of hip replacement surgery, but because she had not been on medication, her CD4 cell count was too low and an operation would have been dangerous.

"This was hardest because things had actually gotten better," Bester said. "I had an apartment, I had my work payment, my daughter was here, I put her through school--a good school for that matter--everything was working out. And then all of the sudden you find out--No, no, no everything is not okay. You have to go



to a nursing home. You are handicapped."

That year, the stress of life triggered a more dormant illness in Bester: her bipolar disorder. Bipolar disorder is a mental illness "characterized by extreme changes in mood, from mania to depression," according to WebMD.

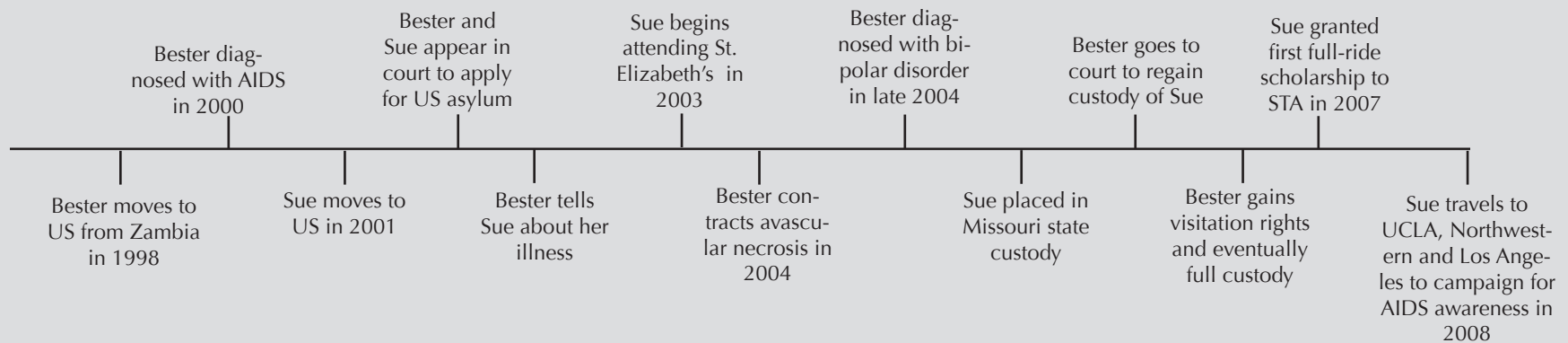
Bester said that her rare bipolar "mood episodes" occur due to stressful situations or environments and have been irregular in her life. When Bester felt the warning symptoms of an approaching episode, such as sleeplessness, she

asked her friend Ms. Sharon Payne to take care of Süe and checked herself into Western Missouri Mental Hospital. Bester met Payne through Good Samaritan Project, which provides help for AIDS victims.

In an unfamiliar and confusing turn of events for Bester, a Zambian native, Süe was placed into Missouri state custody in Nov. 2005. Since her mother was incapacitated for an extended period, Bester's caseworker neglected to inform her that the foster family Süe was staying with was, in

# From one obstacle to another

A mother's love nourishes throughout the years



Graphic By: Megan Schaff



fact, a St. Elizabeth's Parish family, the Kenneys, whom Bester was familiar with.

"For someone to just get your kid from you and then not really explain the situation properly--you can imagine," Bester said. "I never even saw her. I was just told she is somewhere, the government took her, she is in foster care."

When before Bester had remained in the hospital for at most several days, this time she remained for three months. Bester attributed the length of time to the lack of communication to her about Süe. No one had informed better that Süe was in the care of family friends.

"That upset me more," Bester said. "I was supposed to come out of the hospital and go home, but that just made the situation worse and I had to stay in the hospital longer because I was thinking 'What's wrong, why are they taking my daughter away from me?'"

Süe stayed in foster care for two-four months with the Kenneys while attending STE and STA's morning math class.

"I think they thought [Bester] was harmful or something, but she really wasn't," Süe said. "She would never harm me. I know it sounds naïve for me to say that, but I know her. Even during her bipolar state I know she would never harm me or harm anyone else, because I know how she acts usually. I guess the state saw it differently."

After several court dates, which Bester was far too ill to attend, the case was eventually resolved.

"I told the judge, 'First of all, when I'm getting sick I know two months in advance, and the fact that my daughter was at my friend's house--that wasn't an accident,'" Bester said. "You can ask my friend. Ask her how my daughter got there. I'm the one that called her. I knew that I would end up in the hospital. I called my friend for help and she came and took my daughter. Now when I want my daughter back, I have to go and fight for my daughter--why?"

Bester's backbone in court resulted not only in regained visitation rights and eventually complete guardianship of Süe, but also the judge's statement of "Obviously Ms. Seemani is better now."

**Living with AIDS, living for Süe**

"I can say I have [AIDS] and this is bad. But at the same time, it's better for my daughter because she can get a good education."

Bester Seemani, mother

Despite living with her illnesses, Bester cited education as her most important priority for Süe.

"With education you can never go wrong," Bester said. "No one is ever going to come and take it from you. With a house, that can happen--anything can happen with money. [My mother] worked so hard to send me to school; that's how come we've survived. If it weren't for [Süe's] education, I wouldn't be here."

Since Bester places such value in education, when Süe was awarded the first full-ride scholarship to STA, Bester was overwhelmed.

"We thought it was just for the year, and then we go [to STA] and find out it's for the whole four years and everything is paid for," Bester said. "Come on, I couldn't even say thank you! My tears were just coming out. It was like--is this real? For that, I'm very, very grateful. People can't see what impact it has had, but [Süe's education] is the most important thing, and I don't even have to worry about it."

Though Bester said that there are schools similar to the quality of STA in Zambia, she said in Zambia she would have no job or money to send Süe to such schools. She believes the only reason Süe ended up with a full-ride at a school such as STA, thousands of miles from home, is because of fate. Bester embraces every turn of event in her life, good or bad, because she attributes every moment to God.

"The only ticket for why I'm here is because I have AIDS," Bester said. "Otherwise I'd be home. So I can look at this in several ways: I can say I have this and this is bad. But at the same time, it's better for my daughter because she can have a good education. Even if I'd gone home, there's no medication for AIDS [in Zambia] and I don't know if I'd find a good job and I don't know what would happen to [Süe] by now. Or if I were dead for instance, there would be no one to take care of her. I really appreciate it. I appreciate being here. I appreciate the help we are getting. I think we are extremely blessed and that's what I always tell Süe. I encourage her to see that; there's no other way to explain it. It's not being lucky. It's not. He provides. He knows where He is going."

Paying it forward

Süe also looks ahead with positivity and acceptance of her given situation in life, and has taken an active role in HIV/AIDS awareness, including traveling to UCLA, Northwestern University and Los Angeles to participate in AIDS awareness campaigning.

"Even though I can't change that my mom got HIV or anything, I can make the situation different," Süe said. "I can tell other people or tell them the truth about it so that they won't have the same stereotypes or stigmas. Once I got to the point where I knew I wasn't totally helpless made me more positive because I knew that if I could maybe just take away the stigmas of just one or two people they could tell others. You know the movie 'Pay it Forward'? Sort of like that. I don't want to say the cliché 'make the world a better place' but it would at least help the life of some kid who maybe just found out they have [HIV] or their friends or parents so that they wouldn't have to go through the same things I went through."★

- 1. Mother and Daughter** ★ Bester Seemani, left, mother to sophomore Sue Seemani, embraces her daughter at their home on Mother's Day last Sunday. Despite Bester's struggle with AIDS and bipolar disorder, her life is centered around Sue. PHOTO BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE
- 2. Taking a Trip** ★ Sophomore Sue Seemani shows two of the passports she has had in the past few years. Sue and her mother Bester moved to the U.S. from Zambia. PHOTO BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE
- 3. Airport Hugs** ★ Sophomore Sue Seemani, at age six, embraces mother Bester Seemani for the first time in three years at Kansas City International Airport. After Bester was diagnosed with AIDS in 2000, instead of returning home to Sue in Zambia, she flew Sue to the United States where they have lived since. PHOTO SUBMITTED
- 4. Zambian Natives** ★ Sophomore Sue Seemani at age three plays with mother Bester Seemani at a friend's house in July 1997 in the Seemani's homeland Zambia. Soon after, Bester left Zambia for a three year business study in the United States, after which she discovered she had AIDS. PHOTO SUBMITTED



# Three sisters, one sport

Scott girls discover sisterhood, running together side by side

by MOLLIE POINTER  
Sports Editor

As the three sisters round the corner, the two younger of the three sisters whisper a scheme, nodding to the one in front of them, almost reading the other's mind. Planning, the girls reach for their oldest sister's shorts, bouncing along as they continue their warm up. Screaming and yelling, the three girls drop to the ground and burst out laughing as the eldest grabs at her ankles, frantically looking to yank her shorts back up.

Sisters junior Allé, sophomore Lauren and freshman Brenna Scott are all part of the STA track team this year. According to teammates, the Scott sisters are all around "goofy" girls.

"It's different with all three of us [at STA]," Allé said. "When we're all together we're kind of crazy."

Allé and Lauren are currently middle distant runners on the team, while Brenna is a sprinter. According to Brenna, they find themselves competing with each other at prac-

tice and in meets.

"I feel bad running next to Allé because I feel like she should be better since she's older but [Lauren and I] are both faster," Brenna said.

Lauren disagreed with Brenna and does not feel competitive against her sisters.

"[Brenna and I] have nothing to worry about since Allé sucks," Lauren said jokingly. "She just kind of strolls along."

Since the season started, the three girls find themselves becoming closer and creating new sisterly bonds.

"Me and Allé made a pact not to laugh at Lauren when she thinks she's being funny," Brenna said. "Lauren thinks she's the funniest but she's not."

Lauren brushed off her sisters comment.

"Well [Allé and I] make fun of Brenna because she runs really weird," Lauren said. "She leans to the left and tilts her head."

According to all three of the girls, the Scott sister trademark is their ability to be incredibly loud. Track season has only enhanced this quality.

"Lauren's always yelling at me and Allé's always like 'Go Brenna! You can do it!'" Brenna said.

The three sisters agreed that they



**Sisterly love** ★ From left, freshman Brenna, junior Allé and sophomore Lauren Scott warm up before practice begins May 4. The sisters competed with and motivated each other during this year's track season. PHOTO BY AVERY ADAMS

might not participate in track next year, but recognize the positives they have gotten from the experience.

"Maybe we should all go out

for lacrosse together next year?" Brenna purposed to her two older sisters.

"Don't even say that," Allé said. ★

## SCORE [spring sports] board

Varsity soccer		
May 1	Middleton	L
May 2	West Des Moines Valley	L
May 2	Ft. Zumwalt West	W
May 8	Sion	W
May 9	Liberty H.S.	L
May 11	St. Thomas Aquinas	L
May 12	Blue Valley North H.S.	L

JV soccer		
April 27	Shawnee Mission East	T
May 4	Blue Valley Northwest	W
May 8	Sion	T
May 9	Liberty H.S.	T
May 11	St. Thomas Aquinas	L
May 12	Blue Valley North H.S.	L

C team soccer		
April 27	Shawnee Mission East	T
April 28	Bishop Miege High School	W
May 5	St. James Academy	W
May 6	St. Thomas Aquinas	W

Track and field		
May 5	Piper Track and Field Invitational	5th place

Varsity lacrosse		
April 4	Wentzville	W
April 4	Columbia	W
April 25	Omaha	W
April 28	Blue Valley	L
May 2	Columbia	W
May 3	Wentzville	W

JV lacrosse		
April 15	Northland	L
April 16	Blue Valley	W
April 28	Blue Valley	W
May 2	Kansas City	L
May 2	Columbia	L
May 3	Blue Valley	W

# Locals assert cyclists' rights

Enthusiasts and avid cyclists ride once a month with organization, Critical Mass

by MICAH WILKINS  
Entertainment Editor

It is the last Friday of the month and for cycling advocates of Kansas City, that means Critical Mass. Cyclists slowly accumulate in the large parking lot, and as they await their departure, a few riders mount their bikes and circle the lot. Soon, hundreds are gathered and ready to ride.

Critical Mass (CM), a worldwide bike ride that takes place in almost every large city, was brought to Kansas City 12 years ago by Ms. Sarah Gibson, an avid cyclist and owner of Acme Bicycle Company in the Crossroads district.

"I hoped that others would see that riding bikes is fun," Gibson said. "Just about anyone can do it."

Cyclists gather the last Friday of every month and begin at approximately 7 p.m. The last ride took place April 24 from the Sun Fresh parking lot on Mill and Southwest Trafficway. According to Gibson, the first few years in Kansas City, CM attracted crowds of 10 or 20 cyclists. Now, about 300 to 400 cyclists participate in CM each month.

Described as "organized coincidences," rides are casual, with no set route or pace, according to Mr. Mark Rainey, an active cyclist and owner of Bike America in Shawnee Mission.

"[CM] has no leader, it's not an organized event," Rainey said. "Whoever is in front leads and if we don't like the way we're going, we turn the other way and wait for the others to catch up."

According to one cyclist, Mr. Bob Brown, the



**Massive crowd** ★ Avid bicyclists, casual riders and bystanders alike, congregate in the parking lot of Sun Fresh April 24 for Critical Mass. Critical Mass is an organization that meets the last Friday of every month and advocates bicyclists' rights. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

diversity of CM is what he values most about the rides, which he has attended every month for two years.

"One of the neat things about [CM] is that you meet people from all extremes of all walks of life," Brown said. "It's a really huge mix of crosswalks of the population."

Brown said one purpose of this biking event is to celebrate biking as a form of transportation.

"[CM] raises consciousness about alternative modes of transportation," Brown said.

According to cyclist Ms. Corinna West, another of CM's goals is to demonstrate that cyclists have legal authority to ride on the street.

"The slogan of [CM] is, 'We aren't blocking traffic, we are traffic,'" West said. "Cyclists have

the right to the road."

According to Rainey, however, he and other cyclists are accustomed to motorist aggression when riding on the street.

"Not all motorists agree that bikes should be on the road," Rainey said. "I don't think they realize that a bike is many things to many people. For some, their bike is their only form of transportation."

Gibson said she also experiences what she calls the same "internalized frustration" that drivers feel.

"There's a certain freedom associated with riding your bike that angers people in cars," Gibson said. "But when people yell at me to get on the sidewalk, I tell them to get on a bike." ★

### Upcoming events



**Today 6 p.m.**  
Varsity soccer vs. Blue Valley West High School

**Monday**  
Varsity soccer District Tournament

**Saturday**  
Track and Field District Meet at Grandview High School

## May 27

## May 30

## June 3

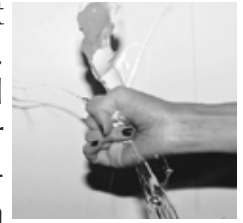
The Decemberists, who have steadily built their fan-base since their 2002 debut album, "Castaways and Cutouts," are back on tour in light of the release of their latest "The Hazards of Love." The Portland-base quintet plan to perform at the Uptown Theatre.



The now solo artist Ben Folds will perform at Crossroads KC, a new outdoors venue in the crossroads district. Folds recently released his hit single, "You Don't Know Me", featuring Regina Spektor, along with a greatest hits record. Tickets are priced at \$28.



The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, the New York City-based rock band, will perform in Westport at the Beaumont Club. The art-punk trio will play songs from their recently released album, "It's Blitz!" which includes their latest hits, "Zero" and "Runaway."



## June 16

The Heart of America Shakespeare Festival celebrates its 17th year this summer with its production of William Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor" at the Southmoireland Park in the Plaza. The free event runs from June 16 to July 5 and begins at 8 p.m.



An array of activities, concerts and festivals will take place this summer in the metropolitan Kansas City area. Many of these events are made available to young people at local venues, and include arts, music and fireworks.

Compiled by MICAH WILKINS  
Entertainment Editor

# Dates to remember

## July 3

Kansas City's premier Independence Day Festival, the KC Riverfest, will take place July 3 and 4 at Berkley Riverfront Park in the downtown River Market area. The fifth anniversary of the festival will feature fireworks, live music, crafts and food for a \$6 entry fee.

## July 6

No Doubt, led by Gwen Stefani, will perform with Paramore and Bedouin Soundclash at Starlight Theatre. The tour marks the quintet's reunion after a four-year split. Tickets range from \$40 to \$80.



## August 21

This summer marks the 30th anniversary of the Annual Ethnic Enrichment Festival, which celebrates the food, dance, music, crafts and cultures of over 50 countries from every region of the world. The Festival takes place the weekend of August 21 at Swope Park and costs \$3.

### STA cast to attend theatre festival

by MICAH WILKINS  
Entertainment Editor

STA was recently chosen to attend the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland to perform a play. The festival is a three-week, international event featuring performances of all kinds. According to Drama teacher Shana Prentiss, the festival is the largest theatrical event in the world.

"Edinburgh becomes a stage," Prentiss said. "Pretty much any space that can become a stage becomes a theatrical outlet for theatre, dance and any form of art."

The cast will perform in August 2010, and the play to be performed will be chosen later next year by Prentiss. STA was nominated in January to be in the American High School Festival branch of the Festival and, after filling out an application packet, Prentiss was notified of their acceptance earlier this week.

"Typically 50 schools throughout the country are chosen," Prentiss said. "And three schools in Missouri were chosen."

Prentiss is unsure of how STA will raise the money to travel to Scotland, however she wants to begin by appealing to large donors, coordinating fund raisers and applying for loans and grants.

"I'm trying to think big and think in the grand scheme of things first," Prentiss said. "It's going to be a lot of work. But it's definitely worth it." ★

## Art fair not just for the 'artsy' type

AN OPINION BY



TAYLOR IRWIN

This past weekend marked yet another year for the Brookside Art Fair. The annual event caters to many different crowds, with events for kids of all ages to work for sale from many of Kansas City's own artists. It's the perfect excuse for a day to get out in search of the perfect gift, and with Mother's Day one week after the Fair, it was definitely something to think about.

The Art Fair is something I look forward to every year. Even though the area down Wornall from sixty-third to Meyer Boulevard is packed with little to no elbow room, the event is always something I make a point to attend. With great food being prepared in booths from the nearby

restaurants, the Kid's craft tent, the photo booth, and the chance to meet your favorite artist, there's always something to do.

While I weave my way in between strangers, my eyes are mostly in search of one thing I always find: my Mother's Day gift. While the Art Fair is notorious for its expensive art, if you really look you can find the perfect gift for any occasion without cleaning out the pink piggy bank.

To me, it's the goal of the trip, but not the perk. With all the activities, knocking the gift out of the way is just an added bonus.

Local artists are scattered all around the Fair showing off their art, and all are eager to display their work to anyone who will spectate. Some are even demonstrating how they make their pieces.

In her booth on the cramped sixty-third street, local artist Kari Heybrock is making a sample piece in front of a crowd to exhibit how her popular glass hearts are made.

"I always love it when people come to watch me," Heybrock said. "It makes me feel successful as an artist when people come to see how I make my work. It's why I love showing at different



Picture this ★ From left, Ms. Shana Prentiss, husband Craig and children Cole and Ben, flip through photographs at the Brookside Art Fair May 3. Artists throughout the country meet annually to display their work under a white tent at 63rd and Brookside. PHOTO BY MICHELLE REICHMEIER

art fairs."

With artists littering the crowded streets, tables to make your own bracelets, free Kansas City Barbeque, and beautiful art and jewelry, what's not to like about the Art Fair?

After much searching and digging, I find the perfect gift: a simple necklace with a green

glass heart (made by Heybrock) for my mother for this past Mother's Day. The Art Fair, to me, was worth the invasion of personal space. The art was beautiful, the food was good, and meeting artists was a highlight.

Call me Artsy Fartsy, but the Art Fair was the best part of my weekend. ★

# Party Animals

STA students, teachers and faculty alike enjoy the warm air, yard games and clown activities during the Student Community Organization's Student Appreciation Day April 28.



**1. Jump on it** ★ Seniors Sherie Wallace, left, and Elizabeth Meyers, far right, attempt to stop junior Julia Barnett's jump through their arms during a game of Red Rover April 28. STA girls created a giant game of Red Rover that included all grades. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**  
**2. Laughing matters** ★ Seniors Lauren McQuaid, left, and Katie Kenney laugh together on Yard Day April 28. STA students romped and played in the Quad, accompanied by six clowns with face-paint and balloons. **PHOTO BY AVERY ADAMS**  
**3. Total concentration** ★ Sophomore Samantha Scheuler has her face painted during activity on Yard Day. Yard Day was sponsored by the Student Community Organization. **PHOTO BY MORGAN SAID**  
**4. Color me bad** ★ Junior Julia Barnett adorns a pink elephant at Yard Day April 28. STA students flaunted face-paint in the form of lions, tigers and giraffes. **PHOTO BY AVERY ADAMS**  
**5. Crouching tiger** ★ Freshman Mary O'Leary licks a popsicle on Yard Day April 28. O'Leary was one of many STA students adorning face-paint. **PHOTO BY AVERY ADAMS**