

the

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

dart

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HOT Button Issues

With elections around the corner, Catholic voters are torn between traditional Church morals and social justice values

See Page 12-13

Higher education, higher price

Students struggle with rising college tuition as loans, aid become harder to obtain

by **CARLIE CAMPBELL**
Web Editor

For many students, not being able to attend their top-choice college is a reality because of one factor: money. Many students are forced to attend their second or third choice schools because they cannot afford the climbing cost of college. College tuition is on the rise. Last year, it grew faster than inflation. Because of this, more and more students are turning to financial aid and student loans to help them bear the burden of tuition costs.

"It is hard," STA college counselor Ms. Debi Hudson said. "It is frustrating for people who really want to look at some of the private schools on either coast, but when it comes down to it, end up at their third or fourth choice because of cost."

According to Mr. Jerry Belcher, the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, student loans are easier than most other types of loans to obtain, however, the availability of such loans is not rising fast enough to meet growing tuition fees.

"[The economy] has changed the number of people that are actually giving student loans," Belcher said. "There are still plenty of student loans to obtain and it's not difficult. For the student, it is just difficult finding which lender is still in the [student] loan business."

The most direct way to receive financial aid

for school is through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which determines how much money a student is expected to be able to spend out of pocket for college. This amount is known as a student's "expected family contribution."

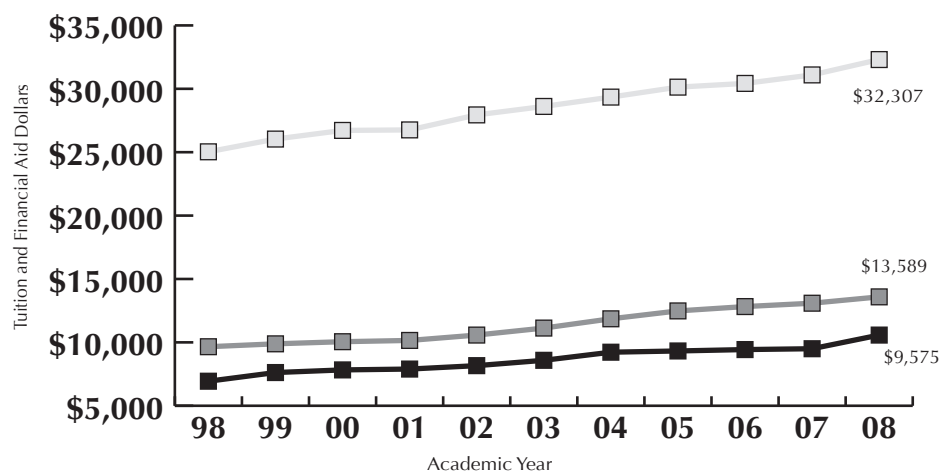
"The cost for tuition fees and books for one school may be \$10,000 and if [FAFSA] says you and your family could contribute \$2,000, that shows you have an \$8,000 financial need," Belcher said. "So, if you go to a different

school that costs \$20,000 a year, your need goes to \$18,000."

The price of college depends on the school a student wishes to attend and most schools will determine the eligibility of their students for loans, but federal loans have limits. If a student needs a

College tuition, financial aid increases annually

College tuition has risen at an average annual rate of 2.7% since 1978 for private schools and 2.3% for public schools. The increase in financial aid dollars in the last decade covered an average of 1/3 of the increase in private tuition and 1/2 the increase in public tuition.



Source: www.collegeboard.com/trends

Graphic By: Michelle Reichmeier

loan with no limit, they usually have to go to an independent lender, which often requires a credit check, according to Belcher.

"Once you've exceeded your limits on your federal loan programs, it's the private loans and the loans that require credit checks that are harder to get," Belcher said.

Loans from independent lenders also have interest rates that are subject to change, whereas federal loans all have the same, fixed interest rate. That rate is 8.25 per cent.

STA senior Margaret Schneider hopes to attend Oregon State University next year and major in engineering, but is also applying to Dayton University, the University of Missouri and Wisconsin State University because of the high cost of tuition at Oregon. According to Schneider, tuition for her would be about \$31,000 a year.

"The biggest scholarship the school offers is \$6,000 a year, which is not enough," Schneider said. "I don't know that I would want to have that much debt on my head because if I only get \$6,000 in scholarships...I would have at least \$40,000 in debt."

Hudson advises students to consider all factors when looking at student loans and potential debt

and to re-apply for financial aid every year.

"I think you need to look at what you're thinking about as far as possible careers go," Hudson said. "Obviously if you're going to incur a huge debt and you're looking at teaching, it's very different from looking at a sizeable loan debt when you're an engineering major."

Schneider has looked at scholarship options from organizations other than the university itself, but she says she does not often qualify for such scholarships. Despite this, she is hoping to find a way to avoid not being able to attend merely for financial reasons.

"Oh, that would kill me," Schneider said. "Because I know that I probably should get in and I've been trying so hard to find a way to pay for it."

Hudson tells students they should not shy away from applying to more expensive schools just because of high tuition.

"You never know what's going to come down the road...for scholarships or in the way of financial aid packages," Hudson said.

The College Board advises students not to shy away from certain schools because of the cost. Debt from student loans is worth it, they say,

See COLLEGE, page 22

Q&A



COLLEGE COUNSELOR
DEBI HUDSON

What STA needs to know about the costs of college.

Q Why is college tuition rising?

A Well obviously tuition rises with inflation...There's [also] been a big increase with college technology and facilities.

Q What is financial aid?

A It's typically on a need base...it's money from the government or colleges themselves. It's made up of three things; loans, grants and college work study programs.

Q How do students obtain financial aid?

A There's a federal form, FAFSA, which is a free application for federal student aid. [The applications] are filled out annually after Jan. 1.

Q What is the best way for STA girls to respond to rising financial aid in their college selection process?

A It depends on the college, of course. I always tell students not to let financial aid and assistance decide where they apply.

Compiled by Avery Adams

our opinion

BY THE NUMBERS

The Dart polled 126 students about their preferred financial situation after college.

In what financial situation would you rather graduate from college?

67% said "With little debt but a guaranteed job"

18% said "With much debt but a high-paying job"

6% said "With no debt but no guaranteed job"

9% said "With much debt but a low-paying job you love"

inside *out*



Academics:
Senior Emily Schapker transfers to Shawnee Mission South High School to pursue physics

See Page 8



Features:
Former teacher Karen Johnson celebrates arrival of adopted baby Evie; recalls with sadness, joy adoption process; plans for the future

See Pages 21-22



Sports:
Stars finish second at golf Districts; junior Casey O'Flaherty places first

See Page 16

Model UN prepares for second year

With more members, events extracurricular club begins year with high expectations

by TAYLOR BROWN
Copy Editor

STA's Model United Nations (UN), an extracurricular group that practices simulations of the real UN, has begun its second year with around 50 STA students. As opposed to the one tournament last year, Model UN plans to attend two tournaments at Park University Nov. 11 and Johnson County Community College in April.

At a Model UN tournament, each school/association represents a country in which they research its standpoints relating to certain issues. The topics of the tournament revolve around the Model UN committees of security council, general assembly, social, economic, political and environmental.

At STA, Model UN moderator and social studies teacher Richard Shrock divides the members into committees depending on their levels of interest, capability and commitment to the club.

"We are a lot more organized this year," junior security council committee member Jessica Ann said. "The committees are more organized because we have actual leadership positions. Everyone is just more committed than last year."

Members of the club feel the stronger commitment and organization will help them in their tournaments.

"Last year, being at the tournament was really intimidating at first," junior general assembly committee member Maura Hinken said. "We weren't confident at first, but we didn't know what to expect. This year we'll be more prepared."

According to Shrock, a tournament includes two parts. The first part consists of a formalized debate and ceremonial speeches and proposals between committees, and the second part revolves around informal debates and negotiations. After the presentations, proposals and compromises, each committee devises a resolution paper relating to the topic.

"The biggest challenge we'll face this year is knowing what we're doing at the first tournament," Ann said. "We'll have to do sufficient research. It's also going to be a challenge dealing with Rockhurst [High School] kids because they are a lot more ahead of us in Model UN."



Active Listening ★ Model UN moderator Richard Shrock listens as freshman Lorraine Sands asks questions about the Model UN program during a meeting Oct. 1. The STA Model UN participants plan to compete in two tournaments with area schools this year. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

ment," Ann said. "We'll have to do sufficient research. It's also going to be a challenge dealing with Rockhurst [High School] kids because they are a lot more ahead of us in Model UN."

Along with tournament exposure, Shrock associates other benefits with this extracurricular activity. Practicing public speaking, researching important issues and writing resolution papers are all skills a student develops through partici-

tion in Model UN. Being involved in this activity also results in a higher global awareness for members.

"I like that we are dealing with contemporary issues of the world," Shrock said. "Dealing and exploring with students those kinds of things is also an interesting aspect. If Model UN weren't interactive like that, I wouldn't be interested." ★

DARTBOARD

by TAYLOR BROWN, MICAH WILKINS AND
AVERY ADAMS

McCarthy undergoes surgery

Computer teacher Kathy McCarthy underwent surgery last Friday to treat the breast cancer that she was diagnosed with last month, according to STA principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker. Although this surgery is usually considered to be serious, the process went well and McCarthy was released for home the next day. The surgery was successful in removing all forms of cancer. Another outcome of the surgery was that doctors found no cancer in her lymph nodes. McCarthy is currently recovering and plans to return to STA in a month.

Spanish teacher returns to US

Spanish teacher Lucila Bernal, who was stuck in Mexico over the last few months due to an expired Visa, received government consent for her completed paperwork and is now back in the US.



There is talk of Bernal returning to STA at the start of second semester.

However, according to language lab moderator and physical education teacher Stacie O'Rear, STA administration is hesitant on the idea of Bernal returning as a teacher in-full until all transactions and manners are taken care of. The administration does not want students to experience more teacher changes than necessary to avoid disruption to learning environments, O'Rear said.

STA to crack down on security

Since the vandalism scandal occurred, the STA community has taken steps to improve campus security. The administration board voted Sept. 24 to further develop the security systems with access control systems or advanced keypads to enter the buildings.

The board looks to the McGee Foundation to approve this plan. If they approve the plan, keypads will be located on all three buildings. Each student, staff and faculty member of STA will have a personal entrance code, such as the last four digits of their phone number. People trying to enter the building scan an entrance code monitored by video surveillance and buzzed in by an STA faculty member only.

"[These security improvements] are not to be an imposition," president Nan Bone said. "They're only to create a safe environment on campus, not that there's any threat."

Hudson returns after six years

College counselor Debi Hudson comes back to STA after leaving in 2002. Hudson originally left STA to work in the college admissions department at the University of Tulsa and later as the director of college placement for Rockhurst High School. However, when her daughter, Carrie, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2004, she felt overwhelmed.

According to Debi, balancing a full-time job, Carrie's treatment and hospital stays was too exhausting.

After treatment and care, Debi's daughter became cancer-free, so this year, Debi decided to return to STA.

"I really missed STA while I was gone. I'm absolutely thrilled to be back" Debi said. "In many ways it has felt like I never left."

New club forms to explore lesser-known films

Mr. Stephen Himes creates Cinema Club to vocalize passion with STA film lovers

by SHAUGHNESSY MILLER
Staff Writer

In a darkened room, a group of girls sits in front of a projection screen. A short film plays and the girls laugh. It is a spoof of "West Side Story" titled "West Bend Story" which tells the tale of two warring food stops, the Humus Hut and the Kabob House. For most of these STA students, this award-winning Indie film is unlike many others they have seen. This is Take I for Cinema Club, a new club created to add variety among club options.

What people might not know is that principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker selected English teacher Stephen Himes because of his passion for film and work as a freelance film critic.

"[Being a film critic] started as kind of a joke," Himes said. "A good friend of mine and I loved movies, but were dissatisfied with the state of film criticism."

The internet was emerging when they began their reviewing revolution, and Himes and his friend threw together a "horrible web site" and posted a couple of reviews. They did not expect many viewers, so Himes was surprised when he received an invitation to be in a New York film critics circle for his review on "Moulin Rouge." From there, Himes has continued to critique movies for his personal

web site (which he wishes to remain private) and other magazines and web sites including flakmag.com.

Members of Cinema Club say that they are glad to have a moderator who truly enjoys film and takes the club seriously.

"He is definitely very passionate about movies," STA junior and Cinema Club secretary Alli Calia said. "It's really cool because he doesn't go for mainstream movies, but ones that have a lot of base to them."

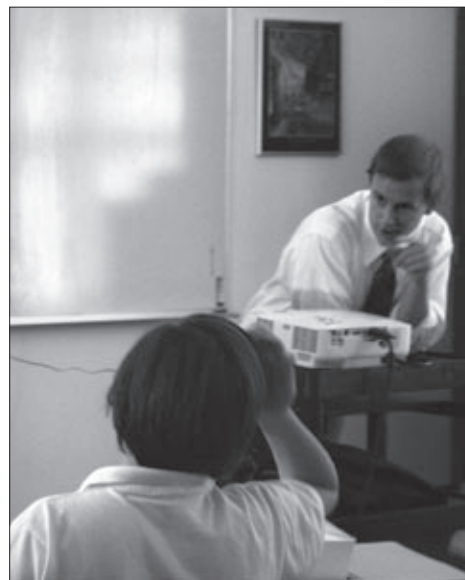
Calia was glad when she found out Himes was a film critic because he was not just "a random teacher," but someone who knew what he was talking about and was passionate about it. She says the fact that he is a critic has shaped the club and helped generate more purposeful discussions.

"He tries to ask us questions which make us delve deeper into what the movie is about," Calia said. "After the first movie ["West Bend Story"], he made us think about what was going on at the time. At first it was just a funny movie, but it was really about the Israeli-Pakistani conflict."

Himes encourages members of the club to step outside of the popular and well-known and learn from lesser-known movies.

"Part of the goal is to introduce Cinema Club Members to films they may not have seen that are outside of the mainstream that are still entertaining," Himes said.

According to Calia, she thought that people would just bring in their favorite movies and that Cinema Club would not be very serious, but when she found out that the club would watch and discuss more obscure films, she was



Lunch and a movie ★ Cinema club moderator Stephen Himes discusses movie with club members last Monday during lunch/activity. The club met to watch "Persepolis". PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

excited. STA senior and Cinema Club president Lauren Bly feels that unique movies will benefit the club more than if the students just watched what was popular in film now.

"I can watch a movie any time but there's actually a purpose behind these films that helps educate you," Bly said. ★

US economy continues downturn

'Buyer's market' impacts family looking to move

Doyles hope to purchase home in sinking economy, continue their two-year wait

by KYLIE HORNBECK
News Editor

Located in the gated community of Villa Medici, the Doyle family continues waiting to buy a house that they have been looking at for about two and a half years. At the end of June, after selling their home and moving out for the new owners, the Doyle family of Kevin, Brenda, Patrick, STA senior Haley and freshman Maddie is now living in a townhouse in Overland Park.

According to Haley, the current real estate market is a "buyer's market," which means house prices are down, and now is an opportune time to buy. The Doyle's have their sights set on a certain house, but the couple currently living in it have yet to move out and are still unsure of what to do in terms of selling their house.

See REAL ESTATE, page 22



Cramped Quarters ★ Senior Haley Doyle practices tricks with her dog Ginger in their Overland Park townhouse Friday. The Doyles moved into townhouse after selling their home but were unable to move into a new one due to the current economy. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM



Stock Market Crisis ★ A weary worker shows his frustration after the closing bell Aug. 31 at the Chicago Board of Trade. The Dow industrials fell more than 500 points as stocks wiped out what little remained of this year's once robust gains and plunged toward the first bear market since 1990. PHOTO BY MCT CAMPUS

Economy weakens as stock market fails

US "Credit crunch" generates concern across the country

by MADALYNE BIRD
Staff Writer

As the stock market and economy weaken, a financial crisis, which the media is now calling "the credit crunch," is occurring, affecting families and students nationwide.

The stock market is an association of stockbrokers who meet to buy and sell stocks and bonds according to fixed regulations.

Former business and financial editor for *The Kansas City Star*, Janet Miller believes in a variety of causes for the economic slump.

"I think that [the economic slump] is caused by the housing crash," Miller said. "People's worth is ultimately their house, and people who borrowed money

from banks to pay for a house or car weren't in the financial position to withstand an economic downturn."

According to *The Wall Street Journal* in the past months, large banks have failed and have been taken over by the US government. Large investment banking firms have been filing bankruptcy.

In a Sept. 15 article for *US News and World Report*, journalist Luke Mullins composed an article entitled, "The Return of the Credit Crunch" in which he wrote, "A slowing economy generates higher credit losses at banks, which leads to more restrictive lending, weakening the economy even further..."

According to a Sept. 30 article in *Time Magazine*, more restrictive lending will occur and take a toll on families because student, car and home loans will be more difficult to obtain in the months of 2009. Without loans and sufficient

See STOCK MARKET, page 22

Glossary

Stocks: the shares of a particular company or corporation.

Bonds: a written and sealed obligation, especially one requiring payment of a stipulated amount of money on or before a given day.

Credit: confidence in a purchaser's ability and intention to pay, displayed by entrusting the buyer with goods or services without immediate payment.

Bankruptcy: financially ruined; impoverished.

Liquidation: to settle a debt, a claim, or an obligation.

Economy: the prosperity or earnings of a place.

Q&A

with Mr. Mike O'Keefe, portfolio manager of foreign exchange options for the capital markets division of Barclays Bank Place on the sinking economy

Q How would you describe the state of the US economy right now?

A Soft, and getting softer, and potentially in a rapid manner.

Q How does the economic downturn affect Americans?

A I suspect for most Americans, if you keep your job and were not too overleveraged going into the slowdown, you will do fine. If your debt burden is too high, and your financial safety cushion is too small, then it could be very painful.

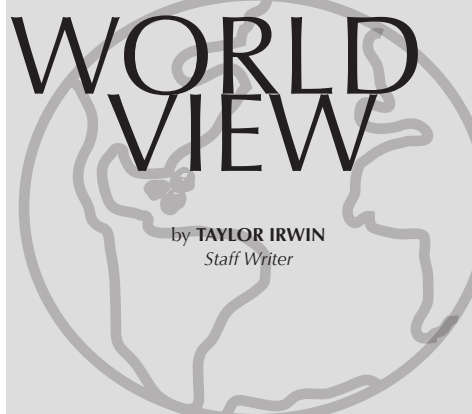
Q What is the government doing about the slump?

A Inclusive of the globally embarrassing gimmicks of "stimulus checks" earlier this year, [the government] is trying to do a lot in a very short time. This generally is a recipe for disaster as was seen last week with the flip-flop of the bailout bill.

Q How long has the US economy been experiencing this downturn?

A It's open to debate, but housing peaked in late 2006 and early 2007, and credit started getting tighter by mid to late 2007. There can be a three to twelve month lag for a slowdown on the back of credit contractions.

Compiled by Kylie Hornbeck



Taliban leaders, Al-Qaeda split

Leaders of Taliban have announced to the Afghan government that they have severed their ties to the terrorist group Al-Qaeda in an attempt to end the country's conflict. As of Monday, the Taliban militia has been involved in a four day conference with Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah.

This effort shows Saudi Arabia's first direct role in Afghanistan, their previous enemy.

Before this, the split had never been made public and this new statement verifies what another source told CNN in the past. The current meetings held by King Abdullah are said to have taken two years to come to completion, and is hoped to be the first step to end these countries' clash. ★

Iceland Postpones Trades

Monday, Iceland stopped all trading in six of its major banks and guaranteed one hundred percent of savers' deposits. Over the weekend, Business Affairs Minister Bjorgvin G. Sigurdsson went on state radio to inform the country that a rescue plan was on its way.

Iceland is exposed to the global credit squeeze mainly due to its enormous bank segment. Because of this, investors are punishing the country for the bank's importance. Iceland's currency value has dropped and inflation is at risk as imports are falling through.

These alarms forced all credit rating agencies to reduce Iceland's government credit rating last week. ★

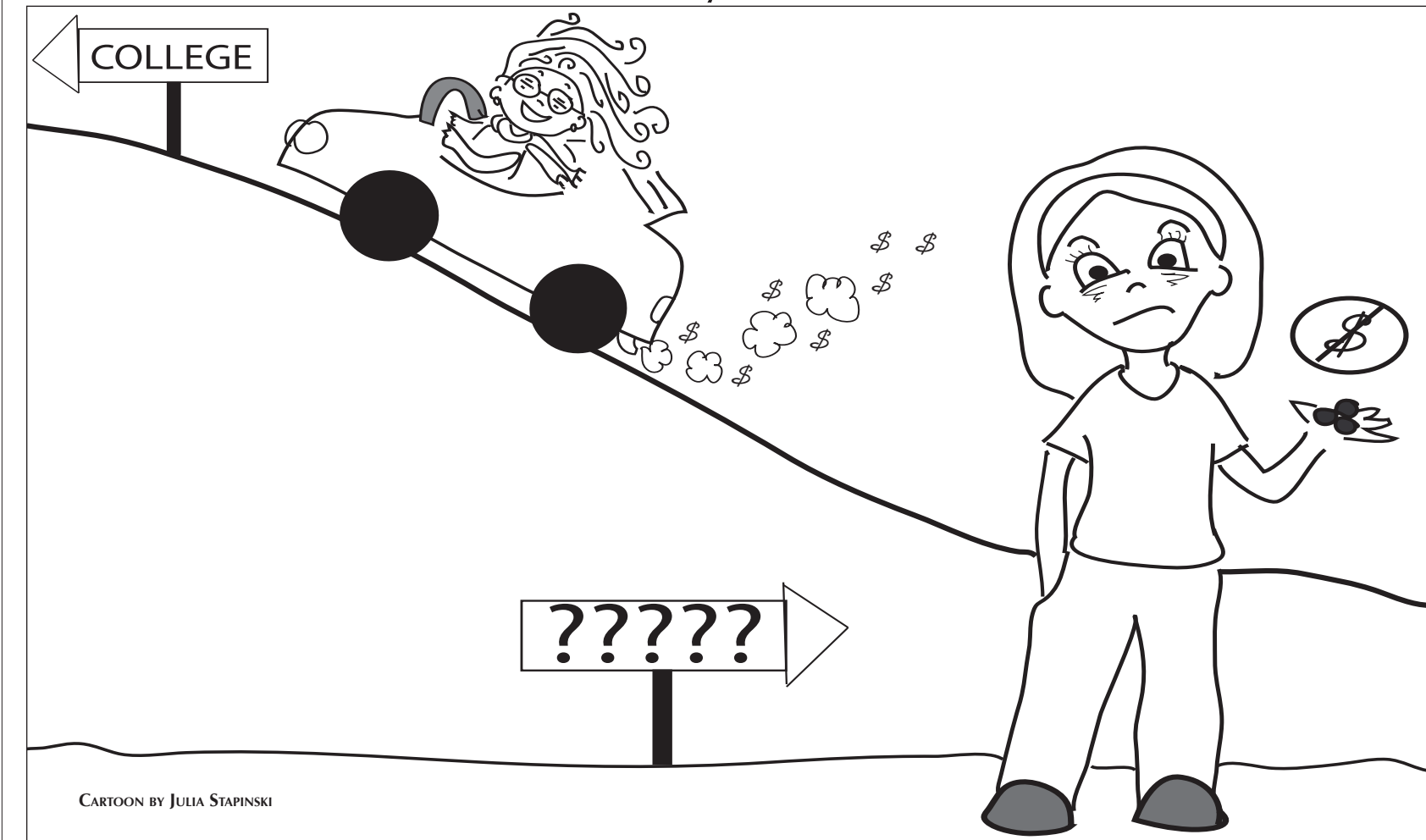
Earthquake leaves 70 dead

Sunday night, Southern Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia suffered a 6.6 earthquake, killing about 70 people and destroying over 120 buildings. While no figures were given, Mr. Gulshat Kadirova, a Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency Affairs official, told CNN that damage prices could rise as rescue efforts begin.

While all of Central Asia felt the earthquake, major damage was centered in the village of Nura. The health Ministry of Kyrgyzstan has set up a crisis center in the region, despite the difficult rescue conditions.

Tremors continued in Central Asia on Monday with two strong earthquakes hitting Tibet within 15 minutes of each other. ★

Money Smart



Government should fund college education

Americans today are living in uncertain times with uncertain answers. No one in this country sure of what the future holds.

September's stock market decline has left the country speculating about the future. With over a trillion dollars lost on Sept. 17, it is clear that loans and subsidies will not be distributed as freely as in previous years. Whether it be housing mortgages or car loans or, most prevalently for us students, impending college loans, there is a very real possibility that student loans may not be an option.

The US government has always asserted that one of the functions of government is to provide education to the students of America. Yet it has increasingly become the responsibility of parents and lending institutions to provide the funding for college education. All the while, tax breaks have been going to wealthy citizens who can already afford higher learning with no financial assistance while working class parents have been struggling to provide necessary school financial resources for their children.

Look at this hypothetically: Mike is a simple, working-class man who is employed as a mechanic 10 to 12 hours a day. It is the best he can do to provide a decent home for his family and food on the kitchen table. Neither Mike nor anyone else in his family has ever gone to college. However, he has a daughter, Sarah, who makes exceptional grades, works part-time at a local restaurant and wants to go to college at the University of Missouri. Although more than qualified for the school, the government will not offer enough subsidies (scholarships and loans) for her to attend. Despite working year-round at a local restaurant, Sarah, even with the help of her family, cannot afford the yearly tuition and will not be able to attend MU.

Then there is Preston. Preston is in a high level management position at a major corporation. Money is not a concern in his family. Preston's daughter Muffy makes average grades much lower than Sarah's and wants to go to college. Muffy doesn't have a part-time job, but her parents are willing to pay her tuition in full.

Guess who gets to go to her college of choice.

Congratulations are in order for Muffy, but Sarah needs to take a few years off to save enough money to attend school. This hardly seems fair.

Education is the right of every young person in America. Whether it

is kindergarten to college education, they should have the opportunity to learn regardless of their financial abilities to pay. College funding is not an obligation that should be taken on by students and their families; it is a responsibility that the government needs to uphold. This would benefit not only students, but the entire nation.

It is ludicrous to believe that a teenager earning minimum wage, could pay for even a public university. What's more absurd is that these public universities, which should be paid for by American tax payers similar to our public high schools, are as unaffordable as private universities.

Additionally, today's outrageous interest rates make it almost impossible to finance college if you are a student even with the help of a family member. Others without family assistance are left to struggle and attempt to acquire loans that, now in this economic crisis, will be virtually unattainable.

Right now America is falling drastically behind in its educational process against other countries (Finland, Germany, Sweden) where the same schooling is provided through tax payer dollars. College in these countries is afforded by the federal government, as it should be in the US, but is not. Here, education is a privilege given to only those with larger incomes. If a person with a lesser income is even able to obtain a loan at this

point, it may take 20 years to pay thanks to the aforementioned high interest rates.

The politicians in Washington have let down the young people in America by not providing them the opportunity to attend higher education. In this country, shaped by our own grandparents and parents, we're asked to express our loyalty by always being prepared to sacrifice everything: go to war, risk our lives – all in the name of the United States. But how are our loyalties rewarded when corporations and wealthy individuals pay little or no taxes, yet mom and pop are paying the heavy tax load in America? And as a result, we young, average-income students are not allowed fair access to learning. It's a travesty to our nation; we should feel betrayed.

Ultimately, America has the obligation to provide equal learning benefits for anyone desiring to achieve a higher education regardless of that person's race, age, gender or economic standing. If everyone could be given a fair opportunity to succeed and learn maybe this country could finally see a turn-around from the direction it's headed. ★

The staff editorial represents
the views of *The Dart* editors
**14 out of 14 editors voted
in support of this editorial.**

Long-sleeved polos, sweater vests oh my; uniform comfort priority

AN OPINION BY



AVERY ADAMS

When I wake up in the morning, my usual worries revolve around getting to school on time, eating breakfast and finishing homework from the night before. My appearance, however, takes back seat when it comes to worries. My physical appearance may not be one of my many cares, but how comfortable I am is. Sometimes the STA uniform just doesn't cut it comfort wise. Although with a few minor updates, I might feel as at home in my uniform as I feel in my footy pajamas.

Like every student at STA, I know that each day I'm expected to wear the same ol' thing, with little or no variations. To many public school students, a uniform is their worst nightmare. Wearing the same clothes every day? That's ridiculous. On the contrary, I believe that having a uniform is the best thing since sliced bread. I don't have to worry about what hot pair of jeans I want to flaunt or what color shirt goes with my mood that day because I know that no matter what I look like, there will be more than 500 girls looking the exact same way.

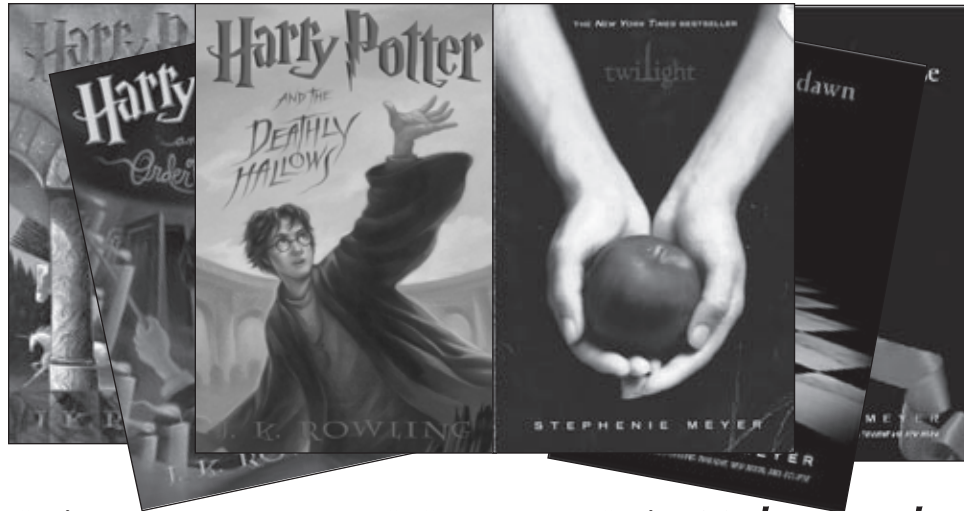
That's not to say, however, that our uniforms are the most stylish outfits of the 21st century. The STA sweaters provide warmth with every stitch of red or black thread, and the polos unify all students under one STA embroidery, but the cries for more variations in our uniforms cannot go ignored any longer. As the years go by, other changes are undeniable. Classes graduate, teachers come

and go, but for the past years our uniform has indisputably been lacking in the revolution area.

How many of you find yourselves rolling up your sleeves and peeling off your sweater by lunch/activity because you feel a heat stroke coming on? I know that being confined in the Commons, surrounded by two classes, is not the coolest place (temperature wise) to be for 30 minutes. I also realize that once I return to my 9/10 class, and sit next to the air conditioning, I'm going to be wrapping myself in that same, heat-stroke-causing sweater. So we're at a dilemma, a dilemma with one, simple, two word answer: sweater vests. Sweater vests provide the warmth I need for those chilly mornings and cool classrooms, but at the same time provide the ventilation I need in sticky situations during lunch and activity.

What is an STA student to do, however, in the dead of winter, when no vest, sweater or Wednesday sweatshirt can subdue that cruel winter air? Another simple answer, but with three words this time: long-sleeved polos. Snuggling in my shirt during a class in the freezing December and January months has always been my dream, but sadly, sticking my arms inside my shirt for warmth and looking like a short-armed dinosaur for 40 minutes just doesn't reflect my assumed maturity level. A long-sleeved polo satisfies both the students' and administrations' wishes; we get to snuggle in long-sleeves, and they get to see the STA embroidery plastered to the upper left hand corner of every shirt.

Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, once stated, "Everything changes, nothing remains without change." Yes, Buddha was probably referring to the world, religious beliefs or something of that importance, but the STA uniform should not be exempt to change. I have a dream that one day I will be able to walk the halls of this fine academy knowing I look good, feel good and don't have to worry about a potential heat stroke or frost bite. ★



It's not you, Harry; It's Edward

AN OPINION BY



CARLIE CAMPBELL

Dear Harry Potter,

I don't exactly know how to say this. It's not that the past ten years haven't been fabulous. We've been through so much together. Those nights we stayed up together, battling basilisks and confronting He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named, they were wonderful. But Harry (as I write this my tears endanger my keyboard of short-circuiting), it's time for us to move on. I guess what I mean to say is: it's not you, it's me. Actually, I've found someone else.

You are probably mad at me. I don't blame you. I am frustrated at myself for giving into temptation. From the moment I learnt of this person's existence I promised I would never let him get in the way of my love for you. I thought there was nothing that could force me to betray you. But I misjudged. From the moment I cracked open a copy of Stephenie Meyer's book "Twilight," I

was in love. But I would like to point out that I am not the only guilty party in this situation. You just disappeared out of my life two summers ago. Your books are finished and the movies just aren't the same. "Twilight" is something new, something unknown, something that you can't provide for me anymore.

Despite our shortcomings, I think it is best if we both move on with our lives. I still care about you, and I want you to be happy. I know I am happy. My new fictional love is absolutely dazzling. Please don't blame Edward Cullen for this, Harry. He is really a good human being, just like you. Well, in the loosest sense of the word "human," anyway. Edward reminds me a lot of you, in a vampire-ish kind of way. Much like you, he is an outcast member of society with extraordinary power. I even picture him to look something like you, sans scar and glasses...and maybe pointier teeth.

Understand that just because I have found someone else most certainly doesn't mean that my feelings for you have changed in the least. Others may say that you have been replaced. I disagree. The last thing I want is a clean break from you. I believe that nothing could ever replace you, merely scoot you over a little bit to make room for something new.

Harry, even after all this, please remember that you mean no less to me. You will always occupy a special place in my heart and on my bookshelf.

Yours (and Edward's) Forever,
Carlie

"I would love to see an alternative to the polo shirt that doesn't have to be tucked in and maybe a pullover."
- Shauna Prentiss, drama teacher

"Students should be allowed to wear sweatshirts any day of the week because it promotes school spirit."
- Leah Barthol, senior

Say WHAT?

Some would say the STA uniform is uncomfortable and outdated. Students and teachers wonder if change is possible for the daily attire and offer suggestions.

Compiled by Avery Adams

What changes would you make to the STA uniform?

"I would love it if we could have sweater vests. I wear a sweater to keep my shirt tucked in, but they're unbearable in the heat."
- Ellen Gude, junior

"I would like to see a more feminine polo and an alternative to the sweater, like a sweater vest or pullover."
- Mary Frey, sophomore

30 seconds with ...

Grace Whitely

Compiled by Avery Adams

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What position do you play on the varsity volleyball team?
Middle blocker or outside hitter.

How did you break your ankle?
At a tournament at Lee's Summit North. I came down from blocking and landed on it wrong.

For how long are you out of play?
A month to two months.

How will your injury affect the rest of the season?
It will hardly affect it at all. We have a strong team. There are going to be rocky times, but we'll end up on top.

How has your role on the team changed since your injury?
Instead of being a physical presence, I'll be more like a cheerleader.

Letters to the editor

Abortion and feminism

In regards to, "Palin pick for VP not progress for women: McCain profits." Palin's historic nomination is unequivocal progress for women. Sydney points out that Palin is Pro-Life, which she states is not consistent with "traditional feminism." This opinion is fundamentally not consistent with modern Catholic doctrine. The Catholic doctrine is clear in regards to abortion. A baby is a life at the moment of conception. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew You..." Jeremiah 1:5. Advocating the practice of abortion is NOT consistent with "traditional" feminism. The feminist movement in America began with women's fight to obtain property, business and inheritance rights in the mid-1800s. These facts run contrary to Sydney's belief that "traditional" feminism was about abortion. Women and teenage girls have become so blinded by their narrow, ideological understanding of what feminism is that they have lost the meaning of it all. A woman is no less a feminist because she believes in the sanctity of life at conception.

I can remember walking the halls of STA as a student. I can remember engaging in discussions about politics, abortion, and racism. I am so proud of the feminist that STA helped to form within me. I received a degree and entered the work force at full speed ready to show the world that I was intelligent successful. Somehow, through all my chants of, "I am a woman, hear me roar," I never lost my Catholic foundation and my fundamental beliefs in life and our Creator.

Go to www.trueconservativefeminist.blogspot.com to view this letter in its entirety.

Jamie Gubera-Cooper, Class of 1995

Palin qualified

After reading the opinion "Palin pick for VP not progress for women; McCain profits," I don't see how anyone who knows about Sarah Palin could consider her an objectified pawn to manipulate voters.

Palin renews my confidence in the Republican party and McCain campaign. She is the in-touch politician conservatives have been clamoring for. Look at her record. She refuses to let journalists push her around. She says what she believes and lives by her principles, something most politicians don't do. To say her qualifications didn't put her on the ticket is absurd.

Of course her femininity is appealing. It is refreshing to see a high-powered woman who doesn't downplay her beauty or motherhood. A feminist position would celebrate her femininity, not bash it. Being womanly doesn't go against traditional feminism, only current feminism. Palin embodies traditional feminism: a woman seeking the same opportunities as men without trying to be a man.

This piece also absurdly claims Palin goes against her gender by believing abortion is wrong. Palin believes life begins at conception and anything that destroys it is wrong. This isn't radical; a large portion of this country believes it, as does the Catholic Church.

A woman who stands up for herself, lives by her principles, and is proud of her motherhood: she holds women back? If Sarah Palin opposes feminism, then it's time feminists take a look at themselves and reconsider their principles.

Kate Rainey, Class of 2008

Students should venture to library

AN OPINION BY



TAYLOR BROWN

So, I'm an avid reader. As soon as I complete a book, I pick up a new one before I even have time to mourn over the previous ending. However, I am sick of my peers asking, "How do you have time to read for pleasure?" Well the truth is, I don't. But I make time, and you should too.

I am sure there are many other students at STA who can also claim they have a love for reading. I'm not the only one caught chatting with librarian Jacquelyn Hershewe during activity about lately read books and the next ones on the list. Nevertheless, Hershewe always seems so eager to talk to a fellow book-lover, as if there aren't many who show curiosity.

So I invite all of you to join in on the phenomenon of reading. There are plenty of books in STA's library that most likely pertain to your interests. Do you enjoy forensic mysteries? I recommend "The Christopher Killer." Or perhaps you are interested in a

more realistic story of a teenage girl: "A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life." If you're into emotional stories revolving around legal battles then any Jodi Picoult book is just for you. These genres don't even begin to cover the realm of literature available to readers. Not having an interest in the topics of books is no longer a valid excuse. Next I'll address your busy schedule. Many of us students work or participate in extra curricular activities. On top of that we have our school homework that seems endless. Believe me, I have my fair share of busyness, too. Being on the STA newspaper staff, a soccer player and a hostess at a restaurant, I often find myself wishing there were more than 24 hours in a day.

However, even with all of the hustle-and-bustle of a teenage life, students should make it a priority to read 10 pages, 30 minutes, a day. As horrible as it may seem, it won't kill you, and it might actually become an enjoyable leisure time. Not to mention, reading widens your vocabulary and improves your literacy.

It is beyond my understanding how a book can make me cry my eyes out but another person can't even finish the first 20 pages without getting bored. I know that some people "just don't like to read." All I have to say to that is "Don't trash it 'til you try it." All you have to do is visit Hershewe in the library, and you'll be introduced to a whole new world. American author Rita Mae Brown once said, "When I got [my] library card, that was when my life began." ★

Stress and embarrassment just for a date? I told you I had a clever idea...

AN OPINION BY



ROSIE HODES

I hear shouts of, "I called dibs on him this summer!" and, "If he won't ask me to his homecoming, I'm not taking him to mine." School started in August, two

months before Teresian, and discussions immediately ensued. Who is everyone claiming as their date? While having a boyfriend as an assumed date retracts me from this stress and allows me to simply enjoy the dramatic entertainment, it also takes away some of the fun.

Now I have to get my creative juices flowing. While struggling to find a suitable way to ask, I would jokingly ask my potential date and even some other friends if they would accompany me Oct. 18. A simple phone call or casual text just wouldn't suffice.

An original idea wasn't coming

to mind. I wished I could settle for just the simple question without the bells and whistles...until I devised a plan that gave me something to be excited about. My assumed date had no theories on how he would be asked. I actually kept a secret for once.

My older sister seems to think the reason students have begun to ask their dates in a creative, ridiculous, and sometimes embarrassing fashion is because of the "Laguna Beach" episode a few years ago filled with candles, fish, balloons and gorilla suits. In her high school days many a century ago, just asking the guy showed

enough gusto, and no theatrical presentation was required. I hear significantly more discussion over how a girl asked her date than what dress she is going to wear to the dance. I guess girls are taking on one challenge at a time.

I don't know why the change from a simple question to a surprise presentation occurred, but I prefer our more modern times and games. Who doesn't love to hear stories about the popularized "Will you go with me?" question? For example: A certain Smoothie King employee smoothie-proofed a note to her potential date in a plastic container and placed it in his favorite flavor.

One friend dressed up as a "date in a box," while another gave her date a live turtle, and one girl even placed a deceiving parking ticket on her date's car.

As it is, I'm no smooth operator or turtle fanatic and I have no police resources. I'm the type of girl that likes to keep her date guessing until the week before Teresian. I figure that if I can keep a secret this long, then I might as well make my idea as public as possible.

How public could I make it? Not something as cheesy as publishing a column about it. Oh no, I wouldn't go that far...or would I? Jack, will you go to Teresian with me? ★

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Senior leaves STA to pursue engineering

Senior Emily Schapker transfers to Shawnee Mission South after first weeks at STA

by JULIA STAPINSKI
Circulation Manager

Senior Emily Schapker walked across the deserted quad one afternoon in late August preparing to turn in her textbooks, clean out her locker and say goodbye to her teachers. For other students, it was only the beginning of a new school year at STA, but for Schapker, it was the end.

Schapker, who now attends Shawnee Mission South High School, left STA after the first week of school to enroll in South's engineering program, which she feels will improve her chances of acceptance into Stanford University's school of engineering next fall. She attributes her leaving to what may be perceived as the lack of advanced placement and college credit courses available through STA.

"The scheduling problems that I had are in no way the fault of the administration [and] I want to be very clear about that," Schapker said. "In a class of 130 girls, you simply can't offer the highest level of every course... That's just the give-and-take nature of [a] small community environment."

Principal of Academic Affairs Nancy Hand believes that STA offers a rigorous course schedule, but admits that the small size of the

student body makes offering as many advanced classes as a larger school a difficult task.

"We are a college prep school," Hand said. "We offer what we can... the size of our school is the only limiting factor, it has nothing to do with anything else... St. Teresa's students can almost always get into the college they desire, as long as they have worked hard and persevered throughout their career as a student [here]."

Hand believes other schools in the metropolitan area have dealt with the same issue, and that most small private schools are in the same boat.

"I'm always looking at other schools to see the differences in our curriculums," Hand said. "We have a solid AP program that we will continue to build."

According to the official 2008-2009 school year Program of Studies, STA offers nearly 20 advanced placement and college credit classes both on and off campus. Rockhurst High School, however, offers fewer advanced placement and college credit classes than STA. These courses include honors Spanish III, honors Spanish IV, applied calculus, calculus I, calculus II, precalculus, AP biology, college biology, and honors chemistry. At Shawnee Mission South, Schapker is taking AP psychology, AP government, honors calculus II/III, AP physics II, AP literature, French IV, and a senior physical education class.

Schapker believes that although a larger public school may be able to offer her a wider curriculum, it cannot give her what STA has:



Weird Science ★ Senior Emily Schapker transferred from STA to Shawnee Mission South High School during early Sept. She did not wish to leave STA behind, but Schapker wanted to take classes that would further her college career, such as Calculus II and III and AP Physics II, that were not available for her at STA. Schapker wishes to attend Stanford University and major in physics. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

a sense of belonging and sisterhood.

"The most important aspect of school is education, [but] I acknowledge that education is more than just intelligence...it is character, compassion and self respect," Schapker

said. "These are lessons that I don't believe I could have learned from any institution other than STA...I am immeasurably thankful for the woman that St. Teresa's has caused me to become."★

Mother, daughter bond in and out of classroom



Like mother, like daughter ★ Above: Science teacher Renee Blake answers her daughter freshman Jennifer Blake's question about a test the accelerated biology class took Sept. 30. "I'm harder on [my daughter] than anyone else," Renee said. Left: Jennifer, left, poses with Renee in the Renee's classroom. According to Jennifer, she did not intend to be in any of her mother's classes, but this changed when Jennifer tested into the accelerated biology class. PHOTOS BY TAYLOR BROWN

Freshman Jennifer Blake enrolled in mother's Accelerated Biology class

by LAUREN PASZKIEWICZ
Staff Writer

As the bell rings signaling activity period, freshman Jennifer Blake rushes from physical education and health teacher Ann Bode-Rodriguez's advisory down to the gym office where her mother, science teacher Renee Blake moderates intramurals. Jumping into the seat across from her mom, Jennifer excitedly chats with her mother about the events that happened during her day. Renee is not only responsible for being a mother to Jennifer, but a teacher as well.

When Jennifer enrolled at STA she had no intention of being in her mother's class. That changed however, when Jennifer tested into the accelerated biology course.

"I was excited when I found out that I was in my mom's class, but I kind of thought it would be weird too," Jennifer said.

While Renee was also excited about Jennifer being a part of her class, she worries other students feel that she gives her daughter special treatment.

"I'm harder on [my daughter] than anyone else," Renee said. "When she asks questions in class I feel like I don't want to give her too much attention, so it's a balancing thing."

Jennifer's transition into high school was easier with the reassurance that her mother would be near by. As a result of her mother being a part of the STA faculty, Jennifer

also developed a close relationship with other teachers on campus.

"I have known Jennifer since her mother started teaching," Bode-Rodriguez said. "So basically, I have known her since she was born."

According to Jennifer, since she been with her mother in class, their relationship has only grown stronger.

"I'm with her a lot more than I was last year, so it makes us a lot closer," Jennifer said. "I can't tell her everything but I definitely talk to her about things. Now she's more involved with everything, not just school."

For Jennifer, having her mom as a teacher also has its down sides. Usually after school, Jennifer has to stay behind to help her mom set up for the next day's lab.

"I don't have as much freedom, because she knows about grades and stuff straight away," Jennifer said. "Depending on what happens [at home] the night before can also decide how my day is going to go."

Jennifer will occasionally get help with homework but her mother will not help her study for tests.

"Sometimes I will answer questions about homework, but I do that for all of my students," Renee said. "I usually tell her to just go check the web site."

Although many people could find this type of relationship unappealing, this unique situation is what has brought the Blake's closer together.

"I think they are very close, because they have a lot of the same interests," Bode-Rodriguez said. "[Jennifer] having her mom as a teacher is to her benefit because [Renee] is one of the best teachers I know."★

"When [Jennifer] asks questions in class I feel like I don't want to give her too much attention, so it's a balancing thing."
Ms. Renee Blake, Accelerate Biology teacher

True Religion: Church promotes love over common beliefs

Junior believes in Unitarian principles, stressing acceptance

by **BIANCA DANG**
Close Up/Features Editor

Passing by Ward Parkway Mall on her way to a Rockhurst mixer, then-freshman Camellia Jahanshahi finally discovered a religion that suited her. While her mother Julie Milner drove her to the Blue and White mixer two years ago, Jahanshahi discussed her religious uncertainty. Jahanshahi was confused and unsatisfied with her decision to be an atheist. Milner, believing her daughter's "heart was too big" for atheism, suggested secular humanism. The now-junior Jahanshahi has been a secular humanist ever since.

"I read a book called 'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho and he talks about spirits and the world working as one and I guess that started to change my views," Jahanshahi said. "And in church we talked about a Jewish [belief] about how the world is a bunch of missing pieces

broken into chaos and it is our job to put it back together if we can. That moved me. I decided there may not be a god but there has to be something more than just empty gravity... My mom said I should look into secular humanism. She said I was too open-minded to close my mind off to everything like most atheists [do]."

According to Jahanshahi, a secular humanists believe in the power of human beings and has faith that

destiny is not dictated by someone else or a higher being. Though many people are unfamiliar with secular humanism, Jahanshahi's family church, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, embraces her religion. The church accepts people from all religious backgrounds and is comprised of a diverse worshipping body.

"At my church, it's pretty much a huge hippie festival," Jahanshahi said. "You can believe anything you want... We accept everybody. Our motto is 'Helping hands, open minds, caring hearts.'"

Jahanshahi's reverend, Rev. Jim Eller, has been at All Souls for ten years and has influenced Jahanshahi's views about the religion.

"Once he talked about the war on terror and since my family is Iranian, he talked about how it would affect Iranian Americans," Jahanshahi said. "He personalizes things. Sometimes he draws from religion, but mostly he focuses on teaching love."

Both Eller and Milner, who is president of the church's board of trustees and sings in the choir, believe that one of the main goals of the church is social justice and working to improve the world. The church focuses less on differences and more on love, harmony and conscientious thinking.

"What we have in common is that we encourage people to believe what conscience and integrity requires of them," Eller said. "We don't have to believe alike to love and serve alike."

According to Milner, in the Unitarian church, faith is about being open and aware and believing in the inherent worth of every human being.

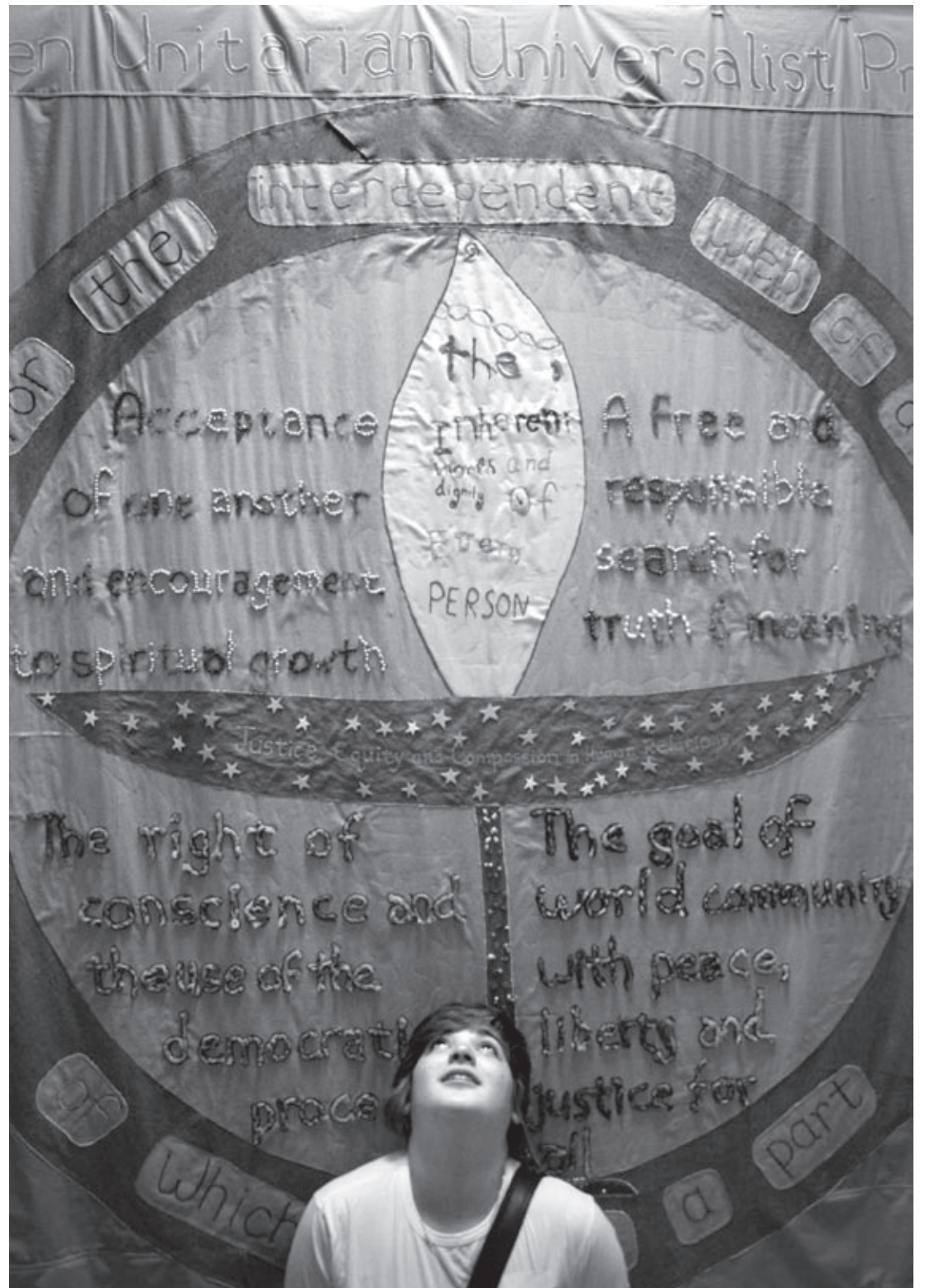
"I'm into the universality of all humans," Milner said. "[Universality is] what we have in common with all of humanity: love and acceptance and being kind."

According to Jahanshahi, the acceptance of all religions and teaching from all different faiths makes the Unitarian Universalist Church unique.

"We do not limit ourselves to one set of scriptures," Eller said. "Anything that has wisdom or meaning is of use and resource. From Christianity to Buddhism to contemporary poetry to fun stories, we aren't limited in the resources."

Unitarians believe in the value in every religion and they teach the church's youth about many different religions.

"When you're little, you go to Sunday school and [my church] teach a month on each religion," Jahanshahi said. "We learned a month on everything pretty much so we could create our own ideas... That's what [my parents] wanted. They wanted us to choose. They wanted us to have our own voices



Justie, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations ★ Junior Camiella Jahanshahi stands in front of sign promoting peace, conscience and acceptance at her church. She helped make the sign with other youth members from All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday. It reads, "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. The right of conscience and the use of democratic processes. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all." **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

and I think my brother and I definitely have our own voices."

The family has grown around Unitarianism and many of their family values, such as acceptance and compassion, parallel the faith.

"Unitarianism is very consistent with our family," Milner said.

"It's about being kind to other people and being open to other people and Jahanshahi has really embraced this."

All Souls has given Jahanshahi a place where her beliefs are respected and acknowledged. Even though many people do not prac-

tice secular humanism, Jahanshahi finds acceptance and a place in her church.

"Imagine the most free form acceptance you can and that's my church," Jahanshahi said. "[The acceptance] is why I love it so much." ★

True Religion is a three-part series about STA students who follow religions unique in the community.

Part 1: junior Kat Wiens, Mennonite

Part 2: junior Camellia Jahanshahi, Unitarianism

Part 3: freshman Hannah Katz, Judiasm

Main Principles of Unitarian Universalism



There are seven main principles of Unitarian Universalism (in Sunday school format).

1. Each person is important.
2. Be kind in all you do.
3. We are free to learn together.
4. And search for what is true.
5. All people need a voice
6. Build a fair and peaceful world
7. We care for the earth lifeboat

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

Born Ready

She hates guns and war. Short showers and coffee-less early mornings aren't her forte either, but senior Lauren Bly wants to be a soldier.

She'll be up by five, with lights out at eleven. Push-ups and orders will become the norm, while spontaneity and leisure fade as luxuries of the past. And, although bearing no resemblance to plaid skirts and polyester sweaters, she'll don a uniform each day.

After months of endless application require-

ments, all Lauren could do was wait. Her parents told her to keep her options open, but she knew West Point Military Academy was where she wanted to be.

Finally, on a day in June, the letter came; she was in. Her parents forcibly painted on expressions of happiness. Of course they were proud, but there were doubts. They were a mother who feared her daughter is setting limits, and a father who was scared to send his only girl overseas.

When left alone, Lauren could only dance. The work she'd done, the letters of recommendation she'd requested, the physical trials and medical tests she passed, were worth it.

After the excitement dwindled, reality set in. In receiving that letter, the next decade was decided. She'll be serving four years at West Point, five years of active duty and three years in the reserves.

Lauren knows she'll be deployed; it's just a matter of when. She has a gut-wrenching idea of what basic training will be like, and can imagine how she'll fair being so separated from home. But, these aren't the things that scare her most. There sitting before her in that letter, was a road map of the next 12 years of her life. Lauren Bly wants to be a soldier, but there are some things that still leave her shaking in her combat boots. ★

Youth group attracts local teens

STA junior Kathleen McClain creates a youth group open only to high school students

by CAROLINE THOMPSON
Staff writer

It is 7:30 p.m. on a Sunday night in September. A group of about 20 teenagers are wandering towards the St. Ann's School tennis court. A light is turned on and kids take their seats on the court. The restlessness of excited teens slowly dies down. Youth group has begun.

For STA junior Kathleen McClain, the sight of her first Christian high school youth group meeting could not have been any more gratifying. After seeing other youth groups and participating in Confirmation at St. Elizabeth's Parish, McClain was motivated to continue her faith journey with other adolescents. However, without having a youth group at her parish and being too shy to join another one, she considered the thought of creating a youth group with her friends - not through a specific parish, but just for fun.

"Kathleen was really interested in starting a youth group," said Rockhurst High School junior Joey Purpura. "That's how I got involved; I decided it would be good for me to do."

After realizing the number of kids who were serious about joining, she spread the word through Facebook and set the first meeting for Sept. 14.

"I was so excited when people started to join," McClain said. "I had pictured maybe 10 or 15, but then I was so surprised with how many people showed up."

Now up to about 30 kids, consisting of junior and freshmen boys and girls from high schools such as STA, Notre Dame de Sion, Rockhurst and Archbishop O'Hara High School, the group meets about twice a month at various locations.

The Basics

What: Tim 4:12 Youth Group

Who can join: Any high school student

When to come: Sunday nights (7-8:30 p.m.)

Where: the homes of various members (check Facebook group, Tim 4:12, for more information)

Who to contact: Kathleen McClain, kathleenmcl@gmail.com

At the meetings, the teens discuss plans for the future, such as service projects and social events, talk about faith in their daily lives and end in prayer. The name of their group, Tim 4:12, was decided by the members based on the Bible verse in Timothy.

"[The verse] talks about not letting anyone intimidate you because you're young," McClain said. "Youth are supposed to carry out faith, too. So, it seemed appropriate."

The title is also especially fitting because the group is run entirely by the kids with no adult moderator. Another unique feature of this group is its openness to different religions. Although it is rooted in Roman Catholicism, not all members are Catholic.

"I think it's good that our youth group is



Hand in hand ★ Juniors Caroline Farchmin, from left, Haley Mize, Becca Sommerhauser, Joey Purpura, Kathleen McClain, and Maura Hinken participate in their youth group, 4:12's, second meeting. The group was created by McClain and is made up of area high school students. PHOTO BY JULIA STAPINSKI

so accepting," STA junior Haley Mize said. "I'm not Catholic, and it feels good to be welcomed."

Tim 4:12 has many plans for the future. They want to bond through activities such as bowling and picnics. Also they are arranging their own Catholic mass. In addition, the group plans to work in various community services like raking leaves for the elderly and volunteering at soup kitchens.

"It's easy for teens to slip out of their faith

in high school because they're granted more freedoms," McClain said. "But youth group gives you an opportunity to be active in your faith and find your way into the community at a young age."

It is 8:30 p.m. and the meeting is approaching a close. The group members gather into a circle, cross their arms and hold hands. After petitions and prayers are voiced, they raise their hands and spin out of the circle - out into the world to make a difference. ★

Doubts of viral vaccine create tension

Risks and cost lead to differing opinions of preventative vaccine

by SUSIE ANCONA
Staff Writer

Reports of health risk and economic concern have created doubts about Gardasil, the vaccine which protects against the Human Papilloma Virus.

HPV is a sexually transmitted disease that can cause cervical cancer. Doctors have administered the vaccine to millions of women in the US since 2006.

Gardasil is said to protect against the four main strains of HPV, but doubts have arisen concerning the high cost of the vaccine and the possible severe side effects and results. Dr. Charlotte J. Haug, editor of *The Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association*, believes these doubts are typical since Gardasil has been out for a short amount of time.

"With so many essential questions still unanswered, there is

good reason to be cautious," Haug told the *New England Journal*.

Of the reported incidents, there are two girls that believe their Gardasil injection went awry. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Jesalee Parsons of Broken Bow, Okla. received Gardasil in 2007 at the age of 13. After she was injected, she had abdomen and chest pain with a fever. The next day, doctors performed two surgeries because she developed pancreatitis. Parson's mother believes the government should have further studied the drug before approving its use.

"I just felt let down by the government," Parson's mother told the *Los Angeles Times*.

"The Boston Channel" referred to Ms. Lauren Wholley of Danvers, Massachusetts, who also received the vaccine. Wholley said that until the day after she got the shot she was in good health.

"I really did not know what to think [when I started feeling sick]," Wholley said. "I just got really dizzy. My eyesight just went [away] and I could not see a thing."

Other recipients say Gardasil has caused cases of nausea, sei-

zures, fainting, Guillain Barre, a disorder of the nerves, and paralysis. However, Merck and Company, the makers of Gardasil, believe these occurrences could be coincidental.

"[An adverse] event report does not mean that a causal relationship between an event and vaccination has been established," Merck and Company said in a statement. "[It could mean] that the event occurred after vaccination."

Dr. Rita Hyde of Westwood Internal Medicine and mother of STA senior Kirsten Hyde supports and encourages the use of Gardasil. She claims that neither mild nor severe effects have occurred in her experience.

"Actually, fainting is very rare," Hyde said. "There are few cases, and if you faint you are in a doctor's office, so most patients don't have bad reactions other than the pain."

The three-shot series costs \$360 with possible administrative fees of up to \$100. Some doctors around the nation believe the price may not be worth it because if HPV is caught early enough, it can be prevented. Opposing this point, junior Claire Mahoney believes that in the long run, the cost does not matter. She chose not to get the vaccine, but encourages the use of it.

"I think preventative measures are worth the risk." Ms. Patti Yerardi, mother of Junior Laura Yerardi



This will only hurt a minute ★ Gardasil is a vaccine administered in a series of three shots to prevent women from acquiring HPV, said to cause cervical cancer. Millions of women received the vaccine since it was introduced in 2006 PHOTO BY MCT CAMPUS

"I think that you can't really put a price on health," Mahoney said. "The cost is simple compared to not getting cervical cancer."

Hyde adds that the cost of Gardasil has rarely been of concern in her office, despite those who are over 26 are required to pay for the vaccine for insurance reasons.

"Most insurance companies pay for [Gardasil] now, so cost is not a deterrent," Hyde said. "The majority of my patients that I've talked to about the vaccine who are over 26 still are willing to pay

for it."

The dispute of whether to receive Gardasil remains undetermined for some women as a result of these doubts. Ms. Patti Yerardi, mother of junior Laura Yerardi says that these issues have no effect on her opinion of Gardasil.

"I think that preventative measures are worth the risk," Yerardi said. "There are legal cases against basic immunizations for children, but that would not stop me from immunizing against a disease that can be prevented." ★

Senior studies abroad while she and friends cope with the help of some *Fancy Footwear*

Senior Linny Kaufman spends semester in Paraguay, classmates stay connected

by **Haley Vondenkamp**
Lifestyles Editor

In a sea of Birkenstocks and tennis shoes, their wooden heels and fur-lined soles set them apart. If their eye-catching exterior has yet to capture your attention, surely the distinctly audible "click-clack" they make on the tiled floors will stop you dead in your tracks.

"The Clogs," as students commonly call them, are more than just a reoccurring fashion statement of the senior class. This communal pair of shoes serves as a concrete reminder of absent STA senior, Linny Kaufman, and the inspiration for the newly instated "Clog Blog."

According to Kaufman, who left in July to study abroad in Paraguay, the clogs were first introduced to STA last February. Kaufman and senior Sally Nulton planned to dress up in costume in celebration of senior Anna Gillcrist's birthday. Nulton loaned the clogs to Kaufman, who was immediately drawn to them. Gillcrist also found the shoes entertaining, and requested Kaufman wear them for the remainder of the day as a birthday present.

"The clogs have just become so ingrained in our senior class, it's hard to remember where they came from," senior Katie Kenney said. "They're just a reminder of the essence of [Kaufman]."

Until the end of the school year, the clogs made more appearances at various STA events including on stage at Student Productions and on the dance floor at the Junior Ring Dance. This year they returned despite Kaufman's absence. Seniors sported them on different days during the first weeks of school, while other members of the STA community took notice.

"A lot of people gave me weird looks like I

thought I was stylish," said senior Molly Fakoury, who wore the clogs to the STA-Sion volleyball game. "Sophomores laughed at me and there were a lot of double-takes."

Senior JoEllen Redlingshafer was approached with many questions when she introduced the clogs on the first day of school.

"I told some people they made my calf muscles look toned," Redlingshafer said. "But I usually clarified so they didn't think I was serious."

By rotating the clogs among various seniors, the class pays tribute to Kaufman.

"They're like sisterhood of the traveling clogs," said Fakoury.

The clogs spawned another attempt to keep Kaufman involved, despite being in a foreign country. The

"Clog Blog," created by Kenney and inspired by other STA seniors such as Redlingshafer, is a web site designed to keep Kaufman connected with her class.

"[The 'Clog Blog'] is for [Kaufman] to stay in touch with STA, and for STA to stay in touch with her," Kenney said. "I just wanted [Kaufman] to still feel like she's part of the STA community and we all miss her."

So far, the "Clog Blog" contains photos of different people wearing the clogs and other pictures from the start of the school year. It also includes emails from Kaufman, and posts made by Kenney. Blog readers leave comments to

Kaufman, who says she checks the site from Paraguay every few days.

"When I first saw the 'Clog Blog' I actually kind of cried a little bit because I was so happy to see everyone's beautiful faces and the STA uniform and it means a lot that my friends would take the time to make it for me," Kaufman said in an e-mail. "Then when I started reading I cried a lot more because I was laughing so hard."

Despite how happy the 'Clog Blog' makes her, Kaufman says there are some mixed feelings. According to Kaufman, sometimes after reading the

"From what I can tell from the pictures from the blog, nothing has changed," Kaufman said in an e-mail.

"STA is still a place where a

one piece swimsuit, goggles and the clogs are a totally acceptable outfit on out-of-uniform days."

Until Kaufman does return, Kenney plans to keep updating the "Clog Blog." She invites anyone who'd like to wear the clogs or submit a guest post to contact her.

Kaufman also has a vision for the future of the clogs and their web site.

"It'd be nice to maybe see an STA teacher wearing the clogs for a day," said Kaufman in an email. "I'm also hoping they have a strong showing at Teresian."

Although the clogs have been open to the public during her absence, once she returns Kaufman will take claim over them for at least one night.

"I would never consider wearing any shoes except for the clogs to prom."★

In her shoes ★ Senior Molly Fakoury models missing classmate Linny Kaufman's signature clogs. A group of Kaufman's friends wear the shoes in honor of her absence. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE



Dress stress: your Teresian style guide

With only about a week left until the annual Teresian dance, local store managers give tips on how to dress in this season's best



Close-toed Heels

Hemline \$74

Metallics and Platforms



Hemline about \$80

compiled by Lauren Paszkiewicz



Embellished Necklines

Hemline about \$150-300



Shortened Hemlines

BCBG Max Azria \$380



Simple Elegance

BCBG Max Azria about \$320



Full "Cupcake" Skirts

Hemline about \$150-300

Predictability of Catholic vote weakens

As election approaches, Catholics use conscience to choose candidate who most supports life

by CAROLINE QUINN
Editor-in-Chief

In a country that is 24 percent Catholic, the largest single religious group, it is no wonder many political analysts have honed in on the importance of the "Catholic vote." With such emphasis on this faction, candidates have devised campaign strategies to reach these voters in the presidential election. Missouri, which is traditionally considered a Republican state, has leveled off over the past few weeks, making the Catholic vote that much more important.

Bishop Robert Finn and Archbishop Joseph Naumann of the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese recognized the growing importance of the Catholic vote in a joint pastoral letter released Sept. 12. Finn and Naumann said Catholics have the greatest representation and influence in offices and courts than ever before, and they should not abuse this power, but they also cannot stand aside.

"It would be equally wrong for us to fail to be engaged in the greatest human rights struggle of our time," the letter said.

Since 1960, the presidential candidate who statistically won the Catholic vote won the overall election. The bloc has a history of supporting the Democratic Party, but the 2004 election threw off the pattern. This has left analysts wondering how consistent the Catholic voting demographic is today? What are the dynamics of this group that may decide the country's next president?

Losing shape

Catholics became a dependable voting demographic for Democrats in the 1930s, according to Mr. Matthew Beverlin, a visiting assistant political science professor at Rockhurst University. "Catholics have been Democrats through [Franklin D. Roosevelt's] New Deal and World War II," Beverlin said. "They voted Democratic because they were urban, European immigrants who were tied into labor unions."

Mr. Patrick Whelan, founder of the Catholic Democrats organization, a Catholic political group formed in 2004 to highlight the social values of Catholicism, said this pattern has continued to play out in many presidential elections. Whelan and coworkers from Catholic Democrats analyzed this year's presidential primary results and discovered twice as many Catholics voted for Democrats than Republicans. The survey also revealed Catholics increased participation in government.

"In all but one state, Catholics voted 4 percent more than the general population," Whelan said. "It looks like young Catholics are voting in greater numbers. Catholics are more engaged than ever before."

If Catholics appear to "vote more Democratic" each election, like Beverlin believes, then why did 52 percent of Catholics vote for President Bush, while 47 percent supported Sen. John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election?

According to Beverlin, the constancy of a unified Catholic vote has weakened.

"The Catholic voting block has lost rigid voters," Beverlin said. "Voting blocs lose their identities and diminish in power. You can't take advantage of the Catholic vote."

Beverlin believes this lack of structure may not have a clear explanation. The issue is long-standing and complicated.

Torn between issues

Though Beverlin sees the strict definition of the Catholic vote as diminishing, he said there are still issues particularly important to Catholics.

"I would say these issues fall into two areas – the moral issues, like abortion and gay marriage. And the other would be social justice issues," Beverlin said. "These [social justice issues] would be Catholic's concern with poverty, urban poor and

other traditional Catholic social beliefs."

Catholic accountability to support moral values as well as social equality provides challenges to voters. In an encyclical called "Faithful Citizenship," written last November, bishops called on Catholics to take more responsibility than opposing abortion. Whalen said. Several weeks ago, however, local bishops released letters that encouraged Catholics to vote primarily based on abortion.

To Beverlin, this conflict between choosing a candidate who is pro-life versus the candidate who plans to help the urban poor or gain national health care demonstrates the complex nature of Catholicism.

"Abortion, stem cell research and euthanasia are important to many Catholics," Beverlin said. "The mission of Catholicism is also helping poor, distributive justice and issues of compassion for marginalized groups, like immigrants. Catholics are really cross pressured by what the church says and what a party's platform says."

While some critics of the Catholic Church say the growing absence of a secure Catholic voting bloc is a result of the ambiguity of some church leaders, in Finn and Naumann's pastoral letter, they describe their specific positions. They present the question many Catholics find themselves trying to answer: is it acceptable to vote for a candidate if he supports peace, helping the poor, universal health care and a more just immigration policy even if he is not pro-life?

"In such a case, the Catholic voter must ask and answer the question: What could possibly be a proportionate reason for more than 45 million children killed by abortion in the past 35 years?" the letter said. "Personally, we cannot conceive of such a proportionate reason."

Both Beverlin and Whalen feel the bishops make themselves clear in their political stances and that this does not affect the dispersing Catholic vote. Beverlin believes the changing vote has to with the many layers of the political parties.

"I just don't think [Catholic Doctrine] perfectly coincides with either party's platform," Beverlin said. "You can close your eyes and squeeze really hard and want every last Catholic vote, but it can't happen. It's not a lack of articulation, but a question of how much Americans listen."

According to Beverlin, voters experience the "cross pressure" from multiple sources, including their religion, ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic status. When a person considers who he or she will vote for, each aspect of the voters' identity comes into play, and it's a matter of "whichever candidate gets the strongest pull," Beverlin said. Some people may place their race or gender above their religion, so it is not likely that a single candidate will receive a vast majority of one religion's vote.

A Catholic's decision of who to vote for can be difficult, theology teacher Matthew Bertalott said. In this election neither Barack Obama or John McCain are completely pro-life according to Church Doctrine. While McCain opposes abortion, he supports embryonic stem cell research and capital punishment, which the Catholic Church opposes. Because of this inconsistency, voters will have to take their time and learn about their options, Bertalott said.

"The church has always thought that one's conscience reigns supreme and we are obligated to follow our conscience," Bertalott said. "I think people all over the US, especially Catholic voters, want to support life. How this is expressed is different across the board."

A voter's decision comes from a variety of sources, including values, race, gender, life experience and religion. While there's no absolute reason why voter's choose one identity over the other, Finn and Naumann hope Catholics can unite their unique aspects under their religion.

"We are called to be faithful Catholics and loyal Americans," the letter said. "In fact, we can only be good citizens if we allow ourselves to be informed by the unchanging moral principles of our Catholic faith." ★

Divided by faith

As the presidential election approaches, the Catholic vote proves to be a key undecided bloc. The battle among Catholics is long-standing and complex – should Catholics vote for the pro-life candidate over the candidate who favors more care for the urban poor and marginalized groups? The following provides statements from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and where both candidates stand on these issues, according to their web sites and public statements.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Abortion

2271 *Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable...*

Barack Obama supports a woman's right to choose... He has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under Roe v. Wade a priority as President. He opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in that case.

John McCain believes Roe v. Wade is a flawed decision that must be overturned, and as president he will nominate judges who understand that courts should not be in the business of legislating from the bench. Constitutional balance would be restored by the reversal of Roe v. Wade, returning the abortion question to the individual states.

Gay Marriage

2357 *Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered."*

Barack Obama opposes same-sex marriage, but also opposes a constitutional ban. Says he would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment. As stated on the Obama campaign Web site, he supports full civil unions that "give same-sex couples equal legal rights and privileges as married couples, including the right to assist their loved ones in times of emergency as well as equal health insurance, employment benefits, and property and adoption rights."

John McCain would nominate judges who understand that the role of the Court is not to subvert the rights of the people by legislating from the bench. Critical to Constitutional balance is ensuring that the Courts must not overstep their authority and thwart the Constitutional right of the people to decide this question. The family represents the foundation of Western Civilization and civil society and John McCain believes the institution of marriage is a union between one man and one woman.

Health Care

2288 *Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good. Concern for the health of its citizens requires that society help...*

Barack Obama has proposed a plan that strengthens employer coverage, makes insurance companies accountable and ensures patient choice of doctor and care without government interference. The Obama plan provides affordable, accessible health care for all Americans, builds on the existing health care system, and uses existing providers, doctors and plans to implement the plan.

John McCain believes we can and must provide access to health care for every American. An important part of his plan is to use competition to improve the quality of health insurance with greater variety to match people's needs, lower prices, and portability.

compiled by BIANCA DANG
Features Editor

Poverty

1397 *The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren: You have tasted the Blood of the Lord, yet you do not recognize your brother. . .*

Barack Obama will invest \$1 billion over five years in transitional jobs and career pathway programs that implement proven methods of helping low-income Americans succeed in the workforce. As president, Obama will further raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2011 Obama and Biden will also eliminate taxes for seniors making under \$50,000 per year.

John McCain has said, "Lower and middle income Americans need more help. Obviously, that's the case today. That's one reason why we're giving them rebates. I support the Reagan tax cuts, and they had spending restraints associated with it."

War

2308 *All citizens and all governments are obliged to work for the avoidance of war. However, "as long as the danger of war persists and there is no international authority with the necessary competence and power, governments cannot be denied the right of lawful self-defense, once all peace efforts have failed..."*

Barack Obama believes in a responsible, phased withdrawal. Immediately upon taking office, Obama will give his Secretary of Defense and military commanders a new mission in Iraq: ending the war.

John McCain believes it is strategically and morally essential for the United States to support the Government of Iraq to become capable of governing itself and safeguarding its people. He strongly disagrees with those who advocate withdrawing American troops before that has occurred.

Excerpt from Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann's and Bishop Robert W. Finn's joint pastoral letter

"We need committed Catholics in both major political parties to insist upon respect for the values they share with so many other people of faith and good will regarding the protection of the sanctity of human life, the upholding of the institution of marriage between a man and a woman as the foundation of family life, as well as the protection of religious liberty and conscience rights."

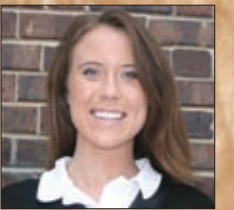
Democratic presidential candidate
Barack Obama

Republican presidential candidate
John McCain



Religion influences election opinion

AN OPINION BY



LAUREN PASZKIEWICZ

As a Catholic, my life has always been centered around tradition. Tradition is the most important foundation on which a family can be built upon. Traditions from the Catholic Church have spilled into my family's beliefs and therefore have become my own. My choices have been greatly influenced by my religion and lead me to a better understanding of myself. While there are issues that I still internally debate, others remain perfectly clear. Abortion for example, is an issue that I strongly oppose. The Catholic Church has always taught the importance of life beginning at conception.

The pro-life issue is also very important to me because it has affected my family. My dad was adopted by my grandparents when his 16 year old mother knew that she couldn't handle the responsibility of raising a child. Although his mother could have chosen to "take care of the problem" and have an abortion, she decided to support life. If she had not made this decision, my dad would not be alive today.

As a result of my Catholic traditions and pro-life values, I'm a huge supporter of the McCain and Palin campaign. These candidates fully coincide with my Catholic beliefs. McCain and Palin do not just preach about what others should do, they live it themselves. Governor Palin is the perfect example of the traditional American family that faces moral challenges. Palin had the option of aborting her own baby when she discovered the possibility of mental illness, at a time in her career where absolute dedication was vital. However she decided to keep the baby and juggle both her family and political obligations. She also faced another moral decision when discovering that her 17 year old daughter was pregnant. Again Palin made the decision to support life by supporting the pregnancy even though she risked her reputation as a public official.

Throughout history, America's greatest tradition has always been honorable people that decide to do what is best for their country. I support McCain and Palin because these candidates have shown that they will keep this tradition alive. ★

Runners travel down a beaten path



All wrapped up ★ Senior Maggie Steinert wraps her knee at cross country practice Sept. 30. Steinert, as well as several other runners, attend practice but do not run the course. Instead, they use the weight room for their work out. PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

Many fellow cross country athletes wounded in races, injuries affect team as whole

by Taylor Irwin
Staff Writer

The end is near; the finish line is but feet away. Pumping their tired legs harder, runners use what is left of their energy and strength. Finally crossing the line, many runners collapse in exhaustion. But they made it. They finally crossed that finish line. At the sound of a siren wailing, some turn their heads and sigh as yet another girl is driven away in an ambulance.

Making her way to class, crutches and all, cross country junior Katie Sharp smiles as girls clear a path for her in the hall.

"This is my first injury in my entire life," Sharp said. "And it sucks."

Sharp attended the Bishop Miege High School cross country meet at Johnson County Community College Sept. 13 where she received a severe injury to her knee after crossing the finish line.

Trying to avoid two fallen girls, Sharp slipped on the slick track and sliced her knee on metal rivets holding up the ropes in the chute.

"[The rivets] were like something that would hold up barbed wire on a farm," Sharp said. "It was ridiculous."

The cut was so deep, bone fragments of her knee cap were chipped.

Sharp is not the only runner this season to receive a season-ending injury, though. Cross country junior Lane Livers suffers from two

stress fractures in her right leg: one major fracture in her tibia and a minor fracture in her fibula.

"I didn't have any major falls," Livers said. "So, the doctor thinks it was from running so much in such a short period of time compared to hardly running at all during the summer. My body wasn't used to it."

The team manager junior Claire Hansen has seen how the growing number of injured girls is affecting the team.

"If anything, they're closer and more understanding and caring about each other," Hansen said. "It's become a positive thing out of a negative situation."

The team has endured a total of eight injured girls, three of whom were taken away in ambulances.

The latest emergency was cross country freshman Hannah Wolf's trip to the hospital for dehydration.

"I didn't drink enough water before the meet," Wolf said. "For the last half-mile I was dizzy and within the last 10 feet of the race I collapsed. I don't really remember much after that."

After her fall, Wolf was taken to a nearby hospital for blood tests and fluids. She is now fully recovered, up and running for the cross country team.

According to head coach Karen Moran Redlich, the main reason so many injuries have occurred is that the girls did not run enough on their own during the summer.

"I give [the girls] a summer workout schedule," Moran Redlich said. "But whether they follow it or not is up to them. A lot of girls just ignore it until the few weeks before tryouts and that puts a major stress on the body, which contributes to the injuries." ★

Injured runners:



Hannah Wolf
Taken away by ambulance due to dehydration



Elaina Brownlee
Shin splints



Lauren Thompson
Pulled I.T. band



Lane Livers
Two fractures in tibia and fibula



Jessica Bullington
Taken away in ambulance due to diabetes



Katie Sharp
Taken away in ambulance for knee injury



Sam Waeckerle
Shin splints



Jordan Miller
Stomach muscle problem

Graphic by Michelle Reichmeier

Softball team's losing season record continues

STA varsity softball hits a rough patch and strives for a turnaround of losing record

by MORGAN SAID
Staff Writer

With a current season record of 6-12-1, the STA varsity softball team has struck out on luck.

According to varsity softball sophomore Ally Franken, although the team still has a chance at Districts, keeping a positive attitude through the losing streak has been a difficult task.

"The biggest issue we have as a team right now is getting our spirits up when they are down," Franken said. "When we have a bad inning, we feel bummed and aren't pumped up for the next inning and that carries out throughout the game."

According to varsity softball sophomore Anna White, with only four returning varsity players on the team this year, two of which are seniors, the underclassmen have stepped up to the plate and taken a swing at leadership roles.

"Some of the juniors are taking [on] more

responsibility," White said. "I think it's good because it will give more underclassmen a chance to play so we will be better in the future."

Varsity softball senior Ashley Zondca

"The record last year was 10-14 and we can definitely still get there this year."

Ally Franken, sophomore

said being one of two varsity seniors on the team demands a great deal of leadership and patience.

"I have to push myself," Zondca said. "[The seniors] set a good example for the team. We're close this year and the girls always have someone to go to for help."

White said because the team is so young, the fundamentals of the game are still a little

rough.

"Our biggest issue is probably the amount of errors we have each game," White said. "Once we make an error, we sometimes lose focus and keep on making mistakes."

Franken believes the team's toughest opponent this year is Smithville. After STA's loss to Smithville Sept. 25, STA almost beat them in their Sept. 27 rematch.

However STA's toughest opponent is themselves, White said.

"Sometimes we get down on ourselves and start thinking we can't win," White said. "If we could have a more positive attitude, I think we could do better. We're working on it though."

As for the rest of the season, Zondca thinks STA is likely to succeed.

"We always have a good chance of winning if we keep our heads in the game," Zondca said.

Franken agrees there are still high hopes for the team.

"I just think that the players haven't adjusted to playing at a higher level," Franken said. "We only have four returning varsity players from last year. The record last year was 10-14 and we can definitely still get there this year." ★



Swing Batter ★ STA freshman Allison Fitts warms up to bat during the second Varsity STA vs. Notre Dame de Sion High School last Wednesday. After losing the first game 1-7, STA tied with Sion 7-7. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

Golf star shares secrets, stories, stats



Stare down ★ STA varsity golfer junior Casey O'Flaherty evaluates the green during her match against Blue Valley North High School and Blue Valley Northwest High School Sept. 30 at Swope Memorial Golf Course. O'Flaherty placed first at the match and STA placed second. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

Tea time ★ Junior Casey O'Flaherty practices her swing in the front yard of her home Sunday while preparing for District finals Tuesday. O'Flaherty is the number one golfer at STA this year and placed first at Districts and STA as a team placed second. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**



Varsity golf star shares facts, secrets, stories, talents, trends, improvements

by **ELIZABETH WILSON**
Sports Editor

Junior Casey O'Flaherty has been the varsity golf team's number one seed all year. She won Districts Tuesday and head coach Jack Garvin believes she will make All-State this year.

Full name: Casey Colleen O'Flaherty
Nickname: The Bomber

Birth date / place: May 18, 1992 / Kansas City

Best known for: drive or putting

Golf career: the summer before freshman year - present

Major awards and honors: 5th place at Districts and 2nd at State last year, All-District as a sophomore, 1st place at Districts this year

How it happened: "I took a lot of lessons at Robin Nigro, my dad [and] I joined a country club and I play in summer tournaments."

Experience at STA: "[It's been] good, I really like playing with the team."

Role model: golfer Pdraig Harrington of Ireland. "He's a really nice guy, he's good and he has good character."

Pre-game meal: granola bars and red Gatorade

Practice location: Blue River Country Club

Earliest golf memory: "I was playing with my dad, it was the last hole and I was doing really bad. I hit the ball really straight and really far and it got onto the green - I was really happy."

Favorite golf moment: "This summer, I was in a three-day tournament in Oklahoma and I had just gotten new shoes. [It was] the first day [of the tournament] and I had horrible blisters! So, I played in flip-flops the [remaining] two days on a 6,000-yard course. The last two holes I got birdies."

Advice for other golfers: "Practice a lot - especially your short game, which is putting and chipping. It's more important than the long game."

Other hobbies: hanging out with friends

Secret to success: "I don't care about pressure. I don't succumb to it."

Pre-game routine: "I hit balls on the range, putt [and] stretch. I get nervous before the first tee so I take a breath to clear the mind."

Attitude: "I'm really serious: sometimes I may come off a little too focused."

If not golf: "I would write a lot."

Garvin says: "She is very business-like, she doesn't waste time, she is very task-oriented, always trying to improve. I can rely on her. She hits the ball far and has a good mental approach. Her average is six strokes over par for nine holes, nine over is the next best. She is three shots better than the second place. She is easily the best." ★



STA's star ★ Sr. Harriet Koutsoumpas will forever be remembered as a strong supporter of STA's athletics.

"IN MEMORY OF Sister Harriet FOREVER A STAR"

by **ELIZABETH WILSON**
Sports Writer

Before the first home volleyball games of the year Sept. 17, the athletic department and the STA Booster Club dedicated a plaque, with the above phrase inscribed on it, to the memory of Sr. Harriet Koutsoumpas. The plaque, which is positioned behind the scorer's table in the gym, is black with a gold star in the middle, behind white text.

Sr. Harriet was a long-time teacher and active supporter of STA athletics before she passed away last year. She served as the basketball scorekeeper for many years at the scorer's table and the soccer scorer on the athletic fields. The plaque was dedicated to her contribution of time, care and love for STA athletics over many years.

Athletic director Mike Egner wanted to do something for Sr. Harriet so he talked to the Booster Club and they jointly decided to do a memorial plaque. (They had considered putting a plaque on the soccer scoreboard but decided otherwise, as STA may be getting a new scoreboard within the next few years.) The plaque totaled over \$300 and was paid for by the Booster Club. It was specially designed by a company in Waldo.

According to Egner, Sr. Harriet traveled with the teams and lead them in prayer before their games.

"She not only attended, but helped out," Egner said. "She would talk to the kids in class about their games, no matter what team they were on."

When Egner coached basketball, he asked Sr. Harriet to say something to the team before the game to cheer them up after a two or three game losing streak.

"She always had something to say to lift up their spirits," Egner said. "She was very team oriented. She taught to sacrifice everything for the good of the team and to be a good sport."

Egner said the phrase "forever as a star" means Sr. Harriet will always be remembered as a strong supporter of STA's athletic teams. ★

SCOREBOARD

STA SPORTS' TEAMS RECORDS AND UPDATES

CROSS COUNTRY

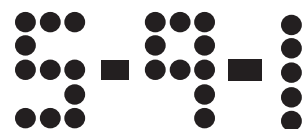
The cross country team finished eighth in the Hazelwood Invitational on Sept. 20. They finished thirteenth in the Rim Rock Invitational on Sept. 27. On Sunday, the cross country team finished 11 in the Metro Invitational meet.

DANCE

The dance team will perform at the STA volleyball game Saturday at 11 a.m. They are scheduled to dance at the football game at Rockhurst High School on Oct. 24.

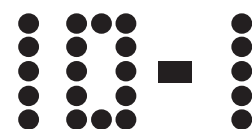
GOLF

The golf team won a match against Blue Valley North Sept. 18, and fifth in the Sion tournament Sept. 22. The team finished second of three against Richmond and Pembroke Hill Oct. 1.



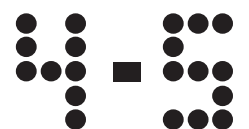
SOFTBALL

SMITHVILLE	L
ST. MARY'S	W
SION	L
TRUMAN	T
TRUMAN	W
ROCK BRIDGE	L
LAFAYETTE	W



TENNIS

SION	L
CENTRAL	W
ST. JAMES	W
BVW	W
MIEGE	W
GLENDALE	W
KICKAPOO	W



VOLLEYBALL

O'HARA	W
OAK PARK	W
COR JESU ACADEMY	L
INCARNATE WORD	W
LSW	L
ST. JOSEPH	L



Stealing Second ★ Notre Dame De Sion High School junior Kat O'Halloran, left, tries to grab the ball while STA sophomore Ally Franken steals second base during the second Varsity Sion vs. STA game. STA tied 7-7 after losing the first game 1-7. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

Varsity loses, then ties Sion in softball

After Oct. 1 double header against Sion, coach Lang calls for team improvement

by CAROLINE THOMPSON
Staff Writer

The STA varsity softball team lost and tied to Notre Dame De Sion in a double header at home Oct. 1. The Stars lost the first game 7-1 and after holding the lead through the last inning, they ended the second game in a 7-7 tie.

STA head coach Don Lang was not thrilled with the Stars' overall performance, saying the team had too many errors.

"We left 11 people on base in the first game and 12 people on base in the second," Lang said. "We're not getting the timely hit, which means we have some improving to do at bat."

In the second game, the Stars led 7-4 after four innings. STA pitcher junior Jessica Ann struck out two Sion players, allowing Sion no hits through the

fifth inning.

In the sixth inning, Sion pitcher senior Beka Knackstedt walked STA sophomore Katie Pautler, senior Ashley Zondca and Bryde. The Storm caught two fly balls from STA freshman Allison Fitts and sophomore Emma Steck. With two outs and the bases loaded, STA freshman Krissy Bryde hit deep into left field but the ball was caught, leaving three base runners stranded and no runs for the Stars in the sixth inning.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, freshman Mierra Morrisette led off for the Storm. With two strikes, Morrisette hit a line drive-double to left field. Up to bat next was Sion sophomore Katharine Love, who was walked by Ann. Next, Sion freshman Emily DeCoursey hit to STA shortstop Steck. Steck overthrew the ball to first base which sent two Sion girls home, making the score 7-6.

The Stars managed to get two outs from a deep fly ball to right field and a ground ball to Steck. The following Sion batter hit a high fly to left field sending DeCoursey home and tying the score 7-7.

Another grounder to short ended the game in a tie.

"We made a few mistakes and could have done better," junior Megan Bryde said. "But we can compete with [Sion] and we're about even."

Having only two seniors, STA's team is fairly young. Lang remarked that competing is challenging because so many young girls are being forced to play at the varsity level against older, more experienced opponents.

"Although I'm disappointed, I'm not as disappointed in the team because I know they still have some learning to do," Lang said. "I just wish they could learn a little quicker."

According to Ann, there is an apparent lack of experience on the team.

"Every game is a new learning experience," Ann said. "Almost everyone is new, but it's helping us grow as a team because we're going through it together."

Ann said the softball program has been going through a cycle of being good and then bad.

"This year we're rebuilding the program," Ann said. ★

STA finishes second at District tournament



Fore ★ Junior Holly Haywood drives a ball to the green on the second hole at a Stars golf match at the Swope Memorial Golf Course Sept. 30. The Stars golf team participated in the Districts competition Tuesday. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

Varsity golf team takes second; number one seed places first individually

by MEGAN SCHAFF
Staff Writer

The STA golf team placed second overall in the District tournament Tuesday afternoon and junior Casey O'Flaherty took first individually at the tournament.

"I'm ecstatic," O'Flaherty said. "I'm mostly really excited just because the entire team can go [to State], and it's going to be so fun. I almost cried. It was the best feeling in the world."

All five varsity golfers, O'Flaherty, sophomore Madalyne Bird, sophomore Colleen Corcoran, senior Erin Andres and freshman Alexis Buford, qualified individually for the State tournament.

"I'm not surprised that [everyone qualified], because I knew they could, but it just makes it that much better," O'Flaherty said.

Junior and JV golfer Allie Lueke is excited for her teammates' win.

"I'm super excited for them," Lueke said. "The girls worked really hard all year, and it's a

really great opportunity and...reward [for] all the hard work they put forth all season."

Like last year, STA placed second at Districts while Notre Dame De Sion won first place. Head golf coach Jack Garvin thinks Sion is the biggest competition the STA team has during both Districts and State.

"You can just leave [Sion] out of the story," Garvin joked. "They're good. They have good players. They're the team to beat."

O'Flaherty thinks both she and the team are prepared and excited for State.

"I feel really confident," O'Flaherty said. "It's the same course that I played at last year at State and I really like the course. I'm thinking I can make top 10, or I can try and win."

Lueke agrees the team has a good chance at State.

"I think they'll all play really well [at State]," Lueke said. "They're really good and focused athletes and they know how and when to perform. So I really think that they'll do a good job."

Although the team was striving for first at Districts, they all agree that second is no disappointment.

"We just focus on our own goals, which is to qualify for state and bring home a banner," Garvin said. "We are goal oriented." ★

*I want to cheer
I want to dress-up
I want to be proud*

AN OPINION BY



ELIZABETH WILSON

Sitting on my couch Friday night in a t-shirt and sweatpants, watching the movie "Never Back Down" with my brother and eating one of Price Chopper's signature cookies, I could not help but realize exactly how lame my Friday night had turned out to be.

All of my friends (and yes, I mean all of them) were at their schools' football games. And I, yet again, had opted to stay home for the seventh Friday in a row since football season began.

STA and Notre Dame De Sion are the only schools without something to do on Friday nights. Every other public, private, Catholic, Jesuit, co-ed and single sex male school has a football game each Friday night that the majority of their student body attends, even if the game is a complete blowout or a million miles away. So, us STA girls are left with the Sion girls which is not a fine position to be in. We need somewhere to go, something to do, someone to watch.

My friends attend their schools' football game every Friday night because, first of all, much of the time they have nothing else to do too. In going to these games, they get to show ownership, display school spirit and take pride in their school's accomplishments. They get to dress up on theme nights and rub it in another schools' face when they win. To me, these games are the equivalent to every STA vs. Sion game. But, the Sion vs. STA games are always on school nights when I have too much homework to attend.

I want to have something to do on Friday nights. I want to show ownership, display my school spirit and take pride in STA's accomplishments. I want to dress up in Spartan attire and say, "boo-ya," when we win.

But, how can I do these things on a Friday night when there is not even a scheduled STA game to watch?

It's time to start scheduling STA sporting events for Friday nights.

The sports fan in all of us STA girls needs something to do, someone to cheer on, someone that is one of our own. And even when everyone else is at their schools' football game, so will we be together as one, cheering our beloved STA to victory.

Who would like to be our first opponent? ★

Top three games to attend

So, I'll bow out, as the season is almost over and the schedules have all been set. But let's all make a point to attend these games and cheer STA onward to victory!

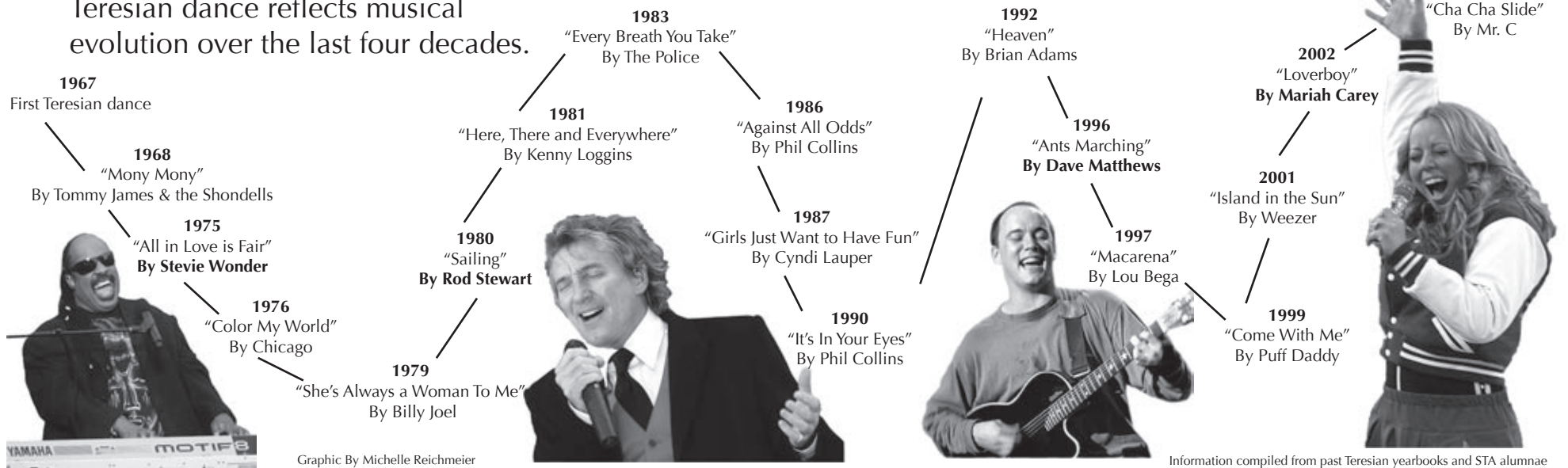
Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 4:00 p.m.
Freshman volleyball game vs. Notre Dame De Sion at STA.

Thursday, Oct. 23 at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
JV and varsity volleyball games vs. Sion at STA

Friday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m.
The dance team is performing at half time of the Rockhurst High School vs. Lee's Summit North High School game at Rockhurst

Teresian music grooves through eras

Since its beginning in 1967, STA's Teresian dance reflects musical evolution over the last four decades.



Graphic By Michelle Reichmeier

Information compiled from past Teresian yearbooks and STA alumnae

What people want to hear...

What song do you most want to hear at Teresian?

"In the Ayer by Will.I.Am. It gets me pumped."

— Marie Brancato, junior



What song do you least want to hear at Teresian?

"'Cotton-eyed Joe.' It's a little too hokey for a high school dance."

— Mandy Prather, senior



What song do you most want to hear at Teresian?

"'Wannabe' by the Spice Girls. Spice Girls gets everyone pumped for dancing."

— Jenny Schorgl, sophomore



What song do you least want to hear at Teresian?

"'All Summer Long' by Kid Rock. I hate Kid Rock! He's crude."

— Kayla Hogan, junior



Proper prepping: Teresian entails certain expenses

Lynn Nails

7228 Wornall Rd,
KCMO 64114

(816) 822-9900

10 am - 7 pm

Manicure & pedicure:
\$35

Fake Nails: \$25

Most girls will admit that their nails are an important factor in the preparation for Teresian. Having a nail color that matches perfectly with my jewelry and dress is definitely a priority for my dance prepping. Whether one desires a French manicure, a solid color or even fake nails, Lynn Nail is the hot place to go for manicures and pedicures.

Needham Floral

400 E Gregory Blvd
KCMO 64131

(816) 523-5517

8:30 am - 6 pm

Boutonniere / Corsage:
\$10

When preparing for Teresian, one of the last things on a girl's mind is the boutonniere for her date. Therefore, I often find myself scrambling for this item that I should have remembered earlier than two hours before pictures. Instead of purchasing a well-prepared, customized boutonniere, I end up settling for a generic, grocery store piece. However, for Teresian, I plan on purchasing the perfect boutonniere for my date from a flower shop called Needham Floral. Make sure you give Needham Floral 12-24 hours to prepare your boutonniere, which usually cost around \$10.

Terry Binns

2051 Holmes Rd,
KCMO 64112

(816) 531-2040

8 am - 5:30 pm

Updo: \$40

Hair is basically as important as the dress. Some like it edgy, classic or simple but whatever it is we're all looking our best for the big night! As a teenage girl living off her summer job money, I don't have cash to throw down on a \$70 hairdo from Mario Tricoci where the women working stare you down, I'm sure finding every imperfection. I would much rather buy a tank of gas considering I drive a monster truck aka a Tahoe. If I had to pay for \$70 dollars to get my hair done, I would rather just come as it is for school. If you're looking for something a little cheaper but nicely done, Terry Binns right off the Plaza offers a \$40 special occasion styling.

A Friend's House

Anywhere, USA

Anytime

Dinner: \$5 - \$15

Dinner is always such a hassle, especially with a large group. Separate tickets, specific meal orders, seating etc. is a sure way to cause chaos. Brio on the plaza offers banquet rooms large enough for any group. You're covered on space but that's only minor progress from the chaos that will be about. From past experiences, nice restaurants aren't always the most hospitable to a bunch of teenagers. I say go for the dinner at a friend's house. It's cheaper and more comfortable. You chip in to cover the cost of the food, which will be less than half of what you would pay at a place like Brio. Also, that way you can take pictures where you're eating; two in one! It's a win-win situation if you ask me.

~Compiled by Taylor Brown and Mollie Pointer



Flower Power ★ Senior Molly Caffey, Needham Floral employee of two and a half years, organizes flowers after school on Tuesday. Needham Floral is a popular and conveniently located flower shop for STA students to preorder corsages and boutonniere for formal school dances. Caffey is expecting a multitude of orders to come in next week before Teresian. **PHOTO BY KAYLA LOOSEN**

AMC digs into new addition

Studio 30 in Olathe is one of many theatres to add in-theatre dining

by MICAH WILKINS
Staff Writer

AMC Studio 30 in Olathe has converted a wing of its megaplex to offer casual dining to movie-goers and an additional, separate bar. After several months of construction, the test model will open to the public in late October. Later this year, eight Studio 30 theatres will be open, offering a dining and entertainment experience entitled "Fork & Screen" featuring seat-side service.

"Our concept builds off many of the differentiated food and beverage offerings that we have provided at several of our theatres over the years and takes it to the next level," AMC CEO Peter Brown said in the July press release.

Three of the eight auditoriums, or "Cinema Suites," will offer more upscale dining with plush recliners, a larger menu and available reserved seating.

The separate bar, MacGuffins, will also serve as a lounge for guests before and after their movies. According to AMC Theater press release, the bar will offer a large seating area for guests 18 and older. It is available with or without a

ticket to a movie showing at "Fork and Screen" or "Cinema Suites."

The Fork & Screen auditoriums will offer appetizers, entrées, desserts and a range of both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, along with its traditional theatre concessions. Food prices range from \$5 to \$11, excluding the cost of tickets. These prices are fairly reasonable in comparison with other theatres, whose concessions, such as nachos, a pretzel or popcorn can be as expensive as \$6.

According to AMC spokesman Justin Scott, the Fork & Screen will serve food made with locally produced and locally grown ingredients. The theatres will offer a six-page menu with options ranging from Thai coconut chicken tenders to flatbread pizzas, and desserts such as Haagen-Dazs ice cream.

The auditoriums, however, are only for guests 18 or older, or minors accompanied by an adult.

"I think they are bringing this [addition] to supposedly add luxury to theatres, and maybe attract an older, more sophisticated audience other than the teenagers who come to AMC regularly," STA sophomore Anne Bachofer, a resident of Olathe, said.

The Kansas City-based theatre company, which owns 353 theatres in six countries, has been also testing the Fork & Screen concept in Atlanta, GA since July. In addition, the former Empire Theatre in the Power & Light District, which is being redeveloped and renamed Main Street Theatre, is undergoing a similar conversion Scott said.

An exact menu has not yet been released to the public but will soon be revealed. ★



Movie Night ★ **Top:** This sign outside the AMC 30 in Olathe features the new Fork & Screen addition to the theater. A wing of the theater will be remodeled into a casual, in-theater dining experience. **Bottom:** The Fork & Screen entertainment area is set for use within the month. **PHOTOS BY ALLISON POINTER**

STA choirs prepare for fall concert

Ms. Shauna Westall plans concert setting for STA choirs' work

by ROSIE HODES
Opinions Editor

Students are sometimes able to catch a quick, private choir concert if they're walking through the M&A halls at exactly the right time. Soon, all students and faculty will have the opportunity to hear a performance at school that lasts longer than a passing period.

Music teacher Shauna Westall is planning an in-school choir concert for Oct. 23 in the auditorium during both Activity periods. All of Westall's classes will be participating in the concert.

According to Westall, her classes of concert choir, a cappella choir, STA singers and instrumental music will each perform one to two songs. There will be one instrumental solo. Ms. Westall wanted her classes to work on something else besides Christmas music at the beginning of the year.

"I love the songs for this concert," junior Jordan Miller said. "They're my favorite ones."

According to Westall, she is planning the concert to take place during a school day because typically the fall music did not occupy enough time to host an evening concert. She also thinks performing during activity period will be a good experience for her students.

"It's nice for students that have never been in choir before to have an informal setting for their first concert," Westall said. "Especially for freshmen."

Choir students will perform their first concert for whoever chooses to attend Oct. 23. The concert is not mandatory, but all students are welcome to come during their lunch and Activity periods.

Every choir or instrumental class has been practicing the fall music such as pieces by Mozart since school began. UMKC graduate student Margaret Henrikson comes to STA twice a week to help instrumental music students.

"They're doing really well," Henrikson said. "They'll be ready."

According to senior flutist Lauren Durie, instrumental students practice at home and during their free periods in the Kansas City Young Audience rooms in

Concert Details

★

Who?
STA singers,
Acapella Choir,
Freshman Choir

When?
Oct. 24
during Activity I & II

Where?
M&A Auditorium

the M&A building.

"We just have to get our timing together and match our sound and pitch," Durie said.

Westall will grade her students on their work for the concert.

"I think [students] are excited," Westall said. "I haven't heard any complaints. That's always a good sign."

After the fall concert, students will begin practice songs for the Christmas concert to be performed at an evening show in this upcoming winter. ★



Practice Makes Perfect ★ Choir instructor Shauna Westall conducts "Barter", a song that will be featured in the choir's school concert later this month, Friday in the choir room. All choir students will be featured in the show. **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

entertainment

Movie **WALL**

"Amazing Grace"

Amazing Grace tells the true story of political activist William Wilberforce and his effort to end the African slave trade. If you're not into history this may not be your thing. Set in 18th century Britain, the film follows Wilberforce through his relentless pressure on Parliament to put a stop to the trade, all the while dealing with an illness. Wilberforce's character is passionate and believable as the movie follows him through the years of his life.

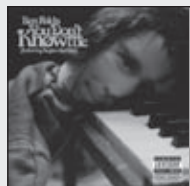
- Madalyn Bird

Song

"You Don't Know Me"

Ben Folds and Regina Spektor bring funky back in their new single "You Don't Know Me." The song, about a couple who has been together so long they don't know why they first loved each other, features a smooth blend of hip hop, experimental and pop to form an almost Alicia Keys/Maroon 5 hybrid. The flow of the song is conversational, with Folds and Spektor responding to each others' claims of "you don't know me at all." Near the end of the song, there's a 10-second break from singing and Folds and Spektor speak to each other, when Spektor implores "say it." If the fearless, addictive beats and fresh lyrics hint at all at Folds's new album, the CD could leave many listeners uncontrollably tapping their feet and bobbing their heads.

-Caroline Quinn



CD

"Glass Passenger"

"I called on Jesus but He didn't have His phone today." Or maybe He just couldn't bear to listen to Jack Mannequin's newest album either. *Glass Passenger* is chalked full with cringe-worthy lyrics like these that are whined more than sung by lead singer Andrew McMahon. The catchy, ear-pleasing melodies of their first album, *Everything in Transit*, are absent from this downright depressing collection of drawn-out slow songs. The band seems to be missing *Transit* too, seeing as they even borrow memorable lyrics and phrases from their first CD. While Jack's hasn't seemed to mature since then, I definitely have.

-Haley Vondemkamp



Television

"90210"

The CW's new series "90210" is a contemporary spin off of the drama "Beverly Hills 90210". A Kansas family of four receives an extreme culture shock as they relocate to Beverly Hills. Siblings Annie and Dixon struggle to adapt to the social drama at West Beverly Hills High School.



Featured in the commercials, the phrase "the richer they are, the harder they fall" accurately describes the overall personality of the show.

-Michelle Reichmeier

Painting future dreams



Senior Kelly Younger fills schedule with art classes, plans career

by MOLLIE POINTER
Staff Writer

Watching her father struggle with knee and shoulder surgeries throughout her childhood, senior Kelly Younger was drawn to the field of orthopedics. At age fourteen Younger entered high school with a dream to one day become an orthopedic surgeon. Little did she know she would later decide to follow in the steps of her artistic family's passion and talent altering dreams as surgical ambitions were thrown to the side.

"[Art] has always been a part of how I've grown up," Younger said. "I always enjoyed going to museums and galleries, I just wasn't one of those kids who was always doodling."

With a mother in corporate art and a father who is a sculptor, Younger associated with the STA art department, taking drawing I upon entering her freshman year. Through her years at STA, Younger has taken graphic design, computer graphics, and ceramics I. Currently, she is enrolled in painting, advanced drawing and ceramics II and will be taking fibers and textiles next semester. Throughout the different courses art teacher Theresa Wallerstedt has been able recognize her skill and progression.

"I've seen such a huge growth and ideas develop her more creative side," Wallerstedt said. "[Younger] is just coming into her own."

Watching Kelly grow the past few years, father Dan Younger has noticed a change in her as well.

"She has become a lot more confident in her ideas and the ways she actually makes the [art]," Dan said.

Kelly and Dan acknowledge that their artistic family is influential to one another.

"We can talk about art and she has ideas and I listen to those and I tell her my ideas," Dan said. "We can bounce ideas back and forth. The three of us and [Max], we're all on the creative side of things so [art is] a lot of what we talk about."

Growing up in the art world, Kelly's creative side was influenced according to Dan. She was exposed to art since the day she was born.

"She has always been interested in being creative," Dan said. "The community we live in is a community of artists."

Watching her older brother Max Younger graduate from Savannah College of Art and Design with a major in industrial design and a minor in interactive design, Kelly began to

realize that art school was her future too. Gaining more experience through her classes at STA, Kelly decided to apply to art school.

"When my brother went off to art school, it just made me want to do [apply] even more," Kelly said.

Wallerstedt encouraged Kelly's aspirations for art school.

"I think Kelly will do well [in art school]," Wallerstedt said. "She's just developing her style and [art school] will help her to develop her style too."

The application process for most art schools involves submitting a portfolio of ten to twenty pieces of the student's best work. Kelly plans on studying courses mostly in relation to graphic design. Additionally she is interested in product design, such as creating labels and identities for companies.

"I really like doing layout with color and lettering," Kelly said. "With graphic design and layout I'd like to think of myself as being able to modernize old school fonts."

Modernizing fonts include taking black type on a white background and adding color and other extra flares.

Though Kelly has an idea of what she would like to study in art school, her father Dan knows from that experience her interests may change.

"When you start off before you go to art school you have an idea of what you want to do but it doesn't always stay the same," Dan said. "I do think she'd make a good designer."

Kelly will be applying to most of her art schools within the next month, making her dream a reality. Dan and Wallerstedt both agreed Kelly has a passion and a future in art.

"Kelly knows how much work it takes to be a good artist," Dan said. "It's in her soul."★

Painting a new start with art ★ Above left: Senior Kelly Younger paints a yellow pepper Sept. 26 in her Friday painting class. The assignment included painting several different peppers, exploring the differences in color and lighting. Younger secluded herself from classmates, first sketching the pepper and then painting it. Above right: Younger concentrates on the stroke during Painting class. PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

PER	Time	Class	Teacher
PER 0		A Day ADVI	Wallerstedt
PER 1	Mods 1/2	7012 Adv. Drawi	Wallerstedt
PER 2	Mods 3/4	7012 Adv. Drawi	Wallerstedt
PER 3	Mods 5/6	2431 Psychology	Sirridge
PER 4	Mods 7/8	7042 Fiber/Text	Dibble
PER 5	Mods 9/10	1593 ContempLit	Fast
PER 6	Mods 11/12	1591 ContempLit	Fast
PER 7	Mods 13/14	1591 ContempLit	Fast
PER 8	Mods 15/16	2371 U.S. Gover	Sirridge
PER 9	Lunch Activity		



Open arms ★ Former STA teacher Karen Johnson cradles her newly adopted daughter Evie. She welcomed the newborn baby into her home in late Sept. **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

arrival of a LIFETIME

Former STA teacher Karen Johnson endured failed adoption, finally welcomes new baby

by SYDNEY DEATHERAGE
Managing Editor of News

“She’s here, she’s here!”

Former STA teacher Karen Johnson wakes from a restless sleep to excited shouts and loud bangs on her door.

Its a little after 5 a.m.

Sept. 19 in a little

hospital room off

the maternity ward

of Shawnee Mis-

sion Medical Cen-

ter, and any mo-

ment now, Karen

and husband Josh

will finally greet

their newborn

baby girl, Evelyn

Beatrix Johnson. A

few minutes of an-

ticipation pass and

then nurses wheel

a tiny hospital bassinet

down the hall. The in-

fant’s biological father

follows.

“Congratulations Mom

and Dad,” he says as he hands his

newborn to Karen and Josh.

The tender moment signifies a joyful end to

Karen’s long and difficult struggle toward

motherhood.

“Josh and I couldn’t

have our own kids,”

Karen said. “We tried

for a few years and

ended up having to

choose between [in

vitro fertilization]... and adoption. We

read about both and

decided that we would

rather adopt.”

According to Kar-

en adoption was the more logical option, with

a 75 percent chance of completing the process

with a baby versus a 25 to 30 percent chance

with in vitro fertilization.

“Josh and I are very logical people,”

Karen said. “We wanted to make sure

that if we spent the money we’d actually

end up with a baby.”

However, after making the

decision to adopt, the couple

had a long process to under-

go. The process began with

a series of state and federal

background checks

of both Karen and

Josh and included

evaluations of the

couple’s monetary

and budgeting

information.

Following these pro-

cedures, Karen

and Josh’s

social worker

Hillary

Merryfield, from the Adoption Option agency in Overland Park, Kan., conducted a series of “home studies” in which she administered a four hour interview with the couple, inspected their home and required them to read three books on adoption.

Through reading such books, researching adoption and talking to Merryfield, one probable outcome of the adopting process caused the couple hesitation: the risk of the adoption falling through.

“We knew from the start that one out of four birth parents changes their mind,” Karen said. “It made me a little cautious about being overly excited about it because I knew there was a chance that it wouldn’t happen.”

Despite her reservations, Karen went forth into her “expecting phase” in early 2008 as giddy as any mother giving natural birth, attending the birth mother’s sonograms and doctor’s appointments, purchasing baby items and preparing the nursery.

Karen and Josh also developed a close relationship with the birth family during this period.

“I became really good friends with the birth mother,” Karen said. “The birth mother even came to the baby shower at my church.”

Karen included the STA community during this phase, creating an email distribution list of faculty members to send updates on the adoption, bringing in her hand-made cloth diapers to show with pride to her students and even requesting senior Mollie Caffey paint the nursery with a “Winnie the Pooh” theme.

“I was a little hesitant at first to tell students and to talk about it, especially announcing that I was adopting and not that I was pregnant,” Karen said. “That was going to bring up a lot of questions and I was kind of hesitant about how that would go, but in the end everyone was really wonderful and sweet and nobody asked rude questions. It was fun to be in that expecting phase.”

According to Caffey, she built a more personal connection with Karen, as she drove to her house to paint the nursery 3 to 4 times a week.

“[Karen’s] sister-in-law came over with her nephew once,” Caffey said. “I got to see [Karen] play with him, and she was very maternal. I could just feel the excitement from her, especially when she was playing with him and interacting with him because I had never seen her interact with a child before.”

It’s not a surprise then that when Lucy was born on Thursday, July 3, the STA community was among the first to know. Karen called Caffey, her senior carpool Caroline Quinn and sent an email out through her distribution list announcing the news a day later. Quinn even visited Lucy at Liberty Hospital, where the birth took place.

“It was completely a miracle that another couple chose us a little less than two weeks after we lost Lucy.”

Karen Johnson

The next step in the process was to obtain a court order so that the Johnson's could transfer Lucy's custody to themselves from the birth parents. The court order included the home study documents from Merryfield, background checks, monetary information and the signed consent of the birth parents. The last puzzle piece: the birth parents' signature.

Karen and Josh spent four days with Lucy in the hospital bonding with her in a way only new parents can. Karen witnessed Lucy's birth and was with her in the very first moments of her life.

Monday morning, Karen and Josh left Lucy behind at the hospital nursery to obtain their court order. When the couple arrived at their lawyer's office to attain the birth parents' written consent, their lawyer delivered the news: the birth parents had changed their mind.

They were keeping Lucy.

"It was really hard because we were such good friends with the birth parents that it felt like a personal betrayal," Karen said. "It felt like your best friend stabbing you in the back. We had spent so much time with Lucy in the hospital - we spent four days getting to know her - that we completely already had fallen in love with her. That made it really difficult to deal with their decision."

According to Karen, she was also upset at the hardship she felt the birth parents' decision would put on Lucy.

"We were convinced that being with us was going to be better for that baby," Karen said. "We're very sad about the fact that now living with her birth parents she is going to grow up in poverty instead of growing up with us. In the end, she's their biological child and its their choice."

Karen and Josh hope for the best for Lucy.

"We just pray that she'll have a happy childhood and that her birth father will get a job," Karen said. "The last we knew, neither one of them had a job, so we hope that her birth father or birth mother will get a job to support her so that she will have a happy life."

Karen was not without support through these events. She and Josh sent an email through their distribution list to the STA community, to their family and to friends announcing how they had lost Lucy, and everyone responded with care.

"Everyone on the list, including all people from STA, were very sweet, very wonderful - offering us congratulations and then offering us sympathy," Karen said.

In an effort to heal over the loss of Lucy and to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary, Karen and Josh planned a trip to Mexico two weeks later. As they sat in the Kansas City International Airport, about to board their plane, their social worker Hillary Merryfield called.

She had found another baby.

"It was completely a God thing," Karen said. "It was completely a miracle that another couple chose us a little less than two weeks after we lost Lucy. [Merryfield] called us in the airport and said 'This baby, she's due on Sept. 22,' and she told us a little bit about her - we didn't even have a chance to call and tell our parents about it because we had to get on the plane."

The next important call from Merryfield came at 9:30 pm on a Thursday in mid-September. The new birth mother's water had broken, and Karen and Josh made a "mad dash" down to Shawnee Mission Medical Center in Shawnee, Kan. from Liberty, Mo.

Evelyn (Evie) Beatrix Johnson was born Friday, Sept. 19 at 5:02 am. One day after Evie's birth, her biological parents signed away their parental rights, making Evie a ward of the state of Kansas. This gave the Johnsons temporary custody within the state, meaning they could not return home to Missouri. So the new Johnson family checked into the Sheraton Hotel. By Monday morning, they had permission to take Evie home.

Karen and Josh were now Karen, Josh and Evie.

According to Karen, the family has one more home study Oct. 21 with Merryfield before the adoption is finalized. The court date to make Evie officially a member of the Johnson family is set for Oct. 27 and at that point Karen and Josh will be able to change Evie's birth certificate to have their last name.

As she grows up, however, Evie will be familiar with her former name and family. The issue of Evie's identity, of her knowing who she



1

1. The mom, the baby and the wardrobe ★ Former teacher Karen Johnson looks into daughter Evie's closet.
2. Row the boat ★ On a bookshelf in baby Evie's room, a Winnie the Pooh snowglobe matches her room's theme.
3. Rock-a-hi ★ Josh Johnson, from left, pats newly adopted Evie's back in arms of wife Karen.
4. All Smiles ★ Former literature teacher Karen Johnson grins as she holds new baby Evie.

PHOTOS BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE



2



4



3

is and where she came from will be important for her psychological and emotional health, according to Karen.

"We're having an open adoption...I'm planning on having a little photo album of pictures of her birth father and birth mother and birth grandparents," Karen said. "She doesn't have any full siblings but she has two half brothers and a half sister, children of her birth parents from previous marriages, so she can grow up looking at pictures of people that kind of look like her and kind of have a concept of who they are."

Karen and Josh also want to maintain some contact with Evie's birth parents and set up a website to send pictures and informations about Evie to give her birth family updates.

"Because she's so darn cute!" Karen said. Despite the shared joy of Evie's birth, the topic of birth parents is one of sensitivity at the moment between the families.

"Her birth mother is, as you can probably imagine, emotionally upset with everything and doesn't feel ready right now to talk to us and meet us," Karen said. "If she decides to in the future we'll be open to that. Her birth father has

asked that we let him have photos of her and he wants to be able to send her letters and presents for her birthday and Christmas."

Karen said that she and Josh plan to stress to Evie that her biological parents made their decision in her best interest because they, even more so than Lucy's parents, did not have the resources to take care of a newborn.

Karen and Josh have thought far ahead for their parenting of Evie, but for now they are simply enjoying their first days with her.

Karen described the process as "cyclical" - Evie wakes up, gets her diaper changed, is fed, and then burped. Then she and Josh have "awake" time where Evie interacts with them, then spits up, and then is back to sleep. According to Karen however, things she would not expect make her happiest.

"When you're physically exhausted...which all new parents are...all of your emotions kind of bubble up even more so than they do normally," Karen said. "Sometimes I'll get a little tender moment with her. Like the first time she found her thumb and started sucking on it - that made me cry. Sometimes she smiles in her sleep. They don't smile at you until they're three weeks but they'll practice smiling in their sleep. So when you're holding her and she smiles - it just melts my heart."

Though her new-parent joy with Evie has helped heal her experience with Lucy, Karen feels the emotions of the experience will never leave her.

"It comes and goes," Karen said. "Part of the sadness about losing Lucy was about losing a baby. So that part of the sadness - Evie has healed that. Another part of the sadness is about Lucy in particular...that particular human being. I think that I'll always kind of feel sad about that because we did fall in love with her. I still feel like if her birth parents knocked on our door today and said, 'Hey we want to give her to you after all,' - I feel like we would love her like our own." ★

auction action

Peppy performing
★ Left: From left, junior Kelly Fitzpatrick, President Nan Bone and junior Shaughnessy Miller open the pep rally last Friday. **Right:** From left, teachers Denise Rueschhoff, Patrick Serridge, Craig Whitney and facilities manager Rafael Ramirez perform in costumes during the rally. **PHOTOS BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM AND ALLISON POINTER**



Teacher act ★ From left, Denise Rueschhoff, Shana Prentiss, Katie Dolan, Shauna Westall and Carrie Jaquin act in character during last Friday's pep rally. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**

Teachers rally students with cinematic themes at the annual auction pep rally, break out into unexpected roles



Real estate: With market weak, senior and family wait for home

Continued from page 4

"My advice would be that if someone is looking to sell [a house] that now is not a good time and they should wait, but that if someone is looking to buy a house, it's a good time," Federal Reserve Bank economist Jon Willis said.

Willis also explains that with a rising unemployment rate, there is a surplus of lower paying jobs due to a greater number of people seeking a smaller number of positions. These lower paying jobs result from demand pressures allowing for employers to become less inclined to increase wages at a pace in keeping with rising food and gas prices. Additionally, because construction companies are building fewer homes this year than in years past, the unemployment rate for construction workers continues to rise. These factors and others contribute to the downward turn in the economy.

"The state of the economy has a close connection with real estate through the unemployment rate," Willis said. "If the unemployment rate is low more people can afford houses and the reverse is true when the unemployment rate goes up."

Although Haley does not particularly like her family's current living situation, according to

Kevin, the Doyles are in a safer situation than many other families, and this experience is teaching them to be more grateful for what they have.

"The townhouse is comfortable, clean and very private, and it's a good way for all of us to appreciate the house we had and the even better house we will have soon," Kevin said.

The Doyles plan to wait for the particular house they're interested in to become available, but if the current residents do not make a decision after several months, they will begin searching for a different home to purchase, according to Kevin.

Brenda says that the townhouse is only temporary, so for now the Doyles will have to manage with what they have.

"We're just kind of in a holding pattern right now," Brenda said. "We're fortunate because our house was actually paid off... We thought we might have temporary housing, and we're hoping for the best."

According to Kevin, with the present real estate environment, the Doyles feel that the market is not getting away from them as prices grow softer and a broader selection of homes opens up to them. ★

College: Girls struggle with rising tuition costs, lack of financial aid

Continued from page 2

because "people with a bachelor's degree earn over 60 per cent more than those with only a high school diploma... Whatever sacrifices you make for your college education in the short term are more than repaid in the long term."

Belcher agrees with the College Board. "I tell students they are financing their future," Belcher said. "Eventually, loans will be paid off, but you will always have your degree." ★

Stock market: Bailout fails, market crashes, economy takes turn for worse

Continued from page 4

credit, Americans will be forced to downsize. This becomes a problem for students who can't afford school tuition or a car without a loan.

Sophomore Katie McCalla is frightened of the idea of fewer opportunities for student loans.

"[Restrictive lending] will be really influential with students getting into college, because I know that there is no way that I can afford to go to college without a scholarship or a student loan," McCalla said.

Congress voted Sept. 29 on the government's \$700 billion financial bailout plan. After Congress' votes were cast the bill failed, leading

to a large decline in stock markets around the world.

"This is an unbelievable failure of leadership from Congress," Miller said. "It was their responsibility to find a way to help the economy survive. [September 29] the stock market crashed and 1.2 trillion dollars was wiped out. [September 29] many of the people in Congress gambled with people's life savings and they should be ashamed of themselves."

A revised bailout plan was put to a vote and by Oct. 3 the Senate and the House Of Representatives passed the bill. ★

TALK TO YOU LATER



JAIME HENRY-WHITE

My college counselor is a Sion alumna...

It's funny all the different admissions counselors you meet on the pathway to insanity, more generally called the "college process." There are tall people and short people, some hairy people and bald people, lots of silly people and serious people, and you've got the Sion people.

Wait... What? REWIND. Sion people. *Sion people?* No way! I kid you not. Sion is everywhere. Not only do these tricky students disguise themselves in camouflage and red, white and blue at our games, but they trench themselves within the sweetest and scariest of all human beings: college admissions counselors. In their lion claws, they have the power of rejection or acceptance into their college "pride."

It was a sunny day after school, when out of nowhere, Sion attacked. It wasn't at the first STA vs. Sion volleyball game or even near the prison walls of Sion in the least. It was in an email.

"Hey Jaime! My name is Reaper and I'm the admissions counselor for the University of Your Future. Thanks for talking to me. I hope I answered all your college questions! Good luck this year at STA! P.S. - Did you know I went to Sion? Viva Sion, Grim"

I was vulnerable. I was scared. I was about to pee my pants from the irony. The Midwest admissions counselor for one of my top colleges was from The Enemy. I was screwed for sure. But the shocks didn't cease there. The biggest one came in our next email encounter when the tables turned and Grim said she would be my college advocate. She would fight for me until the end. By golly, Sion was helping me! Sion was being ... *friendly*. Sion was caring and was on my side, while I was left wondering what the world had come to.

Don't kill me, STA, but I think we come to peace with Sion in the end. We leave our beloved rivalry behind and move out into the real world on equal ground. Treasuring the past, we go our separate ways, which may mean depending on each other for some of our greatest decisions. Grim and I are becoming quite the dynamic duo. Though we may want to rip each other to shreds on the court, we always walk away with the same smiles, memories and lost voices from screaming. After all, aren't we always supposed to keep our friends close, but our enemies closer? ★

top

[[weird news]]

Compiled by Carlie Campbell

5 Sept. 24: An Ohio corn farmer ploughed a maze in his field in the shape of Republican Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin's head.

4 Sept. 22-26: Two airplanes were forced to circle the island of Lesbos, Greece because the ground air traffic controller overslept.

3 Oct. 1: A bank in La Mesa, Calif. was robbed twice in the same day--by two different people. Neither robber has been arrested.

2 Oct. 2: A house in Saginaw, Mich. Sold on eBay for \$1.75. The woman who bought it said she wants to fix it up and sell it.

1 Oct. 26: The world's most obese man, Manuel Uribe, and his girlfriend are engaged to be married in a civil ceremony.

Sources: MSN.com, yahoo.com

From the voice of our campus Critter

Avery: I haven't seen you around lately... where have you been kitty?

Critter: Meeeeeeooooow

Avery: How is your relationship with your owners?

Critter: (silence)

Avery: Sorry, I didn't realize that was a sensitive subject ...

Avery: I've also noticed the absence of your fleece-lined kitty bed. Any comments?

Critter: hiss

Avery: Oh I see...Well most of STA misses you, please stop by the academy soon!

Critter: Meeeeeeooooow. purr

Compiled by Avery Adams

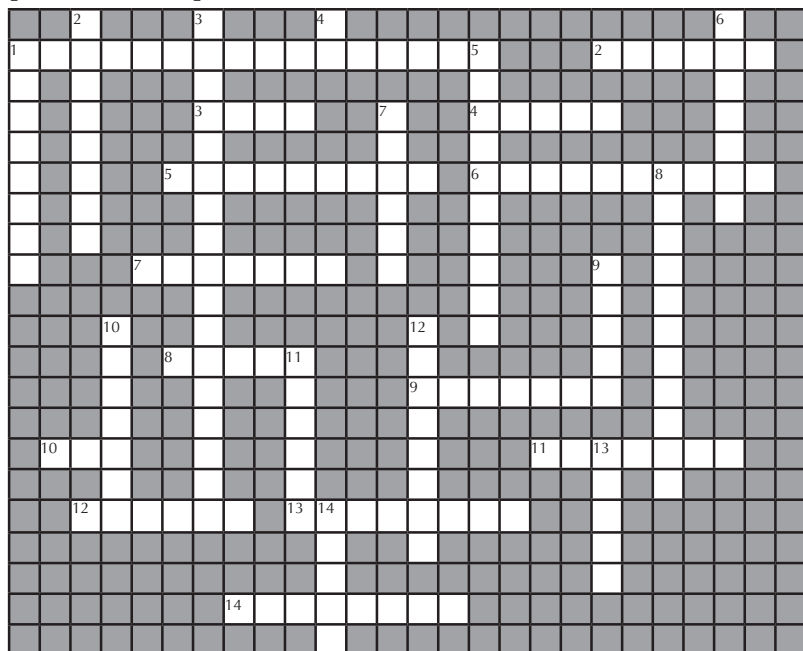
Issue 1 Correction 1

On page 7 a column under the headline "Palin pick for VP not progress for women; McCain profits" contained an error. Gov. Sarah Palin is not the first woman on the presidential ticket.

Issue 1 Correction 2

On page 8 coverage under the headline "STA welcomes new teachers" contained an error. Mr. Stephen Himes did not teach in Excelsior Springs School District.

[election time]



down

1. Franchised birthday
2. Joe Biden's political party
3. to cast a vote without proof of registration
4. don't vote "yes," vote "___!"
5. What some say Obama and Palin lack
6. left-leaning
7. democratic creature
8. neither Obama nor McCain
9. gather to support
10. announce support
11. snowy state in spotlight
12. large Republican mammal
13. youngest Obama girl
14. Palin's Democratic counterpart

across 1. system to elect 2. oldest Presidential candidate 3. many people will do this on election day 4. hockey-mom vice president 5. another word for "vice," as in president 6. conservative political party 7. inauguration month 8. Illinois senator 9. current hot-topic issue 10. McCain supports, Obama opposes this in Iraq 11. someone who runs to run for president 12. public presidential argument 13. a vote far from home 14. president at the end of their term

answers: **down** - 1. eighteen 2. democrat 3. provisional ballot 4. no 5. experience 6. liberal 7. donkey 8. independent 9. rally 10. endorse 11. alaska 12. elephant 13. Malta 14. Biden **across** - 1. electoral college 2. McCain 3. vote 4. Palin 5. assistant 6. Republican 7. January 8. Obama 9. economy 10. war 11. nominee 12. debate 13. absentee 14. lame duck

Compiled by Carlie Campbell

dr. quinn's spin

with caroline quinn

Introducing The Dart's new advice column – Dr. Quinn's Spin. Now you can get genuine, thoughtful guidance from someone skilled in the field of obscure-question answering.

Ever wanted to know how to ask your date to Teresian but none of the Google answers looked right? How about the best way to quit your mom's Scrabble club without hurting her feelings? And there's the age-old question of the best place to Spring Break.

Your days of wondering and struggling have finally ended. I've

studied for 17 years under the best advice providers, and have been an open ear for a dysfunctional family and group of friends. Submit your questions or concerns to dartopinions@hotmail.com and I'll give you my two cents in the next issue. Here's your chance to get it all out, so don't be afraid – I'm a professional. ★



DARTSMART

How far would you go for Teresian?

1. **After Teresian 2007, you...**
 - a. weren't there...How did it go?
 - b. took a cat nap...finally no more drama!
 - c. bought your dress for next year. You hae to take advantage of those post-dance sales!
 - d. started planning next year's festivities. You have a reputation to live up to!
2. **You're back at school and Teresian buzz has begun. You...**
 - a. ignore the chaos. Who cares?
 - b. eavesdrop on your friends as they plan at lunch...all you want is the party bus.
 - c. plan the night down to the boutineirre. It has to be perfect.
 - d. called dibs on your date during the summer and now you're bookmarking all of your favorite dresses online.
3. **So it's time to lay down the cash. You...**
 - a. have some coupons from Chik Filet.
 - b. buy your tickets, but make your date pay you back.
 - c. buy your tickets and vouch for a home-cooked meal at your friend's house—it's cheaper than eating out.
 - d. get the whole shabang: tickets, 3-course meal from the Plaza, a party bus and a beautiful gown.
4. **It's all planned but you're missing a date. You...**
 - a. watch TV instead
 - b. plan a girls' night out!
 - c. take your best friend's boyfriend's cousin's friend...you've met a few times, right?
 - d. take your brother...you WILL go.
5. **You're looking for The Dress. You...**
 - a. find your mom's prom dress in a box. Retro, right?
 - b. Borrow a pal's—it's cheap and broken in!
 - c. Go shopping online. You want to look hot and get good deals all in one.
 - d. spend your summer's savings. Oops!
6. **How do you ask?**
 - a. Send a text.
 - b. Tag his car while he's at school. Classic!
 - c. Write and decorate a beautiful poem and leave it on his doorstep.
 - d. The "Date in a Box" method. Surprise!

if you answered...

Mostly A's & B's
If you scored mostly A's and B's, you're pretty chill about the whole Teresian thing. This could work for you, but also against you. If you slumber through date choosing and party planning, you won't have much say in your plans for your group. But hey, who says you have to go to Teresian anyway?

Mostly C's & D's
If you scored mostly C's and D's you're edging toward obsessive-compulsive. Teresian is definitely a night to remember, but don't get too upset if it doesn't live up to your sky-high expectations (or if isn't worth all the cash you put out.) Loosen up and look for cheaper ways to make the night a memory! ★

Compiled by Mollie Pointer

Divided for diversity ★ **Right:** Juniors Brady Essman and Sydney Deatherage lead Unitown activity as counselors. **Below:** Unitown participants split male and female and look on during the gender activity. **Far bottom:** Holding hands, participants begin the "Privledge" activity in Goppert Center. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**



Standing out ★ **Left:** Sophomore Jade Hernandez looks on as she participates in Unitown activity "Privledge Line-up". **Above:** Sophomore Maddie Lundgren, left and junior Angelica DeSimio stand during "Privledge". **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**

Unitown *Unifies*