

Bombs

Students, families and faculty
clean up threatening graffiti
out of respect for campus

pages 12-13

away

Building a Legacy

Capital Campaign Distribution of funds

Standalone Chapel and
New Technology (new
computers, distance-learn-
ing classroom, document
camera)

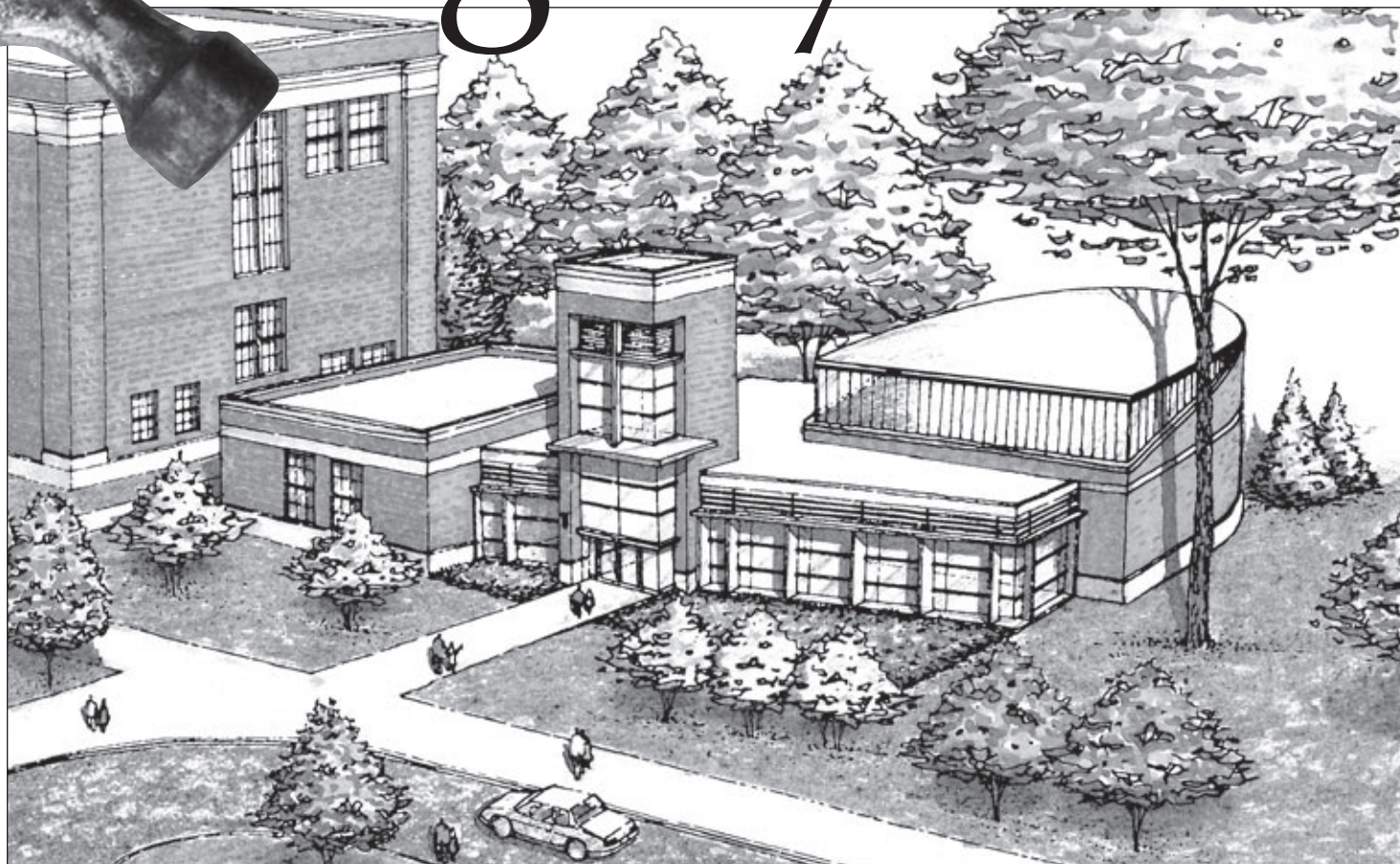
\$3.5 million

Auditorium Renovation

\$1.5 million

Budget Endowment

\$1 million



Faith Expanding ★ Due to the most recent Capital Campaign held by the administration and the board of directors, STA's new chapel is to be built by 2013 on the south side of Donnelly Hall. The plans for the chapel include four new classrooms and an occupancy of 150. **GRAPHIC SUBMITTED**

Bone plans to build chapel; new classrooms, technology to enhance STA campus

by **JULIA STAPINSKI**
Circulation Manager

The most recent Capital Campaign held by the administration and the Board of Directors brought to the school's attention not only a need for more classrooms, an improved auditorium and better technology, but also more sacred space. By 2013, president Nan Bone plans to unveil a new standalone chapel building on campus.

"As the school is, we only have one small chapel that not many students can fit into at once," Bone said. "It's important to us to increase the capacity of the chapel so that more students can participate in independent prayer during the school day."

According to Bone, the addition will encompass a chapel that will capacitate up to 150 people at a

time, four extra classrooms and a museum displaying STA artifacts collected throughout the school's 141 year history. Both Bone and the Board of Directors chairman John Fox agree that classroom space is one of the most immediate issues that will be addressed.

"What we really sorely need at St. Teresa's right now is additional classroom space, so that would be a part of the plan that's on the drawing board for the chapel," Fox said.

Bone believes the new chapel building will aid not only in creating more space for classrooms on campus, but also in bettering the school's technology. The old chapel will free up space for either two more classrooms or a new computer lab.

In addition to new computers, Bone hopes to implement higher technology by creating a distance learning classroom which will allow students to take classes taught by a teacher in a different location via a transmitted video signal. She is also interested in a new type of overhead projector called a document camera, which allows any image to be put under a lens and projected onto a large screen. Bone hopes

this tool, in conjunction with the distance learning classroom and other forms of new technology, will be utilized in the standalone chapel building.

Junior Maura Hinken, a member of the school's technology committee, is excited for the prospect of higher technology at STA in the next few years.

"Some of the... advancements in education technology lately are just so far out there that it's amazing to think that some of them [might] be at STA in the next few years," Hinken said. "Having such good technology will definitely help our school."

Fox added that along with updated technology, the placement and aesthetic appearance of the new chapel will draw attention to the school community.

"A real driving force behind the concept of this new chapel is that it would really enhance our beautiful campus by having sort of an iconic structure, something that's very architecturally pleasing that would complement the other three buildings that we already have," Fox said. "Having a standalone chapel as a real focal point both architecturally

and spiritually would be a real bonus for St. Teresa's."

Though the bulk of Capital Campaign funds will be budgeted to building a standalone chapel, money will also be devoted to improving the auditorium, endowment and technology. Bone said the chapel and new technology will total in at about \$3.5 million, while \$1.5 million will be devoted to auditorium renovation and the final \$1 million of the \$6 million budget to endowment.

Although it may seem that most of the plans have been made for the new chapel, the majority of them are not set in stone. According to Fox, the chapel is still "on the drawing board," meaning that dates of construction, budgets and blueprints have not been finalized.

"Even though plans are not final... it is clear to all of [the Board of Directors and administration] that building a standalone chapel is absolutely a step in the right direction," Fox said. "I think having a standalone chapel would... support and enhance the notion that [STA is] a Catholic institution." ★

inside^{out}



Close up:
Junior Kat Wiens is a devout Menonite who is dedicated to the Church's pacifistic tradition.

See Page 20



Features:
Senator Barack Obama visits home of sophomore Lindsay Girardeau to watch wife Michelle Obama speak at the Democratic National Convention. The Dart takes an in-depth look at her experience.

See Pages 21-22



Entertainment:
Senior Anna Gillcryst obtains role in Starlight Theater's production of Les Miserables.

See Page 18

Transfers adjust to STA life

Five junior transfer students cope with school change, adapt to new environment

by MICAH WILKINS
Staff Writer

This year, a total of five juniors transferred to STA. This number is exceedingly high compared to previous years, which have seen one or two transfers. These juniors are Veronica Bacci Bonivento, Shelby Langtry, Kara Sharp, Hope Stillwell and Anna Svoboda-Stel. They are adapting to the new environment, modular scheduling, the campus, peers and teachers during the first few weeks of school.

Adjusting to a new school can be challenging as a junior. Many established their friend groups during freshman year, and the school is thoroughly familiar to the other students.

Through involvement in school activities, sports and clubs, however, these juniors have been coping with the transition. Despite struggles and the unfamiliarity of being new students at STA, the transfers have been managing to adjust.

Veronica Bacci Bonivento



Previous school: Francesco Algarotti, in Venice, Italy; is visiting through the American Field Service Intercultural Program

Bacci Bonivento misses the short school days in Venice, which end at 1p.m., but she likes both the social and learning environments at STA.

"The teachers here are better because they have a different relationship with the students," Bacci Bonivento said.

Shelby Langtry



Previous school: Shawnee Mission East High School

Though she left a lot behind at her old school, Langtry feels joining the STA softball team made the transition easier.

"I miss some of my friends," Langtry said. "But I like the atmosphere at STA better."

Hope Stillwell



Previous school: Shawnee Mission South High School

"The uniforms and not having to wear makeup everyday" as well as the STA dance team, instantly attracted Stillwell to STA.

"No one did their homework at Shawnee Mission South, but at STA, everyone does their homework," Stillwell said. "STA inspired me to get down to work."

Kara Sharp



Previous school: Notre Dame de Sion High School

Sharp both enjoys the convenience of STA and also her welcoming peers.

"At first I felt like a fish out of water and like a freshman all over again," Sharp said. "But everyone has been friendly and is excited to have me here."

Anna Svoboda-Stel



Previous school: Bishop Miege High School

Now at STA, Svoboda-Stel is able to attend French V courses off-campus at Rockhurst University, which is something she was unable to do at Miege.

"STA is harder and more challenging than Miege," Svoboda-Stel said. "Also, an all girls school is less distracting." ★

DARTBOARD

Students form MESH Club to incorporate diversity goals

Juniors Julia Barnett and Sydney Deatherage and senior Caroline Quinn recently organized Multicultural Education and Social Harmony (MESH) club. Barnett says she was inspired to create the club, which will be considered an extra-curricular like PB&J, after attending the Anytown camp this summer. She is working with president Nan Bone to incorporate goals of STA's diversity committee. MESH club hopes to sponsor minority recognition days and host guest speakers.

"We want people who do identify with minorities to feel comfortable and be able to express themselves," Barnett said.

The first MESH club meeting is next Wed. and is open to anyone.

Senior competes in bike race, rides two days through state

Senior Margaret Schneider rode in the 2-day National Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour Sept. 6 and 7 through central Missouri.

Schneider left the Raypec region around 8 a.m. Saturday and biked about 90 miles to Sedalia, racing for the St. Xavier Flying Fish team. She and her father camped out Saturday evening and returned to the Kansas City metropolitan area Sunday around 2 p.m.

To raise money for the ride, Schneider wrote letters to neighbors and parents' friends asking for sponsorship. She collected \$388 for the National MS Society.

The National MS Bike tour takes place every year in 100 different cities throughout the country. Schneider's father and brother have biked the tour previously, and Schneider said she felt it was her time to start. Depending on where she goes for college, she plans to participate in the event again.

"[The bike tour] was a way to turn my hobby into something that helps other people, not just myself," Schneider said.

Two from STA win NSPA award for *Dart, Teresian* photography

Alumna Teresian staffer Marian Nguyen and senior Dart staffer Jaime Henry-White both received honorable mention in the 2008 National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Picture of the Year contest. The NSPA announced the winners for the 2008 Picture of the Year on Tuesday. Nguyen's and Henry-White's photographs were winners in the feature photography category. They were two of the 36 selected student photographers out of 866 entries. The photographs were judged on technical quality, artistic value and journalistic content. Nguyen and Henry-White will be acknowledged at the semiannual NSPA convention in November.

"I feel really honored to even be recognized at a national level of high school journalism students," Henry-White said. "I love taking photos and to think that something I just did at the spur of the moment was so well done was liked at a national level is a great feeling."

Unitown tradition changes, expands focus

STA plans Unitown for faculty to spread diversity on campus

by MEGAN SCHAFF
Staff Writer

STA president Nan Bone and other administration members have begun developing Unitown, a program designed to increase diversity, for the faculty. The annual Unitown program at STA is currently only held for students, but the additional session would be designed for the staff.

The faculty Unitown, which will be in affect anywhere from 2009 to 2013, will expose the STA administration to discussions and events like the student program. Bone feels this is a great opportunity for the teachers to increase their views on diversity.

"It would be interesting for some of our teachers to experience

a Unitown and experience what the girls experience," Bone said.

The annual student Unitown event, which will be held Oct. 3 and 4, was brought to STA to combat stereotypes and increase diversity across campus. According to event leader and social studies teacher Craig Whitney, students involved with the program spend up to 30 hours discussing issues concerning racism, sexism, ageism, economic differences and superficial judgments to better understand the concepts of diversity and respect.

Student leader sophomore Katie McCalla says Unitown changed her perspective on life.

"Unitown helped me become a more accepting person," McCalla said. "It really taught me to have respect and a deeper understanding of people around me no matter what race, class or sexual orientation."

According to Bone, the Unitown program has been great for STA students and the next step is to



Listen Up ★ Senior Lauren Damico, left, listens as Mr. Craig Whitney discusses this year's plans for Unitown Thursday Sept. 4 in his room. The potential leaders discussed how many delegates should be in each family group and if they should invite students from other area schools. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

provide everyone at STA, including the administration, this option.

Bone says that the ultimate goal

is for STA as a whole to be more sensitive and aware of different cultures. ★

Tensions arise between Georgia, Russia

Two countries' clash over region causes worldwide concern

by MADALYNE BIRD
Staff Writer

Conflicts arose between the countries of Georgia and Russia Aug. 7 over the breakaway province of South Ossetia, which lies within the borders of Georgia. The tension began when Georgia, independent from the Soviet Union since 1991, commenced a military attack on South Ossetia in hopes of reclaiming it as one of its provinces, beginning a war within the former Soviet Union countries.

Soon after Georgia began attacked, Russia deployed tanks to its neighboring country in an effort for a counterattack to protect the Russian people living in the province. The clash ended Aug. 15 when Georgia's President Mikhail Saakashvili announced that he had signed an agreement with Russia to cease fire. Up until the agreement the US and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aided Georgia with military weaponry and training.

BBC News reported that the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev blamed the US for helping provoke the crisis.

"Unfortunately, at a certain point [the US] gave Saakashvili carte blanche [which means to give unrestricted power to act at one's own discretion] for any actions, including military," Medvedev said to a reporter for Italy's Rai television.

STA social studies teacher Denise Rueschhoff believes that the Russians didn't have good intentions when they went to assist South Ossetia.

"I think that Russia has been very aggressive and that this conflict for [Russia] has been more about economic and political issues rather than a regional issue because a large amount of the Russians' oil is provided by Georgia. I also think that the Soviets are not withdrawing from Georgia in a quick enough fashion," said Rueschhoff.

The *Kansas City Star* reported that although Russia has not fully withdrawn troops from Georgia, the warfare has ended between the two neighboring countries.

STA American history teacher Jack Garvin, however, stresses the importance of student awareness of this conflict.

"STA students need to be aware of what issues like these because they are the future leaders of tomorrow, and they need to be well informed of current world issues."

Due to the use of various sources all of the detailed information may not be covered thoroughly. ★



Colleges debate current drinking age



Drinking Debate ★ Private and public colleges are currently debating lowering the drinking age to 18 to ensure safety. PHOTO BY MCT CAMPUS

School deans urge changes in legal drinking age to limit alcohol abuse, poor choices

by LAUREN PASZKIEWICZ
Staff Writer

Last August, Middlebury College president, John McCardell enlisted about 100 college presidents in a national campaign calling for the drinking age to be reconsidered from age 21 to 18. Supporters included presidents of private universities such as Duke, Dartmouth, Johns Hopkins and public schools including the University of Maryland and Ohio State.

"The law only encourages binge drinking and pushes alcohol into the shadows," McCardell said to *The Providence Journal*.

A number of associations including Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the National Transportation Safety Board strongly disagree with McCardell and protest against his ideals.

MADD officials urge parents to think carefully about the safety of colleges whose presidents are involved in the protest.

If the debate over the present drinking age favors McCardell's argument, high schools around the nation would be faced with the consequence of seniors being able to drink legally. Regulating school functions could potentially become a concern.

"If the drinking age would change from 21 to 18, the rules for dances would not change," said Mr. Eric Thomas, Teresian dance moderator. "My reason for that is I don't think that there should be any alcohol present at school related events."

STA president of student affairs, Anne Hoecker also had similar opinions related to the debate.

"If the drinking age was changed the rules at STA would stay the same; we are not to allow high school students to drink whether its 18 or 21," Hoecker said. "However I think that those students who intend to drink will whether they are 21 or not."

STA Students Against Destructive Deci-

sions (SADD) club vice president, junior Anne Marie Whitehead agrees with McCardell's ideals that students at 18 should be responsible enough to make their own decisions regarding alcohol use.

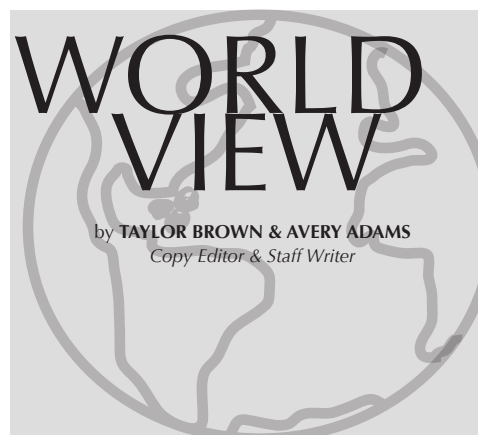
"If someone can die in a war for their country but not have a sip of beer while watching a game, it's kind of ridiculous," Whitehead said. "If people were respected as adults and could drink at the age of 18, they would probably be more responsible about it."

Although it can be assumed that most teens believe they are responsible drinkers, research shows otherwise.

According to *The Providence Journal*, research has estimated more than 500,000 students suffer injuries each year related in some way to drinking, and about 1,700 die in such accidents.

"What's logical and what is justice sometimes isn't what is safe," said Thomas.

Although the result of the drinking age debate remains unclear, opinion polls suggest that most Americans approve of the current drinking age. ★



Violence breaks out in Bolivia

A wave of political violence due to Bolivian President Evo Morales' social reforms has taken at least 30 lives since Sept. 12. Morales arranged talks with one of four rebel governors opposing his reorganization in hopes of stopping the violence, but protests continue. Monday, army took control of Cobija, the capital of northern Bolivian state of Pando, to manage violence and clashes between rebel groups seeking an autonomic government. Meanwhile, Morales is planning to discuss tax issues concerning oil, Bolivia's greatest source of revenue, and propose amendments regarding regional autonomy, according to "Yahoo! News." ★

Ike strikes in southern Texas

Atlantic hurricane Ike hit Cuba and southern US coasts beginning Sept. 8. As of Monday, the death toll of the hurricane rose to 30 in eight states leaving a trail of flooding and other damage. Due to its 110 mph winds and pounding waves, Ike left thousands of people in coastal areas without electricity, gas, transportation and communications. Along with this damage, the storm destroyed at least 10 oil production platforms. However, it is unknown how seriously it would affect gas and oil prices. It will be at least four weeks until officials restore power to those affected areas. ★

Soccer match results in riot

A U.N. funded radio station, Radio Okapi, broadcasted Monday that 13 people were killed during a riot at a soccer game in Butembo in eastern Congo's North Kivu province. Accusations that a player on one of the teams used witchcraft during the match caused the riot. The victims, mostly teenagers, suffocated as spectators rushed for the exits, trampling them. Teens protested the streets of Butembo Monday, and the governor, Julien Mpaluku, saw the injured in the hospitals. Mpaluku stated that the government was investigating, and that his officers had fired their rifles into the air to calm the crowd, but that only sparked the crowds' violent rush to the exits. ★

Drinking Age

Places 21st Birthday on Pedestal

Underage drinking occurs among students at every high school across the US, and STA is no exception. To counteract the consequences of this behavior, special interest groups have lobbied to turn back time and make 18 the legal age for alcohol consumption. Some initiatives receive their fifteen minutes of fame, but the most recent push to lower the drinking age has received heavy national attention. More than 100 legitimate college presidents have come forward to support the change, leaving politicians, students and parents alike pondering why the age should change.

First it is essential to discuss the significance of being 18. Most importantly, when a person turns 18, she is considered an autonomous adult by law. Most 18 year olds are expected to move out of their parents' house, get a job and pay their own bills. As an adult, she is now held completely responsible for her own actions. This new status also offers more options for how a person can live her life – she can now participate in her government, get married, join the army and purchase cigarettes. With all of these rights and privileges, she still cannot have a glass of wine at a restaurant. There's something wrong with a system that allows a person to put her life on the line in a foreign land or slowly rot her lungs away and die from glaucoma, but won't allow a legal adult to enjoy alcohol responsibly.

Whether activists support or oppose lowering the drinking age, almost everyone agrees the problem of binge drinking and drunk driving needs to be solved. Lowering the drinking age would take much high school drinking out of hiding. If students are able to drink legally, they are more likely to feel comfortable calling parents for rides when they're too intoxicated to drive. Young people wouldn't be so afraid of the repercussions of drinking, so they may be more likely to drink at home or in other safe environments. In a survey administered by STA's Student Task Force last year, 42 percent of STA students said they drink alcohol once a month or more. If drinking were not seen as such a forbidden act, these numbers would undoubtedly sink. American culture places the 21st birthday on a pedestal. People wait years to go to a club, have their first legal drink and get hammered. There are even entire movies about this act. Aren't we placing a little too much emphasis on a beverage? If we could reframe our culture to show drinking as a luxury, and not a sport, not only would drunk driving and binge statistics go down, but alcoholism would, too. We cannot continue to use the image of a beer in one hand

and cigarette in the other as the symbol of adulthood. By changing the drinking age to 18 and therefore informing teens earlier of how to drink properly, a lot of the glamour and unobtainable desire behind drinking is obliterated. Countries like Canada, with a lower drinking age, can attest – in 1995, an estimated 6,507 people died due to alcohol consumption (mostly from drunk driving). In 1996 in the US, an estimated 110,640 people died for similar reasons. While cultural differences and population of course play into this vast difference, it's difficult to believe that Canada's lower drinking age and actions to make their youth responsible drinkers has nothing to do with the disparity.

There's no denying the facts – according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the “proportion of drivers 16-20 years of age who were involved in fatal crashes, and were intoxicated, dropped 33 percent” from 1988 to 1998, but this decrease in drinking and driving is the result of many factors, not only the higher drinking age. For one, drunk driving education has increased dramatically in the past two decades. At almost every public high school, there are seminars and even classes devoted to making smart decisions. At STA, many class meetings surround the topic and we take the day before prom, encouraging a select group for students to remain silent to show the stories of people killed in drunk driving accidents, to serve as a visual reminder of what impaired driving does. Even if cynics dismiss it, this education isn't going totally down the drain; the images and stories stick with teenagers. In addition, drunk driving is on the decline because of improved seat belt usage, the presence of airbags in every car in the past 20 years, safer cars and bars' recent trend of providing free taxi services. While it may be more convenient to attribute the lower statistics to the heightened drinking age, the change has more to do with exposure to the issue and developments to stop it in its tracks.

No matter how hard people push, though, the drinking age will probably not change, at least anytime soon. Parents, teachers and the general public expect 18-year-olds to act like adults, but don't allow them to be to the full extent. Since changing the legal drinking age to 18 is probably not at the top of Congress's policy agenda, families and media should instead reframe American culture at its core. We need to look at alcohol in a new way – as a beverage that can be enjoyed with friends and family, not a beverage required for fun. Let's stop putting alcohol on a hill, and focus on teaching teenagers how to be responsible adults. ★

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

30 seconds with ...



Veronica Bacci Bonivento

Compiled by Rosie Hodes

- Q** What is your favorite thing about America?
A The people.
- Q** What do you miss the most about Italy?
A The people [laughs].
- Q** How is America different from Italy?
A The school is different. The streets are different. The landscape.
- Q** What is your favorite class at STA so far?
A American Literature



“I actually had an experience with it today... I had to move my appointment for next Wednesday so I have to leave at 7:8 and come back at the end of lunch...I was mad. It's ridiculous.”
 - Mandi Morrow, sophomore



“It won't affect me because I usually don't get to school late, or I usually have a note.”
 - Emily Orndoff, senior

Say WHAT?

How will the new tardy policy affect you?

“Any student arriving after 7:46 a.m. is considered tardy and checks in at the main office...At the tenth tardy and each subsequent tardy students serve a detention. Tardies are part of a student's permanent record. Students who arrive after 8:30 a.m. are marked one-half day absent. Students who leave before 2:20 p.m. are marked one-half day absent,” as stated in the STA handbook.

“It will make students more aware of time management. But it depends because students that don't care about detentions will still show up late. It depends on the person.”
 - Hillary Johnson, junior



“I think that is a strange and really silly idea. Where did that come from? I don't plan on being absent ten times.”
 - Sadie McCue, junior



Three classes, three titles, only one difference

AN OPINION BY



ELIZABETH WILSON

Soon, no one will be taking the more challenging courses, and rightfully so. Unintentionally (or intentionally?), the administration at STA has created an atmosphere in which freshmen and sophomore students are punished for challenging themselves to take more difficult courses.

Although accelerated and honors classes both have prerequisites, move at a quicker pace and cover more material than regular classes, the administration has slyly replaced the word "honors," which means a privilege or special right, for the word "accelerated," which means to move more quickly.

Or, let's put it this way: in freshmen and sophomore level courses, a class in which an A+ is a 5.0 has been replaced by: "Congratulations, you've done more work for no extra credit!"

Freshmen and sophomore students challenge themselves to take a more difficult course but the rewards are the same for taking the less challenging course. They risk lowering their grade point averages, and even making first honors when they could get the easy "A" in the general courses. No one wants to do more work when less work will earn the same credit.

It could be argued that students should want to push themselves. It could also be argued that STA is a college preparatory school. It could even be argued that it should be about the joys of learning, not credit and rewards.

However, students need incentive.

No one wants a 3.0 in all accelerated classes when she could be getting a 4.3 in regular classes. No one wants to jeopardize getting into a good college just because she wanted to "challenge" herself. And most certainly, no one wants to read more books or do a year-long National History Day project when she could do a month-long, do-it-the-night-before Cultural Connections Convention project. No one.

It's time to make a change and to reward those students who do more work with the credit they deserve. ★

Freshmen memories help to relax my senior sadness

AN OPINION BY



HALEY VONDEMKAMP

Elbow to elbow, we crane our necks to snag a few square inches of precious mirror space. We primp like we've never primped before; overzealously applying coat after coat of CoverGirl and Clinique, which now dirties the cluttered countertop.

As our trusty flat irons heat, we

democratically choose from skirts, halters, capris and polos. The cast-offs are dismissed into a hefty heap, to be returned...eventually.

The occasion? Every Kansas City 14-year-old's initiation into high school's social abyss: Rockhurst High School's annual Blue and White Mixer.

Fast forward three years. Although we would arrive to this large-scale dance party sans parent chauffeurs and without Abercrombie outfits, some things haven't changed since we were freshmen. Inevitably, I'm now a seasoned senior. And, especially in attending an event so trademark of my high school experience, I can't help but dwell on the fact that every dance, every game, every advisory party I go to from

now on is my last.

Blue and White was just one of the firsts of the lasts to come. It's only September and already I've snored through my last orientation, prepped for my last first day of school, decorated my last first semester schedule, posed for my last school picture and fought for the wall during my last back-to-school mass.

My fear is I'll allow the finality of each event to overwhelm the moments themselves. At this point, the fact that I may have just recently competed in my final game of quad red rover is enough to send me into hysterics. While most people like to refer to me as dramatic, I prefer "emotionally animated." Regardless, I can't let the fact I'm maybe a little too sentimental smother me during

my senior year. If I get too caught up in what graduation will bring, my time leading up to it could potentially be time wasted.

Even if it takes scanning through embarrassing photos, recounting and reflecting on all the happenings of freshman year will emphasize how long I've been in high school. My hope is, that in reminiscing on all the memories I've made at STA, I'll be able to more easily cope with leaving it. I'll begin to realize how much has happened and how much I've changed throughout my years here, and that maybe, in affect, it's time to go. I will stop fearing post-STA life and face the inevitable truth of what May will bring. And, I hope, I'll eventually come to fully enjoy all the "lasts" the Academy has to offer. ★



CARTOON BY AVERY ADAMS

Put your hand on your heart if you can say the pledge from start to finish

AN OPINION BY



KAYLA LOOSEN

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America..."

Okay, here is the part where I start hearing fake coughs and mumbled words of adults and teenagers in an attempt to conceal their lack of Pledge of Allegiance knowledge.

It reminds me of how I feel when the entire congregation recites the same Nicene Creed every Sunday at Mass. Even though I've heard it at every service of my life, I still haven't managed to memorize it. During this lengthy prayer, a person can typically catch me pretending I found something fascinating in my pew's hymnal. I make "ohh" and "ahh" faces as if I'm super intrigued by my finding and just too preoccupied to tear myself away and say the creed with everyone else. My fellow parishioners have yet to question my performance; it's quite the art.

However, it has trained me to see right through those of you who have forgotten the country's Pledge of Allegiance. You don't fool me when you "accidentally" drop a pencil on the last half of the pledge. I know exactly what you're up to, and feel no shame. It's not your fault you forgot the words; we're just never asked to say it anymore.

Not only have high school students forgotten

the words, but so have our parents and other peers. Once I saw a late-night comedy segment hit the streets asking people to recite the pledge. Barely half of the people asked could actually recite it perfectly, while I sat back and laughed at my television screen. "Idiots," I thought.

But how well do I and the rest of my peers actually know the country's Pledge of Allegiance?

It seems as if St. Teresa's Academy has accidentally lost touch with the patriotic value for which the pledge stands. Our midday announcements are bombarded with important reminders for the next school function, class meeting or big sporting event. Our high school lives have become so fast-paced that it's no wonder the country's Pledge of Allegiance has been overshadowed and entirely expelled from our STA agenda.

It wasn't always like this though.

Each day in grade school, when the morning bell rang, every student was standing tall with

hands across his or her heart, facing the American flag and reciting the pledge. It became so monotonous that by the end of a school year, the class could have delivered the pledge backwards. The downside to this was that it lost much of its sentimental and historic value because it became merely another empty morning ritual. If it was said once a week, or at least on national holidays, students and myself could be reminded that the pledge is an oath of loyalty we can offer to the country. Clearly, at the high school level our days are busy, tiring and stressful, but by delivering the 20-second, single sentence Pledge of Allegiance together just once a week we have the opportunity to unite as students and a nation.

As a student body we have our differences, whether they be religious or political, but we should all offer some respect to the country that has sheltered and provided for us our whole lives—even if it's only a sentence's worth. ★

Palin pick for VP not progress for women; McCain profits

AN OPINION BY



SYDNEY DEATHERAGE

The idea that Republican vice-presidential running mate Sarah Palin is a model for feminism is a contradiction in short. The idea that the Alaskan governor should even credit her new position in the spotlight to her skill as an ambitious, hard-working woman, sadly enough, is just absurd. Gov. Sarah Palin, a woman, is being exploited in order to persuade the public to elect Sen. John McCain, a man, into office.

Let's fit some puzzle pieces together. First, the Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama couldn't be more appealing to a broader constituency: the working class, minorities, the young, Democrats at large. His strong rhetoric, clean political and personal record and handsome face add to his appeal. The selection of 35-year Delaware Sen. Joe Biden as his running mate only solidified his position more, as Biden is an important figure in foreign policy and a long time Washington veteran.

Second, the Republican party is facing eight years of the most unpopular presidency in history, along with Obama's persuasive message of change. What Republicans need to secure the Oval Office is a face to convince the people to vote Republican; a face that appeals to many of the same voting blocs that Obama does. That face is Palin.

So what makes Palin the Republican star? Palin is, most importantly, a woman, which balances with Obama's status as a racial minority. However, she is also relatively



Palin's a Pal ★ Republican Vice Presidential candidate and Alaskan Gov. Sarah Palin appeals to a crowd at a campaign stop in Cedarburg, Wisconsin on Sept. 5. Palin has brought popularity to McCain's campaign since he selected her as his running mate. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

young, attractive and an adept speaker - all traits that place her in the Republican spotlight.

According to Time.com, in the week after McCain's announcement of Palin as his running mate, internet searches with her name jumped to four times that of Obama and eight times that of McCain. More conclusively the top 10 searches in relation to "Sarah Palin" were, in order, "Vogue Magazine," "Photos," "Beauty pageant," "Bio," "Biography," "Pictures," "Scandal," "Alaska Governor," and "Hot." Not exactly typical searches one would expect to see for a vice-presidential candidate. I suppose, however, that

since Palin is a woman, her physical characteristics and accomplishments must be more important to the public than her intelligence and political track record.

I'm a feminist to the core, and that is why I refuse to believe that Palin's status on the Republican presidential ticket is any sort of progress for women. More descriptively, it's a sham. The fact that Palin is a woman is what placed her on the track to the White House, not her qualifications or values. In any case, any values she does hold are completely against traditional feminism - Palin is extremely right wing in regards to reproductive rights. She opposes

abortion in all cases including incest and rape, unless the mother is endangered; she opposes emergency contraceptive and birth control and supports abstinence-only education.

Though she has a strong record, Palin's status as an attractive woman is what is pushing McCain ever closer to the presidency. How is that progress for women? And how are women buying into this PR stunt? According to the *Washington Post*, since Palin has been chosen as McCain's running mate, there has been a significant shift amongst white women toward McCain.

The Palin ordeal is completely contradictory to feminism.

John McCain is using Palin in order to obtain the presidency, objectifying her and devaluing feminism. It's pathetic to me that the first time a woman has a spot on the presidential ticket, their success has to be altered for the male benefit. I have respect for Palin; I may disagree with her policies but at least she carries them out according to her party and to her values. So for her to be exploited by McCain to gain power for himself disgusts me. How dare anyone say women have equal footing with men in America, when on the highest level of leadership and accomplishment, the presidency, women are still subjugated to men? ★

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STA teacher plays waiting game

Ms. Lucila Bernal's expired visa stops her from coming home

by MORGAN SAID
Staff writer

While most STA students and teachers prepared for the first day of school by gathering their summer homework and lesson plans, Spanish II and IV teacher Lucila Bernal-Estudillo was more concerned about re-entering the country in time to hear the first school bell ring. Bernal has been stuck in Mexico since early June, due to an expired visa.

"[Bernal] has an H-1B visa, a work visa good for six years," Principal for Academic Affairs, Nancy Hand said. "Right now she's in the process of petitioning for a permanent residency visa. The paperwork is completed, now it's under review by the government while we wait."

Standing in for Bernal during her absence is Ms. Melissa Axton. Although her substitute position was configured in a week's time, choosing the right teacher wasn't an easy choice, according to Hand.

"We just assumed Ms. Bernal was returning until a week prior to school," Hand said. "It's go-

ing to be okay, it's going to be okay,' we kept saying...Suddenly, it wasn't okay and we needed a teacher."

Although she has only exchanged a few emails with Bernal, Axton has been able to comprise lesson plans with fellow Spanish teacher Ann Ramsey. "The environment is great," Axton said. "The students are great and I love their energy and enthusiasm to learn."

Even though Axton's presence has been an adjustment, Bernal, unavailable for comment, is dealing with adjustments of her own in Mexico, according to Hand. "The return process is just a slow process," Hand said. "The United States has to be cautious. We know [Bernal]...she's not a threat or danger, but it's just a justice policy."

Spanish teacher Julia Gargallo has a slightly different opinion of the foreign policy.

"Everyone in the country should think about the immigration issue and how wrong it is," Gargallo said. "[These problems] happen to good people. It took my mother four years to get her green card, even though I'm her only daughter and I'm an American citizen."

Axton agrees that there are flaws worth reconsidering in the system.

"I respect the country's immigration laws," Axton said. "How-



MIA ★ Spanish teacher Lucila Bernal's mailbox remains vacant, collecting dust in the teachers' lounge. Bernal has been absent from STA this school year, because she has been stuck in Mexico since early June, due to an expired visa as she waits for the government to review her paperwork petitioning for a permanent residency visa. **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

ever, some should be more realistic. If [the government] designs it in an easier way, there will be less illegal citizens." Until Bernal arrives back home, Ax-

ton will continue to teach in Bernal's place.

"I think that Axton has made the transition [to STA] very easily," Hand

said. "The girls have adjusted and are very hospitable. We've been blessed, although Bernal's homesick and we're homesick for her." ★

STA welcomes new teachers

compiled by **Kylie Hornbeck**
News Editor

Ms. Jeanella Clark



She said: "I grew up Catholic and a couple of my aunts came to STA, so when I saw an ad in the paper for a math teacher, I knew what I wanted to do, and I was excited to be interviewed."

Classes: Geometry and Selected Algebra II Topics
Education: Arizona State University undergraduate
Experience: Two years at Dothan, AL middle school and Dothan Technology Center (High school)

Ms. Ann Ramsey



She said: "The best way I can explain it is that this is a school that has a soul. There are many activities made for us to search ourselves."
Classes: Spanish I and Spanish II
Education: Kansas University un-

dergraduate, Mid America Nazarene University masters
Experience: (YEARS) Leawood Middle School, Indian Trail Junior High, Bonner Springs High School

Mr. Stephen Himes



He said: "I like the fact that the students take their studies seriously but don't take themselves too seriously. There's a good combination of academics without being too stuffy."
Teaches: Sophomore Accelerated

World Literature, Sophomore World Literature
Education: Drury University undergraduate, Kansas University Law School
Experience: Six years in Excelsior Springs Public School District

Ms. Dianne Hirner



She said: "I love [teaching at STA]. I can't imagine teaching anywhere else. The students are a big part of it. I like modular scheduling and I love the single sex environment. I'm glad to be back."

Classes: Senior Writing
Education: St. Louis University undergraduate, University of Missouri at Kansas City masters
Experience: Eight years at STA (1994-2002)

Mr. Kelly Fast



He said: "I think the students [at STA] are great. They're very kind and respectful and studious and energetic."
Experience: Ten years at Shawnee Mission East High School and three years spent in Puerto Rico, Washington DC and Bos-

ton, MA
Teaches: Junior AP American Language, Junior American Literature, Senior Drama and Film, Senior Contemporary Literature
Education: Kansas University undergraduate, Boston College masters

Ms. Carrie Jacquin



She said: "I like that [STA's] community is so close knit. Everybody here is so nice. The teachers, students and administration are all very helpful; it's a very positive atmosphere. I love it here."

Teaches: Freshman English I
Education: University of Missouri undergraduate, Rockhurst University masters
Experience: Four years in Aurora, CO Public School District

True Religion: Faith pushes toward peace

Junior Kat Wiens, a Mennonite, follows church's pacifism

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

A student approaches junior Kat Wiens and asks her what a Mennonite is. Kat isn't surprised and responds with "Do you know what an Amish is?" The other girl's face shows a mixture of surprise and confusion and says, "What, you mean a pilgrim?" Kat is used to such questions and this confusion is a common occurrence at STA, a community mainly of Catholics.

Kat believes in the Mennonite religion and believes her main goal in being a Mennonite is to live simply the way Jesus did.

"[Mennonites are] just very different in the way we take life to be," Kat said. "We take life to be that you have to live simply but not give up everything. It cut out most of the really big conflicts because most things that people have problems with are 'Oh I want this' or 'I want that' and the Mennonites say 'You don't need everything.'"

According to Mennonite Church USA, Mennonites share many beliefs with other Christian religions. Mennonites believe "Jesus is the full embodiment of God's love, sent to bring reconciliation to a broken world" and "God offers grace and forgiveness to humankind based on genuine faith instead of goodness".

Mennonites are a denomination of Christian Antabaptists. They do not baptize their children until the children are old enough to make their own decision. Non-violence and pacifism are large components of the Mennonite belief system.

More conservative Mennonites attempt to live very simply, often without cars or electricity. This is the branch of Mennonites that many people associate with the Amish or call "pilgrims." Because this way of life is so unfamiliar, yet a part of her religion's history, Kat has always been interested in this way of living. Many modern Mennonites do not live this way, but Kat sees many benefits of this simplicity, especially to live as Jesus did.

True Religion is a three-part series about students who practice religions unique to STA.



Quiet Time ★ Katie Wiens works on her geometry homework in the library during mods 9/10 last Friday. Though she attends a Catholic school, Wiens believes in the peaceful nature of Mennonites. **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

"It took my parents the longest time to get me to decide to drive a car," Kat said. "I have my permit, I just got it. I don't want to drive. I see no use to it. My mom drives me. I don't see a use in a car, I'd rather use a horse and buggy because the horse can be one speed with that buggy but with a car you don't know what speed it's going to go."

Theology teacher Betsy Hansbrough, who has had much contact with Mennonites and reads extensively on the religion, believes this pacifism to be one of the most drawing elements of the religion, as well as connections to Catholicism.

"I've always been intrigued by the peaceful nature of the Mennonites and how they pass that on," Hansbrough said. "They have a very strong peace and justice component. This is also a part of Catholic social justice. [For them] you must live simply so that others must simply live. Sometimes our excess prevents others from eating."

Kat and her freshman sister, Liz, have been going to Catholic school for most of their education. Their mother, Ms. Cindy Wiens, chose a school purely on academics, regardless of the religious affiliation. When the girls decided to attend STA, Cindy believed STA's environment was a healthy place for them.

"[STA] is a Catholic school but it does support spirituality and growth and that's what I like for [Kat and Liz]," Cindy said. Cindy also believes the theology classes to be healthy for the girls' overall education and growth.

"I think everybody should study a religion that is not their own because I think that it makes them more accepting of other people and other people's beliefs," Cindy said. "When people ask Kat questions about [being a] Mennonite and Kat answers them... It helps her understand her religion better."

Hansbrough also sees the peace and justice aspect of the Mennonite faith as being a similarity with the Catholic ideal.

"You have to renounce the sword which means nonviolence and pacifism is in the nature of being [as a Mennonite]," Hansbrough said.

Kat strongly believes in this pacifistic nature. She lets the teachings of peace guide her in her daily life, specifically the way she sees conflict.

"Mennonites tend to be more peaceful and they have a more peaceful way at looking at the world," Kat said. "I don't believe in war at all... [Being Mennonite] affects the way I see things and my worldviews. When people are talking about war and when we fight people... [we] have to talk and work it out." ★

Mennonite Beliefs



- Most Mennonites live modernly and many congregations are now forming in large cities and urban areas.
- Mennonites believe that Jesus revealed a way for people to live peacefully and nonviolently.
- Mennonites believe in giving ultimate loyalty to God rather than to the nations in which they live, or to the military.
- Mennonites aspire to follow the example and words of Jesus Christ in everyday life, including service to people in need.

Information gathered from *Third Way Café*, a website formed by Mennonite Media

AT A GLANCE

by **HALEY VONDEMKAMP**
Lifestyles Editor

This series captures the significance behind the moments, places, and people that may otherwise go unnoticed. Each story is told in 300 words; no more, and no less. The narrative is modeled off of Brady Dennis's original 300 word series.

Lost Cause

The little brown room over the garage. Now labeled a "sophisticated study," it was once a haven for trashy television shows, Lifetime movies, and nighttime gossip. The single feather bed piled high with hot pink pillows and fleece blankets has since been swapped for a serious oak desk and two rigid armchairs. They used to call it their little room.

The room changed around the time Lily left. For Kathleen, it cements her absence with a sense of replacement.

In the Hough family of four girls, Kathleen and Lily are wedged in the middle. They're

the most alike with the same obscure obsessions and eccentric sense of humor. Down to their lanky limbs and smooth blonde ponytails, they're two of a kind.

Now miles away at the University of Notre Dame, Lily leaves Kathleen void of a week night study buddy, without a music blaring chauffeur, and sans comic relief amidst parental punishment.

Now miles away at Notre Dame, Lily leaves her to cope with seldom text messages and sporadic phone calls.

Lily leaves her without a sister at STA, and without a friend at home.

The long-distance chats never end with a "goodbye;" too much finality. It's always just

"see ya later."

"I miss you"s are exchanged, but never without a hint of sarcasm, trademark of the sisters. To the girls, the real feeling is just implied.

When October finally arrives, Lily will come home. Kathleen will regain her partner in crime, her confidant, her closest sister, if only for two weeks. With the relief of her renewed presence will come the inevitable dread of another departure. The missing, the wishing, the reminiscing; this time Kathleen knows the feeling.

In the meantime Kathleen hates the little room. But sometimes she thinks it's better this way: just one less reminder. ★

Be a sport!

Fall is a season of change. For STA athletes, it's goodbye to late nights and lazy summer days, and hello to strict schedules, and rigid diets unique to each sport. Relationships, activities, and techniques trademark to the various teams also contribute to the differing lifestyles of each athlete.

Softball

Practices: 3:30-5:30 p.m. every day after school at STA field (weekends off)

Routine: warm up, talk about objectives, previous game, and strategy, run various drills

Competition: One game scheduled randomly during week; they usually go very late.

Diet: Hydration is important.

Effects on lifestyles: "It's tough to make time for homework, especially with the games," junior Stacy Hymer said. "I usually don't come home until 9 or 11 p.m. I can't have a job because it would be too hard. I lose family time; I always miss dinner."

Golf

Practices: 3:30-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at Blue River Golf Club (located in Swope Park)

Routine: Nine holes of golf, hit balls on the range, talk about rules, putt on the green, use the balance ball in the weight room.

Competition: Approximately once a week after school in a 9 hole golf tournament in KC Metro area against neighboring schools.

Diet: Try to hydrate, but relatively loose diet. "We have chocolate milkshake par-

ties every Friday and Garvin gives us each our own bag of popcorn," said JV golfer. Holly Haywood.

Effects on lifestyles: "It cuts into homework time, but it actually keeps me more focused," said varsity golfer Casey O'Flaherty. "Also it keeps me closer with my Dad since I play golf with him."

Misc.: Girls listen to classical music on the drive to each tournament to get themselves mentally prepared. "It takes more mental preparation than other sports," Haywood said.

Tennis

Practices: 3:30-5 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Plaza courts

Routine: Run around complex, stretch, go through training session (different stations: jump ropes, abs, lunges, line runs), run drills

Competition: One match randomly during school week (about 3:30 or 4 p.m.)

Diet: Hydration is important, the players try to eat healthy (fruits, veggies, protein); "The girls were eating lots of bagels and cream cheese," assistant coach Lana Krause

said. "We tried to steer them away from that."

Effects on lifestyles: "By playing tennis I've learned to control my temper and manage my time better," varsity player Caroline Farchmin said.

Coach's stance: "Tennis is enjoyable because it is good exercise and you have to use your head," Krause said. "A lot of strategy is involved."

Misc.: Girls have team dinners about every other week. They warm up together and play music from their iPod's.

Volleyball

Practices: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in the STA gym

Routine: Players do push-ups, sit-ups, drills, run lines, and scrimmage.

Competition: One match scheduled randomly during week; sometimes there are tournaments on weekends

Diet: Hydration is important. Dietary habits are not as strict; players just make sure to get enough food

Effects on lifestyles: "I'm always staying after school," said varsity vol-

leyball player Kelsie Fiss.

"Also tournaments are all day, but its fun because you spend time with the girls on the team."

Relationships: "It's a true team sport," Fiss said. "Everyone has to know what's going on and work hard. It's like a well-oiled machine; everyone has to work hard for it to work properly."

Misc.: Team warms up to pump up music before games and practices.

Their current favorite band is 3oh13 "

Cross Country

Practices: 3:30-5:30 p.m. six days a week and Saturdays at 8 a.m., start from school and run in the Brookside, Plaza, and Waldo area

Routine: Precise scheduling: Mondays- 5-8 miles, Tuesdays- hill workouts, Wednesdays- 3-6 miles, Thursdays- speed workouts, Fridays- short runs with accelerations, prep for Saturday's race

Competition: Meets usually on Saturday mornings, but sometimes after school. Races are 3.1 miles long.

Diet/Habits: Very strict. No coffee,

energy drinks, soda, alcohol, etc. Hydration is very important. "About 2/3 of what the girls eat should be carbohydrates," coach Karen Moran Redlich said. "Also, they should be trying to get eight hours of sleep a night."

Effects on lifestyles: "Injuries are definitely common in this sport," senior Molly Fakoury said. "I have been to a physical therapist for stress fractures and shin splints."

Misc.: Team pasta parties on Friday nights to load up on carbohydrates for the upcoming race.

Compiled by Caroline Thompson

Sink or swim: truth behind water bottles

Water bottle plastic may be dangerous for frequent drinkers

by TAYLOR IRWIN
Staff writer

It's the beginning of a new school year and the flights of stairs in both the Donnelly and M&A building are as intimidating as ever. Walking from floor to floor and across the quad carrying a heavy backpack can work up a thirst. Sinking into their chairs as the bell rings, students take long gulps from their water bottles. What they may not know is that harmful bacteria could be floating in their drinking water.

"I've heard rumors about the dangers of Nalgene water bottles," junior Anna Gigliotti said. "But I never really thought about it. I always use them because they hold more water for [Dance Team] practice. Plus everyone knows the store bought water bottles are bad for the environment."

The dangers are these: the plastic used in Nalgene bottles have been linked to infertility, precancerous lesions in breast tissue, and other hormonal disruptions by releasing a dangerous chemical known as

BPA. Studies have shown disposable water bottles can be harmful as well; for health reasons as well as environmental.

Knowing all this, which water bottle is better to use? With STA's rule that prohibits the use of non-clear water bottles, the aluminum bottle is ruled out, though they're proven to be a better option for safety and environmental reasons.

"I think the health aspects need to be investigated when it comes to water bottles," president Nan Bone said. "But personally I think that the backpacks [students] carry are worse. From what I know, the damaging effects of Nalgenes and plastic bottles show up only after a huge amount of exposure. Plus, the plastic ones are meant to be disposable."

The store bought plastic bottles, if left unwashed, can hold many harmful bacteria. From germs found in saliva and food particles to fecal matter from unwashed hands, all can be unsafe if continually put into your system. Also, the waste these bottles create is a huge part of the world's trash problem. Though recyclable, it takes up to six months to break down and reuse the parts of an individual disposable bottle.

"In a perfect world we could allow the aluminum bottles," P.E. and Health teacher Ann Bode-Ro-

driguez said. "But unfortunately there's always someone out there who would take advantage of it. Though I do believe that with the dangers of the Nalgene bottles, it seems [to me] the effects would show up after years of use, and if washed, athletes and students shouldn't have a problem."

Bode and Bone are right, although BPA is dangerous, it's only harmful in large doses. With that knowledge, the amount the Nalgenes release isn't something to overstress if the bottle is washed regularly.

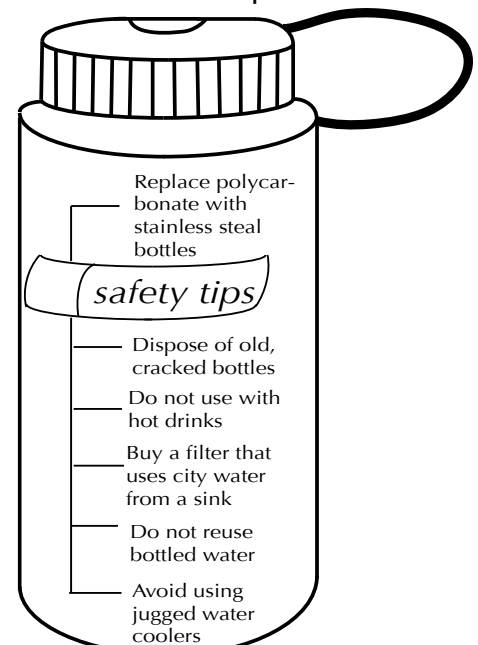
The Nalgene controversy occurred in Vancouver, Canada in December of last year when Mountain Equipment Co-op decided to pull all Nalgenes from their shelves because of the harmful BPA chemical based plastic the bottles are made of.

The plastic in disposables isn't built to last, especially through multiple cycles in the dishwasher, and eventually create more trash for our already full landfills. Also, they can be just as harmful as a Nalgene if left unwashed for a long period of time.

"If it becomes a serious health issue, we'll consider changing the non-clear water bottle rule," Bone said. "But as of right now, it doesn't seem too serious."★

Ways to Beat BPA

Plastic water bottles made of polycarbonate can leach Bisphenol A (BPA) which may lead to breast cancer, early puberty and have effects on babies who feed from plastic bottles.



Plaid to Rad

Who said Back-to-School fashion couldn't be fun for uniformed students too? With the oncoming of the new school year, STA students have found lots of ways to spice up their tartan plaid. Here are five trends the girls of the Academy brought with them to campus this Fall.

"The preppy look's coming back and [topsiders] are really comfortable too." - sophomore, Samantha Scheuler



topsiders

as worn by sophomores Catherine Arensburg (above) and Samantha Scheuler

- Sperry brand
- about \$75
- Nordstrom, Off Broadway, other shoe retailers



head scarves

as worn by sophomore Lauren Christian

- about \$10
- Urban Outfitters

"[My glasses] make me look smarter." -senior, Anna Franke

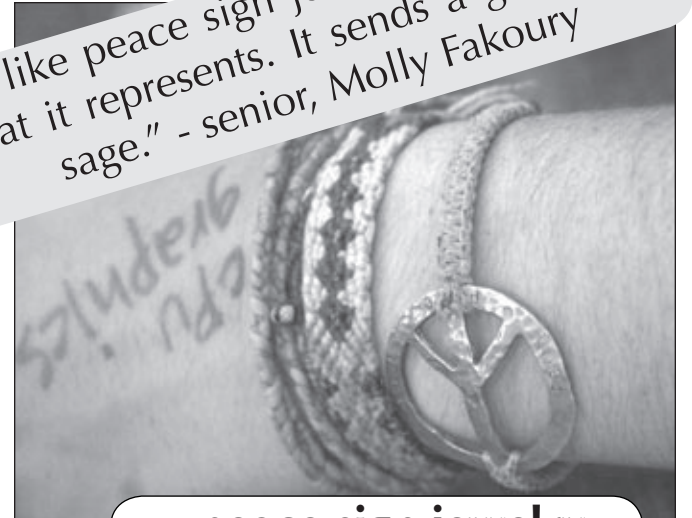


thick-framed glasses

as worn by senior Anna Franke

- Tommy Hilfiger brand
- about \$150

"I like peace sign jewelry because of what it represents. It sends a good message." - senior, Molly Fakoury



peace sign jewelry

as worn by senior Molly Fakoury

- about \$6
- Claire's



printed backpacks

as worn by junior Veronica Bacci Bonviento

- Trans by Jansport brand
- about \$30
- Target

Community gathers to clean campus

by CAROLINE QUINN
Editor-in-Chief

Sophomore Casey Miller planned to practice driving with her sister, junior Jordan Miller, in the STA parking lot Aug. 30. As the students passed the main parking lot, Casey spotted darkened faces on the school's statue.

"I saw Joseph's statue was all messed up," Casey said. "Jordan didn't believe me, so we turned around and then she saw the orange and green [images] on Donnelly [Hall]."

These orange and green illustrations featured stenciled images of bombs and airplanes, a theme carried throughout the graffiti on campus. The religious statue was tainted with spray paint around the eyes to make the figures look as if they were crying black tears. The perpetrators also spray painted fake bloodied handprints near the steps of the M&A Building and covered the quad with the phrase "What elephant?"

Jordan called junior Ellie Hart and Ms. Amy Hart, an STA alumna, contacted principal of academic affairs Nancy Hand. Amy informed Hand of the vandalism, believed to have occurred sometime early Saturday, and Hand immediately called the Kansas City Police Department. Later on Saturday, Hand met with the Millers, Harts, junior Sarah Kindscher and officers from the KCPD. The group surveyed the damage and filed a criminal report.

On Monday morning, president Nan Bone took her first walk of the littered campus.

"We looked at every place," Bone said. "Mrs. Hand took pictures of the graffiti. Our focus was getting it cleaned up, though."

According to Bone, the administration and police looked at the Kansas City Plaza Library, one site where bystanders found graffiti of similar content. The administration hoped they could review the library's security camera tapes, believing the same people committed the vandalism in both areas. Police also received reports of related destruction at Loose Park, Visitation Parish and the Kansas City Board of Trade.

"From what [the police] saw on tape, they identified the suspects as male," Bone said. "We're not sure of their age; it's hard to tell because they were wearing costumes and wigs. Supposedly one was wearing a tuxedo top and shorts."

Though rumors have surfaced over the identity of the suspects, Bone said police are still investigating the case. Principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker added she feels confident no STA students were involved with the vandalism.

"Initially, my gut feeling was that one of our students wouldn't have done it," Hoecker

said. "There's been so much discussion about respect. I really had a hard time believing one of our students would do that."

After discussing on Sunday with the administration what the vandalism meant for STA students, Hoecker said the most important objective was to clean the campus before school resumed. Using the school reach phone system, Bone called STA families to tell them about the vandalism and ask for their help to clean it up. Sophomore Emma Steck and her mother Ms. Melissa Steck, attended the community clean-up Monday afternoon.

"When I got to [STA], there were a ton of people there," Emma said. "It was cool how people came together for something everyone believed in. It meant more that we were cleaning it up and were not just saying 'Oh, maintenance will get that later.'"

Bone estimates about 100 people showed up throughout the afternoon. Students and parents brought power washers, brushes, buckets and other cleaning products. She said with the number of people, the clean-up took two hours. Bone was especially impressed by the students' attitudes that "nobody was going to mess with their school." According to Melissa Steck, the large turnout and enthusiasm reflects the values of the community.

"[The clean-up] showed loyalty and dedication to the school," Melissa said. "We see the school as such a beautiful place and it should not have to look like this. People were self-motivated. They were not told what to do, they just grabbed a brush and bucket and kept scrubbing."

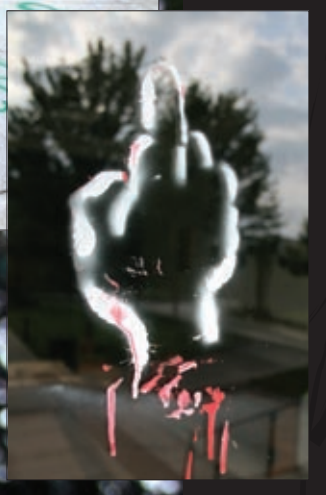
Hoecker believes the experience demonstrates the unpredictability of some attacks. She knows the vandalism frightened many students and families, with the terrorism-like images of bombs and planes and "What elephant?" phrase that may indicate some sort of political motivation. She feels in light of the content of the graffiti, the school took proper action.

"The truth is that everyone is vulnerable," Hoecker said. "We can't control other people's actions, but we can control how we are going to respond. I think this helped us deepen our commitment to respect our school."

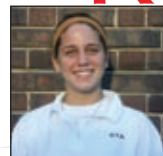
Hoecker and Bone consider the clean-up a positive ending to an unfortunate circumstance.

"It was hard to look at the beautiful campus and see the disturbing images," Bone said. "With so many people at the clean-up, it became a social event. That part was the best. Something good came out of something bad." ★





React. Reflect.



Maggie Steinert (senior): It's **sad** that somebody has that much time on their hands.

Madeline O'Rear (junior): At first I thought it was just a **prank** like maybe kids from another school. That's when I didn't know it was bombs.



Lily Kraus (sophomore): I was **confused**. I don't know why someone would do it.

I sort of had a vandalism freak-out

AN OPINION BY



ALLISON POINTER

It was late Saturday afternoon. The sun was out. The air was warm. All in all, it should have been a pleasant day. However, when walking around the usually comforting St. Teresa's Academy campus, I was scared.

It was just that morning when a co-worker and fellow student approached me at work and asked if I had heard. "Heard what?" I found myself asking. After hearing that on the night of Aug. 29, someone had committed vandalism on our campus, I did not expect to see what I did.

After I got off work, my curiosity got the best of me and I decided that I needed to see this rumored catastrophe. I pulled into the front lot and stopped; the statue of St. Joseph and Jesus looked like something out of a horror movie. I sat there in my car, foot still on the break pedal, and stared, gaping at the damage. The perfectly white stone figurine now held black markings. The eyes of both St. Joseph and Jesus were blackened, tearing down their faces with the dark paint. A large bomb was smothered across Joseph's lower stomach. I felt like a deer staring into a pair of headlights; I simply could not look away.

The rest of campus wasn't better. Perfectly stenciled bombs, blood red hands and the paper planes were decorated throughout the campus. When approaching the STA seal, appealing calligraphy circled it with the question "What Elephant?"

The drawings were simple and few, and although I realized that the damage could have been much more extensive, I felt like I didn't

know this place. Whoever was the criminal in this misconduct obviously had a much bigger intent than to sabotage STA. Whoever decided to adorn our campus with these drawings had obviously chosen the images that were used to display some kind of message. They were too particular to just be an act of your typical graffiti. Speculation arose across the school on what exactly they were trying to portray, however I am still left stumped.

The following Monday, after the graffiti had been cleaned, I passed my classmate JoEllen Redlingshafer in the hall. "This may be the last time I see you." I stood with confusion displayed across my face, as she laughed and joked, "You know, we may get bombed." I smiled weakly and continued walking to my next class.

I wasn't exactly scared that we were going to be bombed. That idea was just a bit ludicrous. I knew that several other locations received the same graffiti and the thought that we were an intended threat was very slim. However, I had to admit, I didn't exactly feel 100 percent protected. I just kept thinking "What if something happened?" Never in my time at STA have I wondered if my safety and the safety of the community would be jeopardized.

STA has never really addressed the idea of attack at school. We have an open campus. Anyone can come in. Anyone could have done this. Anyone can do this.

This has been my home for three, going on four years. You're supposed to feel safe at home. ★



Water works ★

Sophomore Emma Steck, left, and her mother, Melissa Steck, watch as Mr. Brett Devine powerwashes the cleaning solution off of stone outside the Goppert Center Sunday Aug. 31. Many students and parents came to clean up the school after president Nan Bone called earlier that day. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

Painted on ★ Graffiti sprawls across the STA quad Aug. 30. About 100 people were estimated to have shown up to clean campus before school resumed. **PHOTOS BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE**

what

Young team to grow old together

Senior-less varsity team forces underclassmen players to step up on volleyball court

by ELIZABETH WILSON
Sports Editor

Seniors Mary Jantsch and Lauren Damico did not return to the varsity volleyball team this year, leaving the varsity squad senior-less. The oldest returning varsity member junior Lindsay Bowers and returning sophomore varsity members Liz Powell and Grace Whitley will be this year's varsity captains of a team composed of four juniors, three sophomores and three freshmen.

However, this is not the first year in which underclassmen have taken on the responsibilities of captains.

"The captains are the leaders, the ones that care the most about the success of the team," head coach Amy Carlson said.

According to Carlson, there are responsibilities that come with being the oldest returning varsity members and this year's captains are living up to those roles.

"They're the ones to communicate about traditions, the reputation of the team and the expectations of being an STA volleyball player," Carlson said. "Every day they're coming in and working hard. They show tons of ownership."

According to Bowers, it feels really affirming to take on a leadership role and she has not noticed a lack of leadership despite the absence of seniors.

"The younger girls have gotten starting positions and are doing great," Bowers said. "They have been supportive since day one and have gotten rid of their first game jitters."

Bowers remembers her freshman year, looking up to alumna Michelle Jantsch and how old she

played and acted.

"I'm sure that for the freshman, [being] a little closer in age [is] a good thing," Bowers said.

Carlson sees the freshmen taking on huge roles but being consistent and working hard.

According to freshman Kathleen Vogel, being on varsity as a freshman is exciting. She feels that age does not really matter and said the older girls have been welcoming.

Although the team lost both of their first matches Sept. 2 against St. Thomas Aquinas and Hayden High School, Bowers said the energy was high and the team showed potential.

"For our first game with such a young team, we did great," Bowers said. "We showed how much growing room we really have."

Carlson said the team showed flashes of brilliance but had trouble holding on to it, a trait she attributed to their youth.

Carlson said the positive of having seniors on a team is their sense of urgency.

"[Seniors] know it's their last year whereas these girls, some of them know they have three more years," Carlson said.

Bowers feels the team may be a little rocky to start out but once they get to know each other, they will be as successful as, if not more than, last year.

"We've proved ourselves in practices and tryouts to be hard workers so it will be exciting to see what happens," Bowers said.

Vogel thinks the team will be successful next year since they won't be graduating anyone.

Carlson admits the team has an extremely tough schedule this year, but is confident the team will improve with every match.

"They will grow old together," Carlson said. "The more they play together, the better they'll get." ★



All together now ★ Stars varsity volleyball team gathers in a huddle before their game against arch rival, Sion, at Sion's gym Thursday, Sept. 11. STA students dressed as firefighters and police officers, cheered STA on to their win in two game versus the Storm. (Tracy Burns-Yocum). PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

Dancers perform captain's routine



Taking the lead ★ Junior Rebecca Oyler, from left, sophomores Marissa Naggi and Lauren Laudan pose at the end of their dance routine at the first school pep rally of the year Sept. 5. Oyler choreographed the routine over the summer. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

Junior Rebecca Oyler pushes squad to excel through dance performance

by KYLIE HORNBECK
News Editor

"Work Me Down," an 80's pop song by Laura Hunter, blasted through speakers at the fall sports pep rally Sept. 5 as 14 high school girls twirled, kicked and leaped across the gym floor in unison, performing a routine choreographed by STA junior and dance team captain Rebecca Oyler.

Without any seniors this year, junior captains Riley Cowing and Oyler and junior co-captains Anna Gigliotti and Rachel Winslow lead the team. Out of the four, Oyler voluntarily agreed to choreograph a routine for the team.

"[Choreographing] depends on the experience of a dancer," head dance coach Savannah Vose said. "Someone like [Oyler] could maybe do it in three to four hours, but for someone who's not as experienced as a dancer, it could take them a really long time."

According to Vose, choreographing a routine for a team can be extremely difficult because there is a lot to consider. She said steps cannot be monotonous and the choreographer has to take group parts, individual parts, ripples and transitions into consideration.

Despite difficulties, Oyler enjoyed the experience.

"I liked being able to listen to the music and just

make up any moves I wanted," Oyler said. "It was really hard, though, with all the levels of dance on our team to make the formations and sometimes I just wouldn't be able to think of anything that would come next. When you're performing something with a group you have to think about how what you're performing affects all the people around you."

Oyler had almost complete control over her dance. She was able to choose the music, style of dance, formations and moves. With the approval of her coaches, she created what both Vose and a number of her teammates considered to be a technique-heavy routine.

"The dance is very technique oriented because there are a lot of skills performed in it," Winslow said. "It's a hard dance to do, but it's a good dance. It'll help move the team forward."

Both Winslow and Vose agreed the experience has improved Oyler's leadership role on the team, brought the girls closer together and pushed the girls to improve.

"[The girls] told me they want to be pushed," Vose said. "They want to be better dancers than years past. And with this dance, [Oyler] is challenging them."

Oyler's dance, which was scheduled for performance at the Rockhurst High School football game against Blue Springs High School last Friday, has been postponed to an undecided date due to weather. Oyler said she is looking forward to performing the choreographed routine because the team has practiced it at every practice since school began. ★

Injured runner



by Taylor Brown
Copy Editor

STA varsity cross country junior Katie Sharp was injured at Saturday's meet at Johnson County Community College. According to Sharp, it was wet and rainy and the chute, the marked pathway following the finish line, was narrow and had not been sufficiently cleared. As runners passed the finish line, Sharp was caught in a jumble of girls and slipped and fell into one of the metal poles holding up the flags in the chute, slicing her knee open. Many supervisors and runners in the chute thought Sharp had fainted until they saw the gash directly below her knee.

"I was one of the only girls that saw it," JV cross country junior Madeline O'Rear said. "I didn't think anything was wrong because [Sharp] is always okay. But then I saw her facial expression and it was terrible."

Sharp's parents, who were at the meet, were notified and her mom rode with her to the Overland Park Regional Hospital in an ambulance.

"I thought they would just fix my knee up and I would go home that day," Sharp said. "But the X-rays showed that I had air pockets in my knee where the metal had gone up farther than the cut had actually revealed."

Sharp received surgery and an antibiotic washout to remove the air pockets. Although no tendons or muscles were torn in Sharp's leg, there were a few minor chips in the bone. She was released from the hospital Monday with stitches, a wrap, a splint and two weeks of crutches.



Dance it out ★ (Left) Senior Sally Nulton, sophomore Kathleen Hough, seniors Jenny McLiney and JoEllen Redlingshafer premier their debut JV dance team routine on Friday, Sept. 5 at the fall pep rally. The girls first thought of creating the team last year at the student productions after party. **(Above and below)** The girls hosted try outs Sept., 7 at Nulton's home. **PHOTOS BY ALLISON POINTER**



Tryouts finish, new JV dance team creates roster

Student captains form team based on love for dance, need for new dance activity

by MOLLIE POINTER
Staff Writer

With a music mix called "United States of Pop" blaring, a crowd began to encircle senior Jenny McLiney's car. Four girls simultaneously assembled to give their viewers a preview of what they call the "St. Teresa's Academy JV dance team." Senior captains McLiney, JoEllen Redlingshafer, Sally Nulton and sophomore captain Kathleen Hough had prepared their parking lot performance the Sunday before school resumed.

"We're just girls who love to dance," McLiney said.

The four captains of the newly-formed JV dance team felt something was missing in the athletic department. McLiney expressed that not everyone can make the varsity dance team, no matter how much they may love to dance, and that is where the JV dance team comes in.

"Nobody cares if we can't dance, we'll just get up and dance anyway," McLiney said.

The team hosted tryouts Sept. 7. Applicants

came prepared with choreography and were put to the test with improvisational.

According to junior Mimi Koppen, a new member of the JV dance team, tryouts just sounded like fun.

"I didn't think I was going to make it," Koppen said. "But I came and just did my thing."

McLiney said the captains were not necessarily looking for skill level, but rather for character and originality.

"We want fun girls that are leaders and outgoing, someone who people will want to come watch," McLiney said.

The team's captains don't want the JV dance team to be as serious as the varsity team, but they hope to dance at various school events, including pep rallies like the team's latest debut at the fall sports pep rally Sept. 5.

"We just want to pump up the crowd," McLiney said.

Though the JV dance team will not be taken as seriously, McLiney explained that the JV girls still respect the hard work of the varsity team.

According to varsity dance team junior Anna Gigliotti, the JV dance girls are creative.

"I think its all in good fun," Gigliotti said. "I mean good for them."

Though Gigliotti acknowledges their efforts, she doesn't think the JV dance team should perform at school functions.

"Right now I don't think they should be allowed to perform [at games and pep rallies]," Gigliotti

said. "To me, it's kind of a joke. If it's a legit team then it could be a definite possibility."

According to McLiney, the new team is not about being serious.

"We're idiots whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance," McLiney said. "It's not about the credit we receive; it's about spreading the rhythm." ★

"It's not about the credit we receive; it's about spreading the rhythm."

Jenny McLiney, junior

JV dance team roster



Captains:

Kathleen Hough
Jenny McLiney
JoEllen Redlingshafer
Sally Nulton

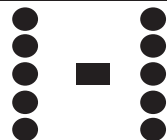
Seniors:

Anna Gillcrist
Katie Kenney
Linny Kaufman
Nicolette Anderson

Juniors:

Claire O'Neill
Ellen Gude
Julia Barnett
Mary Warwick
Megan Wilkerson
Mimi Koppen
Mollie Pointer

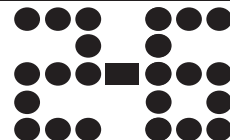
SCOREBOARD



GOLF

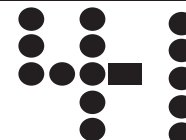
SEDALIA W
SION L

The golf team finished fifth in the Richmond tournament Sept. 10 and second in the Truman tournament Monday.



SOFTBALL

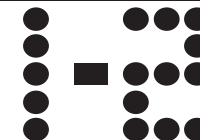
WINNETONKA L
LEE'S SUMMIT WEST L
PARK HILL W
NKC W
HICKMAN L
PARK HILL L
BENTON L
O'HARA L



TENNIS

BLUE SPRINGS W
PARK HILL W
PEMBROKE W
BLUE SPRINGS SOUTH W
BARSTOW SCHOOL L

The tennis team will play in the Guilfoil tournament tomorrow.



VOLLEYBALL

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS L
HAYDEN L
SION W

The volleyball team went three and one in the MO-KAN challenge Saturday. They will play in the Lee's Summit North tournament this Saturday.

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country team finished fourth in the Liberty Invitational Sept. 6 and third in the Miega Invitational Saturday. Their next meet will be the Hazelwood Invitational Saturday.

DANCE

The dance team performed at the pep assembly Sept. 5 and will perform at the volleyball games Tuesday. Their Rockhurst High School performance is yet to be rescheduled.



Just for kicks ★ Senior Caitlin Boger prepares to settle the ball at STA varsity soccer team practice last spring. After three years of varsity soccer at STA, Boger experienced the college recruitment process and decided to involve herself in collegiate athletics. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

Students chase scholarships

Athletes discover stress, follow recruitment process, strive to meet expectations

by **AVERY ADAMS**
Staff Writer

Each year at STA, a handful of athletes commit to colleges on athletic scholarships. Sometimes, however, the stress, time and effort put into making those scholarships a reality goes unnoticed.

Junior Maegan Kelly, who has played soccer since the age of 5, wants to play collegiate soccer. Kelly has taken deliberate steps in pursuing colleges, hoping to land a soccer scholarship while also staying realistic about her academic interests. She takes the time and effort to write to colleges, practice, play games, exercise and maintain her grades.

"It's really stressful and a lot of work," Kelly said. "Schools just don't write to you and make you an offer to play. You have to pursue them and let them know you're interested. And then hopefully they'll make you offers."

Like Kelly, senior Caitlin Boger finds the recruitment process straining.

"I had to start looking for colleges my freshmen year," Boger said. "It started to become very stressful and time consuming. Sometimes I had to send 15 to 20 e-mails to coaches telling them of the tournament or game [I was playing in]."

Boger, who has committed to play soccer at Indiana State University next year, said the recruitment varies by coach, but almost every coach looks for the same, basic athletic traits: speed, strength and aggressiveness.

Head soccer coach Matt Spear of Davidson College in North Carolina emphasizes academics over athletic ability.

"It's crucial for Davidson applicants to take and succeed in a high level of classes, such as honors and AP courses, and that they do very well on the SAT and/or ACT," Spear said in a recent statement to NCAA Division I soccer hopefuls. "As for on the field, we recruit premium level players."

Boger advises others not to give up on their goals for college athletics even if the process is burdening.

"The worst thing you could do is lose confidence in yourself and your abilities," Boger said.

Kelly said coaches do not just look at a player's athletic ability and academic record. They also take interest in a player's character.

"You'd be surprised how much college coaches notice your personality," Kelly said. "[Just] be yourself and show your individuality both on and off the field." ★



Sporting the gear ★ Donning an Indiana State University sweatshirt, senior Caitlin Boger scans an athletic recruitment letter and an "Indiana State Women's Soccer" magazine during an activity period Monday. Boger recently committed to playing soccer at Indiana State next year. **PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN**

Upcoming Schedule



Today:

4 p.m. varsity golf vs. Blue Valley North
4 p.m. JV golf vs. Blue Springs

Tomorrow:

9 a.m. varsity tennis Guilfoil tournament

Saturday:

8 a.m. varsity tennis Pembroke tournament
8 a.m. varsity volleyball Lee's Summit North tournament
8 a.m. freshmen volleyball Lee's Summit West tournament
9:30 a.m. varsity cross country Hazelwood Invitational

Sunday:

Monday:

9 a.m. varsity golf Sion tournament
4 p.m. JV and varsity tennis vs. Central and St. Joseph

STA sports create unity throughout school

AN OPINION BY



TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

"Ode to the Motherland" by Wang Xin played as the various countries of the world marched in, holding both their flags and heads high. Each

person came from a different background and experience, but they all came together for common goals: greatness and recognition in sports, great and small.

As I watched the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, I couldn't help but notice how the excitement, support and community portrayed was similar to STA.

At the beginning of each year, a new crew of students, coming from a variety of schools, joins STA's ranks. There's the big three: Visitation, St. Peter's and St. Elizabeth's, similar to the United States, China and Russia. In addition, students from smaller schools like St. Charles, St. Gabriel's and St. Patrick's complete the student body of STA just as Uruguay, New Zealand and Bhutan round out the Olympics.

The students of the STA community rally around Stars sports teams, supporting and embracing them as they work toward state titles. At STA games, girls don black and gold instead

of the USA's red, white and blue, but cheer just as loudly as all Americans did when Michael Phelps won his eighth gold medal.

As time goes on, the lesser-known athletes become integrated into the sports scene. Teammates give them a shout out in the hall, greetings of "good game" ring out in the commons from spectators, game exploits are told during Activity period and former social barriers begin to melt away. Just as Americans now know gymnast Shawn Johnson; by the end of the year, STA will surely know freshman volleyball player Kathleen Vogel. Girls from all grades come together to form sports teams and others join together to create these teams' backbone of support.

The same recognition and camaraderie stand for the king and queen of sports: soccer and volleyball. Students participate in theme days for the games and when a team makes it to the title

game, students, staff and faculty travel to the host city to root the Stars on to victory. Similarly, many Americans tuned in to watch the underdog men's volleyball team bring home the gold against the supposedly superior Brazilians.

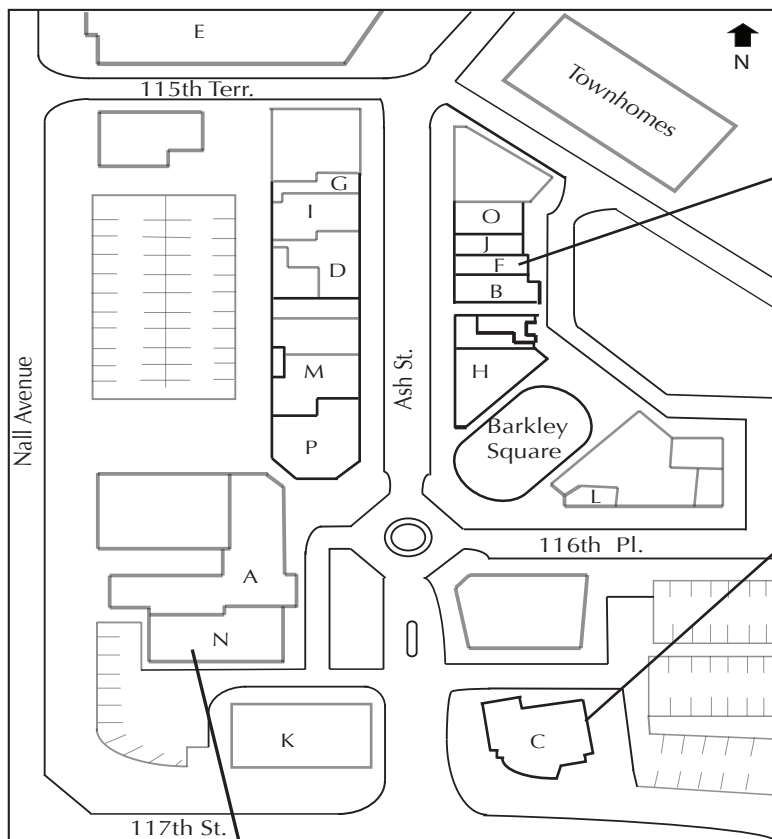
Just as the Olympics bring countries together, sports at STA create a common thread woven throughout the student body.

In May when the school bell rings, STA is out for the summer. Students flood out of the doors and onto the quad, saying their "good byes" and making plans for the summer. This farewell scene holds a likeness to the closing ceremonies when all of the athletes proceed into the stadium without the former distinctions of countries.

I watch as the buildings' lights go out at the Academy, like the lights dimming at the Bird's Nest in Beijing. All of the students, from different classes and grade schools, meld together as one: St. Teresa's Academy. ★

New shopping centers REDEFINE city

by MICHELLE REICHMEIER & TAYLOR BROWN
Graphics Editor & Copy Editor



Envy Boutique: Envy is a boutique that features clothing from designers such as AG, Free People, Saint Grace, Liquid and Paige Denim. Established Feb. 11, 2006, the boutique was inspired by Los Angeles, Calif. clothing styles and designers. According to Envy's website, the owners strive to offer unique, beautiful clothing and accessories to Kansas City.

California Pizza Kitchen: One of the Country Club Plaza's popular restaurants, California Pizza Kitchen was recently added to Park Place. This restaurant, which bases its menu off pizza, salad and pasta, is one where jeans and a casual top would be appropriate attire. Most of the items at California Pizza Kitchen range from \$5-\$15 dollars making it an attraction to many young customers.

- A. Aloft Hotel
 - B. Annabelles
 - C. California Pizza Kitchen
 - D. Craig Allen's Men's Fine Grooming
 - E. Element Hotel
 - F. Envy Boutique
 - G. Gobug Baby and Kids
 - H. Ingredient
 - I. The Learning Tree
 - J. Le Reve Salon
 - K. Morton's the Steakhouse
 - L. Paciugo Gelato
 - M. Park Place Gallery
 - N. Ra Sushi
 - O. The Rice Gallery of Fine Art
 - P. Trezo Vino Wine Bistro
- Coming Soon
- Now Open

Ra Sushi: This full-service Japanese cuisine is opening soon in Park Place. The Park Place website boasts that Ra Sushi is an eatery where "the music is pumping, the mood is upbeat and the atmosphere is as hot as wasabi." The menu contains 20 award-winning signature sushi items made from fresh fish flown in daily.

Leawood City welcomes new Park Place area

Visitors of Park Place, Leawood's newest outdoor shopping development, located at the corner of 117th street and Nall avenue, suddenly find themselves in a unique, classy setting. With the motto "everything in its place," the new Park Place district creates a quiet haven for swanky shopping and dining. Hidden behind a group of parking decks, the new center occupies over one million square feet and is full of lively cafes, boutiques, fresh outdoor space and modern residences and offices. Visitors can enjoy a latte in Barkley Square, dine in sophisticated restaurants and attend outdoor film screenings, markets and festivals. Open stores include Annabelle's, California Pizza Kitchen, Envy Boutique, Ingredient, the Learning Tree, Le Reve Salon, Park Place Gallery, Rice Gallery of Fine Arts and Trezo Vino Wine Bristo. The area described by the mayor as "redefining Johnson County" is to contain lavish, modern residences, retail, offices, hotels and parks upon its completion in an estimated five to seven years.

Park Place was declared one of Kansas's top projects for the last two years, according to the Park Place website. Park Place developers Melanie Mann and Jeffrey Alpert told "Shopping Center Business" magazine they expect this shopping center will bring a distinct shopping experience to residents of Johnson County.

Source: <http://destinationparkplace.com/tour/directory>

Graphic by: Michelle Reichmeier

New shopping, dining redefine Leawood image

Celebrating its official grand opening Sept. 5-7, One Nineteen, located at the southeast corner of 119th street and Roe avenue, presents a variety of unique stores and restaurants. The fresh design offers a sense of style and sophistication to the area with elegant dining and shopping. The 16-acre complex features high quality shops and will include covered walkways and two courtyards upon its completion. One Nineteen began solely to include Crate & Barrel, but recent store openings have increased the mall's directory to include tenants, such as Soho 119, Apple, West Elm, Z Gallerie, 119 the Restaurant, NoRTH, Sullivan's Steakhouse, Natural Body Spa and Shop, Salon One19, Solstice Sunglass Boutique and Mitzy London's.

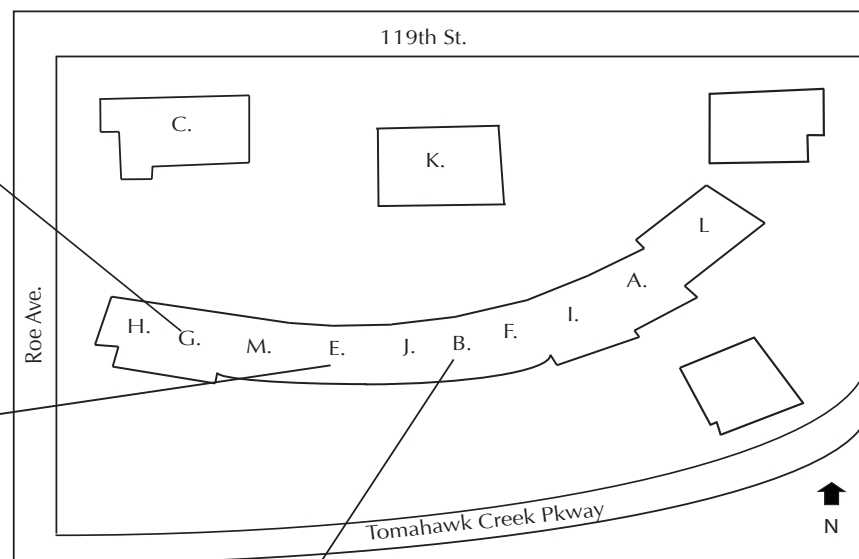
One Nineteen is still developing, however open businesses have remained busy, according to junior Mackenzie Hatfield.

Developers of One Nineteen are also responsible for The Legends, an innovative shopping center at Village West in Kansas.

NoRTH: This modern restaurant that features Italian cuisine can be found in only four states including Kansas. NoRTH's menu includes dishes such as salad, steak, seafood and pasta. Junior Mackenzie Hatfield described this eatery as casual, but fine dining and compared it to a newer Bravo! Restaurant. NoRTH's original founder Sam Fox said on the restaurant's website that NoRTH is passionate about the restaurant industry and strives to create memorable dining experiences.

Mitzy London's: This lifestyle boutique opened Aug. 28 in the One Nineteen shopping center. According to the store description on One Nineteen's website, Mitzy London's is "full of deliciously fabulous handpicked merchandise for today's fashionable, fun and sophisticated shopper." Along with selling items to add to one's wardrobe, boudoir and home décor, this store hosts "High Teas" in the Tea Room on the second Saturday of each month.

- A. 119 the Restaurant
- B. Apple
- C. Crate & Barrel
- D. Dean & Deluca
- E. Mitzy London's
- F. Natural Body Spa & Shop
- G. NoRTH
- H. SalonOne19
- I. Soho 119
- J. Solstice Sunglass Boutique
- K. Sullivan's Steakhouse
- L. West Elm
- M. Z Gallerie



Apple: The new Apple Store's grand opening July 11 made it the first store to open in Kansas. Taking up a large portion of the shopping center, the store includes the general services offered by Apple: design, publishing video, multimedia web solutions, internet carry-in service and more. With its modern appeal, the Apple Store is expected to draw much business because it is one of few stores of its kind in the Leawood area.

Source: <http://onenineteenshopping.com/stores.asp>

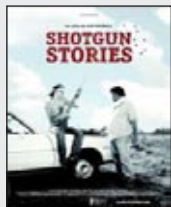
Graphic by: Michelle Reichmeier

Entertainment Wall

Movie

"Shotgun Stories"

This new independent film is dripping with Shakespearian undertones. This is not a film to watch if you aren't in the mood to pay close attention to detail. Set in rural Arkansas, two sets of brothers engage in a feud that leads to tragedy on both sides. The simple soundtrack's performances at times seem so real, you will forget you are watching a movie. The effortlessly believable setting and dialogue accentuate the profound nature of the plot, which tackles the burdens of poverty, loss, brotherhood, revenge and starting over after tragedy.



- *Carlie Campbell*

Song

"Just Stand Up"

"Just Stand Up" is a song performed by a female team of 15. Featured artists include Rihanna, Carrie Underwood and Beyoncé. This so called "Dream Team" sings a powerful message intended for cancer victims. The song sends loving and hopeful meanings to those affected by the disease: "If the mind keeps thinking you've had enough. But the heart keeps telling you don't give up." The artists performed together live on Sept. 5, aired nationally to help raise funds and awareness during the "Stand Up to Cancer" television special.

- *Mollie Pointer*

CD

"Conor Oberst and the Mystic Valley Band"

Conor Oberst's new album is a strikingly beautiful look into traveling, love, loss and renewal. Oberst, of "Bright Eyes" fame, still has his signature warbling drawl, makes an album of different song styles. From 70s style country rock, like the piano-driven "I Don't Want to Die in the Hospital" to the folksy, stripped-down "Cape Canaveral," Oberst's solo work is a triumph. Rolling Stone Magazine's 2008 Songwriter of the Year shows, through lyrics like "I felt your poltergeist love like Savannah heat while the waterfall was pouring crazy symbols of my destiny," the album is full of imagery.



- *Bianca Dang*

Television

"Gossip Girl"

It's the guilty pleasure we all indulge in on those gruesome Monday evenings. "Gossip Girl," which chronicles the fascinating (and extremely unrealistic) lives of a group of young, beautiful, obscenely wealthy Manhattan, NY socialites, aired its third episode this week. The enticing drama made a successful shift into season two, revealing rekindled romances, royal love interests and infidelity which spanned the generation gap.



- *Haley Vondemkamp*



Frightful Fight ★ Starlight's Les Misérables character Cosette, Ms. Deborah Lew, left, cowers away from a group of angry French townspeople, led by innkeeper Thenardiers, Mr. Greg Stone, during the Sunday production of the show. Les Misérables ran from last Thursday through Tuesday. **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

"Shotgun Stories"

A larger stage and bigger audience allows senior Anna Gillcrist to

Act Out

STA drama student prepares for debut in Starlight's touring production of Les Misérables

by **SHAUGHNESSY MILLER**
Staff Writer

She was the Artful Dodger in "Oliver." She was the Witch in "Into the Woods." She was Lady Larkin in "Once upon a Mattress." She was Mayzie la Bird in "Suessical the Musical." Now, she has a new role now as she steps from the small STA auditorium to Starlight Theater's much larger stage.

Senior Anna Gillcrist auditioned for the professional production of "Les Misérables" Aug. 9. Gillcrist heard about the auditions this past summer in an e-mail from drama teacher Shana Prentiss.

Gillcrist said the auditions were competitive because casting director Bill Newberry did not have much time to assess each person. According to Newberry, about 50 teenagers auditioned and Anna immediately stood out with her "strong voice and stage presence."

"She has a great theater look, and I knew she would fit in well with the professional actors on stage," Newberry said in an e-mail.

Initially, she was not going to audition, but the day before Gillcrist said she had "skipped out on 'American Idol' auditions and didn't want to be lazy again."

About a week following the auditions she received a call back and learned that she would be a member of the chorus.

Gillcrist was surprised that she got the role because that morning was really "hectic" and she forgot her resume and headshot. Although she did not expect anything, she was glad about the way things turned out.

"I was really excited, but surprised," Gillcrist said. "It's a good feeling that I tried out and they picked me out of a large group of people."

Anna's mother Ms. Maria Gillcrist said she never worried about Anna being too intimidated to audition for Starlight.

"Anna never seems nervous that I can tell," Maria said. "So I don't get nervous for her because she has it under control."

No jitters showed according to STA sophomore Amy Cosgrove who also auditioned.

"Wow, [Anna] sounded awesome," Cosgrove said. "And the way she was singing was like she had soul behind it and character."

High school drama auditions have helped her practice and prepare for auditions like this and for a future in drama.

"Auditioning for shows in my high school experience has helped me become comfortable with the process," Anna said. "[Prentiss] stresses confidence, and I only get stage fright when I don't feel I've

prepared."

Though high school productions have given her practice, Anna explained that there are many dif-



Star of the Show ★ Senior Anna Gillcrist, middle, sings with two fellow Les Misérables chorus members in her fourth show performance Sunday at Starlight. **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

ferences between high school and professional productions in terms of rehearsals and preparations.

"[Les Misérables] is a lot different because we had to have a lot of the material memorized before going," Anna said. "We had to know everything and everything had to be done. The hours have also been longer and I've had to use all of my free and spare time to get my homework done."

While the rehearsals are more demanding, she still finds it to be an enjoyable experience.

"It is comfortable," Anna said. "It's not like a stiff and not-allowed-to-have-fun environment."

Newberry thinks that Anna shines in rehearsals.

"She has that rare ability to find her story in each scene and bring it to life with her facial expressions, body language, and of course, her beautiful voice," Newberry wrote in an e-mail.

When she goes out on the stage, Anna says she gets excited.

"I always get really pumped up and it's sort of like an adrenaline rush," Anna said.

Anna plans to attend Stephens College in Columbia next fall and become involved in the theater program there which ranks seventh in the nation, according to *The Princeton Review*.

Anna explains that theater is her passion in life.

"It's what I really like to do so when I'm, not doing it I feel like I'm being worthless, and I'm not complete," Anna said.

Anna enjoys entertaining others and feels rewarded at the end of a production. ★

Select students fit in fall play 'equation'



Big Voices ★1: Sophomore Ryan Tucker rehearses while during practice during "Little Women" **2:** Sophomore Ryan Tucker sings "Days of Plenty". **3:** Senior Laura Nendick and junior Bradley Wiedeman block their opening scene as choreographer Darlen Paine looks on. **4:** A script for "Little Women" lies on the auditorium floor during rehearsal. **5:** Senior Anna Gillcrist reads her lines aloud for her role in "Little Women." **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

A small cast builds bonds, works as one

by Susie Ancona
Staff Writer

The lights are out in the STA auditorium with the exception of the two lanterns attached to both sides of the stage. At the front, freshman Megan Schilling plays a melody on the piano as a number of STA students sing sporadically. Senior Anna Gillcrist twirls her gum, while the harmony of nail biting, chatting, singing and laughing fills the room.

The auditions for the 11 student-cast fall musical are about to begin.

STA will put on the musical "Little Women" starting Nov. 5. The script calls for seven women and four men, a cast smaller than that of previous STA performances.

"In a rehearsal setting, the size of the cast is much more manageable [if it is smaller]," play director Shana Prentiss said. "Also, it is a personal thing. The smaller the cast, the more intimate it is and [cast members] are able to bond with one another."

The intimacy of the musical also connects with the plot, according to Prentiss. She feels the performers and the audience will be able to



better relate to story's characters. "I think it's a very universal story," Prentiss said. "It's a story about family, it's a story about sisters; it transcends time, so people can relate to it today. There is a reason people call it a classic."

Prentiss emphasized the importance of voice in the musical. A deciding factor for choosing cast members depended on he or she's singing voice because it helps portray the characters' personalities in "Little Women".

"Obviously the lyricists were very conscious that these characters were those that people knew, and they stayed very true to the characters," Prentiss said.

While a strong singing ability is stressed for "Little Women," according to Prentiss, "there is no real formula" for choosing performers.

"It is a chemistry with how people interact with one another," Prentiss said. "It is a really hard choice. It is like figuring out a math equation...you have to find the right combination."

Junior Hope Stillwell auditioned for "Little Women" and made the cast. Stillwell transferred to STA from Shawnee Mission South High School this year. Out of the plays she has been in outside of STA, Stillwell has not participated in one with a smaller cast.

"When I first heard only seven girls would be cast, it was intimidating," Stillwell said. "But I think a smaller cast will be able to get closer and bond than a giant cast."

Stillwell feels that with the decreased cast size it is easier for everyone to stay focused, including the director. In her experience with big casts, she claims the di-

rector "only has time to give lead parts attention."

"I think [having a smaller cast] helps make all the actors better because [Prentiss] can devote more time and give constructive criticism," Stillwell said.

Within these first weeks of rehearsal, Stillwell noted the cast's talent and shared aspiration to put on a successful show. She also mentioned the diversity of the cast in terms of age and personality. "I think the cast interacts with one another really well," Stillwell said. "I think it will be a good group to work with. Everyone is a lot of fun."

STA Senior Mackenzie Beisser auditioned for the musical, and has been in two previous STA performances. Although she wasn't casted, she plans to participate in the crew.

"I'm totally fine [with not making the cast]," Beisser said. "I realized it was a really small cast and that it's nothing personal, I just didn't fit with what they needed."

Beisser explained that the theater environment Prentiss provides is relaxed and inviting. She enjoys the fact that there is no preparation for herself in the auditions. She claims to "just show up and do her best".

Prentiss felt this was the year to perform "Little Women" because she wanted to do a show with a smaller, more intimate cast, unlike the larger musicals she has put on.

"I hope people are touched," Prentiss said. "It's a moving story. There are funny moments and sad moments, and I hope to get the relationships across to the audience so they feel personally involved in those." ★



Barack the House

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama watched his wife on television at sophomore Lindsay Girardeau's home

by KAYLA LOOSEN
Entertainment Editor

"Here he comes! This is it!" shrieked a faceless voice among the swarm of journalists, spectators and secret service agents. The crowd of over 100 strained their eyes to see the shadow of a tall, male figure looming behind the front door of the home.

Yellow, plastic caution tape set up by police had begun to wither and strain beneath the enormous body pressure of bystanders, each one striving to be just an inch closer to the house.

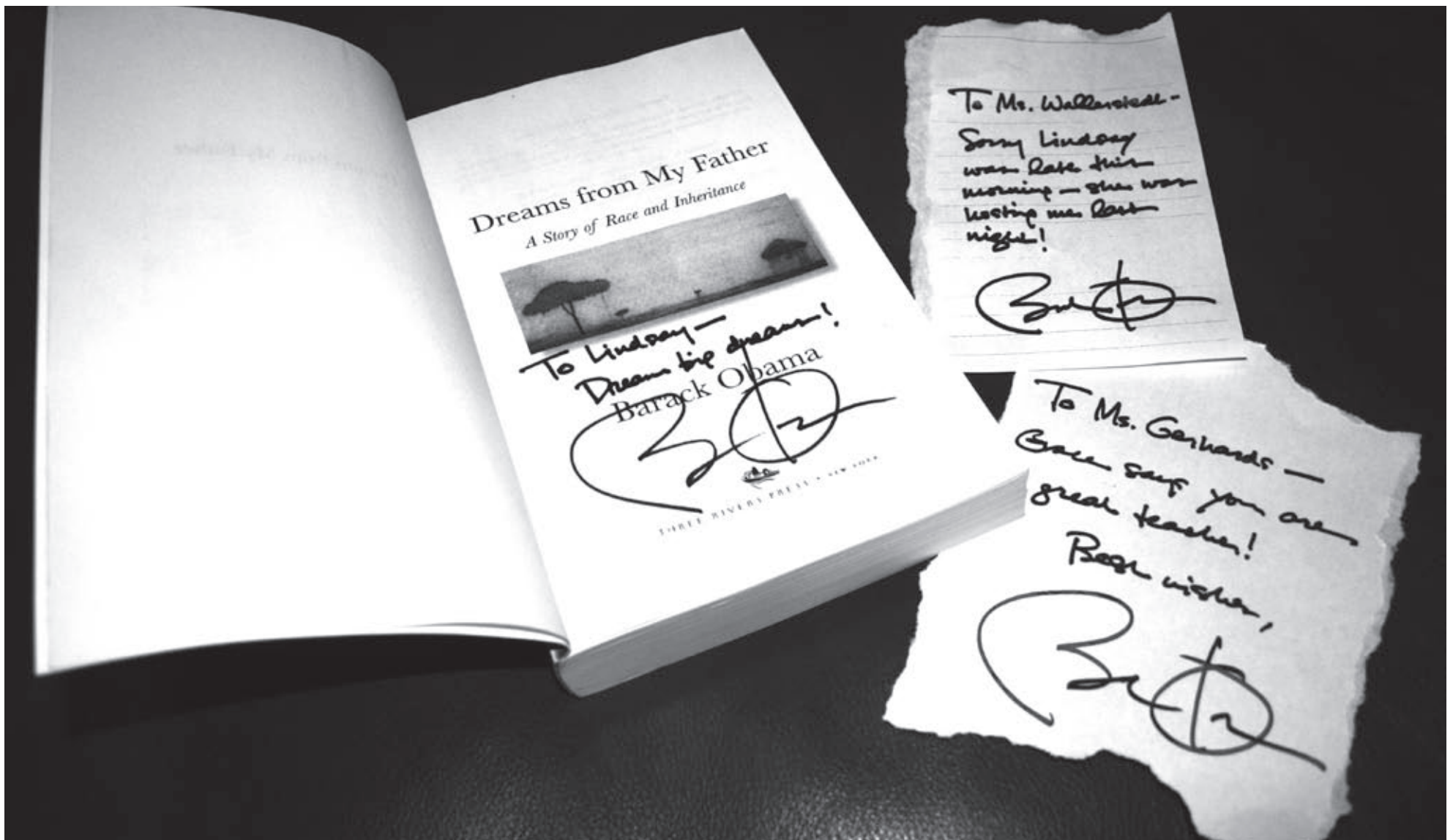
As the door slowly opened, anchormen took their cues, onlookers peered over one another's shoulders, the crowd condensed and photographers' flash bulbs illuminated the dimly lit front porch. A rhythmic chant and applause escaped from the crowd, as the pale hue of flashes illuminated the face of 2008 Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama. The mass of people screamed and waved in excitement when Obama gestured toward them and smiled. All the while, just inches behind him, were STA sophomore Lindsay Girardeau and her family wishing him goodbye from their Brookside home.

On Aug. 25 Obama visited Lindsay's home to do a live feed from her living room to the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colo. The feed aired on national television after the Senator's wife, Michelle Obama, delivered the convention's headlining speech which Obama and the Girardeau family watched together.

"You could tell how much he loved his wife when he was sitting here," Lindsay's mother, Alicia Walsh-Girardeau said. "He seemed so nervous for her and wanted her to do so well."

Lindsay and her family were selected to host Obama by Kansas City Obama campaign manager Sophie McCarthy, a family friend and neighbor of the Girardeaus. A few other local families were also considered, and therefore an interviewing process by the campaign's press

Line Please ★
Sophomore Lindsay Girardeau holds up a cue card she made for presidential nominee Barack Obama when he visited the Girardeau's Brookside home Aug. 25. Obama was also filmed from their house speaking to his wife and children at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. PHOTO BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE



Just a side note ★ Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama wrote notes to the Girardeau family, STA art teacher Theresa Wallerstedt and Grace's teacher when he visited their home Aug. 25 to watch the Democratic National Convention. Obama wrote the note to Wallerstedt to excuse sophomore Lindsay for arriving late to class the day after her family hosted him. PHOTO BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE

directors was necessary to determine who would host him; the Girardeaus were chosen.

"We just got lucky," Lindsay remarked. "[The directors of advance] also liked that we had a satellite on our house so the live feed could reach the convention."

Lindsay explained that she and her family were overwhelmed with anticipation when they received word they were going to be broadcasted.

"I was so excited," Lindsay said. "After the [directors of advance] left, my Mom and Dad and I all started screaming together and were like, 'Oh my God!'"

Originally, the plan was to have a live video broadcasted exclusively of the family watching the convention. The directors of advance informed the Girardeaus that it was possible the senator would make an appearance at their home. On the night before the convention, the family learned Obama would definitely be making the house visit.

"That night we started cleaning everything," Alicia said. "I even scrubbed the grout from the kitchen floor on my hands and knees."

To ensure that crowds would not grow out of control upon Obama's arrival, the Girardeaus were told by campaign affiliates not to tell anyone about his visit. However, Lindsay said neighbors and friends figured out that the senator was to visit - especially STA gym teacher Anne Bode-Rodriguez.

"Ms. Bode called me and said, 'Now there's rumors going around. Are they true?' and I was like, 'What rumors?'" Lindsay said. "Then Ms. Bode goes, 'Obama is coming to your house tonight...'" and I was like, 'I don't know anything about this. Ms. Bode, just watch the convention and be quiet,' and then I hung up on her."

The Girardeau family's oldest daughter and STA alumna, Hannah, flew in three hours before Obama's arrival after her first day of freshman classes at Loyola University in Chicago. According to Lindsay and Hannah's father Jim Girardeau, Obama and Hannah easily related to

each other. Obama asked her what books she was reading, how she liked Chicago - the candidate's hometown and who the 18 year-old would be voting for in November.

"Now [Hannah] wants to volunteer for his campaign in Chicago," Lindsay said. "She's even babysitting for him Saturday night...Okay, I'm kidding."

When Obama arrived at the Girardeau's Brookside residence, he was escorted into the home by Secret Service where he met Jim, Alicia, Hannah, Lindsay and their 10-year-old sister Grace.

"He walked into the house, called us all by name and was just so personal," Alicia said. "Then he said, 'I don't know about you guys, but I'm a little nervous.' Then we were laughing because of course he knew how nervous we were and was trying to put us at ease."

Obama and the Girardeaus talked in the family's living room for about 10 minutes until the senator was taken away for makeup. When he came back, he and the Girardeaus sat and watched Michelle Obama's speech while being recorded and photographed by television networks such as CBS and MSNBC.

"I thought the publicity was fun, but we felt bad because we still couldn't tell anybody," Alicia said. "So all of our friends were outside waiting, and we couldn't talk to them. It was fun peaking out the window to see who all was out there though."

The morning following his visit, the Girardeaus recalled their telephone ringing as early as 6:50 am. A local DJ from 96.5 The Buzz attempted to get a hold of them for an interview and various other media called for similar requests.

"The phone did not stop ringing for like two days," Alicia said. "It was a little overwhelming but it was so fun."

Following Michelle's speech at the convention and his brief greeting to his wife and children via satellite, Obama signed autographs and spent more time with the Girardeaus. Lindsay,



Sitting pretty ★ Sophomore Lindsay Girardeau and her family watch the Democratic National Convention with presidential nominee Barack Obama. From left, Grace, Jim, Obama, Alicia, STA alumna Hannah and Lindsay sit in the family's living room. PHOTO BY JOHN SLEEZER, THE KANSAS CITY STAR

aware that STA art teacher Theresa Wallerstedt worked for the Obama campaign, asked Obama to sign a surprise note for Wallerstedt.

"I got him to sign a piece of paper that said, 'To Ms. Wallerstedt- Sorry Lindsay was late this morning - she was hosting me last night! Barack Obama,'" Lindsay described. "[Wallerstedt] got the note and she started bawling and screaming. She was like, 'Now that's worth framing.'"

Three weeks later and having still not framed the note, Wallerstedt was still unsure of what to do with her personalized autograph but was still very grateful.

"Lately I've kept it with me because so many people are curious to see it," Wallerstedt explained. "I was thrilled that Lindsay had been so thoughtful to ask him to write it for me. I've

been getting notes and presents from students for 30 years but this one was just incredibly thoughtful and cool."

According to Jim the experience has encouraged him to contribute to Obama's candidacy in new ways.

"I was always strongly supportive," Jim said. "We voted for him, we've put the signs in our front yard, but it's motivated me to want to do more."

Lindsay, along with the rest of her family, believe that their support for Obama has also flourished since the visit.

"It's almost as if I feel more defensive or protective over [Obama]," Alicia stated. "I feel like we know him now...I feel like he's our friend." ★



storm chasing

STA takes on Sion with firefighter and police theme to honor Sept. 11



STA showed their school spirit and American patriotism at the JV and varsity volleyball game against Notre Dame De Sion High School Sept. 11 at the Sion gymnasium. STA's firefighters and policemen theme was selected to honor those involved in the 9-11 terrorists attack seven years ago. The STA JV and varsity volleyball teams were victorious in both matches.

"At first I thought the theme could be disrespectful, but it didn't turn out that way," said junior Ellen Gude who attended the game as a policeman. "Everybody had fun with it and it was a good way to remember the events that happened Sept. 11, 2001." ★

We didn't start the fire ★

Above: Seniors Megan Monsees and Kate Bohnert and crowd rally for the varsity volleyball team Sept. 11.

Bottom Right: The STA varsity volleyball team encourages one another.

Bottom Left: Freshman Kathleen Vogel sets the ball for STA's volleyball team. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**



TALK TO YOU LATER



JAIME HENRY-WHITE

*Wanted:
person with
answers*

I sit on the cold, brown marble bench next to the Burberry store, with intense eyes and eager ears. I am fascinated by the man before me, standing on the corner, singing like no one is watching, simply singing for the sake of enjoying his music. Though a guitar case lies open on the ground, sprinkled by crumpled dollar bills and silver and bronze coins, that is not why he is here.

He notices my staring and asks me if I have a song in mind. I don't, but we still manage to begin a friendly conversation. We talk and exchange favorite songs and our names. I learn that for over 40 years, Ned, my street singer, has followed his passion for music. He has debuted on the radio, played with Neil Young on an album and shows great pride in his accomplishments.

His smile and nature is contagious happiness. Yet, suddenly, with all this talk of life achievements, I feel as if Ned has hit my sorest spots. All the choices I am soon to face- decisions of college, of majors, of careers and life paths- begin to hit me more painfully with each smile and strum of his guitar strings. The knots in my stomach multiply with each note he carries.

Since then, I haven't been able to ditch the thought of skinny, longhaired Ned in his sheer bohemian shirt. He sings happily, a symbol of freedom and love of self, while my fear of the future has begun to devour me with each urge from my dad to meet a college deadline, each late night hour I don't sleep, each look into my friends' calm faces as I deteriorate from stress.

Where has my enjoyment of the little moments gone? The ones when my chest fills with delight as I breathe in cool, autumn air in my walks across the quad. The ones when I am overjoyed to share a sticky, surprise cupcake. The ones when my body collapses in laughter from a friend's funny face-making in class.

When I met Ned, I somehow let my mind leave the beautiful moment in front of me to travel to thoughts out of reach. I missed my chance to soak in the joy of that moment. As a musician, Ned has no certainty of his future or next gig. He has to accept the moments life gives him to perform. You only live each second, each minute, each hour once. So, I want to do the Ned-way. Just maybe not in a sheer bohemian shirt. ★

top

[[words that make you sound smart today]]

Compiled by Carlie Campbell

- 5 **platitudinous** (plat-i-tood-n-uhs, -tyood-) adj.- dull and tiresome but with pretensions of significance or originality
- 4 **pulchritude** (puhl-kri-tood, -tyood) n.- physical comeliness
- 3 **avaricious** (av-uh-rish-uhs) adj.-greedy, excessively acquisitive, especially in seeking to hoard riches
- 2 **quixotic** (kwik-sot-ik) adj.- foolishly impractical especially in the pursuit of ideals
- 1 **antediluvian** (an-tee-di-loo-vee-uhn) adj.- of or relating to the period before the flood described in the Bible

Words from: visualthesaurus.com
Definitions from: www.m-w.com

rags to riches



PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

Many STA students have noticed a new addition to the Donnelly front steps: a cat bed. This fall, the STA community purchased a fleece-lined cat bed, perfectly sized for Critter, the campus cat. Adjacent to the bed sits frequently filled water and food bowls. Last year Critter was often kept outside by the cat-sensitive Donnelly faculty, making his fuzzy new bed an ideal solution.

Compiled by Avery Adams

barack fever

Obama Mania ★
People gather outside of the Girardeau house where Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is present. Obama visited the Girardeaus Aug. 25 to watch his wife Michelle Obama speak at the Democratic National Convention. (For more information, see pg. 20-21). PHOTO BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE



Beauty, wealth dominate fall television

AN OPINION BY



MICHELLE REICHMEIER

Taking a break from my homework, I sit in front of the television and flip through the channels while I wait for the news to end and the shows everyone is talking about at school to come on. The evening news is full of coverage concerning the nation's economy and often features topics such as soaring gas prices and large company layoffs. Following the news are numerous programs that all have one thing in common: they all feature characters with an immense overabundance of money. While some families may be struggling financially or impacted by the current economy as the news programs describe, these television

shows create a type of entertainment used to escape these realities of every day life.

This fall's television line up especially is flooded with shows about high school boys and girls gifted with great wealth and beauty. The popularity of shows such as "Gossip Girl," "90210," "Lipstick Jungle," "Dirty Sexy Money" and "Privileged" all fit this category and dominate the ratings. These characters are tossed into sometimes over dramatized soap opera plots. They cruise around in limos, wear only the latest designer clothing, frequently attend fabulous parties and worry only about their social status and how their peers perceive them.

In the new series "Privileged," for example, one of the girls from Palm Beach takes one look at her new tutor, a former journalist, for the first time and seriously says, "I can puke cuter than that outfit you're wearing. In "Gossip Girl," an hour-long show that chronicles the lives

of wealthy private school teenagers in Manhattan, 14-year-old Jenny Humphrey strives to be accepted into an elite clique and resorts to stealing designer clothing instead of making her own.

The concept of observing the drama of the super wealthy captivates audiences during these nightly television programs is appealing to the many. Due to the success of "Gossip Girl," it is predicted that the CW's two new series "90210" and "Privileged" will also be instant successes.

I found myself sitting through the two-hour premiers of these shows wondering what makes these programs, like the others, so addicting. These popular shows instantly plunge viewers into the world of the rich and powerful. Audiences are captivated by the characters' extreme indulgences and affluent ways of life. The lifestyles of the rich and wealthy of today's society seem to describe the theme of this fall's popular, addicting television line up. ★

DARTSMART

[Are you a teacher's pet?]

1. **On teacher appreciation day, you...**
 - a. give your hardworking teachers coffee mugs that read "1 teacher" and a homemade card
 - b. disguise a card your mom bought as your own and give it to your teacher
 - c. commend your teacher for his/her efforts after realizing everyone else already gave a gift
 - d. Wait...there's a teacher appreciation day?
2. **When given an assignment you...**
 - a. begin immediately and stay after class to ask questions
 - b. quietly follow your teacher's instructions
 - c. doodle on the assignment for now...you can finish it tonight
 - d. shoot paper hoops into the trash-can
3. **In class your teacher asks a question. You...**
 - a. shoot your hand up before he/she can finish asking
 - b. search through your notes and answer sweetly
 - c. put on your pondering face
 - d. snore
4. **During activity, you...**
 - a. find your favorite teacher and have a nice chat
 - b. work on homework in a classroom, making small talk
 - c. relax in an open room with friends and complain about your math test tomorrow
 - d. frantically finish an assignment
5. **It's your favorite teacher's birthday. You...**
 - a. actually know this
 - b. serenade him/her during activity
 - c. wish him/her congratulations when they tell you in class
 - d. glower at them for giving you a test on their birthday
6. **You're assigned to work in groups in class. You...**
 - a. dominate the discussion
 - b. take a big chunk of work
 - c. pretend like you took a big chunk of work
 - d. throw a spit ball or two at the ring leader-who do they think they are making you work?

if you answered...

Mostly A's & B's

If you scored mostly A's and B's you're a teacher's pet! Watch your back though (literally--we're assuming you're in the front row) because your classmates probably aren't enthused. Your teacher is though! Keep up the hard work and appreciation for learning.

Mostly C's & D's

If you scored mostly C's and D's, you're headed down the path of bumhood. Your peers may not care but you're teachers are probably fed up with you (and it may be affecting your grade.) Step up the brown nosing and quit snoring in class!

Compiled by Mollie Pointer



Rock and roll ★ Senior Lauren Medina lip syncs as USA Olympic swimmer, Michael Phelps during Spirit Club's pep rally Friday, Sept. 5. The pep rally's theme centered around the 2008 Beijing Olympics which had concluded a few. **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

STA

the *Beijing* way



Row your boat ★ Junior Kayla Kratofil, left, with sophomores Elizabeth Vater and Amy Cosgrove act as US's rowing team under the instruction of Mr. Jack Garvin during the pep rally Friday, Sept. 5. The pep rally introduced the five fall sports of golf, volleyball, cross country, softball and tennis. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**

Russian racket ★ Senior Anna Gillcrisp plays a Russian table tennis player in the 2008 Beijing Olympics for the pep rally Friday, Sept. 5. STA students in the Spirit Club portrayed different athletes from different countries and sports for the rally. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**



Big girls don't cry ★ Sophomore Molly Kenney, left, comforts fallen gymnast sophomore Kathleen Hough as the duo was imitating a Chinese coach and athlete during the school pep rally Friday, Sept. 5. Spirit Club's pep rally was aimed to welcome the five fall sports. **PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER**