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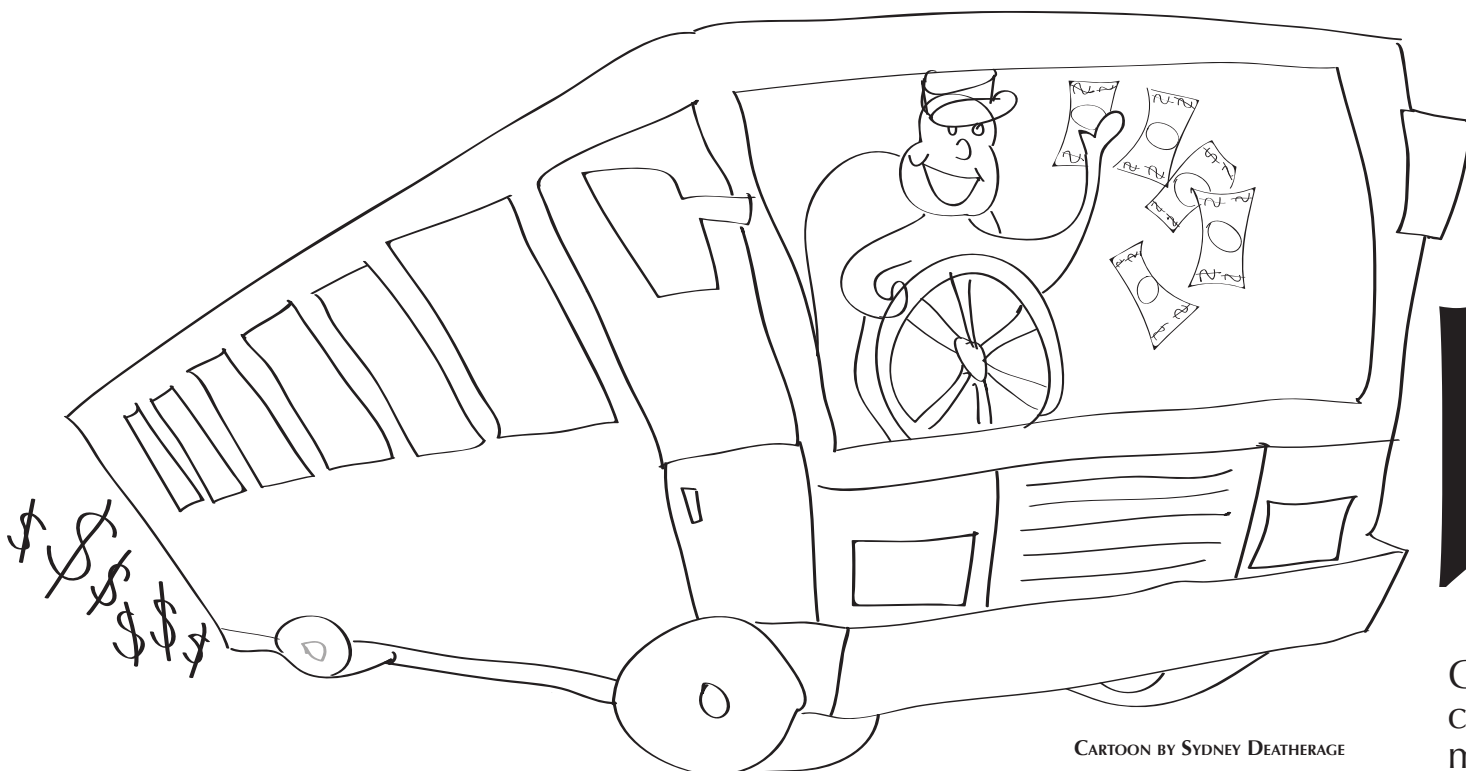


money
matters

The Journalism Issue 2009

MONEY MATTERS: the 2009 Journalism Class Issue

Each year, *The Dart* creates a special issue comprised of stories written by and photos taken by the journalism class students. With a depressed economy on the minds of many, the journalism students chose the theme of "Money Matters." From pages 1-19, each story revolves around the issue of money.



CARTOON BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE

bus or bust

Gas prices cause growth in bus commuters; regular riders reveal monetary benefits to bus transit



Hitching a ride ★ Mr. Bill Sullivan prepares to board the MAX bus at the Waldo stop April 13. Sullivan has been taking the bus to and from work for the past three and a half years to save money. PHOTO BY MOLLY KENNEY

by MOLLY KENNEY
Journalism student

Mr. Bill Sullivan waits at a bus stop on a brisk winter morning for the bus to take him to work. When it finally arrives, he enters the heated vehicle and searches around for a seat - a seat that has become less available lately. After settling, Sullivan looks around, seeing a man in a suit and tie occupied by his Blackberry and a man sleeping a couple of seats down. According to Sullivan, not only is the diversity in bus-riders one of the perks to riding the bus, but the bus has become a convenient way to save on car payments.

Sullivan, who works at Hallmark in Crown Center, has been riding the bus to work everyday for the past three and a half years and finds it very convenient. He is one of many people following this trend of bus riding that, according to Mr. Chuck Ferguson of Johnson County Transit, first started with an increase in gas prices and is continuing during this economic crisis. According to an article in *The Washington Post* last month, bus service increased 3.9 percent and ridership in cities with a population under 100,000 rose 9.3 percent within the last year.

For Sullivan, it is a five-minute walk to the bus stop and a 20-minute bus ride. However, his main reasoning for taking the bus, though, was a matter of convenience and cost.

"At the time [I started riding], we only had two cars, and we had three drivers," Sullivan said. "Plus gas started getting really high, so the bus saved money. It would also save on the wear and tear of the car along with mileage. It was just more convenient for everyone [in the family]."

However, for others, like Mr. Kevin Pavicic, taking the bus and other forms of public transportation is not possible. Pavicic works for Bank of America as senior vice president of private wealth management and must visit clients throughout the day.

"I need a car at work," Pavicic said. "For me, public transportation is not an option. If [taking the bus] was really easy for my job, I think I may be more interested in it."

But for those who have the option, the costs saved by taking the bus add up over time. According to Ferguson, studies have shown that it costs \$0.55 per mile using a car, not including maintenance, insurance,

parking and other costs.

At one point, gas prices skyrocketed. According to Ferguson, this was the turning point for ridership on the bus.

"Gas prices brought people to the bus, and that is where the number of riders really increased," Ferguson said. "Even with gas prices going lower now, people have become aware of how good the bus is to use. The economy hasn't really caused an increase, but has kept people riding the bus."

Sullivan has seen this firsthand. He said when gas prices increased, there were about eight pages full of Hallmark employees signing up for bus passes, compared to the normal two or three pages.

"The number of riders has definitely gone up since I started taking it three and a half years ago," Sullivan said. "It has gone up just a little bit recently, but it really peaked when gas prices were close to \$4."

According to Sullivan, saving money is only one advantage to taking the bus. He also likes taking the bus because of the extra leisure time and the aspect of being environmentally friendly.

"You also kind of feel good because you are going green," Sullivan said. ★

buses by the numbers

4.2 billion
gallons of gasoline
saved annually
from public
transportation

\$64
average monthly
bus fare

\$182
average monthly
car costs

1.27
tons of CO2 emitted
by driving five miles
in a car

0.12
tons of CO2 emitted
by riding the same
distance on a bus

Health care losses provoke controversy

Local man pays thousands for surgery; hospitals say uninsured can obtain discounts

by PAIGE WENDLAND
Journalism student

EDITOR'S NOTE: * DENOTES CHANGED NAME

Staring at the monitor next to him, Mark* lay on the hospital bed, unable to believe what he was seeing. Although he expected this checkup to be like any other, the three new tumors in his bladder were enough to send his mind soaring. Mark's cancer had returned, only three months after he had undergone surgery to remove it. He was unemployed, uninsured, and had very little money remaining from his previous job.

Having found steady employment as a computer programmer for many years, Mark found himself one of the countless Kansas Citians who have lost their jobs due to the recent economic downturn. Like the 46 million other Americans who are currently uninsured, according to the National Coalition on Health Care, Mark said he could no longer afford insurance. However, he had always been reasonably healthy until November 2007.

One day, Mark found blood in his urine. After seeing his doctor, he discovered that he had bladder cancer.

"It was a scary situation, and it was especially scary because I didn't have health insurance," Mark said. "And I knew [surgery] was going to be expensive."

Mark did not realize that his surgery would cost even more because he didn't have insurance.

"The doctor told me straight out, 'The problem you have is that, because you have no insurance, the hospital is going to take advantage of you,' Mark said. "They're going to charge you far more than they would get from anybody else. So you have to negotiate with them."

Although Mark said the hospital charged him differently than they would an insured patient, Ms. Janet Oliver, Director of Managed Care at Olathe Health Systems, explained how hospitals try to

work with patients to develop a payment plan that suits each patient's financial state.

Oliver works with contracts between Olathe Medical Center and insurance companies, figuring out what portion of medical costs the companies will pay. Oliver said if a patient did not have insurance, employees at the hospital would work with him or her to develop a payment plan. Also, in a charity case, the hospital might pay the entire bill.

However, the hospital where Mark went would not reveal how much the operation would cost ahead of time, and he wanted to know how much money he would need. Although his doctor had suggested hinting at bankruptcy to the hospital, Mark was hoping to pay the hospital bill and be done with everything.

"I like to pay my bills," Mark said. "I don't like to owe anybody. I don't like to rip anybody off. The idea of planning to declare bankruptcy is just wrong, and I didn't want to do that."

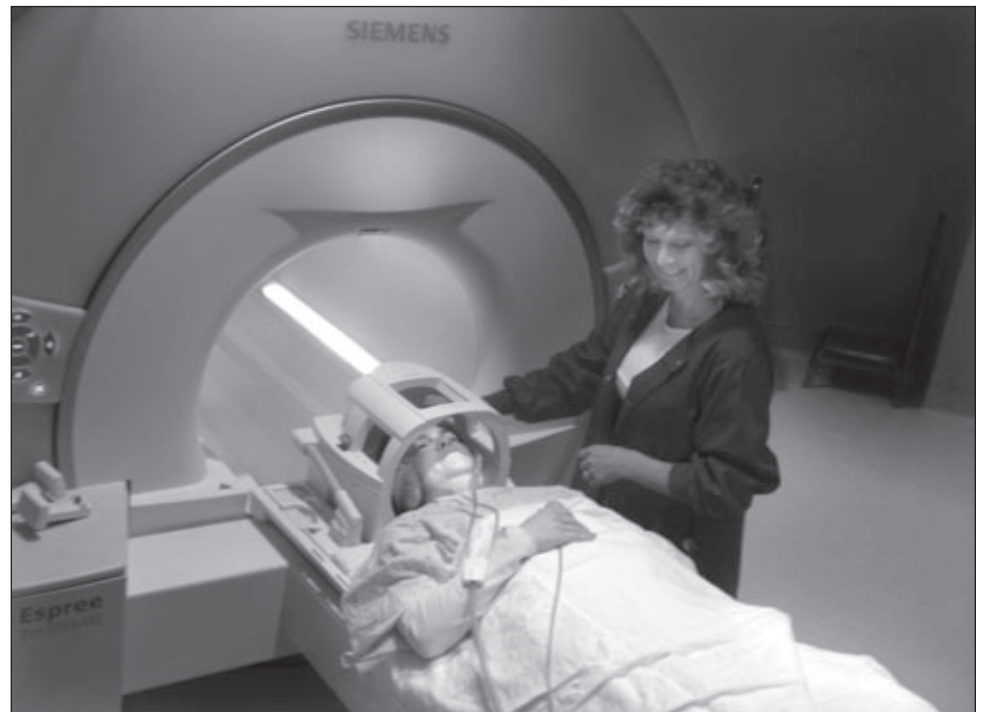
Even though the operation took all the money Mark had, he paid in cash. However, a few months later, in March 2008, three new tumors appeared, and doctors said he required another surgery. Mark was weary of his exorbitant health care prices. Although the costs for his surgeon and anesthesiologist during the first surgery totaled approximately \$1000, one day in a hospital room cost him nearly \$14,000.

Ms. Aimee Houghtlin, a Patient Accounts Specialist in the Customer Service Department at Shawnee Mission Medical Center, said that patients can often receive a discount on medical care if they can pay at least a portion of the full price the day of their procedure. If a patient demonstrating financial need pays the full price, they are given a 44 percent discount.

If a patient cannot pay the full amount for a procedure at Shawnee Mission, they visit with a financial counselor. However, Houghtlin said that a patient is rarely turned away due to financial reasons.

If the people in hospital administration view the patient's illness as "something emergent like cancer, then they will never turn them away," Houghtlin said.

After a struggle with health care prices and unemployment, Mark now has health insurance and a current job, and today he is cancer-free. ★



Money for meds ★ Patient Tammy Hudson, left, prepares with technician Jennie Loomis to enter into an MRI at Menorah Medical Center. However, due to the economic down slide a number of people have recently been foregoing such expensive medical procedures. PHOTO BY PAIGE WENDLAND

health insurance
by the numbers

SOURCE: KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

13 million
purchase insurance directly from insurers

\$3.1 trillion
2012 projected spending for health care

160 million
non-elderly have employer-sponsored health insurance

17.7%
2012 projected health care share of gross national product

Students consider necessities during recession



Textaholic ★ Freshman Rachel Shedd pulls out her phone and checks her message inbox as she walks to her dad's truck after school. Shedd said her cell phone is costly, but it is important to her to communicate with friends. PHOTO BY KATARINA WALLER

Economic decline helps students focus, reconsider necessities

by KATARINA WALLER
Journalism student

The recession is forcing people in America to reconsider what is essential to them. This thinking might help them if they become faced with a decision to eliminate something from their lives because they will know what is essential to keep.

With this in mind, a few people were asked to consider what they feel is essential in their lives and why they consider it essential. These individuals responded differently, showing how priorities change as a person grows and matures.

One interviewee thought about what affected her, the second thought about what affected herself and her family, and the last thought about her long-term plans when considering the essentials.

Freshman Rachel Shedd said her cell phone is essential in her life.

"[My phone] enables me to talk to my friends," Rachel said. "Without my phone it would be harder to keep in touch with my friends that do not go to STA because I never really have time to see them. It also allows me to get help with homework or problems I encounter in my life."

Rachel's mother, Ms. Susan Shedd, 53, agrees that a cell phone is an essential, especially in an emergency.

"I needed to call [my husband] a couple days ago when my son hit his head, so my phone came in handy then," Susan said. "It's also helpful when the power goes out and your land line no longer works."

Rachel also said cell phones strengthen the relationship between her and her mother.

"When I'm away from her and she's away from me for long periods of time, cell phones allow us to check up on each other," Rachel said.

Susan and Rachel both agreed that having a cell phone, although useful, is costly. Susan and her family recently switched cell phone carriers because their prior carrier was more expensive and not as family friendly.

"We settled on a carrier that had a cheaper family plan and now we pay at least \$30 less per month than our previous carrier," Susan said.

sophomore Leah Miller disagrees with Susan and Rachel, saying her cell phone is not essential. However, although it is not cheap to maintain, her car is essential to her.

"I know it's selfish, but I don't think I could give [my car] up," Miller said. "It's really fun and cool to have the privilege of driving a car."

Miller's car is not only essential to her, but also aids her parents.

"[Having a car] helps when

something goes wrong and your parents can't take you somewhere," Miller said. "It gets you from point A to point B while helping your parents."

Junior Anna Blanck took her future into account and her essential was not an item, but a passion. Art and dance are the essentials in Blanck's life.

"[Art and dance are] both a really big part of what keeps me going," Blanck said. "Without them I wouldn't be able to function and they also deal with my long term plans. They're not something I could ever easily give up."

Blanck also said she would continue dancing and art even if she had to pay for them herself.

"I would find ways to reduce what I needed by sacrificing performances and using all the money I get from work to pay for what I need," Blanck said.

These essentials may be costly, but Blanck, like the others, would be willing to sacrifice what she needs to for her passion.

"Lessons and costumes and shoes need to be replaced, and that's expensive, but if it's really important to you, you learn to make it work," Blanck said. ★

"If it's really important to you, you learn to make it work."
Anna Blanck, junior

Students struggle for jobs

Teens experience finding employment for summer; job shortages create issues

by EMILY STRICKLAND
Journalism student

The past year's economic recession has restricted business and the individual's funds. Because of the recent layoffs and rising unemployment rate, teen jobs are not being offered or more experienced adults recently laid off are taking these jobs. This is prompting competition for the jobs that are available. With summer around the corner, many teens are on the hunt for part-time summer employment.

"It is hard [to find a job] because everyone either wants people to work full-time or wants someone over 18...no one is hiring right now it seems like," sophomore Emily Baker said. "I am not the only one but so many girls are having the same trouble. [We are] competing for the same positions."

Some teens may not realize that they also have to compete with adults with more availability for jobs. Mr. Mat Anderson, writer for the Joplin *Globe*, a newspaper in Missouri, predicted that the rate of teenage employment may fall to less than 32 percent, the rate last summer.

"Teenagers looking for summer employment are being forced to compete for fewer job openings with better-skilled, more educated adults," Anderson wrote.

Some businesses are unable to hire because of this year's economic strain. Even businesses that typically hire teenagers and remain

successful admit that the rate of new employment opportunities has decreased. According to Mr. Mike McQuaid of the McQuaid Brothers Construction Company, businesses from almost every industry are struggling.

"We are just not hiring really," McQuaid said. "Usually, in the summer, we [hire] about 12 to 15 high school students. This summer, [we hired] maybe one."

McQuaid restricted hiring although he said the company has not been affected by the economic recession nearly as much as other businesses have.

Other businesses such as Forever 21 and Express have noticed there is more of a demand for jobs this year, as well as a shortage of jobs available. Ms. Whitney Williams, a manager for Express clothing store, noticed an approximate 80 percent increase in applications intake and a decrease in quitting. According to Williams, some of the employees have requested even more hours.

Baker feels pressure from friends and parents to have some sort of income. She has applied at four businesses and plans to continue. To ensure herself an activity filled summer, Baker feels that a job is necessary to pay for pastimes such as eating out, shopping, or traveling.

Because of the competition Anderson described, teenagers are simultaneously feeling the pressure to find employment and the difficulties of being accepted for a job position.

"If I had a job, I would be much more likely to get a car and debit card too," Baker said. "I'd be able to do a lot more things."

In the Kansas City area, a program called Workforce Partnership aids teens in finding summer employment, as well as provides them with experience and internships in Leaven-



Hand it over ★ Sophomore Emily Baker, left, collects a job application from junior Ellie Hart, an employee at the Dime Store in Brookside April 15. This was the fourth job position that Baker pursued. "I want to work somewhere close," Baker said. "I hope I am accepted into one of the jobs I've applied for some girls applied at the same places, so I don't know." PHOTO BY EMILY STRICKLAND

worth, Johnson, and Wyandotte counties. In addition to helping students with their studies, Workforce provides job placement assistance.

"Take the first step and see how we can help you get on the right path for job and career choices," its website says.

However, it remains a challenge for STA students because programs such as Workforce serve teens from low-income families, run-

aways, ex-offenders, and foster children. STA students are more fortunate but are also shown less opportunity for finding summer employment through programs such as Workforce.

Despite the difficulty in finding summer employment, Baker said she is going to keep looking for a summer job.

"There's nothing else I really can do," Baker said. ★

Prom's prices produce problems

Economy negatively affects traditional prom at STA as cost of enjoyment rises

by BETSY TAMPKE
Journalism student

Senior prom April 17 at The Little Theater was slightly tainted for some seniors, as expenses of the evening and the pressure of a failing economy encroached on their so-called "rite of passage."

With single tickets at \$38 and couple tickets at \$72 plus the added costs of a dress, boutonniere, and party bus, some students are feeling strained by the amount of money expended on prom.

According to Ms. Jeanella Clark, head of prom decorations and invitations committee, the seniors in the prom planning committee wanted to make the dance more affordable than previous years.

"The senior officers wanted to keep ticket prices pretty low," Clark said. "Last year [ticket prices] were pretty high, and the girls wanted to be very budget conscious this year."

The proceeds from ticket sales must cover the costs of renting The Little Theater, the meal, disk jockey, dance floor, and decorations.

Clark said that the decorations committee is trying to conserve money by being frugal in their spending. The committee is buying more sale items and using less extravagant decorations compared to previous years.

The prom planning committee is not alone in its concern with costs, as many seniors are

also being budget conscientious.

Senior Chloe Lundgren paid for her prom expenses and tried to spend as little money as possible.

"I buy cheaper dresses, or try to keep things on minimal costs," Lundgren said. "It's hard for me to decide to go [to prom] because I really want to but there are other things I would rather spend money on."

Lundgren works as a nanny, pays for her car, insurance, clothes and entertainment along with prom expenses. She feels prom is "less worth" her money.

Lundgren said because she is spending a significant amount of money on prom she feels pressured to make the most of the evening. However she also said that if there wasn't so much hype about prom she probably wouldn't go.

"I have a bad attitude about it because I know I have to pay for it," Lundgren said. "But it's not really stressful."

Even students who do not cover their own prom costs, such as senior Kate Bohnert, are money conscious as they prepare for the evening.

"I definitely still go for the cheaper things," Bohnert said. "I don't want it to be stressful for my parents."

Bohnert believes the cost of prom is centered around how you approach the event.

"You can buy a dress for a reasonable price, how much you spend on an after party is up to you," Bohnert said. "You can get you hair and nails done and make it quite the expensive evening, but you can also make it inexpensive."

Senior Kelly Younger, whose parents are also covering her prom expenses, is angry about the amount of money involved in it.

"I think the price of prom is astronomical," Younger said. "[Companies like dress shops, floral stores, etc.] know kids have to pay for [prom expenses] so they know they can charge ridiculous prices."

With all of the added stress and expenses some students question the importance of this event in the high school experience. Lundgren doubts the significance of prom.

"I think there are more worth while things going on [than prom]," Lundgren says. "I think it's a lot of hype because there is only one time, but I am trying to get excited."

Clark, who graduated from high school and attended her own senior prom, believes that it is an essential experience in growing up.

"It's a rite of passage, I think," Clark said. "From a teacher's stand point, there are certain developmental milestones a child has to go through. Prom is one of those things that you should go through." ★

"From a teacher's stand point, there are certain developmental milestones a child has to go through. Prom is one of those things that you should go through."

Jeanella Clark, Prom Coordinator



The price is right ★ Senior Chloe Lundgren checks the price on a potential prom dress at Forever 21 April 9. "My mom wants us to be independent," Lundgren said. "[A prom dress] is an excessive cost, so I should have to pay for it." PHOTO BY BETSY TAMPKE

Teens learn advantages of saving

The National PTA claims allowances help kids learn how to handle finances

by HANNA KATZ
Journalism student

"Mommy? Can I get a candy bar? Please?" The young child asks as he and his mother approach the checkout line.

"No sweetie, maybe next time," His mother replies as she pulls out several coupons from her purse.

This boy's mom may not realize it, but she has taught him a very important lesson that he can use in the future.

Freshman Danielle Gatapia is familiar with this situation, but not the reaction from the mother.

"[When I was little] I would just basically put anything in the cart and my mom would be like 'Yeah sure we can get it,'" Gatapia said. "So I would basically get everything I want at the grocery store. It's still kind of like that now."

The National PTA says that one of the best ways to help a child learn to manage money is by using regular shopping trips as lessons in self-control and saving money.

They say that parents that use coupons and look for the best bargains can save their families more than \$1,800 for a family of four.

The University of Minnesota has also set out guidelines to aid in teaching children and teenagers to manage money. They say that parents should make their children aware that they can't buy everything they want, and that a great time to bring this up is when a parent and their child are window-shopping.



Time to eat ★ Freshman Danielle Gatapia purchases an after school snack April 9. Her mother Carolyn Gatapia gave Danielle the money about a week earlier. PHOTO BY HANNA KATZ

"We've been pathetic at [helping them learn to manage money]," said Ms. Monta Morris, mother of sophomore Maggie Holt, freshman Emily Holt and seventh grader Katie Holt. However, Mrs. Morris may be doing better than she thinks she is.

"I don't really like spending my money," Emily Holt said, "I don't like letting people borrow it either."

Gatapia agrees with her fellow classmates.

"Oh yeah, I would [be more conscience of how

I spend money]," Gatapia said. "I'm really, oh what's the word, cheap. I wouldn't go anywhere on the weekend if I had to pay for it myself."

Gatapia's mother still feels she should increase the opportunities she gives Danielle to learn about how to manage money.

"I need to work on [teaching Danielle and Isabelle to manage money]," Mrs. Gatapia said. "I really haven't prepared either of them that well. They are so used to us providing money."

Some parents also like to know what their children do with the money they are given.

"[My parents] just like to know what's going on," Emily said.

However, the National PTA suggests that letting children make some spending decisions on their own, whether they make good decisions or not, will help them learn to weigh the pros and cons of buying an item before doing so.

The University of Minnesota agrees that letting them learn from their mistakes and letting them see what kind of consequences that can come out of those mistakes will help them avoid doing the same thing in the future.

Holtzbrinckus.com says that the lessons of good money management skills is just as important as instilling the habit of brushing their teeth in a child.

They suggest that teaching your child the difference between spending and saving, but also how they relate to each other. They also say that letting a child manage their own money and not taking over their savings helps them learn not only from their mistakes but also their triumphs.

To get started the National PTA suggests that an allowance is one of the best things to start a child with good money management skills. The use of bills that are small denominations encourages saving.★

All in one day's work



STA student realizes what matters through special needs student

by ANNA MEYERS
Journalism student

While some teenagers earn money by working at restaurants or clothing stores, senior Mackenzie Beisser earns money by tutoring and babysitting Bella DeBrevi, a second grade girl with Down syndrome.

Mackenzie does various activities with DeBrevi, from an afternoon at the pool for a quick swimming lesson to tutoring in basic subjects. They also focus on activities to keep up DeBrevi's social skills.

"Circumstances worked out," Mackenzie said. "Bella is a sweet young girl who is easy to get along with and cooperate with. I fell in love with her. She is a little shy at first, but once you have a connection with her it's all fun and games."

Mackenzie met Bella through vacation Bible school, held by their parish, Holy Cross. The Kansas Medical Assistance Program, a service that Bella's mother, Ms. Theresa DeBrevi, said Bella was entitled to, pays

Mackenzie. Mackenzie works with Bella seven to ten hours a week during the summer and she occasionally babysits during the school year when Bella's parents want a night off.

"We really wanted to work with someone we already knew and had a foundation with," Theresa said.

Mackenzie said she cherishes her time with Bella and is so happy she had the chance to meet her and interact with her.

"It's really rewarding," Beisser said. "I've gotten to see her grow, not just physically, and to see how my teaching has affected her. I've seen her become more independent. We started by counting to ten. Now, we're adding and subtracting. It's good to know that I helped that."

Theresa said she loves Mackenzie's help and is very happy that Bella has Mackenzie in her life.

"It's not like work for Bella," Theresa said. "Mackenzie has affected Bella very positively. She has become more like a family member. She is like her big sister. She's a positive role model and is so supportive with Bella."

Theresa ensures that Bella likes being with Mackenzie just as much as Mackenzie loves being with Bella. If Bella knows that Mackenzie is coming over,

she will wait by the window to see her.

"[Mackenzie] is so nice and fun," Bella said.

Mackenzie's family is very supportive of her tutoring and babysitting Bella.

"You think that Bella won't know much," said freshman Clancie Beisser, Mackenzie's younger sister. "I'm the one learning when I'm with her."

Clancie is also proud of what Bella has helped Mackenzie learn and open her eyes to.

"It shows how organized, patient, and disciplined [Mackenzie] is," Clancie said. "I would never be able to do that."

Mackenzie said she is so glad that she had the chance to meet someone with so much joy to offer.

"Through everything she is still one of the happiest people ever," Mackenzie said. "She taught me that perfection truly isn't possible so be happy with what you have and make the most of it."

Mackenzie discovered her passion in life through Bella. She wants to teach students with special needs and will be attending St. Louis University in the fall to study the subject.

"My goal is to have a classroom full of kids of my own, and who knows?" Mackenzie said. "Maybe I will."★

Drawing the line ★ Bella DeBrevi, left, sharpens a crayon to draw in her coloring book while senior and caretaker Mackenzie Beisser watches at DeBrevi's house on April 9. She repeated each step of her task, "twist, twist, twist," until her crayon was fully sharpened. PHOTO BY ANNA MEYERS

Economy affects donations

Local foundations experience decline in contributions due to recession

by CASSIE REDLINGSHAFFER
Journalism student

St. Ann's Catholic Church in Prairie Village is experiencing a decrease in donations due to the economic crisis and it is not alone. Local churches and charities must work with a more limited budget because of inadequate contributions.

"We have noticed a decrease in donations and most other business managers for other Johnson County Catholic churches are reporting the same," Mr. Bill Schafer, the business manager of St. Ann's, said. "When faced with [the fear of losing your job], it is understandable why collections have declined."

Foundations and churches have recently seen a decrease in giving that is directly related to the recession. President Obama's stimulus act, which makes donating less beneficial for taxpayers, could also have an effect on donations. According to the Associative Press, under the plan, a donor in the highest tax bracket would save \$280 instead of \$396 on a \$1000 charitable deduction.

The REACH Healthcare Foundation, dedicated to investing in grants, had a 30 percent decline in

assets last year, according to its president and CEO Ms. Brenda Sharpe.

"In 2009, [the REACH Healthcare Foundation] plans to spend \$500,000 less than we did in 2008," Sharpe said.

Some organizations, however, have not seen a decline in donations.

Mr. Scott Zerger, business manager of the Johnson County Library Foundation, said this year's first quarter donations are slightly ahead of last year's. He anticipates the overall donations to be approximately the same as they were last year.

"We've not seen a decrease [in donations] yet, but should it occur, it will probably be due to the uncertainty in the economy," Zerger said. "People still possess the wealth and desire to give charitably, but most will take a 'wait and see' approach."

At St. Ann's, the decrease in donations began with a slight drop in the third quarter and then a major decline in the fourth quarter of last year.

Although donations are lacking, St. Ann's has not attempted to further motivate people to contribute. The church is more concerned with the spiritual well-being of the parishioners.

"I do not think the focus should be necessarily on increasing donations," Schafer said. "The primary mission of the church is to serve the spiritual needs of the people and provide support for those parishioners who are facing difficult times. Our hope is that parishioners will see

themselves as part of a family."

St. Ann's now works with a more limited budget. According to Schafer, the church froze the salaries of school and church office workers and is cutting back on simple things. For example, they cleaned and buffed the floors instead of waxing them.

The church understands why donating is one of the first things eliminated from people's finances.

"When times are difficult and money is tight, people tend to cut back on discretionary spending of all kinds," Schafer said. "If it comes down to paying the mortgage or contributing to the church, it's pretty obvious that people are going to keep a roof over their head."

St. Ann's, the Johnson County Library Foundation and the REACH Healthcare Foundation all agree it is important for people to continue to donate, even in the current economic situation.

"Charitable giving is a deeply personal matter and relies on one's values and beliefs," Zerger said. "I encourage everyone, especially teens, to support organizations in which you believe strongly. Even if gifts are small, your investment in a charitable organization throughout your life will make a difference in the lives of those in need." ★



Helping hand ★ Ms. Janice Redlingshafer, a St. Ann's parishioner, donates to the church on Easter Sunday. St. Ann's business manager, Mr. Bill Schafer, understands why the church has received fewer donations recently. "When times are difficult and money is tight, people tend to cut back on discretionary spending of all kinds," Schafer said. PHOTO BY CASSIE REDLINGSHAFFER

Teen lifeguards drown in hardened times

Job freeze at Henley Aquatic Center affects employees and frequent swimmers

by CAITLIN NELSON
Journalism student

Summer: a season of job opportunities and paycheck raises for teen lifeguards. But, as a result of the slow economy, achieving the expected criteria is harder to do, causing more tension and stress than in years past.

"With the slow economy in effect, I have had a problem with the hiring freeze at my local pool," said Kara Schoneboom, a sophomore at Truman High School.

The local pool at which Schoneboom hopes to work at is Henley Aquatic Center in Independence. In order to be a lifeguard, she has to complete an American Red Cross training course that costs up to \$260. The courses are mandatory, making it hard for Schoneboom to fit in swim practice and schoolwork during the week. On top of that, Schoneboom has to compete against other hopefuls in her training class and from what she hears there are handfuls looking to make money this summer. Since the prices on clothes, gas and electronics are rising, making money is the main reason she wants this job.

Erin Agut, a junior at Truman High School, has been working at Henley for almost a year and feels her job has already been affected by the economic status.

"My job has been affected by the economy due to the job freeze and our inability to buy new equipment for the pool so that we can't be as modern as some of the other pools in the metropolitan area," Agut said.

No one has been let go due to the economy at Henley. Agut feels that she does get paid well, considering that lifeguarding is her first job. The Independence school district controls her paycheck and pays \$8.41 an hour.

"So far, my rates have stayed the same through the year, but in the summer, I'm expecting a pay raise," Agut said.

Kasey Dickerson, a junior at William Chrisman High School, is also a lifeguard at Henley. Dickerson has been working at the aquatic center for one and a half years. Dickerson works four to five days a week and is experiencing increased



Come on in, the water's fine ★ Kasey Dickerson, a lifeguard at Henley Aquatic Center in Independence, instructs her swim lesson group. Even though Dickerson was off duty, she went straight to work teaching the young swimmers. PHOTO BY CAITLIN NELSON

hours of work.

"My hours do decrease depending on the season, but in the summer I work all the time," Dickerson said. "My paycheck has also gone up because of my yearly raise and I also work a lot more."

Henley Aquatic Center and the guards are not the only ones that have been affected by the slow economy. Various beaches such as Ocean City, Md. have raised their standards in order to be on the patrol in efforts to save money, therefore making it harder for hopefuls to get the job.

Not only is this ongoing problem stressing the guards and supervisors, it is also stressing the

people that come to these beaches and pools. With the dwindling hiring process and cuts, swimmers are worried that their safety will be jeopardized.

"The supply of lifeguards goes directly with the economy," Joe Pecoraro, president of the United States Lifesaving Association said. "When the economy is good and there are a lot of good construction jobs, we can't compete with the pay rate."

Despite the effects of the economy, lifeguarding does have some perks.

"The training is incredibly helpful to my future medical career, helpful knowledge and looks great on a resume," Agut said. "Sometimes I go up to

the pool just to hang out because there is always something interesting going on."

Dickerson feels the same and enjoys hanging out at the pool with her coworkers.

"I lifeguard and swim, that is what my life is," Dickerson said. "You need to find me, I am always at the pool. I love the fact that I know I have the ability to save someone's life."

Both feel that their jobs have given them the benefit of meeting new friends and doing what they love the most.

"I love where I work and who I work with," Agut said. "Not a lot of people can say that about their jobs." ★

Tough times hurt animal shelters

Struggle in economy hurts helpless pets leaving them homeless and unsupported

by SAMANTHA CUSUMANO
Journalism student

Hit by a car, unable to walk and homeless, Gabriel arrived at the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City animal shelter. With three broken legs and no one to pay for his necessary surgery, he never stopped wagging his tail. However, through donations and fund-raising, the shelter's staff and volunteers raised enough money to give this dog the care he needed.

Similar stories end up in animal shelters around the city, such as the Humane Society and Wayside Waifs. However, due to the recent economy, these animal shelters are struggling more than ever to maintain necessary funding.

The Humane Society and Wayside Waifs are not-for-profit organizations that make money strictly from private donations, fund-raisers and adoption fees. According to Ms. Robin Rowland, director of development at the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City, individual donations have dropped 30 percent from last year and cooperation donations have dropped 50 percent.

"Seventy percent of donations are from individuals," Rowland said. "Those people still give, but they can't give as much."

The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City makes an average of \$45,000 per year, and approximately \$3,750 per month from donations, fund-raisers and adoptions. To raise the extra money they need to maintain the shelter, the Humane Society does fund-raisers such as the Kansas City Pet Telethon,

the Dog and Jog and Art Unleashed, which is an auction that sells pet themed artwork by local artists.

Wayside Waifs solely raises money through fund-raisers and adoption fees. FurBall and Strut with your Mutt are their biggest events of the year. They also accept donations in honor of loved ones or pets.

According to Ms. Jenny Brown, communications director at Wayside Waifs, the shelter receives 500 animals per month and 7,000 animals a year. Even during tough economic times, the shelter keeps them all instead of sending them away. Approximately 450 out of 500 animals a month and 5000 of the 7000 animals a year are adopted. Donations make it possible for these animals to find homes.

"The economy has definitely affected donations," Brown said. "There is a decrease in funding. People want to give, but they give less. They find different ways to cut back on costs."

Even though there has been no change in the adoption fees at either shelter, both see fewer animals adopted due to people's inability to support the animal. Sophomore Cele Fryer, who donates her time and money to local dog shelters and animal hospitals, has noticed this as well.

Due to the economy, people are no longer able to pay or provide for animals. Fryer said that since the economy worsened, she has seen more dogs at the shelter that are sick and not cared for.

"People can't pay for expensive treatment for their pets, such as arthritis medicine," Fryer said. "They make their pets suffer through pain."

Ms. Rowland encourages adoption despite the economy, but also encourages thinking it through.



Help me ★ Taco, an adult female Toy Fox Terrier, left, begs to be released from her cage as she jumps up next to her Pomeranian pal Piper, who is also an adult female. The four year old has prepared to be adopted through house training, vaccinations and a microchip. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA CUSUMANO

"Adoption can be good and bad," Rowland said. "Adoption is long term. You have to have the right lifestyle. It's a matching process. Any animal can be expensive and you have to think about whether or not your funds are tight."

Fryer not only donates her time and money to shelters, she has also adopted two dogs of her own. She believes adoption is the greatest

thing on the earth.

"I'm so passionate and I go on and on when people ask me about working at shelters and hospitals," Fryer said. "I want to bring all the dogs home. It's sad sometimes, like when they die or when it's been too long and they get euthanized. They don't know what's wrong, they just want to go home." ★

Colleges push students to reach into their pockets

As the recession climbs on, students are having a harder time affording an education

by DANIELLE GATAPIA
Journalism student

As a 2003 STA graduate, Leah Smith knows how to work hard to get what she wants. After she graduated from STA, she enrolled into Kansas State University and is currently about to attend Friends University for her graduate degree. Deciding on a college and graduate school was easy for Smith. However, like many other young adults in America, it has been difficult for her to find the money to pay for it, especially in this economic downfall.

Current college students and students enrolling for the next semester are finding it more difficult to pay for college since the prices are getting more expensive and scholarships are not given out as often. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the tuitions increased 8 percent per year from 1979 to 2001, which clarifies why students are looking for grants they are applicable to and any way to get a scholarship.

For Smith, applying for several grants and getting student loans were the best things for her to do if she wanted to attend college. Choosing K-State, in her opinion, was the second best thing to do even though she lived out of state.

"I liked the school," Smith said. "But I also thought it was ridiculous that K-state [tuition] out of state was the same as MU [tuition] in state."

K-State is about \$17,000 to \$19,000 for freshman year. Generally, out-of-state tuitions are three times the amount of in state tuitions or more. Unlike Leah Smith, Enaam Gettino chose Kansas University because of financial

reasons.

"I chose [KU] because, well, we're fans for one thing," Gettino said. "But also because it's close to home and I get a discount."

Since Gettino lives in state, she only has to pay \$8,000 to attend. Being in state shaved off \$10,000 alone. Even though she got a discount, she still applied for a scholarship called the Masonic Foundations Scholarship where she had to write an essay about her academic goals for her college years.

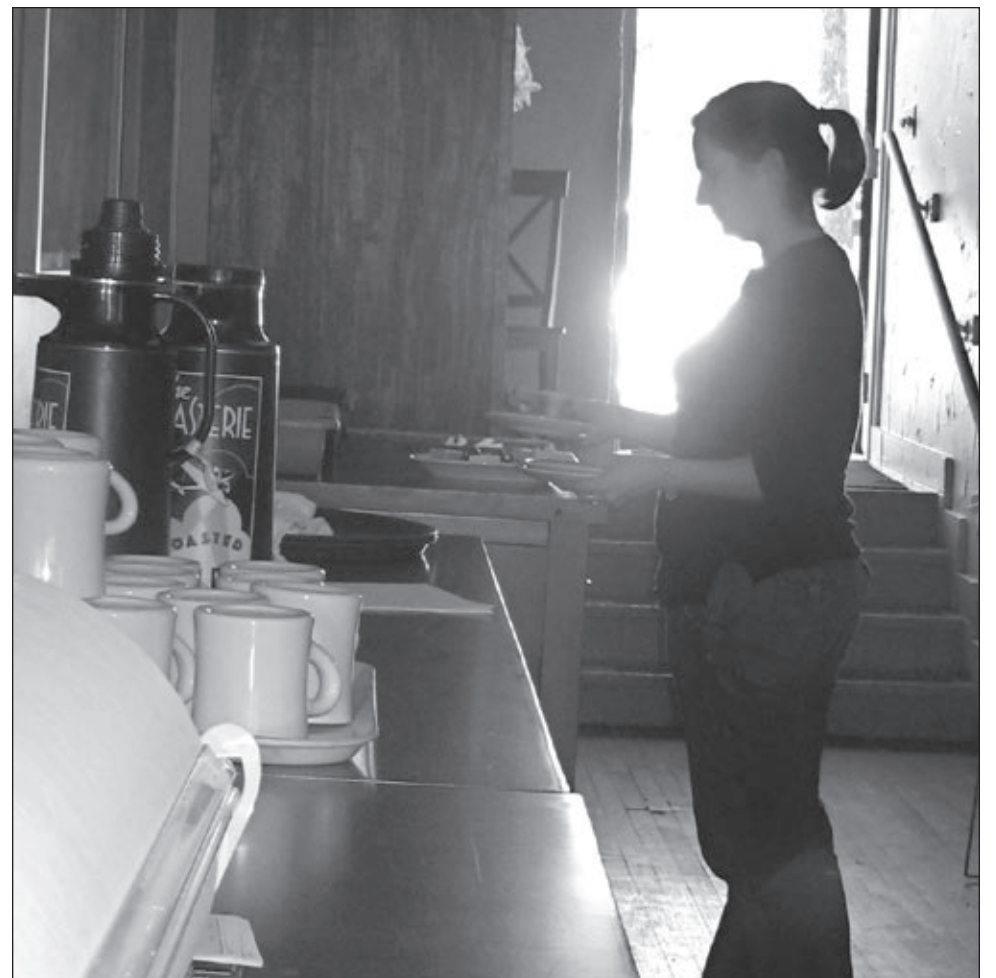
Even though \$8,000 doesn't seem as much compared to KU's standard price of \$18,000, it still cost a lot because of books, which the Masonic Foundations Scholarship provided money for her sorority and her dorm. Those added up are estimated to be \$7,000.

"This is why I have a job in college," Gettino said. "I have to pay for all of that. College is expensive but it's fun and worth it."

Like Gettino, Evan Daugherty had help from his parents in providing money for college. Daugherty, a freshman at Creighton University, did not have to work as hard to find grants, scholarships or loans. For him, his parents paid for a majority of the \$28,000, leaving him with \$8,800 for his dorm room. Daugherty did get a scholarship, though. Creighton provides \$3,000 a year for him to stay on the cross-country team.

Even though Daugherty did not have to fight for a spot in college, there still is a competition.

"[Getting scholarships and paying for college] was competitive when I started school," Smith said. "I think that because of the economy, people are staying in school longer and are taking advantage of the opportunities so there aren't as many spots for newcomers. That just shows that people agree that education is valuable, but it comes with a price." ★



Order up ★ Leah Smith prepares two lunches on April 14 at Oak 63 diner where she works as a server. Smith plans to keep the job until she begins her next semester at Friends University to begin her graduate's degree. PHOTO BY DANIELLE GATAPIA

Staying in helps some couples save money

The economic crisis has impacted some student relationships

by MOLLY MEAGHER
Journalism student

Money, money, money; it has always been an issue for couples. Whether it is a small fight about why he didn't pay the check or that dreaded talk when you two decide to have on whose paying for what, money has always been part of the relationship. But because of the recent economic crisis, money may become less active in the relationship.

For STA sophomore Meagan Stoops and STA senior Lee Fryer, the economy has not affected their relationships.

"I don't think the economy really has had an effect [on relationships]," Stoops said. "I think that in a way it's just a problem everyone is dealing with but [dating is] one of the things [the economy] doesn't affect."

Stoops has been dating Rockhurst High School sophomore Matt Erhman for three months. According to Stoops, the couple usually goes to someone's house to hang out but said she does not mind spending money.

"I think it's more relaxing [not

spending money though because] we don't have to spend money to have fun," Stoops said.

Stoops said the positives of staying in include that it is more relaxing, many receive a later curfew, many parents worry less and it allows people to wear casual clothes. However, Stoops said hanging out at home does get old after a while.

Fryer also said she has not experienced any difference in her spending habits with her boyfriend, Rockhurst senior William Degen. The couple has been dating for 18 months and Fryer said they see each other four to five times a week and usually go out.

"[But there is] no reason to go out to dinner all the time because we can stay in too," Fryer said.

Although both STA students said the economy doesn't affect their relationships, St. James Academy sophomore Ashleigh Knoeferl said the economy has had an impact on her relationship. Knoeferl has been going out with St. James Academy sophomore Jake Bradley for almost eight months and said they have been staying in to avoid spending money. The couple is careful with money because Bradley is searching for a job. Knoeferl has a job but said Bradley is too stubborn to let her pay for herself.

"I tell him to let me pay all the time, but he's too proud to let me pay," Knoeferl said. "He doesn't like

to have me pay because he wants to be the man of the relationship and he'd feel unworthy if he made me pay."

As an alternative to going out and spending money, Knoeferl said they will hang out at a friend's house or go to a school sporting event. On special occasions, such as school dances or anniversaries, they will go out to eat.

"[The positive of staying in is the] bonding time because sometimes you can't be loud and goofy and just yourselves in public," Knoeferl said. "[The negative to staying in is that it] kind of is like a routine and it gets old...I mean we are a lot more relaxed when we stay at his house or something, but sometimes it feels like we [are] just friends hanging out."

Bradley agrees about the benefits of staying in, but he knows he will have a good time if he goes out. However, Bradley said his only major money problem is gas money because of how far away Knoeferl lives.

Knoeferl said if the economy was better they would be able to go out more often.

"I guess I didn't really think about how the economy had a direct affect on our relationship," Knoeferl said. "...I mean I knew he [wasn't the richest guy] but I never really blamed the recession. I just kind of thought he was always like that, but now that I thought about it I realize that's not true." ★



Take a bite ★ Rockhurst senior John Otto, left, eats with his girlfriend, STA senior Mallory McDonald on April 15 after school. McDonald and Otto have been dating for about a year and have said they have not experienced any money problems due to the recession. PHOTO BY MOLLY MEAGHER

Teens pay big for 'essential' technology



Teenagers reflect on the high cost of popular gadgets

by LIZ WIENS
Journalism student

In an age where technology is regarded as essential, a rapidly diminishing economy means nothing. Many teens feel that to simply exist in this world a cell phone and Internet access are imperative. This calls for an immense amount of spending.

Along with the average price of a cell phone, an activation fee of about \$50 is necessary to use that phone at all. Anywhere from \$25 to \$50 spent on texting, minutes and Internet fees in addition to the original changes.

Aside from the phone, other common technological essentials include computers, cameras, Nintendo Wiis, iPods, TVs, Internet, and cable. After purchasing the device, monthly fees necessary to get them to work average about \$3600 a year, according to Sprint employee and STA parent Susan Odneal.

With an increase of money spent on technology, teens have to ask themselves, is it worth it?

Even though the diminished economy plays no major role in money spent on technology, income does. A survey taken in 2006 by Pew Research Center found that there is a definite correlation between a household's income and its Internet use.

Families with a yearly income of \$75,000 and up use the Internet 38 percent more than those

with a lower income. Because of the recession, household incomes are dropping, but for many, the amount of money spent on technology is not decreasing. As newer cell phones, computers, iPods and other devices are produced, many people are spending more on technology than ever.

"I know my parents spend a lot of money on my technology, but I try to make it worth their money," STA freshman Hanna Katz said.

Katz feels that for the most part, all of the technology she uses is essential. Katz realizes that her parents spend more money on technology than is possible for her to spend. Though Katz views many of her electronic devices as essential for her, she said she would get rid of cable if needed.

Cable was one of the few technology devices many people, including sophomore Meredith Koch, feel is necessary.

"I probably could [afford all of the technology if I needed to] but I wouldn't want to," Koch said. "I'd pay for the necessary things like my phone and camera."

Phones are viewed by many as the key necessity for teenagers today as opposed to in the past when computers were. Because phones now have wireless Internet, many teenagers, including Koch and freshman Cassie Odneal, actually feel like they can rid themselves at their home Internet. By cutting the monthly Internet fee, about \$40 can be saved on the expense alone.

The Pew 2006 survey stated that the most common technological device among teens was a desktop computer, followed by a

phone. However, a later survey taken in 2008 by the wireless trade association Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association found that teenagers feel that cell phones are an essential part of their actual identity. The survey also found that 80 percent of teenagers own a cell phone today and that 50 percent of them see it as a major instrument in their social lives.

"I think my phone kind of represents me and like I think everybody has that [feeling]," Odneal said.

Even with all the different types of technology teens utilize today, many teenagers agree that cell phones are by far the most indispensable.

"[My phone is] just really important to my life and I really couldn't live without it," Odneal said.

Oodneal said if she needed to pay for her technology, she would not be able to, even with her job.

"I really don't have an excess of very much [technology]," Odneal said.

However, she said she would stop using everything except her phone and her camera if she had to pay for it all. And in that case, she would wear her phone and camera out before considering buying new ones.

Research shows that many teenagers who use the electronics their parents pay for may not realize how much money the world of technology actually costs. However when they do think about the amounts of money spent every year, some may realize the cost and reconsider what really is necessary. ★

Tip Tap ★ STA Freshman Lane Schulte messages a friend on her iPhone while researching Madrid, Spain on her laptop on April 4. Schulte uses her technology many times during the day and feels it is important for school and for fun. PHOTO BY LIZ WIENS

Family-owned businesses build bonds



Students employed by parents gain money, experience

by KATHLEEN VOGEL
Journalism student

Clean your room, do the dishes, don't forget to walk the dog. Most parents tell teens this daily. Some teens use work as ways of escaping from the troubling of their parents, but those working at family-owned businesses don't have the opportunity to escape. While the inability to break away from parents may seem like a curse, many kids working in family businesses find it to be a rewarding experience, according to several STA students.

Many STA students work for their parents at locally-owned family businesses. Unlike a normal workplace, there is a different environment created by having their parents as their boss. The bond between the children and their parents creates a strong foundation for the success of the business while developing the child's skills for the future, according to Ms. Louise Meyers. This unique setting offers the child the opportunity to start working and earn money while still feeling comfortable in the environment created by having their parents around.

Freshman Anna Meyers works for her mother, Louise Meyers,

at Prydes Old Westport, a kitchen and home accessory store located in Old Westport. Anna finds that working in the family environment helps her become more personable.

"It is definitely a positive experience," Anna said. "Through my mom being the boss, I have developed good social skills like how to talk to people, especially difficult people. I have learned to be more open in tough situations."

Anna enjoys the family atmosphere her mother promotes at work. Her mother treats all of the employees like family, which helps create a spirit of cooperation and a sense of caring in the work force.

"Basically everyone at my mom's store is my mom's daughter," Anna said.

Senior Gabriella Garozzo works for her father, Michael Garozzo, at Garozzo Ristorante, an Italian restaurant located in Kansas City. Gabriella thinks that working at a family restaurant helps her family bond and allows her to receive suggestions from her family. These suggestions help Gabriella avoid making costly mistakes. Gabriella is not the only daughter of the family that has worked at the restaurant; all four of her sisters have worked there as well. This allows them to give her feedback accordingly, Gabriella said.

"[Working together as a family] definitely is a way to bond," Gabriella said. "I have learned everything from my older sisters.

When I get home, I can ask questions and they can give me tips. Before I started working, they warned me what it was going to be like."

Working in a family environment helps junior Rachael Winslow learn the business more quickly because she is able to ask questions without feeling bothersome. Rachael works for her father, David Winslow, at Winslow's Barbeque, a restaurant located in Kansas City.

"It is easier knowing the boss because you can at least talk to the boss and ask questions about things that you don't understand without being uncomfortable," Rachel said.

Working at a family business has always been fun according to Anna. Anna believes it helps you grow as a person and start getting business experience early. Although she enjoys working with her mom, Anna notes that you can never stop your parents from embarrassing you, even at work.

"My mom always randomly tries to introduce me to some of the boys that come in with their moms," Anna said. "She tells me to come to the front of the store because she has someone she wants me to meet so I come out and I am thinking 'oh gosh it is going to be an old lady' and then there is this boy. This always happens to me, she has done it, like, a million times. I introduce myself but she still makes things really awkward." ★

Wrap it up ★ Freshman Anna Meyers wraps a gift bag of chocolates for a display in Praydes Old Westport on April 10. Meyers has worked in the family-owned store since she was eight years old. PHOTO BY KATHLEEN VOGEL

Companies play their cards to promote plastic



Adolescents become more responsible by using credit cards

by MEAGAN STOOPS
Journalism student

Sophomore Casey Miller lingers in front of a gas pump at a local QuikTrip. She lifts her debit card, swiping it through the machine before purchasing gas on her way to dinner at Culver's. The transaction takes a minute at most.

Today credit card companies are targeting a younger generation. More teenagers than ever are in possession of either a credit or debit card rather than cash.

According to MSNBC.com, 11 percent of teenagers carry at least one credit card and three out of 10 teens have a checking account, linking them to debit cards.

The accessibility and responsibility that the piece of plastic provides attracts more teens and their parents today to the use of credit and debit cards.

"They are really convenient, especially if you don't have to carry around cash," Miller said. "It's just a little card."

On top of being light weight and compact, senior Ashley Zondca said the card is handy when she needs to purchase something but

does not have enough cash to do so.

"Teens 16 and older should carry [a credit or debit card] because there are instances in life when you can get stranded or something goes wrong," Zondca said. That card can literally save your life."

Some teens get the money for their accounts from their parents, others from a past or current job and some get their money from both sources.

Parents like STA mom Katie Duffy are aiding their high school students by giving them credit cards rather than cash.

"I think [having a debit card] is a good way for teens to learn how to be independent with their money and keep track of how much they have," Katie said.

On occasion, Duffy deposits payments into her daughter's account. Sophomore Mary Kate Duffy supports her debit account with her mother's contributions and earnings from baby-sitting.

Credit and debit cards present many teenagers with money management skills such as keeping track of how much they have spent and how much money is in their account. They also offer teens a newfound independence.

"I'm really cautious about using it because I'm scared of losing track of what I spend," Mary Kate said.

Along with Mary Kate, Zondca

gets money to pay for both her credit and debit cards from her past job at the Grain Valley Pool concessions, baby-sitting, and money transfers from her parents to her account. She says that most of the time though, the cards remain in her wallet.

Many credit card companies even provide lower interest rates for students. More teenagers possess these cards which can lead to the danger of an increase in credit card debt and misunderstandings of how the card works.

Although teens gain a sense of responsibility when they have a debit or credit card, financial experts encourage parents to talk to their kids about this new source of spending.

"I also strongly suggest that parents not only talk to their kids about their responsibilities of having a credit card, but also keep check on how the card is being used," Zondca said.

Many students, like Mary Kate and Zondca, spend less money after seeing their account balances go down with each withdrawal. Zondca finds that spending money is now simpler than ever, encouraging her to keep a close watch on how often she uses the cards.

"Considering the way the economy is right now, I do even less spending on my credit card and save it for when I might have a real emergency," Zondca said. ★

Card please? ★ Sophomore Casey Miller slides her debit card into a gas pump at a local QuikTrip on April 15. Miller stopped at the gas station on her way home from lacrosse practice. PHOTO BY MEAGAN STOOPS

Teens feel effects of weak economy

Adults lose jobs in recession, cause struggle for teens

by JENNY SCHORGL
Journalism student

As money is becoming scarce during the recession, it is leaving many adults without jobs. According to *The Denver Post*, about 50 percent more teenagers are looking for work opposed to a year ago. Victims of the recession have job-searching adults take whatever job spot is open, which is traditionally held by high-school and college students. This generally creates a struggle for teens to find jobs at most places, but not at Amelia's Boutique.

According to the owner of Amelia's Boutique, Ms. Dawn Gore, the recession had a huge impact on her store last fall.

"The recession had a dramatic impact on the store, but luckily, going into spring, we rebounded and worked hard to maintain and do better [with sales]," Gore said. "We just had to adjust store sales."

Since last fall, the employees have been working like crazy to overcome their losses from the recession, according to Gore.

"I don't want people to think the recession hasn't hit us because it definitely has," Gore said. "We have gone on the offensive with

different lines-off site sales, and in store promotions to win the business back this spring."

Gore has owned Amelia's Boutique for five years, with locations on State Line and also in Briarcliff Village.

Amelia's Boutique is currently employing anyone from juniors in high school to moms who are 50, according to Gore. She doesn't prefer adults over teenagers, but rather who is most qualified.

"I'm open to hire whoever is a good candidate, no matter what their age is," Gore said. "[Applicants] should love the fashion industry, be helpful and well orientated with customers. Really, it is based on skill set."

Because Amelia's is looking for people who are able to work both after school and during the summer, this creates more job opportunities for teenagers.

Manager Ms. Melinda Yanik also agrees that the recession has affected their store.

"I think [the store] has done well with the recession," Yanik said. "Dawn has done tons of promotions and sales. She's put out more trendy and cute lines of clothing that are less expensive for the customers."

Yanik, who assists Gore with the hiring process, said most associates are mothers who are trying to get back into business.

"Although we haven't had to hire that many people, [the recession] has given us the opportunity

to hire adults, who have more mature help," Yanik said. "We hire some teenagers so that we are able to provide them with some retail experience."

Yanik has worked at Amelia's Boutique at the State Line location since its opening five years ago.

When frequent buyer Ms. Jeanne Fowlkes, 48, walks into Amelia's Boutique in the evenings, the people she sees working are generally in their teens. During the daytime, associates are closer to her age. The age range attracts customers who are moms and even teenagers, according to Fowlkes.

"It's not like any other store," Jeanne said. "I like it because they have clothes that regular department stores don't have. More than likely, someone else won't have the same outfit as me, and I don't like it when people are wearing the same clothes as I am."

Fowlkes' daughters, Lauren, 21, and Ashley, 23, both enjoy shopping at Amelia's.

"I like the trendy clothes," Lauren said. "Not very many people shop [at Amelia's], which makes [the clothes] more unique."

"It is different that normal retail stores," Ashley said. "They are constantly getting in cute new clothes."

Despite the number of adults who have placed a struggle for teens to find jobs, there is at least one store that is willing to hire, especially teens. ★



Pick and Choose ★ Ms. Ashley Fowlkes, 23, looks for a pair of shoes for an upcoming wedding rehearsal at Amelia's Boutique on State Line Apr. 20. Amelia's Boutique had little lasting impact on sales and employment during the recession, according to store owner, Ms. Dawn Gore. PHOTO BY JENNY SCHORGL

I'm sorry, does this make you uncomfortable?

Social rules regarding money talk change with economy slump

by CARA McCLAIN
Journalism student

"How much was that?"
"How much is your house worth?"

"Was that expensive?"
"How much money do you make?"

Most of these questions would not have been a part of everyday conversation before this recent economic struggle because, according to Mr. Chris Doyle, vice president of communications of American Century Investments, money is a competition among people.

"People use money as a way of showcasing their success," Doyle said. "Folks who are self-assured don't need to look to their paychecks for confidence."

However, now with the current economy, Doyle among many across the nation are reconsidering the role money plays in their conversations and lives. According to Doyle, people's aversion to talking about money roots in what their parents taught them.

"People are taught to be discreet [about money] when they are growing up," Doyle said. "People are afraid of being judged."

STA freshman Hannah Wolf tries not to be rude when money is brought up.

"My mom has always told me to never ask how much [someone] weighs, how old [someone] is or how much money [someone] has," Wolf said.

Wolf considers talking about money uncomfortable because everyone is in a different financial situation. For example, when she baby-sits and the parents ask how much she charges, Wolf says she is never sure of what to say.

"I don't want to say too much, but I still want to get paid well," Wolf said. "I don't know what their expectations or [usual] range of paying someone is."

Doyle believes people become more reserved about their money as they age.

"When people are first starting out there is a tendency to flaunt success," Doyle said. "It becomes less of a tendency as you get older."

STA freshman Taylor Migliazzo believes people can be insecure about their financial situations. She feels awkward when people say, "I could never afford that."

"Compared to some other girls, whether they have more or less, [talking about money] feels like bragging," Migliazzo said.

Both Wolf and Migliazzo usually change the subject when in a conversation about money.

Ms. Hillary Black, editor of a collection of essays called "The Secret Currency of Love," recently spoke with *USA Today* on talking about money.

"As far as I'm concerned, more openness about money and the power it wields in our personal lives is about the only upside to this dismal economy," Black wrote.

Doyle, who thinks similarly to Black, feels the economy has made money talk more common. He notices people are examining their financial affairs, and then afterward they are more likely to save their money.

"[Talking about money] is losing some of its stigma because of how ubiquitous it is now," Doyle said.

"No one can deny the immensely powerful role that money plays in shaping our life decisions," Black wrote. "But there's such a thing as assigning too much power to money - as with the unchecked greed that led to the current financial meltdown. So in the end, it's all about striking a balance."

Black also believes men and women talk about money differently.

"Women are generally more comfortable than men at verbalizing their problems," Black said. "But because many women have been sent mixed messages about their own earning options, they often possess complicated, ambivalent feelings about money that are difficult to express."

Recently, Doyle has seen many types of people communicating their problems and asking for assistance.

"There are people out there



The Borrowers ★ Freshman Hannah Wolf, left, accepts the money that freshman Taylor Migliazzo owed her activity period April 14 in Donnelly Hall. "I felt bad taking the money Taylor owed me after she had borrowed some for lunch," Wolf said. "I was happy after I finally got paid back." PHOTO BY CARA McCLAIN

hurting right now who will reach out in their community [for help]," Doyle said.

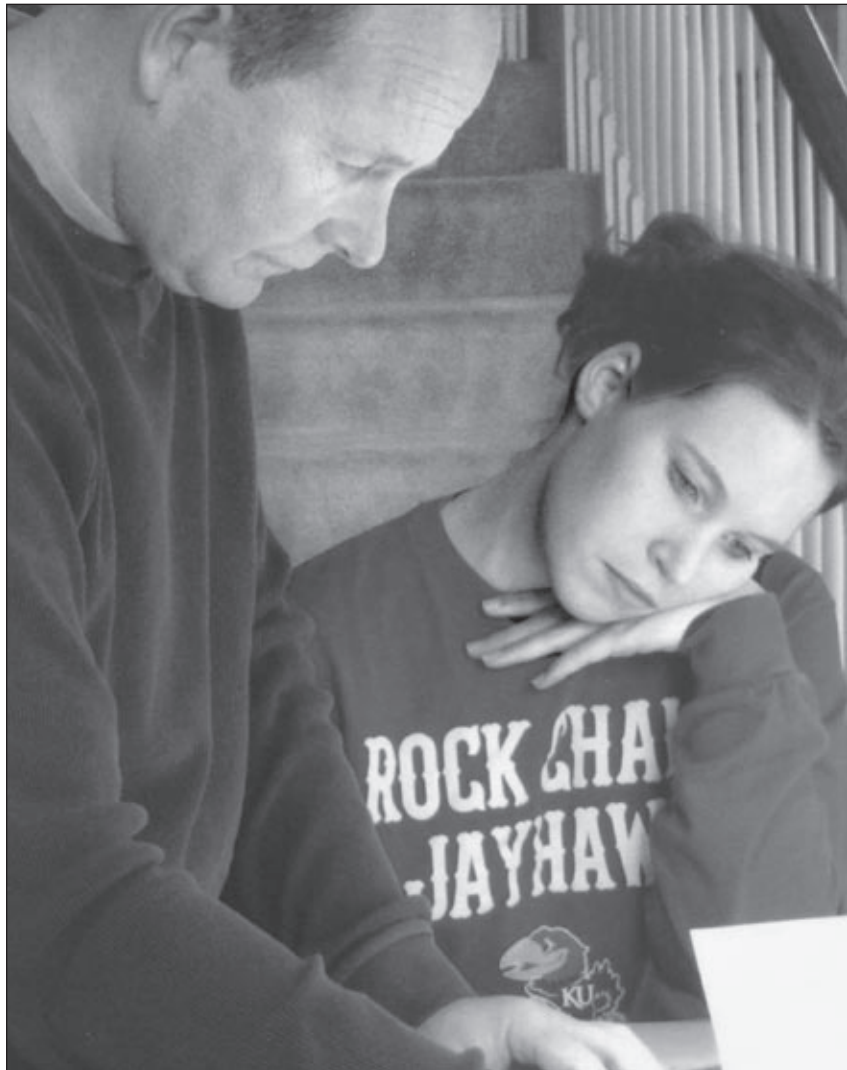
He has noticed communities are then helping those who ask for it.

All in all, Migliazzo believes

talking about money is not always impolite.

"If you're not trying to put them on the spot or make fun of them, it's not rude," Migliazzo said. ★

Seniors wrestle application fees



College costs on the rise, application processes impacted

by KATIE HYDE
Journalism student

Senior Ashley Zondca nervously picked up her phone with clammy hands to call her mom and ask for her credit card information. Zondca needed \$200 for five college applications because she didn't have a job to pay for it herself. She reflected on how the loss of money would affect her mother, who works approximately 80 hours a week, and almost reconsidered calling.

Zondca, who lives with her grandparents during the school year, thought about beginning the conversation with her mother in the typical fashion, with a, "Hi, how's the family?" but decided otherwise.

"I was very nervous about calling my mom, but it would have been so much harder to ask for the money face-to-face," Zondca said. "I would have been even guiltier seeing the look on my mom's face when she realized how much I was asking for."

The anxiety Zondca felt before calling her mother remained for their whole conversation.

"Although it was hard to give my mother that fatal blow of information, I just spit it out," Zondca said. "After telling her, I could tell my mom was trying hard not to think about how much

the applications were costing her. She was calm on the outside, but worrying on the inside. She told me to keep all of the receipts."

For many students like Zondca, the price of college is becoming problematic. According to collegeboard.com, a website that helps students plan for college, this year private college tuition costs have increased 5.9 percent from last year, and public college tuition costs have increased 6.4 percent. But colleges aren't lowering application costs to compensate. The average cost of a college application is \$35, and some colleges charge up to \$100 per application. Applicants must also pay various other fees, and the costs add up. This situation has affected many St. Teresa's students other than Zondca, whose families cannot afford for them to apply to five colleges.

According to Ms. Jennifer DeHaemers, Director of Admissions at UMKC, applications costs exist for many reasons. The first is to measure how serious a student is about a particular school. They also help fund recruitment for publications, pay the salaries of staff members of the college and pay committees involved in selecting students.

To lower application costs, the SAT Free-Waiver Service waives many applications costs for students with financial need. Among the list of colleges involved in this program which waive application fees for participants in the service are ivy league, state, and junior colleges. Some colleges forgo fees for students who normally could not afford to apply

or for those who sign up early for mailing lists. Senior Laura Nendick waived three of her six college application fees because she applied early. However for her, the \$120 she did spend was not an issue.

"The cost per-application didn't really stop me from applying at colleges I liked," Nendick said. "I was going to apply wherever I wanted."

Senior Julia Amaya also waived three of her six college applications costs by filling out paperwork as a preferred student applicant, a student highly interested in the school. Although Amaya's application fees were reduced, she felt qualms about the cost.

"Because it costs around \$35 for each application, I felt guilty applying to so many schools even though I waived three of mine," Amaya said. "At the beginning of [my application process] my parents said, 'Apply wherever you want,' but then they realized how much it adds up. Money is an issue when applying. I feel college applications are overpriced, especially for students who want to apply to many schools."

For Zondca, Nendick, and Amaya, the challenges they confronted when applying to college were worth it once they received their acceptance letters.

"Because of the way the economy is, I felt bad sending in all of those college applications, especially with the one-in-five chance that I actually attended the school," Zondca said. "But after being accepted, everything was okay." ★

Money matters ★ After learning of her scholarship to Kansas State University, senior Kirsten Hyde, right, and father Mark Hyde discuss tuition costs. "I'm glad I got the scholarship because now I can save money for graduate school," Hyde said. PHOTO BY KATIE HYDE

Girls spend, save despite recession

Using paychecks and their allowances, girls both spend and save earned incomes

by BRENNAL PALMER
Journalism student

Although there is a recession occurring, some girls are not experiencing it. With paychecks, savings and allowances, they do not need to worry about the economy. Their money goes into bank accounts, mutual funds and checking accounts and they use it to buy various things.

According to Ms. Nancy Palmer, mother of two, parents are often not willing to spend money on things their children do not necessarily need, so teens resort to finding other ways to earn money. Palmer said she often advises her children on how to spend their money.

"I always try and talk to them about how much they will use it and if it is a want or a need," Palmer said.

Ever since Sacred Heart School sophomore Amy Froeschl got a job at Runza, her parents have stopped paying for some of her wants such as clothing.

"Ever since I got a job, they stopped paying for that stuff," Froeschl said. "But I'm growing up, I have to learn it sometime."

Froeschl usually works two days a week for two hours at a time. She applied for the job at Runza in Nov. because her baby-sitting

jobs were not regular enough. Froeschl puts the majority of her money in a savings account and spends the rest on shirts and other clothing items.

Like Froeschl, freshman KaiLi McCamman must spend her own money on purchases her father does not deem a need.

"He'll buy me clothes, but if I want Abercrombie I have to pay for it," McCamman said.

"Right now I'm just thinking about tuition, not so much pocket money." Crysta Henthorne, senior

McCamman referees for Brookside soccer games at Swope Park every weekend. She works about five hours a weekend, depending on what she is needed for.

McCamman gets paid after every season and spends half of the money on food and clothing and puts the other half in a mutual fund to save for college.

"It will be my college pocket money and tuition," McCamman said.

Senior Crysta Henthorne is also saving some money from her summer job. Henthorne

is currently unemployed, but has money from two years of work at Oceans of Fun. She worked as an airbrush artist one summer and sold fudge at a concession stand the other. Henthorne saved all of her money and put it in her savings and checking account to pay for a year of car insurance and gas money. She is now focused on saving for college.

"Right now I'm just thinking about tuition, not so much pocket money," Henthorne said. "Once I get to college, I might get an on campus job."

Annie Palmer, an eighth grader at St. Ann's, is saving for something as well. She earns money through baby-sitting and receives an allowance. To get her allowance, Annie does chores such as walking her dog, Sammy, cleaning her room and cleaning her cat's litter box. With this money, Annie hopes to buy a new camera to replace the one she recently broke.

Annie's allowance varies with the amount of work she does. She gets about \$10 or \$15 a week if she completes the chores her mom asks of her. Her favorite job is walking Sammy.

"I walk Sam everyday for half an hour, rain or shine," Annie said. "But no snow, I don't do snow."

Annie wants to get a job over the summer, but is worried that no one will hire a 14 year old.

"If I do get a job, I would want to work at someplace fun like Starbucks or an ice cream store," Annie said. ★



Just walkin' the dog ★ Annie Palmer, 14 years old, walks her dog, Sammy, near her home in Prairie Village April 11. "I'm going to buy digital camera by waking Sam and doing other chores," said Palmer. PHOTO BY BRENNAL PALMER

116 shots at new Athletic Director

Economic recession leads to job cuts, have caused STA to receive numerous applicants

by ALEXANDRA BEINEMAN
Journalism Student

Coach Mike Egner holds the athletic director position for 22 more days and around 32 more sporting events. His switch to full time teaching has caused STA to receive over 116 applications for the open position.

STA began accepting applications for a new athletic director Feb. 16. Over 116 applications were sent in, mainly because of high unemployment rates due to the drop in the economy. Companies such as Sprint, Home Depot, Caterpillar, Nokia, and Harley Davidson have cut well over 15,000 jobs in the U.S. within the last few months, according to *The New York Times*.

This job has a very detailed description. Many requirements are specific to people who have previously worked in athletic directing. There a total of 12 sections in the description that cover everything from hiring the coaches and scheduling the game to keeping the parents and principal informed. Egner is also in charge of helping with the STA Booster Club. The Booster Club is headed by Mr. Alan Lankford and sells all the school spirit wear as

well as running concessions at games.

"It will probably take a year for somebody new to figure [the job] out and finally get used to how things need to be done," said Egner. "But they need to continue with the work that I have been doing."

Egner works up to 70 hours a week and maintains connections with officials, other schools and colleges.

People interested in this job opportunity were told to send in their information to Ms. Marion Chartier, the Administrative Assistant in Donnelly Hall.

"The first day I came in, I think we had somewhere around 30 responses," Chartier said. "For the first two weeks we were inundated with resumes."

These applications went to Egner, where he sorted through each one of them. He first set aside resumes with previous Athletic Directing experience, and later he took people with a background of high school coaching preferably girls because of STA's all girl environment. There were a number of unqualified applications among the qualified ones President Nan Bone said.

"I was surprised that you could quickly sort them," Bone said. "It was easy to see who had come from sprint or other companies."

Once the applications were sorted, the interviewing process began. Because of the struggling economy, STA even received three applications from out of state. According to



Talk to me ★ Mr. Mike Egner sits in his office, while on the phone April 15. Egner has said that he is excited for the transition to becoming a full time teacher for the 2009-2010 school year **PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA BEINEMAN**

Bone, one was willing to move here just for the Athletic Director position.

An applicant for the job, Johnny Williams, is currently a soccer coach for the club KFCF. Williams also has a background of coaching and physical education for multiple sports including swimming and track.

"I do have coaching to fall back on," Williams said. "But it's still stressful and nerve

racking to go up against so many people."

Egner has said that he is excited to return to full time teaching. He hours for the Athletic Director position are long and full time teaching is a needed change. He will permanently move in to the classroom in the back right corner of the gym.

"We call all it the social studies annex," Egner said. ★

No smiles, no laughs, no service

Local businesses attribute success to connections they form with customers

by MEGHAN HARPER
Journalism Student

On the corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Belinder sits a group of neighborhood shops: a grocery store a florist, a barber shop, and a corner bookstore. Inside the bookstore a customer and the owner discuss a book. They turn to see that they are not the only ones involved in the conversation; another woman is standing behind them, trying to learn about the book they are discussing.

"Events like this happen frequently," said Ms. Vivien Jennings, owner and founder of Rainy Day Books. "We are a gathering place for people. We want the experience they have to be like a neighborhood where everyone is included in what is going on."

Rainy Day Books and Hi Hat Coffee, two neighborhood shops in Shawnee Mission have maintained business in the struggling economy by taking pride in customer service and loyalty.

Jennings believes her small, one location bookstore has survived the economy because of relationships she has built with customers, the community and other businesses since opening in

1975.

Others feel the same. Many of her longtime clientele return to the bookstore, not because of prices, but the customer service.

"I have been a customer of Rainy Day since it first opened," Ms. Barbara Barr said. "Even though they have competitors that offer low prices constantly, these stores do not offer the service that [Rainy Day employees] do. I have had to be careful with my spending, but that does not mean I am going to stop being loyal to a store that offers more than products."

A local shop with a staff that finds it important to form relationships with customers, Hi Hat Coffee has a related story to Rainy Day. Located in what used to be a small gas station, since it opened ten years ago Hi Hat has become a shop people know as a place close to home where they can relax. Similar Jennings, owner Mr. T. Jensen attributes success to customer loyalty and quality service.

"It helps that we sell something addictive," Jensen said. "However, our true success is based on the relationships that we make."

Though Hi Hat is surviving the economy, it has struggled to maintain a profit.

Jensen said the shop's margins have decreased over the past months because of the increased cost in supplies. They have not

lost customers, but cannot raise the prices because coffee is a common product.

While they find it important to succeed themselves, the owners of Hi Hat and Rainy Day also help other businesses. Especially during the recession, they feel responsible to help the local market.

"There are many times when we partner with a local business to introduce a new group of customers to them and to support them ourselves," Jennings said. "When we do this, we help to keep money in Kansas City. If businesses don't do this, then there is no way Kansas City will thrive."

Jensen said Hi Hat has impacted small businesses by increasing the popularity of surrounding shops. He said that before opening Hi Hat, the stores used to be unpopular and unadvertised, but now they have started to gain business.

Jensen also believes Hi Hat has an important role in the entire economic situation of Kansas City.

"We are supposed to be a breath of fresh air," Jensen said. "If people and businesses can see that a 245 square foot shop can make it, then they are given hope that they will too."

Though people in the US are facing monetary struggles, local stores are able to survive by creating customer loyalty. ★



See that? ★ John Black, left and Ms. Julie Cheslik admire the design of Hi Hat Coffee shop April 14. "One of my favorite things [about Hi Hat] is how it is located in an old gas station and maintains the neighborhood charm," Cheslik said. **PHOTO BY MEGHAN HARPER**

Wake up recession, smell the coffee

Store owner Ms. Louise Meyers creates right-at-home atmosphere

by CHELSEA BIRCHMIER
Journalism Student

Kitchen supplies and gadgets of different colors and sizes line the walls at Pryde's Old Westport, a kitchen and home specialty store in Kansas City. Owner and STA alumna and mother Louise Meyers assists customers while offering them a warm cup of coffee or tea. Meyers tries to maintain a relaxed environment in the midst of the recession by selling "a reasonably priced, practical product," and she aims to create a homey atmosphere by interacting directly with the customers.

"I don't have an office upstairs," Meyers said. "I'm not inaccessible. I'm always on the floor. But it's fun, you know?"

Meyers, who has worked at the store since she was 8 years old, bought Pryde's from her parents in 2001. Since then, she has made the store her own by painting it, updating the lights, creating a website, purchasing a new roof and nearly tripling the inventory.

"I wanted to make my own personal stake with the community," Meyers said. "I believe in the neighborhood and the history of Westport, and I want to help bring the focus back to the historical as-

pects of Westport. I want to help with the rebirth of Westport."

Meyers has recently experienced some difficulty with sales, but the recession has also increased her store's traffic.

"I've noticed people's spending habits are a little bit different, are more conservative," Meyers said. "But also we've noticed that people want to cook more and stay at home more."

According to Nielsen BookScan, a retail sales monitoring service, the number of cookbooks sold in the past year increased by 9 percent. Restaurant visits, however, dropped 3 percent in 2008 from the previous year, according to NPD Group, a market researching service.

"I think the recession is really hitting a higher end market that sells luxury items," Meyers said. "And I think it's difficult for the restaurants too."

Because her store's products appeal to people struggling throughout the recession, Meyers believes the clientele is growing and will continue to grow.

"If anything, we have more new people," Meyers said. "We have more new customers with an interest in cooking, and people are fixing their homes instead of buying new homes just to freshen things up a bit. Many new customers and out of town customers have discovered Pryde's."

Due to the expansion of her store's customer base, Meyers has

realized the importance of hard-working employees. Currently, 23 employees work at Pryde's, and of those, eight work full-time. Meyers feels her workers are part of what makes Pryde's stand out.

"Everyone here is well-trained in many areas, like taking care of the customer, pricing, displaying," Meyers said. "We're different than a lot of stores. We do a little bit of everything, and it serves a great purpose."

Meyers encourages her employees to never say no to a customer. Regardless of fears of competition in this recession, she helps customers find products, whether or not Pryde's carries them.

"We're kind of problem solvers here at Pryde's," Meyers said. "We try to help people figure out a solution. A lot of times, [customers] will come in with something specific in mind, and if we don't have it we'll try to help them figure out something else that might work. We recommend our competitors, and we'll even call them if [the product] is something we don't have. In turn, they're good to us."

Overall, Meyers thinks her business is doing well despite the current recession.

"This is about the sixth recessionary time I've worked through," Meyers said. "And I look at it as nothing but a challenge. It's a challenge but a great opportunity." ★



Reach up ★ Owner Louise Meyers organizes a shelf April 15 at Pryde's Old Westport, a local home specialty store. Meyers bought the store from her parents in 2001 and since then has nearly tripled the inventory. **PHOTO BY CHELSEA BIRCHMIER**

Teens learn to converse money, time

Financial problems at home can cause different sources of stress among family members

by ELISE FERRON
Journalism Student

Sophomore Libby Kieffer unloads her overstuffed backpack onto her bed and rolls her eyes after reading her homework for the night: Geometry homework that would keep her thinking for hours, reading another chapter of World literature and studying for her 3/4 World history test would cloud her time, and those were just her top priorities. Another night with more homework than time to herself, Kieffer understands that this has been the most stressful year of her education and doesn't just blame the hard curriculum that St. Teresa's offers.

"I kind of feel more stressed about getting a scholarship, or finding an affordable college because of the bad economy and [in a better economy] I wouldn't have to work as hard," Kieffer said. "School is harder, causing me more stress than needed."

According to Mr. Mike Art, a former case manager, High school students and younger children can feel the stress and anxiety that their parents have due to a bad economy. High school students, as a result, become very anxious about getting into college. Younger chil-

dren feel the stress and can lose the freedom of childhood

"Children, they hear if their parents are worried, [they] may notice that they have to cut back," Art said. "It makes you wonder if [children] have a sense of security."

According to Art, if the parents of a household are stressed or anxious then the children as a result could become overwhelmed by their school work or other aspects of life.

"I am spending a lot of time doing homework," Kieffer said. "If I get any free time I am spending it in my bedroom alone, resting and thinking about what I am doing."

According to the National Association of School Psychology, anxiety and stress in a child or teen life can affect their sleeping and eating patterns, inability to think straight or lead to dropping grades, stomach aches and headaches, increase of fear, isolation from family and friends or drug and alcohol experimentation. Overall, anxiety can decrease the chances of teenagers to have a healthy and normal childhood.

"I often feel myself swamped with homework, locking myself in my room doing homework," Libby said. "I feel it not only takes time away from my family and friends but sleep."

STA counselor, Ms. Amanda James said that she does have students coming to her with problems at the home including more respon-



Hitting the books ★ Sophomore Libby Kieffer skips a walk through Brookside with friends to study for her upcoming World History test. "It's hard to prioritize my time in frees and at school because [I] need to make sure all my homework gets done and I understand it," Libby said. **PHOTO BY ELISE FERRON**

sibilities because their parents have lost a job. The more work and chores at home gives them less time to do homework and endeavor schoolwork, therefore adding stress.

James also explains that parents' stress and anxiety level can affect how the children feel during the economy. Parents make the emotional climate in the house, which the children in return follow.

"High school students would have more stress, they are more attuned to the culture

and understanding what the parents are going through," James said. "Kids can sense that there are rough times but overall their understanding of financial crisis is limited [they] just don't get it, they don't understand money."

Kieffer's understanding of money causes her to be cautious of what she buys due to the poor economy.

"People are conserving money," Kieffer said. "[They] are starting to learn the value of the dollar." ★

Getting a job on her own

Sophomore endures process of job interviewing, obtains position at ice cream parlor

by LUCY EDMONDS
Journalism student

Sophomore Rachel Edmonds sighs as she leaves for her six-hour shift at the popular frozen yogurt store near her home. Edmonds has worked at TCBY for about a year and has begun to feel the monotony setting in. She thinks about when she first started and how exciting it was.

Edmonds was required to get a job when she turned 15, but she didn't really know where to apply. She only had a couple options as a 15 year old, and TCBY seemed like one of the only places to work. Edmonds had grown up going to TCBY and her family knew the owners, so she thought she would get hired right away. Unfortunately, she had a long process to go through.

Although she wanted to have her mom call in for her, Edmonds recalls having to walk in alone and ask to apply.

"I was scared of looking stupid in front of everyone," Edmonds said.

But instead Edmonds was simply given an application form. She then went home, filled out the form, and took it back the next day. Some of the things on the form, such as recommendations, Edmonds had trouble with because she didn't know what to write.

"Teachers, family friends and previous employers are all good [for recommendation]," STA counselor Ms. Amanda James said.

James also advised being as professional as possible, and that keeping the application neat and clean is important.

"I turned in the form and just walked

away," Edmonds said. "But I was called after a couple of days so I guess I did fine [on the application]."

Edmonds then went to the store and had an interview with Ms. Nancy Bream, who owns TCBY with her husband. Bream employs all teenagers.

"I just remember going in to the interview and having no idea what to expect," Edmonds said.

Even though she already knew Bream, who would be interviewing her, Edmonds was still nervous.

"A great way to prepare is to do mock interviews," James said.

James also said she could help students with answering questions and show them how to put together a resume.

"When someone applies, I look for confidence," Bream said. "Eye contact and talking for themselves is important."

TCBY is a casual store and Edmonds wore jeans and a nice shirt, although James recommends wearing nice clothes such as a suit to interviews.

"It is important to look professional so your employers can take you seriously," James said.

Avoiding grungy clothes, messy hair, and arriving late was also advised.

"We're looking for someone we can trust," Bream said. "And a person who can hold [up] the reputation of this place."

Edmonds waited only about a week to get another call saying she got the job.

"It was an easy decision to choose Rachel," Bream said. "She had a great personality and we knew she'd work well with the customers."

Edmonds then trained for the job for about four days. She went to work but "shadowed" another employee to learn how to work the cash register and machines.

"The first day of actually working was a



You got served ★ Sophomore Rachel Edmonds works alongside Annie Bennet at her job at TCBY getting ice cream for a customer. Edmonds works during the summer and other breaks throughout the school year. PHOTO BY LUCY EDMONDS

little scary," Edmonds said. "It was really easy once I got there."

Edmonds always worked with at least two other employees and had help whenever she needed it. Edmonds said it was easy to learn everything, but doing it was completely different.

"I definitely messed up a couple times, and

it was really embarrassing," Edmonds said.

She eventually got over it and never makes mistakes.

Edmonds now works regularly and even trains new employees.

"Even though it can get boring, I like my job and I'm happy to work there," Edmonds said. ★

Former student returns as teacher

Junior rejoins class, students at CS#1 but this time as teacher aid

by MEKA KELLY
Journalism student

"Amilia, will you check my handwriting book?" This is just one of the many questions Shawnee Mission East junior Amilia Winter gets asked from 3:15 to 4:15, Monday through Friday.

Winter holds a "not so typical job" for a teenager. She is a student teacher at Community School #1 (CS#1), a one-room schoolhouse, located at Tomahawk and Stateline.

Winter once was a part of CS#1's student population, which has never been over 40 and consists of students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Winter attended CS#1 when her mother, Ms. Rebecca Liberty, was the principal. Growing up as the principal's daughter was not always the most fun part of school, Winter said. However, she believes that having a principle for a mother is what first inspired her to become a teacher herself.

"I saw how much [Liberty] did to change different kids' lives and how much joy she got out from being a teacher," Winter said.

Because Winter attended CS#1 as a child, she already knew the inner workings of CS#1 when she became a teacher's assistant.

"She probably knows more about [this] school than I do," current CS#1 principal Linda Powers said.

Winter's knowledge of the school made her the perfect candidate to become CS#1's youngest student teacher, Powers said. Winter, who is paid \$10.50 an hour, is CS#1's only student teacher this year. In the past, CS#1 has only hired college student teachers, but instead, for the last three years, they have chosen Winter.

Not only did Winter's knowledge of CS#1 play a roll in her being picked as the student teacher, but also her personality. Winter is funny, organized and careful, just like a good teacher should be, according to Powers.

"[Winter] is a really strong person," Powers said. "She knows her mind."

Powers is not the only one who believes Winter possesses good qualities for the position. According to CS#1 fourth grader Oskar Anderson, Winter can be summed up in one word: nice.

"She is nice, and she explains to me what I have to do," Anderson said. "She doesn't just tell me what to do."

Nine-year-old Mia Eckhardt, another of Winter's students,

agrees with Anderson and Powers.

"[Winter] never yells at you," Eckhardt said. "She never raises her voice at you. She is just really nice."

Anderson and Eckhardt are only two of the many children who get excited when Winter walks in the classroom, according to Winter.

"Everybody is really friendly, and the energy is high," Winter said. "[The students] all make sure that I hear them say 'hi' and respond back. They are like 'hi Amilia! Hi, hi, hi, Amilia!'"

After that, Winter makes her way over to the stack of handwriting books waiting for her. She works her way through the handwriting books and then helps students with whatever is needed. After seeing she has helped a student with his or her work, Winter is satisfied and feels rewarded.

"I really like it when I can help [the students] figure something out," Winter said.

After Winter has helped students, she goes around the school doing jobs like copying and filing.

The only thing Winter dislikes about her job is that she can only spend an hour with the kids each day.

"It's good to have a job where you can look at kids and see the kids grow and experience new things," Winter said. ★



Listen up ★ Six-year-old CS#1 student Loic Langlande, left, tells a listening Shawnee Mission East High School junior Amilia Winter about his weekend April 9. "I usually ask about their weekends," Winter said. "I really like when they tell me little stories." PHOTO BY MEKA KELLY

Allowances promote teen spending

Students look to parents, not employers for regular source of income, financial help

by KATHLEEN HOUGH
Journalism student

A teenage girl waits anxiously on a Friday afternoon as her mother digs in her purse for her wallet. Three minutes and \$20 later, the night is full of endless possibilities as cold, hard cash is placed in the young girl's hands. Whether spent on gas, food or clothing, some STA students have turned to allowances from parents for extra spending money.

"My parents are definitely my main source of income," sophomore Alexa Fowlkes said. "I don't have a problem with going to them when I need money, and whenever I need it they are there to give it to me. I don't mind asking, because I know they don't care."

According to Ms. Carol Carter, an expert in family education, young individuals seem to spend the most money on themselves throughout their teenage years. However, if parents hands their teen an allowance without an incentive, it defeats any purpose of having one.

"A teen must learn that in order to be able to afford a personal item they must work and save their allowance money in order to get that thing that they want," Carter said. "Instant gratification becomes a thing of the past and teens learn how to make and save their own money instead of turning to their mom or dad for cash whenever it is needed."

Teens that are old enough to hold a job do not need an allowance, Carter explained. Instead, teens should be encouraged to find work for themselves.

Fowlkes agrees with Carter. At age 16, she receives an income of \$20 to \$40 a week from her parents. However, it is important for teens to learn to support themselves, Fowlkes admitted.

"I feel at our age we should have to find a job to

start saving money," Fowlkes said. "Although [our parents] should always be there for us, they should lend us money only when it is truly needed."

Receiving money from her parents has even strengthened her relationship with them.

"When [my parents] give me money, it makes me respect them," Fowlkes said. "It makes me realize that I should give back and help out whenever I can."

According to Ms. Jeanine Fowlkes, Alexa's mother, jobs during the school year can sidetrack teens from their studies.

"School is most important," Jeanine said. "We don't want [Alexa] to have to get a job during the school year to distract her. It's just easier and less stressful for her if we help out, and we like helping her out. She's our princess."

Senior JoEllen Redlingshafer disagrees. There is no problem with allowances, but there is a problem if the teenager isn't earning it, she explained.

"If [an allowance] is well deserved, then good for [that teenager]," Redlingshafer said. "But if they get paid too much for inadequate work, then I think they're brats."

Sophomore Alex Christian is one of many girls at STA that receives a weekly allowance of \$20 per week from her parents.

"I used to get \$10 a week, but it went up after I started driving," Christian said. "Now I have to pay for my own gas."

According to Christian, no weekly chores or housework need to be completed before receiving her allowance.

"My parents just give me [my allowance] and say they aren't giving me any more," Christian said. "That's it."

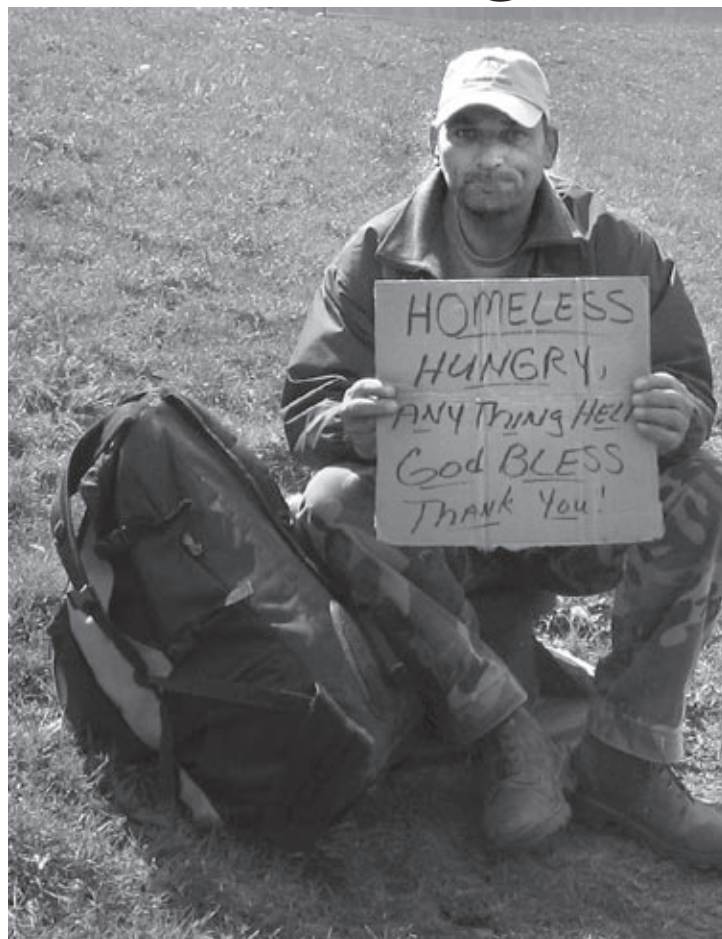
Although no work is required for her weekly pay, in the end, receiving an allowance is bitter-sweet, Christian said.

"Do I think I deserve an allowance?" Christian said. "Probably not, but I don't think anyone really deserves one. I am just glad that I get one." ★



Money talks ★ Sophomore Alex Christian, left, and cashier Mr. Sergius Rowe converse while Christian purchases a baby gift at Target April 13. Christian paid for the gift with savings from her weekly allowance. PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HOUGH

Panhandling: who is helpless, who is a fraud?



Anything will help ★ A homeless man rests while holding his sign near a bridge at the corner of Brookside Boulevard and Ward Parkway near the Plaza April 14. Before becoming homeless, he was a cook for 31 years. Now he lives under the Rockhill Bridge with his best friend. PHOTO BY JORDAN BROWN

Some beggars create loss of sympathy for poor in Kansas City

by JORDAN BROWN
Journalism student

They lurk on busy street corners, shivering in the rain. They stand outside of clothing stores, shaking their cups and begging for money. Their presence is unavoidable.

These are the homeless of Kansas City. Or that is what most perceive them to be.

"When the average person thinks of homelessness, they are thinking of the man on the bridge or street corner," said Meghan Tallman, development director at Sheffield Place, a homeless shelter. "The average face of homelessness in the US today is that of a 9 year-old child."

According to a study done in 2007 by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 1.35 million children in the US are likely to experience homelessness in a given year. As further revealed by a local study done by the Homeless Service Coalition of Greater Kansas City, 56 percent of homeless families in the Metro area are families with children, and 40 percent are children under the age of 18.

Tallman experiences these homeless families firsthand at Sheffield Place, a local transitional living program for homeless mothers and their children. Tallman has seen women come to their program and address

the issues that brought them there.

"Lack of education, trauma, violence, general poverty, addictions and more are their core issues," Tallman said. "Homelessness is the result."

Mental illness or disabilities are other key factors that lead to homelessness, according to a recent study by the US Conference of Mayors. The study also stated that approximately 16 percent of the homeless population suffers from a mental illness.

The Plaza area is a location where many homeless people are present in Kansas City. However, some of the Plaza's panhandlers are not in fact homeless, according to profiling done by *The Pitch* in 2006. Tallman is aware of some of these deceptive beggars claiming to be homeless. One of these men told Ben Paynter of *The Pitch* that he paid for mortgage on his house, for Dish network, two cell phones and a Cadillac.

Pembroke Hill High School sophomore and frequent volunteer at Operation Breakthrough Lee Heinemann sees this situation as ridiculous. Operation Breakthrough is a corporation that educates and cares for the children of the homeless and working poor in Kansas City, which account

for the majority of the homeless population today.

"[The parents who bring their children to Operation Breakthrough] work so hard for the little they have,

but receive no help in providing many necessities for themselves and their families," Heinemann said. "On the other hand, fake homeless people do not work hard at all but rely on the assistance of others to provide them with cars, cable TV and cell phones."

According to both Tallman and Heinemann, it is important to inform people of the situation of false homeless beggars and promote donating to non-profit organizations. Heinemann also said that people must not lose their sympathy for those who are less fortunate as a result of the fake panhandlers.

"I think that it is unfortunate that the false homeless people seen on the Plaza become the face of homelessness in Kansas City, because most people don't come in contact with actual homeless people," Heinemann said. "I hope that the selfish choices the people who panhandle on the Plaza make won't affect the way other people view homeless or poverty-stricken people or discourage them from making further donations." ★

"The average face of homelessness in the US today is that of a 9-year-old child."

Ms. Meghan Tallman,

Saving pennies makes a lot of 'cents'



Banking on coins ★ Sophomore Katie Pautler dumps out a pile of coins from her 10-gallon glass jug March 13. "My dad used to come home, take change out from his wallet, and say 'Put this in your college fund,'" Pautler said. PHOTO BY LAURA NEENAN

Current economic slump makes coin saving valuable

by LAURA NEENAN
Journalism student

Find a penny, pick it up and all day long you'll have good luck. This old adage may seem like a playful rhyme, however in today's economy, it has become a worthy practice.

Personal finance expert Suze Orman states on "Larry King Live" Mar. 8 that Americans should carefully watch what money is being spent and "count every penny." In these desperate times, piggy banks and coin jars, once mere hobbies, have become a resourceful way to make the most of loose change.

"If I see a penny on the ground, I have always picked it up," sophomore Sarah Wirtz said. "I think people have become more aware of the value of a coin, especially now because of the recession in our economy. Every penny counts."

Wirtz and her family have kept a cookie jar full of coins in their kitchen cabinet since she was little. Once a year they empty out their money of about \$50-70 and use it

on family vacations.

"From the money we save, I usually get a t-shirt, a key chain, or some type of trinket," Wirtz said. "The souvenirs we get on family vacations don't just have physical value. They're sentimental to us too."

Beginning with her three daughters more than 20 years ago, physics teacher Terry Conner began a similar system of saving coins. When her daughters were younger, Conner would have them collect money from around the house, always donating a portion to the church. With just Conner and her husband living at home, they continue this practice increasing the amount of change they acquire each year.

"All we needed was a big enough jar to hold [all the change]," Conner said. "We had so much in smaller jars, we had to update to the bigger one to consolidate."

According to Conner, about every other day, when her husband comes home from work, she picks up all of his extra change and puts it in the jar.

"You scoop up your coins about every day and it is only a few cents, but at the end of the year you have money you can put to use," Conner said.

Conner and her husband cash their coins once a year of about

\$100 or more. They spend this money for extraneous things like a fancy dinner or a show.

Conner believes that regardless of the state of the economy, there is a lot of spare change lying around that may seem of less value to others.

"I think it's all about the attitude most people have with saving coins," Conner said. "If you throw away all of your coins it's throwing away something of value that can potentially have a use."

Sophomore Katie Pautler also has a personal jar of coins she keeps in her room, started by her father.

"When I was about three or four, my dad used to have the jar in his office," Pautler said. "He brought it home one day, and told me to put it up in my room for my college fund. It was the most money I had ever seen in my life."

Right now an estimated \$200-\$300 is in Pautler's coin jar. Later, she will put the money into the bank and like her father intended, help pay for college expenses. Because of her collection, Pautler's view on saving coins hasn't changed at all since the recession in the economy.

"I just think you can't afford to be wasteful," Pautler said. "For one thing, coin collecting is fun, but over time it all adds up." ★

Jobs scarce: how to cope and succeed

STA mother Michelle Balachowski aids students in preparing for job interviews

by CLAIRE MCKEON
Journalism student

When the calendar hits May, it is crunch time. Not only has the finals buzz hit STA, but a new stress is blowing in with the end of school—the stress of searching for a summer job. Experts from the newspaper the *Sacramento Bee* are predicting a "long, hot summer" for teen job searchers. But what some find even more stressful than the job search itself is the interview. There are many things to remember in an interview situation - things that could heighten the chances landing a job.

Old Navy employee Michelle Balachowski, mother of STA freshman Maddie Balachowski has been involved with the interviewing process for 13 years. She has not only conducted interviews, but has helped people prepare for them also. Balachowski said that it is important to make yourself stand out in an interview as a self-motivated person and appear positive. Her favorite question to ask in an interview is what you liked about your old job and what you did not like.

"Never blame your old employer for anything if you didn't like it," Balachowski said. "State [instead] that you left because the job wasn't challenging enough, not because you hated your boss. If you can't think of anything [positive to say], say what you didn't like but put a positive spin on it. For example, if you thought [your boss] played

favorites, tell your interviewer that you learned how to be a team player."

Freshman Megan Helt recently found a job at Worlds of Fun. Although she said that she did not have the best interview, she remained positive and received a job offer on the spot.

Balachowski also said to bring a current resume with references to the interview, but not to give it to the interviewer right away because it is better to talk about the resume than to have the interviewer read it.

Another important issue facing interviewees is what to wear. Balachowski recommends wearing something appropriate for the job you are interviewing for. She advises to not wear something too attention-getting, and to be neat, clean and stylish. Balachowski also recommends never wearing opened toed shoes or ripped clothing. Lastly, she said to be conservative with body piercings or tattoos.

"Remember, you can still express yourself [without] distracting from the interview."

Another important part of the interview is asking pre-prepared questions of the interviewer. Balachowski recommends that these questions be about the company and the prospective job. She suggests that these questions be well thought out and open-ended. Lastly, she advises that the interviewee watch her body language, lest she appear detached or uncaring.

Helt agrees that body language had an effect on her recent interview with Worlds of Fun. She remembers being extremely nervous.

"I was really quiet, really shy during [the interview]," Helt said. "At one point [the interviewer] asked me if something was wrong."

Helt said that although the interview was suc-



All smiles ★ Freshmen Erika Mikkelson, left, and Libby Randolph grin and listen to the chatter at their lunch table in the Commons. During a job interview, it's recommended to always listen and be attentive. PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCKEON

cessful, she could have improved by being more herself and relaxing.

Though advice may not guarantee landing a summer job, it should improve the interview. The bottom line according to Balachowski and Helt is to be comfortable and confident. Sadly, according

the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, The number of teens expected to work this summer decreased to 34.2 percent, the lowest number in 50 years. Although finding a job this summer may be tough, nailing the interview can be easy. ★

Library holds free events for youth



Check mate ★ Te'andre Carter, left, waits for his turn as he plays chess beside his brother, Shyreif, at the Bluford Branch of the Kansas City Public Library on April 14. Local public libraries offer free events for people of all ages, focusing especially on teens. PHOTO BY HANNAH OTTO

Public branches offer a wide range of activities for all ages

by HANNAH OTTO
Journalism student

In the current economic state, many people are looking for ways to

save. But does this mean they need to sacrifice fun just to have some extra cash? Not at all.

The Kansas City Public Library offers many free activities for people of all ages. Many of these events are planned specifically for teenagers.

"We do want to be a place that offers teens interesting materials and enjoyable experiences for free," Ms. Crystal Faris, director of teen

services at the library, said.

All ten library branches hold a variety of events throughout the year. Each branch has its own calendar of events, available at the Kansas City Public Library's website. According to Faris, the most popular activities are the gaming events, where teens can play video games with others in the library, and the lock-ins.

Lock-ins begin after the branch officially closes to the public, about 5 p.m. After that, the library is open for several hours just for teenagers.

"The lock-ins often include computer time without having to keep yourself to a 45 minute time slot, video gaming, other games, karaoke, crafts, filming book commercials, podcasting, art opportunities, and whatever else we can think of that sounds fun and food of course!" Faris said.

Some events are held several times a month. Gamer Nation takes place every Thursday at the Lucile H. Bluford Branch. For Surreal Saturday, the library shows different movies at noon on Saturdays. The Southeast Branch hosts gaming every Monday and Tuesday at 3 p.m.

On April 16, students from Ms. Katie Dolan's accelerated English I class visited the Central Branch to see Ms. Sandra Cisneros, the author of *The House on Mango Street*, a novel the class read first semester.

"My experience at the Sandra Cisneros [event] one was a positive one," freshman Jackie Regan said. "I learned a lot about her as an author and a person. It was also cool to meet an author of a book we read."

Faris said that all teens are welcome to contact their local library and suggest new events. To help come up with new ideas, the branches have their own teen advisory groups.

"At the core of all our programs and activities is teen input," Faris

said. "Most branches have teen advisory groups that are open to any teen."

The groups meet on a regular basis with Faris to plan activities and give their input. The library often has online or print surveys for teens that have suggestions but cannot be in an advisory group.

"Any teen that has an idea for the library is more than welcome to contact me in any way," Faris said.

Teens can also help out at the library by being a summer volunteer. Volunteers assist preschool to elementary school aged children with the summer reading program. They help register the kids and award prizes for every four hours of reading the child completes.

Other than volunteering, the library provides many activities for teens during the summer. The annual summer reading program runs from June 1 to Aug. 8. Other events include creating flair, making plaster masks, magnetic poetry, a clock out of a CD and other hands-on activities. A photography contest will also be held, along with a Harry Potter Film Fest, in honor of the new movie opening July 17. Teens also have the opportunity to participate in a special contest to design a logo for each branch's teen blog.

The library provides opportunities for teenagers to explore different areas of interest.

"[The library] is good at making going to the library fun and educational with clubs, events, and activities," Regan said. ★

Students reflect on responsible spending

Local teenagers discuss the ways they use their money

by ERICA HENTHORNE
Journalism student

According to a personally conducted poll, nine out of 10 teenagers have bought approximately 1,250 songs for their iPods or mp3 players. Seven out of those 10 send about 40 text messages daily, and five out of 10 buy coffee before or after school every day. Some teens do not realize how the total cost of these items builds up. Is there a more responsible way to be spending money?

Some must-haves among teenagers are generally cheap items, however, they can add up in expense when purchased frequently. While each individual has his or her own unique preferences, spending patterns are similar overall.

"Looking back on how much I spent on Monster energy drinks, it's really kind of depressing," STA senior Crysta Henthorne said. "It really is just a waste of money because it's basically carbonated sugar-water."

Henthorne spends about \$15 ev-

ery month on energy drinks; that's approximately \$180 per year.

Henthorne is aware that spending this much on Monster is a bad habit.

"I can't seem to break it," Henthorne said.

Out of her appreciation for music, Henthorne constantly buys CDs and songs off of iTunes. On average, CDs cost about \$15 and each song is \$0.99. With around 1,200 songs on her iTunes account, Henthorne has spent about \$1,350 on music alone.

"I just really love having a variety of music," Henthorne said.

Staley High School freshman Taylor Woods's personal "must-haves" are buttons from Hot Topic. She owns over 15. At about \$1.99 each, that adds up to nearly \$30 overall.

"The buttons give not only a certain spunk to my backpack, but they are also pretty funny for something so small," Woods said.

Woods also enjoys Vitamin Water, and buys a bottle once or twice every week. Priced at \$3.69 each, Woods spends about \$22 on her favorite drink per month.

"Vitamin Water is really good," Woods said. "I get one whenever I'm with my mom at the store and feel like having one...which is pretty often."

St. Pius X High School freshman

Grant Orr sends approximately 20 texts a day and 500 texts a month. With each text costing \$0.20 on his plan, Orr spends \$4 daily; that's \$100 every month.

Orr prefers texting to talking on the phone.

"[Texting] doesn't get awkward like talking on the phone does, and you can interpret other people's words however you want," Orr said.

STA freshman Miranda Johnson purchases manga, Japanese graphic novels. The price of one volume of manga is generally \$9.99. Johnson, who owns 124 volumes, has spent nearly \$1,240 overall.

"I do buy a lot of manga, and I think my parents wish I'd read something other than manga, but they support my artistic side," Johnson said.

After spending money on small "essentials" such as these, saving can be difficult for some teens and some have to learn to budget.

"If I want [to buy] something randomly, I can't buy things on impulse and I have to be responsible with my money," Woods said.

For Woods, being responsible includes leaving herself a mental note.

"I set myself goals," Woods said. "I never let my bank account drop below a three-digit number. [My parents] know I'm a responsible person.



Tunin' in ★ Senior Crysta Henthorne enjoys some free time at her home on April 14. Henthorne spends much of her money on energy drinks and mp3s. PHOTO BY ERICA HENTHORNE

They recognize that I have goals, but also that I'm still a teenager."

Henthorne believes that spending is alright most of the time, but that caution should be taken into account.

"It's not really a problem to want things," Henthorne said. "I just think people should keep in mind that they need to be conservative [with their money] sometimes." ★

STA uses grant to upgrade computers



Point and click ★ Ms. Kathy McCarthy, left, helps freshman Katie McCombs send documents for McCombs' computer applications project on a new computer during Activity 2, April 15. Computer applications students are currently using the computers purchased with the money from the McGee Foundation. **PHOTO BY LIBBY O'NEIL**

New grant money brings STA's previously outdated technology up to speed

by **LIBBY O'NEIL**
Journalism student

STA purchased 27 new computers last month to replace the outdated computers in Ms. Kathy McCarthy's computer lab. A McGee Foundation grant provided money for the computers, allowing STA to stay current with technology.

"This is the only large lab that students have access to," computer teacher McCarthy said. "The computers weren't functioning as they should, and the new computers make everyone's life easier."

President Nan Bone handled the application process herself, applying online to receive the \$50,000 grant from the McGee family. In addition to the new computers, the money will also be used to install a security system and purchase a new color printer for the development office.

"I think with technology, you have to stay current," Bone said. "You can never get behind. Girls come here used to good technology at their grade schools. We want them to have the best."

After receiving the grant money, the tech-

nology committee helped select, purchase and install the computers. After much consideration, they decided on new Hewlett Packard computers with Acer LCD monitors. The LCD monitors are more energy efficient than the old monitors. While the computers were designed for Windows Vista, McCarthy will continue to teach students with Windows XP.

"The computers were simply outdated," McCarthy said. "With technology, even two years old is outdated. These computers were six years old and began to have problems this year. They were crashing frequently, making class difficult to teach."

Many freshmen noticed the difference immediately.

"The new computers are a lot faster and more reliable than the old ones," freshman Kelsey Rodriguez said. "They look sleek."

The McGee Foundation is a local Catholic

family that has been giving back to the community for years. Schools can apply for grants up to \$50,000. Those that apply must meet

several criteria and specify what the money will be used for. STA has received several grants from the McGee family, including the money that purchased new Mac computers for publications advisor and journalism teacher Eric Thomas' room last year for publications to use. Other schools in the Kansas City area, including Rockhurst University, Rockhurst High School, Notre Dame de Sion High School, and Avila University, have

received McGee family grants.

"I'm just so thankful to the McGee family," Bone said. "Without them, we would be struggling in technology... STA has values and vision, so we don't want to lose students because we don't have the right technology."

In the current economic climate, funding for

both private and public schools is decreasing. Economic troubles make it difficult for a school to keep their technology current.

According to sophomore Mary Frey, a member of the technology committee, Bone and the committee have been working over the past year to update the school's technology. They are developing a plan for the next five years.

"We should incorporate more [technology] into the curriculum, so we get used to using computers," sophomore Anna McTygue said. "Lots of the jobs our generation is going to be taking will include technology, so we need to get used to using computers."

There is an increased need for technological knowledge in the professional world and educational technology itself is constantly developing. To meet these needs, potential plans for STA's technology include Wi-Fi for the whole school, digital books, laptops and more updated computers.

"Technology and education go hand in hand," Bone said. "When we compete with public schools like Shawnee Mission East and Blue Valley, those schools with top notch technology because of state money, we need to be competitive... We need to be visionary. It's great we updated the lab, but what else can we do? There are a lot of things we're experimenting with and discussing." ★



Typing away ★ Freshman Christie Fletcher types a paper in Ms. Kathy McCarthy's computer lab, April 15. The new computers, purchased with grant money, sped up the process, according to Fletcher. **PHOTO BY LIBBY O'NEIL**

Star Bucks for sports

AN OPINION BY
by **MADALYNE BIRD & MORGAN SAID**
Staff writers

If you had a million dollars...okay, just \$50,000 to spend on STA, what would you

spend it on? The school has recently been granted \$50,000 for computer updates. However we believe that another \$50,000 should be invested towards a new athletic complex, including a new turf soccer field with a track and stadium seating.

April showers bring May flowers and they also bring soccer players ankle deep in muddy water. We are not landscapers, but there has got to be a way to make the field even with the

monstrous hill. This renovation would benefit not only the soccer team, but also the track and lacrosse teams. We also believe that the tennis courts hidden behind Goppert should be exposed to some new light: smooth pavement and get rid of that cage. These renovations would lead to varsity home games and potentially draw a larger crowd.

It allows STA to work on their own home team schedules, rather than scheduling and paying fees

to play on the Rockhurst University fields. The track team could train on their own track, as opposed to the Paul Robeson School track.

These renovations not only benefit athletes, but also the student body. With a new sports complex, cheering on the Stars becomes more accessible. Just imagine STA dominating Sion at a nighttime game, with the field brightly lit up and fans screaming for the home team. Oh, what we could do with \$50,000... ★

Leaving on the *high note*

After four years at STA, Ms. Shauna Westall leaves her STA family for another

by SHAUGHNESSY MILLER
Staff Writer

Five years ago, Ms. Shauna Westall was attending graduate school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). One evening, she attended a choir concert at the UMKC auditorium and heard a group of high school girls singing. This choir happened to be from STA. When one of her professors told her about a job opening as music teacher, she immediately applied and was thrilled to get the job.

The next summer, Westall received a call from the Fine Arts Department chair Ms. Shana Prentiss welcoming her to STA and inviting her to dinner. Prentiss admits she did not know what to expect at their first meeting.

"I was kind of nervous because I didn't know what she would be like," Prentiss said. "Within the first 15 minutes I felt relieved because she was funny and good to be with. We sat there for two hours talking and I realized we were going to get along okay and maybe even be friends."

Over the past four years, Westall has grown closer to Prentiss and formed bonds with her students and the school itself. Now, she is sad to be saying farewell to the Academy.

Westall and her husband are returning to her hometown of Tulsa, Okla. where he will go to a college of aeronautics and technology. Westall wants to move closer to her family and hopes to find a teaching job in a middle or high school, but says that it will be a difficult transition from STA.

"I'm going to miss the students most of all, especially since I've had some of them for three years," Westall said. "I'm going to miss my co-workers and the fun atmosphere and the pretty campus."

Prentiss was upset, but understood the decision.

"I'm happy for her because it's the right decision for her," Prentiss said. "I always sort of knew she would end up going back to her family because she's very family oriented. I'm sad for us because it's a great loss to STA and to me."

According to Westall, her students were surprised and thought she was joking when they heard the news. She has grown close to many of them through years of teaching and directing the musicals.

"I've learned how fun music can be and I've spent a lot of time with her," said junior Ellen Gude, who has participated in choir and musicals for three years. "She's a big goofball and she's probably one of the funniest people I know."

Prentiss agrees that Westall has brought an element of fun and humor to the job.

"In the jobs we have, we were able to find a way not take ourselves too seriously and laugh at ourselves," Prentiss said.

Prentiss also pointed out that the atmosphere Westall projects is more relaxed and appreciative of music. Westall said her goal while at STA is to pass her love of music on to her students.

"I hope that all of my students find something in their life that they're really passionate about the way I'm passionate about music," Westall said.

Prentiss said that Westall leaves large shoes to be filled at STA and does not know how the future of the department will turn out.

"It's difficult because I know I'm never going to have this experience again," Prentiss said. "I'm probably never going to have this relationship again with whoever takes the position so I can't hold it against them. But it could happen again. I might get lucky twice."

Similarly, Westall feels that she will never experience anything like STA again.

"I feel like being at STA was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I feel very fortunate to have been here," Westall said. "I'm going to miss it tremendously." ★



Caring conductor ★ 1. Ms. Shauna Westall laughs as the STA A Cappella choir sings and dances to the song "Lollipop" April 27 in the choir room. The choir performed the song at last night's Fine Arts Showcase. **PHOTOS BY ALLISON POINTER**

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Cleanse your mind and body with Facebook detox

Follow this 10 step program to immediately take back control of your life and resume it offline

by ELIZABETH WILSON
Sports Editor

Do you find yourself checking Facebook several dozen times a day? How many pictures (of people you don't know) have you looked at in the last hour? Have you gone hours without blinking or been 15 minutes late for school because you couldn't stop refreshing your profile? Is Facebook open on your computer right now? If so, then you may have a problem.

Internet Addiction Disorder is a psycho-physiological disorder involving tolerance, withdrawal symptoms, affective disturbances and interruption of social relationships. The most common disorder is Facebook Addiction Disorder.

What would happen if a person were to go cold turkey from Facebook? More than likely, she would float off into a friendless universe and suc-

cumb to pangs of panic. To avoid this horrific event, I have created a way for you to wean yourself from this intoxicating, addictive substance called Facebook so you may resume your life offline...

The 10 steps to detoxification:

1. **Admit.** This may be hard, but accepting you are powerless over Facebook is an important step in overcoming your addiction. If you simply can't resist the urge to check your profile, it is clear Facebook is controlling you.

2. **Believe.** Come to believe this article from *The Dart* can restore your sanity and give you strength. We're here for you.

3. **Decide.** Make the decision to change your excessive Facebook consumption habits.

4. **Admit again.** Admit to yourself and one other human being the exact extent of

your addiction. Although embarrassing, admit that Facebook is your home page, you update your status more than twice a day, you are a member of too many groups, you change your relationship status just to mess with people, you have over 500 "friends" (half of whom you've never actually met), you change your profile picture more than a 12 year old girl, that as soon as you step away from your computer you're on Facebook mobile and that you have even checked Facebook while reading this article.

5. **Stop talking.** Stop communicating with people via Facebook unless deemed absolutely necessary. Get their phone numbers and E-mail addresses and E-mail, text or call them. Call me crazy, but maybe even talk to them in person!

6. **Stop stalking.** You qualify as a Facebook stalker

if you click on someone's profile more than once a day (even if they haven't messaged or tagged you in a photo) or actually go to a place mentioned on someone's page in hopes of seeing them in real life...that's creepy...stop it.

7. **Delete.** Delete all of the photos, bumper stickers, applications and anything else you put on your profile that didn't come with it. Yes, that means you will be pictured as the mysterious question mark. But before that...

8. **Print.** You've probably personalized and tweaked your profile to reflect your personality and cleaned up your wall so it looks like you spend less time on Facebook. You don't want your hard work to be lost forever, so save a copy in print. Having a hard copy will make it easier to let go of your profile online. Do the same with your pictures. You don't want those

gorgeous self-pics to be gone for good!

9. **Stop.** Try to stop using Facebook...I mean it. You've already deleted everything from your profile so there's nothing left to fuss about and we've already discussed that looking at other people's pictures is weird. So, stop.

10. **Learn to live a new life.** Try to find activities that both amuse you in the short-term and benefit you in the long-term. After you have completed this 10-step program, start helping others that suffer from the same addictions or compulsions. And after waiting a good month and re-establishing your life, go back and delete your Facebook. It shouldn't, at this point, rip your heart out to do so.

Okay, you're right. Who am I kidding? Don't delete the entire thing.

Best of luck. ★



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Edit My Profile

I am a real woman.

Information

Networks:
St. Teresa's Academy '10Relationship Status:
SingleBirthday:
October 22, 1991

News media struggles, remains hopeful



Greatest hits ★ KKFI Community Radio disk jockey Rebecca Roche writes down the names of the songs that she is playing on her April 17 show of Eclectics. April 24 to May 3 KKFI is holding an on air fund to raise money for their station. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

Radio station discovers itself fighting finances, facing troubles in current economy

by **CARLIE CAMPBELL**
Web Editor

Kansas City's community radio station, 90.1 KKFI, recently has suffered hardship due to the poor economy. KKFI prides itself on being a radio station with a unique radio presence in Kansas City, according to Mr. Warren Maus, director of marketing and development at KKFI.

"We are not in a situation where we are going under, but what we have is a cash-flow crunch," Maus said. "We do not spend lavishly."

Because KKFI is a community radio station and unaffiliated with any other establishments, it does not receive any funding except in the form of donations from listeners.

KKFI is not the only local news media suffering in the current economy. In an editorial by *The Kansas City Star's* editor and vice president Mike Fannin published April 5, the newspaper is also feeling the effects of hard economic times. To cope with these hardships, *The Star* is downsizing their daily issue and placing a heavier focus on local and regional news. *The Star* will mostly publish international news on line. Fannin described a newspaper as a "living, breathing thing" that changes along with its city.

Long-time KKFI listener and more recently, volunteer, Ms. Dee Barry, wrote a letter to the editor of *The Star* that was published April 12. In the letter, Barry lamented the shift in journalism from informative news to a more superficial media.

"...We desperately need an informed and involved citizenry to engage in discussions necessary for forging democratic decisions and holding our elected representatives' feet to the fire," Barry wrote.

In an interview, Barry restated her feelings about news media on radio stations and also in print media.

"There's a real problem right now with

the disappearance of these various mediums," Barry said.

She stressed that in-depth, investigative reporting to educate public audiences on current issues is dwindling. Maus said that KKFI is one of the remaining mediums that strives to bring relevant news into its community.

"We are probably one of the very few sources of news and public affairs that really gives a voice to people who don't normally have a voice," Maus said.

KKFI's programming encompasses news and music shows to serve the Hispanic community, as well as political commentary shows and music shows varying from hip-hop to Iranian.

For Maus, who has worked at both KKFI and KCPT, and taught journalism on the college level, it is all about niche in the media today.

"Not huge numbers, but media that has a particular focus and people tap in," he said in reference to the audiences reached by niche journalism.

Maus mentioned that the internet is playing the largest role in the change in journalism and the way people take in the news on a daily basis. He thinks that people are gravitating towards the internet for news because it is fast, but not necessarily accurate.

"Online newspapers need to find the revenue model to keep themselves afloat," Maus said.

He also said that KKFI would like to create more of an online presence. It already provides a streaming audio service, which allows anyone to tune in online.

It may seem to some that the journalism industry is damaged beyond repair, but neither Barry nor Maus believe so.

"Fortunately, the industry is still attracting good, bright young people who are interested in going into it," Maus said.

Barry realizes that changes need to be made to journalism today and listens to KKFI because she feels that the station does a better job of presenting relevant issues than corporate media.

"I think something will happen," Barry said. "I think there will be some real, good answers that will get us some creative solutions to this." ★

Capital Campaign begins solicitation phase

STA hopes to raise money, awareness through new strategy

by **CAROLINE THOMPSON**
Staff Writer

The Capital Campaign committee has been working on videos and written materials that will raise awareness about the goals of Capital Campaign since early March. Entitled "Inspiring Women," this campaign aspires to raise \$7 million during the next five years toward four major goals: building the chapel, renovating the auditorium, updating technology and increasing endowment.

Although the committee has completed and presented the eight-minute DVD, it still needs some minor modifications, president Nan Bone said.

"We're just working on some internal changes," Bone said. "For instance, we hope to cut out some parts and place it on our website for viewers to watch."

The committee hired Mr. Joe

Rose, who taped school events and everyday moments at STA throughout the last five weeks in order to "capture the whole feel of the school," Bone said.

The Capital Campaign committee completed the video in mid-April. It includes a number of Rose's video clips and images, along with interviews with faculty, parents, students and campaign members. In addition, the video incorporates a brief history of STA and an outline of the four major goals of the Capital Campaign.

"It's a great, feel-good video," campaign member Barb Haden said. "It tells what STA is about and why we are so passionate about making it a better place."

According to Bone, the committee will send the video to its top 20 donors to begin. Later, the committee members hope to put the video on the school website and distribute it to the STA community.

"We like to call this part [of the Capital Campaign] the 'silent phase,'" Bone said. "We're starting small. Before asking for money, we explain our goals and vision for the school to our top

donors."

The Capital Campaign recently completed the preparation phase, which includes organizing and addressing beginning tasks, and has entered the silent phase. This new phase involves the preliminary solicitation of the project. In addition, the Capital Campaign committee has begun training volunteers to seek out top benefactors for donations.

"We're training people on how to answer [donors'] questions," Bone said. "For instance, if [the donor] would like to contribute over a period of six years, our volunteers will know how to respond."

In addition to the video and visits from volunteers, the Capital Campaign committee has created a flyer and 12-page brochure that explains more about the school and the mission of the Capital Campaign.

"We like to call [the video, brochure and flyer] tools," marketing and public relations director Diane Wilmot said. "We are giving [the donors] resources to learn about our plans."

With the conclusion of the silent phase, the committee plans to



All smiles ★ Alumnae Bailey Lynch, far left, Emily Thompson, Claire Hickey, Hannah Girardeau and Kellyn Smith pose for the menu screen of the Capital Campaign video. Mr. Joe Rose filmed regular school days and special events to help catch the video's theme of "Inspiring Women". **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

enter the third phase in order to make the campaign more public, Bone said. According to Bone, student participation in possible activities such as "Dancing with the Stars", a phone-a-thon and other fund-raisers will take place in the fall. For now, the campaign

is "getting a boost from donors," as Bone said, and beginning the project.

"We're very excited for the campaign," Haden said. "We hope to get support from the community and parents in order to move forward." ★

Community service efforts to turn global



Lunchroom discussion ★ Juniors Shaughnessy Miller, left, and Cierra Marzett discuss plans for next year in Community Service Club April 27 in the Commons. Next year, the club hopes "to expand and help more and different charities," Marzett said. **PHOTO BY AVERY ADAMS**

Opening new doors, club expands goals, plans for next year

by TAYLOR IRWIN
Staff Writer

Community Service Club prides itself on its ability to help "our dear neighbor without distinction." In order to improve its skills in helping others, the club has decided to broaden its horizons and goals to a global level all throughout the next school year, according to club moderator Betsy Hansbrough.

"Besides our food drive, we want to take our efforts global," Hansbrough said. "This year has been highly successful and we want to see what else we can do outside our community."

According to Hansbrough, the club aims for activities with "real people for real results." The club tries to follow the guidelines of the Sisters of St. Joseph and is inspired by their current medical mission in Uganda. Many sisters have travelled to the country of Uganda in order to educate its locals on modern medicine and basic medical procedures.

The club's new goal is to de-

velop its efforts and contribute to different organizations, according to club member Cierra Marzett.

"We want to expand and help more and different charities," Marzett said. "Like, hopefully our blood drive will be bigger next year since everyone knows we do it. We want to get our projects bigger so that they can help more, you know?"

Another change the club intends to make is the charities it chooses to support. The club intends to decide which clubs and organizations it will support by September of next year.

"We have helped the same [charities] forever and we want a change," Marzett said. "Help other ones and hopefully do different things to raise the money."

While next year's organizations and charities have not been chosen, the club is already beginning to map out their new year.

According to Hansbrough, the club will continue both its Blood Drive and Food For Thought fund-raisers. In addition to these projects, the club will host a major activity during the Christmas season, as well as a small spring fund-raiser. The club is optimistic about its future results, even if it will be as overwhelmed as it was by this year's penny drive, Hansbrough said.

In order to keep their operations running smoothly, committees have been developed for each event in order to keep things organized. Instead of traditional club leaders, the committee heads will each be in charge of their own committee and activity.

Committee head junior Kelsey Wendland is leading the Blood Drive for the upcoming school year and is already brainstorming with other club members on how to improve the event.

"Just the fact that we have officers for the first time will allow us to be more organized and student driven," Wendland said. "We're also planning ahead just to be more prepared when each event rolls around."

According to Marzett, the STA community is able to reach the club's ambitious goals.

"I think students have done a great job of giving their time and money," Marzett said. "But there's always more room for additional volunteers!"

The expectations for STA are high, but according to Hansbrough, they are always met.

"[STA] always goes above and beyond what we ask," Hansbrough said. "You just don't know how much until you carry 30,000 pennies into a bank from an STA penny drive." ★

DARTBOARD

by MICAH WILKINS, MORGAN SAID, SUSIE ANCONA, JULIA STAPINSKI, MEGAN SCHAFF, MICHELLE REICHMEIER and SHAUGHNESSY MILLER

MUN competes in tournament

Two members of the STA Model United Nations (MUN) team won awards at the biannual Kansas City Model United Nations tournament April 22 at Johnson County Community College.

Sophomore Emily Strickland won an honorable mention for performance in her committee and junior Caroline Thompson won an outstanding position paper award.

According to Strickland, the tournament was extremely successful, and all of the girls from STA worked hard.

The STA MUN team took 21 members to the spring tournament. At the event, STA represented a total of seven countries, including the United States, the Philippines, Egypt, Venezuela, Mexico, South Africa and Italy. STA students competed for awards against the 11 other local high schools at the tournament, who represented the remaining countries.

Organization officers juniors Jessica Ann, Allison Perich, Maura Hinken and Taylor Irwin led the team in the event and were accompanied by moderator Richard Shrock.

"It felt like [this tournament] was a much more successful tournament, just because more students from STA went, and I think everyone has a better feel of what we need to do in order to become a stronger team," Ann said. "... It was the second tournament for a lot of the members, we had more time to research and we were a little more organized."



Strickland



Thompson

Dart to go online

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, *The Dart* newspaper will have its own website, which it will update between publications of the print issue.

The Dart online will include stories and content from the print version, along with extra photos, videos, stories and blogs. The website will also allow for constant updates on sports statistics or late-breaking stories. The website's editor-in-chief junior Sydney Deatherage will have her own staff, and multimedia editor junior Kayla Loosen believes it will be a success.

"News online is the new face of journalism," Loosen said. "There isn't anything more innovative right now than creating a website for our student body. I couldn't be more excited."

PASTA to move forward

After a number of events, PASTA is wrapping up the school year and electing new officers while adding a new twist to the election process.

"Moving forward, we realize peoples' time is more valuable so this year they will elect two presidents," current PASTA president Mary Orndoff said.

PASTA is putting together next year's slate of officers right now, according to Orndoff.

"It's been a great year," Orndoff said. "It really was a nice group and everyone followed through with what they were asked to do. And we're expecting an even more successful year next year."

STA welcomes new freshmen

The administration has been making preparations for tonight's Star Night, an annual gathering during which current students and faculty will welcome next year's incoming freshmen. Eighth graders will participate in icebreaker activities with their advisory big sisters which the administration hopes will increase unity among the incoming class. According to social studies teacher Denise Rueschhoff, Star Night aids not only in bonding incoming freshmen, but also in securing their hopes that they made the right choice by enrolling at STA.

Teacher welcomes baby boy

Journalism teacher Eric Thomas welcomed a new child into his life last week. His wife Polly gave birth to a baby boy, Owen Monroe Thomas, April 21 at St. Luke's South Hospital. Born at approximately 3:21 p.m., Owen was 19.5 inches tall and weighed seven pounds and one ounce.



Thomas

According to Eric, his family is adjusting well to their newest addition.

"[Owen] is awesome," Eric said. "He is doing great. Now that he's here we feel prepared. [Owen] is an extremely relaxed and chilled little baby, especially because when Ella came we were hyperventilating."

The Thomas family's first child, Ella, is also adjusting well to having her first sibling, according to Eric.

"[Ella] thinks [Owen] is pretty cool," Eric said. "But not as cool as her Barbie princesses she's received. But she's a helpful big sister."

Students showcase their talents

The Fine Arts Showcase highlights students' work and achievements throughout the year. It consisted of a display of artwork and performances from STA's students in the fine arts department last night.

The a cappella choir sang three songs including "Lollipop", "Only Hope" and "Wayfaring Stranger" and the concert choir's performance consisted of the songs "Red Red Rose" and "My Best Friend's Wedding".

Students' artwork was presented throughout the Donnelly Hall and M&A Buildings. Each student chose two to three pieces constructed throughout the school year to showcase.

Seniors Tatiana Ambrose, Maddie Effertz and Jo Pace showcased their artwork in the Donnelly exhibition room beginning last week. They will be followed by seniors Mollie Caffey, Molly Fakoury and Kit Landwehr who will display their pieces during the week of May 6-13. These weeks honor senior artists' work throughout their years at STA.

STA students create mural

The Kansas City Young Audiences' Community School of the Arts (CSA) recently teamed up with STA to create a mural in the basement of the M&A Building near the Commons. CSA was looking for a way to connect their entrance to their actual space at STA.

"When people enter the door they're disconnected until the third floor," Mr. Ah'Lee Robinson, director of the CSA, said. "The mural continues on the third floor with the same concept and color scheme."

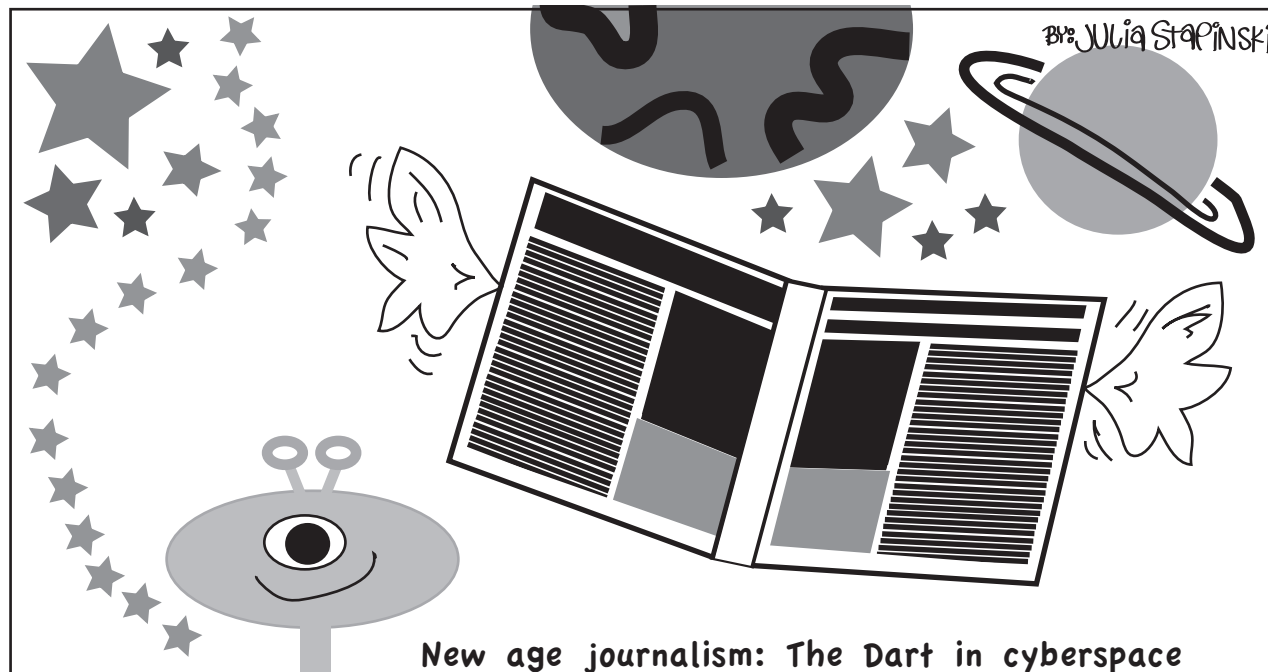
Robinson requested STA students to work on the project because they knew the space and the feel of the school. Students from both art classes and art club came together and worked on it for two weeks both after school and on weekends to create the finished product.

The students included seniors Crysta Henthorn, Alexis Taylor-Butler and Kelly Younger, junior Camellia Jahanshahi, sophomores Clare Odegard and Anna Rayburn and freshmen Erica Henthorn, Miranda Johnson and Brenna Palmer.



Colorful entrance ★ After painting by nine STA students, this new mural sits just outside of the Commons. STA students got together with the Kansas City Young Audiences' Community School of the Arts to create a mural near CSA's entrance to STA. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

Journalism Jams



New age journalism: The Dart in cyberspace

Online community niche necessary for newspaper survival

Journalism is a necessary and vital vein of our culture. It relays information about our leaders, community efforts, politics, national and foreign policy, crime, health, entertainment and much more. The list is endless. Journalism allows us to connect with and be informed about the world and culture in which we live.

However, there are a few recent cultural developments with which the business model of journalism has failed to evolve.

One such development is a little something called the World Wide Web. The internet provides free, instantaneous news that is constantly updated and holds vast media of reader interaction i.e. blogs, videos, discussion boards, polls etc. Who wants to take the effort to purchase and flip through the Sunday paper or subscribe to kstar.com when news is a Google search away?

Another advancement is globalization. There was a time when *The Kansas City Star* might run giant, breaking national or international news headlines. Slowly, however, papers like *The Star* have weeded out all breaking news and most international news. National and international reporters have begun to focus on post-analysis of events.

Despite all this, journalism is still a necessity. Yet despite the necessity of the newspaper, the fastest growing epidemic in the media world is

sending perished newspapers to the graveyard, and web news corporations aren't faring much better. News corporations just can not seem to find a way to make money.

We at *The Dart* are student journalists, and as such have the flexibility and insight to make changes now in the newspaper business model

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

13 out of 14 editors voted in support of this editorial.

that will make it more sustainable and effective. We recognize the importance and necessity of relaying information effectively, and so offer the following antidote to the failing news business model.

Solution 1: Get local. *The Kansas City Star* has already taken a step down this path by recently focusing its front pages on local news only. Another example is *The Austin* [Texas]

Chronicle, a free yet thriving community paper, similar to *The Star*, which has successfully localized. The only regional news companies who are going to survive are companies that create a community niche the internet simply cannot provide. A niche that provides deep and analytical local news and events, entertainment, and creates an accessible community forum. Kind of like *The Dart*.

Solution 2: Advertise online. Journalism is all about communicating to the masses, and communicating to the masses is what the internet does. If news corporations want to make money, they should stop trying to sell news that everyone expects for free, whether print or online.

Instead corporations should sell web advertisements to local businesses. It works like this: local businesses sell advertisements to localized websites, because inevitably the locals will be visiting the website.

So why is all this important to STA? We at *The Dart* take our job seriously. We know the value of journalism within the STA community, and want to make sure our reporting and interaction with STA stays strong. That's why you'll find us next year at www.dartnewsonline.com as well as the print version. We'll be sure to keep you updated! ★



"Internet lets news get out faster so newspapers are becoming less common."
— Kate Passantino, sophomore



"You can get on the internet instantly for free and see news that's constantly updated."
— Kaitlin Arnold, senior



Compiled by Morgan Said

Say WHAT? How has internet and technology affected news and its presentation?



"I was listening to Mix 93.3 and Ponch got to interview David Cook before anyone else so all of [Kansas City] heard it before anywhere else."
— Jade Hernandez



"It's a lot more accessible and faster to access so if I want to know something, it's easy to get it immediately."
— Riley Cowing, junior



30 seconds with ... Pat Wentworth

Compiled by Morgan Said

Ms. Pat Wentworth and her granddaughters seniors Jacqueline and Pualina Wenworth attended the Grandmother's Tea April 24 in Goppert Gymnasium. The annual social event encourages STA students to invite their grandmothers for visits and refreshments.

Q What is your favorite part about visiting STA?

A I love the sandwiches! And the fellowship with my granddaughters and their friends.



Q How does this strengthen your relationship with your granddaughters?

A It shows that I care about each and every thing they do.

Q How many years have you come to Grandmother's Tea?

A It's my third year. I missed last year because I was in Florida...the girls were mad!

Q How do you feel about this being your last year?

A I'm going to miss it. I love coming here. I treasure every spare moment I have with [the girls] since they're seniors and about to go to college.

Diversifying falls second to tolerance

AN OPINION BY



KYLIE HORNBECK

Through various school wide events, including the cultural awareness assembly and week of activities, awareness day and many more, the STA community has proven itself a strong supporter of diversity. However, it is not diversity that is the issue, but tolerance.

Diversity has become a growing concern in both our community at STA and in our nation. To address the issue of diversity, our school continually strives to take step after step toward a more "diverse" student body. It is a difficult task to create what is called a truly "diverse community," and so this will likely be a continual effort over the next several decades. However, diversity is sometimes a façade. Acceptance, on the other hand, lies within us. We need to learn to accept others than just try to surround ourselves with people who look differently or come from a different cultural background.

Tolerance is growing as an American cultural value. It is important for us, as a community, to not only embrace others in our community, but to fully accept them as individuals. We should not judge others based on appearance, culture or even beliefs, but on their abilities to express their ideas and cooperate with others.

Therefore, the physical make-up of our student body should not be the emphasis, but our open-mindedness toward all people. An accepting and tolerant community will, over time, lead to a diverse student population.

So far, I applaud our work toward diversity as a school community; however, I believe we should redirect our motives. Rather than seeking to appear "diverse," we should work from the inside out and try to improve our own inner beliefs and ideals.

It all starts at home. STA is not a perfectly inclusive community and may never be, but we should strive to be. It is now our time to change and our goal should be to aim not for diversity, but for tolerance. ★

Wines are finer with age; so are your parents

AN OPINION BY



KAYLA LOOSEN

It's funny how life begins by playing with marbles and ends with losing your marbles.

Ah, yes. We all know the tell-tale signs of aging: forgetfulness, slow driving, gray hair, crankiness, reading glasses, bad hearing, outdated style and downright craziness. Just a few of the many observations I've recently made about my own parents.

Benefit number 1 of my "middle-aging" parents: Thoughtfulness. As the number of candles on my parents' birthday cake grows, so does their consideration.

This all hit me the other day when I walked into my house after school only to hear my dad pose the thoughtful question, "How was school today?" My response was a simple, "Fine."

Maybe that reply was a little

bit mind-numbing but it wasn't even 20 minutes later when my dad walked past me and again asked, "How was school today?" My answer this time was, "We already talked about this."

Apparently good-old Dad took this response the wrong way and considered it ill-mannered of me to reply that way. I argued that I was just being perceptive of our earlier conversation; he argued that he was just trying to care about me. Aw, really? Make my heart melt Dad. Who could argue with that?

Benefit number 2 of my "middle-aging" parents: Their leisurely driving skills are as efficient as and safer than those of the speeders.

Now, my mom has never really been one for driving, but lately her vehicular skills have seemingly grown worse. Maybe I have just grown used to teenage drivers, but when Mom's cruising at 35 mph in a 45 mph zone and has one-fourth of the car in the lane next to her, I think we've got a problem on our hands.

Perhaps we can blame this on distractions like her enthusiasm for listening to talk radio, curiosity about the asking prices of the passing houses for sale or maybe the fact that she will devise an en-

tire reroute if there's a liquidation sale at some nearby store. Either way, she's slow sailing down the streets of town.

However, her dawdling traveling techniques have enlightened me to another new observation. You know that kid in the Mustang, blaring 50 Cent from his stereo with the windows down so we can all hear but he can't hear our complaints, cutting off every car like it's his job and continuously weaving between cars for no reason? Yeah, that kid. I've discovered that just because he guns it from zero to 60 at a green light he will still likely end up at the next red light alongside Mom and me.

What's even better is that he will probably arrive at the same destination as my mother at a maximum of two minutes before her.

Benefit number 3 of my "middle-aging" parents: Loss of hearing equals the gain of laughs.

Moreover, in recent years my dad's hearing has begun to decline. He tends to blame his poor hearing on years of listening to sirens on the fire department, but he can't totally discount the fact that maybe he is just getting older.

Right now it's to the point where I say, "I'm going to get gas," and he replies, "Your mom wants you to put on a mask?"

I then repeat the question and he responds with a new question, "You're signing up to take jazz?"

Initially, I think he's joking. Finally I realize he's not and usually just give up on explaining.

For instance, the other day he asked, "What do you want for dinner?" I responded, "I don't care." Somehow, that was misunderstood for "octopus hair." Following this we have a 10 minute conversation about what was really said. Generally, I lose, but get to live with the self-satisfaction of who was really right. Generally, this is me.

We regularly get a good laugh out of these blunders and they think I'm cooler than I already am because they think I'm taking jazz classes when I'm really just getting gas.

Generally, people interpret aging as this really miserable and depressing event in someone's life, but it's inevitable for all of us.

So, hold onto your marbles for as long as you can, but when the time comes, embrace losing them. ★

I hold the crayon to draw my own life, Harold said

AN OPINION BY



CAROLINE QUINN

My book shelf boasts photo essays from the beaches of South Africa, poetry from the farms of Ireland, literature from the fearless spirits of oppressed women and scribbles from the notebooks of my childhood.

As I sifted through these pages, stained and tattered by time and too many moves, I recalled memories alive in familiar words and images. Beneath classics like "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Angela's Ashes," a weathered paperback the size of my hand beckoned me to read it after nearly 13 years of abandonment. I smiled in anticipation of the simple drawings and words, unaware of how that book has shaped my character.

Almost everything I need to know in life I learned from Crockett Johnson's "Harold and the Purple Crayon."

More than 50 years old with only plumb,

black and gray pages, "Harold and the Purple Crayon" tells the story of a little boy who takes a moonlit walk with only a crayon by his side. At first, Harold's world is empty and bland. Through his imagination, though, Harold crafts a colorful world with green grass and blossoming apple trees.

In this premise lies discovery number one: you do not need much to enjoy life. Material wealth has no influence on how rewarding my time can be. Harold only had a small writing tool, but he made the most of it.

When Harold gets hungry, he makes a picnic. He overindulges, drawing nine kids of pies, and cannot finish the meal. Because Harold does not want to waste, he gives his pie to a hungry moose and a humble porcupine.

Discovery number two: Do not take more than you need. If you do, share. There are always people who have less, and as an interdependent member of the global community, it is my responsibility to care take of others.

Harold cleans up his picnic and goes "looking for a hill to climb, to see where he was." Harold does not wander aimlessly; he searches for perspective.

Discovery number three: Try to see the world from different angles. Avoid getting

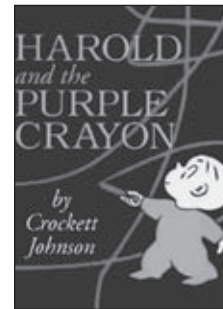
get caught up in the same routine. Look for ways to gain new experiences. I know I can not learn if I am always looking at the people and things around me at eye level.

The most important theme of "Harold and the Purple Crayon" is that each person is in charge of her or his future. I have the power to draw my own life. If I dislike the situation I am in, like Harold when he almost drowns in the ocean, I can chose to escape it (like the way Harold draws a boat and saves himself). Though I live in an interdependent community, I ultimately control how I spend my time.

I have read dozens of books I will never forget - books that give me chills, make me cry and thrust me into action. I never thought a yellowed children's book would have such an influence.

Through Harold's simple yet thoughtful actions, I have rediscovered how I can use my "tools" to improve myself, and with this, help others.

This book has built the foundation for my imagination. I realized I cannot be afraid to write a story, throw it out and start over for the millionth time. I hold the crayon - the power to learn, discover and become selfless. Thanks, Harold. ★



HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON BY CROCKETT JOHNSON

at a glance
in 300 words

Modeled after Brady Dennis's original 300 word series, this series captures people and moments in 300 words: no more, no less.

by HALEY VONDEMKAMP
Lifestyles Editor

Worth the Wait

Balloons in hand, family and friends gathered at the end of the jetway. The green ready light flashed and the video camera was prepped. They left the Kansas City airport as two. But when they returned that November evening in 1997, the Rueschhoff family became three.

Denise Rueschhoff, exhausted by the 15-hour plane ride, cradled her daughter as godparents and grandparents gawked. After months and months of paperwork and court dates, blonde-haired, blue-eyed baby Anna was finally home. After a year in the adoption process, she was theirs.

Just five days before, Denise and husband John landed in St. Petersburg, Russia. Anxious, scared, and excited, they knew little of what to expect.

Well-armed with diapers, baby food, fresh onesies, booties, and a translator, by the next morning the couple arrived at Orphanage Number Seven. Standing in the entrance, Denise waited yet again. Finally, with hot tears standing in her eyes, she watched as the nurse approached with eight-month-old Anna in her arms. After months of mailed photographs and video clips, there she was, the real thing. Denise held her for the first time, the tears falling now.

Finally, they could take her home, but only after the customary going-away party. Among doc-

tors, nurses, and the orphanage directors, the new parents sipped champagne and coffee and nibbled on pastries. They shared pictures of Anna's new room, her new family, even her new dog. Now there were tears on both ends. Giving their stamp of approval to the family receiving her, the orphanage caretakers cried as they said their good byes to baby Anna.

Six years later, Anna was the one at the end of the jetway. Jumping up and down, craning her neck, she nearly lost the balloons she was holding. This time in February, the Rueschhoff family became four. Not unlike her new big sister, baby Mary arrived to the new home her parents felt lucky to give her. ★

Losing record frustrates team

With a record of 4-8-1, varsity soccer adjusts to lack of seniors and multiple injuries

by ROSIE HODES
Opinion Editor

As the second half of the Lee's Summit North game was winding down April 21, the scoreboard read 4-1, not in STA's favor. Some of the girls on the bench discussed the possibility of a comeback, remembering a game in the 2006 World Cup when Australia came back to score two goals in the last six minutes and beat Japan 3-1.

"How did [Australia] do that?" one player asked.

"Because they had heart," captain junior Kerry Cummings said.

STA ended up losing the game 5-2, lowering their record to 3-6-1 for the season compared to a 9-1 record through 10 games last season.

"We're working hard, but the season's not turning out the way we'd like it to be," captain senior Caitlin Boger said. "It's new for us that it's not coming easily. We've had to fight in the past but we have to fight twice as hard this year."

Boger is one of two seniors on the team this season compared to the six seniors the team had last year. Head coach Scott Siegel said the loss of the past two senior classes has had a huge impact on the team because the team lacks experience now. He said some of the younger girls are not used to the fast pace of the varsity level.

"We have a lot of players that we know can play, they're just not getting it done," Siegel said.

Siegel also believes the team does not have the advantage of having played together for four years like some previous teams have had. Senior Lauren Damico, varsity manager of two years, believes a lower comfort level comes with a new team and that the communication on and off the field needs to improve this season.

"I never doubted the potential, but I knew winning was not going to be as easy this year," Damico said.

According to Siegel, injuries are one of the biggest factors making winning harder to



Stressing out ★ Coach Scott Siegel watches the varsity STA soccer team as they play against Lee Summit West High School at Rockhurst University soccer fields April 15. STA tied 0-0, went into double overtime, but lost in penalty kicks 5-3. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

accomplish this season. Out of 18 varsity players, 16 have experienced injuries, six of them as serious as a concussion, surgeries and most recently Cummings' torn ACL.

"After two or three games we had the formation set...and it had to be changed in all ways since the beginning," Siegel said. "It's frustrating. Not necessarily our record but just not being able to have our best players out there consistently."

With a current record of 4-8-1, Siegel believes the girls are caught up in the big picture and he and

assistant coach Jeremy McElduff are trying to take one game at a time. He said the girls must become more resilient and recognize that there is no room for mistakes.

After the Lee's Summit North game, Siegel explained to the girls that they are not good enough not to try 100 percent of the time. The team stood up, gathered into a huddle and listened to Cummings instruct them to go home and watch professional soccer games that showed the "heart" they needed to play with. ★

KC hits home run with stadium renovation

\$250 million updates to Kaufman Stadium create new feel at Royals games

by TAYLOR BROWN
Copy Editor

Take me out to the ball game and I'll have a good time. Take me out to a Royals ball game and I'll have an unexpectedly great time. In fact, home games from previous Royals seasons are of no comparison to what the experience is like in the Royals' newly renovated Kaufman Stadium.

After the Kansas City Metropolitan area passed a bill granting \$250 million to the renovation of the Truman Sports Complex, the work began in October 2007. With most of the work having been completed by Opening Day April 10, this Royals season holds new possibilities for fans at home games.

Some of the significant remodeling already completed is: new high-definition video board in the outfield, renovation within Crown and dugout seating, construction and remodeling of bathrooms and concessions, new fountain area seating, new Hall of Fame in outfield, terraces and walkway behind scoreboard, new public restaurant in right-field, changes to the Little K in left-field and many other prospects.

With all of these improvements and changes, the atmosphere of a Royals game is completely different. Walking through the renovated stadium, I felt like I was at Fenway Park in Boston or Progressive Field in Cleveland. With so many options of entertainment to occupy yourself within the new stadium, Royals games can now be frequented by and entertaining to more than just die-hard fans.

If you get bored in the fourth inning, take a walk around the whole park without missing a second of the game. Need to go to the bathroom, girls? Take a fifth inning break without even worrying about the nasty lines of the past (it's the men waiting now). It's about dinner time so the sixth inning sounds like a good time to eat in the bar and grill in right-field. If you're feeling a little antsy in the seventh inning perhaps you could visit the Little K in left-field for some guaranteed fun. The Royals Hall of Fame is a perfect idea to meet your eighth inning needs. All you need in the ninth inning is some pure baseball watching, so take a seat in the outfield seating behind the fountains for a great view and original atmosphere.

All of these changes make it possible for anyone in Kansas City to simply enjoy what their professional athletic team has to offer. The experience at the Royals' game is much more intimate and accommodating to a variety of people than it was in the past. I recommend attending at

least one home game; I will be surprised if your experience isn't out-of-the-park. ★



At the old ball game ★ The seats are filled as the Royals play the Detroit tigers in the newly renovated Kaufman Stadium. The renovation included the addition of a Royals Hall of Fame and outfield seats around the fountains. PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN

SCORE board

[spring sports]

Varsity soccer (4-8-1)		
March 24	Shawnee Mission South	W
March 26	Olathe East	L
March 30	Blue Valley Northwest	W
April 1	Liberty	L
April 4	Lee's Summit North	L
April 7	Blue Valley North	L
April 8	Blue Springs	W
April 14	St. James Academy	T
April 15	Lee's Summit West	L
April 21	Lee's Summit North	L
April 22	Smithville	L
April 24	St. Pius	W
April 27	Shawnee Mission East	L

JV soccer (5-1-2)		
April 7	Blue Valley North	W
April 8	Blue Springs	W
April 14	St. James Academy	W
April 15	Lee's Summit West	L
April 21	Lee's Summit North	T
April 22	Smithville	W
April 24	St. Pius	W
April 27	Shawnee Mission East	T

C team soccer (8-3-2)		
March 26	Staley	W
March 31	Truman	W
April 6	Shawnee Mission East	L
April 8	Miege	W
April 15	Blue Valley North	W
April 20	Staley	W
April 21	St. James Academy	T
April 23	Blue Valley North	W
April 24	Olathe East	L
April 25	Aquinas	L
April 25	Shawnee Mission North	W
April 27	Shawnee Mission East	T
April 28	Miege	W

Track		
April 1	Grain Valley Relays	
April 3	BSS Invitational	
April 7	Turner Invitational	
April 8	Miege Invitational	
April 14	Belton Invitational	
April 15	O'Hara Invitational	
April 25	Lee's Summit Invitational	

Upcoming event

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Tonight at 4 p.m. C team soccer game vs. St. Thomas Aquinas High School at Aquinas followed by JV