

Volume 66 ★ Issue 7 ★ April 26, 2007

THE DART

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

in the

spotlight

student productions hit the stage: see page 2

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER

Seniors set stage for productions

Casts, directors feel they are ready for opening night after one month of rehearsals, character development

by **MADDY McGANNON**
Staff Writer

The cast of "Taxi Cab Confessions with Asad" gathered for practice on a Tuesday night. The directors, one student with some experience, the other, a true first-timer, agreed on practice times as the other girls roll in. Once gathered in the living room, everyone is forced to stand on one leg while patting their head and rubbing their stomach singing "Mary had a Little Lamb" in their character's unique accents.

"Ever since Abby [Fagan] and I went to student productions our freshman year, we have wanted to write a play together," said director Mary Garcia.

These student-led productions have been an annual tradition at STA for many years. This year there are five student productions that will be shown on Friday and Saturday.

Seniors Fagan and Garcia took two weeks to write their script, but had ideas before they started. According to Fagan, the play is inspired by actual taxi cab experiences, as well as their own imaginations. When casting parts, they looked mostly for accents and characters.

"It was pretty funny deciding who was going to be in what play," said Garcia. "It got a little heated. We were not allowed to leave [Ms. Dibble's] room until everyone had decided their cast. But everyone left the room still friends."

Although there was some controversy when deciding the cast, all conflicts between the five plays have died down.

"[Abby and I] don't want to have the best play," said Garcia. "All we want is for people to laugh at our play and laugh at us."

In order for the play to be a success, each cast member must master her character's personality and accent. For new ac-

tors like senior Betsy McKenny, this can be a challenge. According to McKenny, she lacks experience, but learned a lot from the other cast members.

"I've learned to be able to put all my energy into my character and not be embarrassed to try new things," said McKenny.

Ms. Shana Prentiss, student productions moderator, said she does not think experience is necessary, but can be helpful.

"A fresh voice can sometimes be the best thing for a cast," said Prentiss. "New is good, but it is a real benefit to be around people who have experience."

According to Garcia, the cast's biggest challenge is mastering their characters' accents while still enunciating their words so the audience is able to understand what they are saying. In order to perfect this, Fagan and Garcia lead character-building exercises before each runthrough.

"A lot of times we ask hypothetical questions to each cast member," said Garcia. "Then we have them answer in full accent and character."

Prentiss serves as an advisor for each play. She tries to stay out of everything as much as possible, but is there for the directors and cast if a problem occurs.

"I'm thankful to stay out of it," said Prentiss. "I love to sit back and watch [the plays]. The less I am involved, the better [the plays] are, because it is their own voice."

Fagan and Garcia hope for not only a happy cast, but a positive reaction from the audience.

As the cast rehearses, laughs emerge from the Fagan living room after almost every line in the script. The perfection of the accents is finally coming together, and each actress is discovering her true character. The cast of "Taxi Cab Confessions with Asad" is one step closer to their shining debut on stage. ★



Tweakin' Out, Man ★ Senior Carina Murphy, front, and senior Mikhala Lantz-Simmons run through their roles in seniors Abby Fagan and Mary Garcia's student production, "Asad: Taxicab Confessions," at tech rehearsal April 23. **PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER**

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★in brief

Productions

What: STA annual Student Productions. This year there will be five plays performed.

When: Friday & Saturday, 7:30 p.m. curtain call.

Where: M&A Auditorium.

Why: Student written, directed and performed.

Zoey Ferguson: ...And the Truth Comes Out

Written & Directed by Carolyn Wiedeman & Coco Owens

Cast List:

Zoey: Hannah Girardeau
Beatrice Gates: Sadie McCue
Eunice Whipple: Maggie Henehan
Matt Stewart: Anne Tampke
Security Bob: Mary Kate Bird

"It's the most challenging to be totally creative and write the [play], but it all falls into place with the actors, because they're amazing and hilarious."

"[The play] reveals the truth about a few STA legends."

The Boys Guide to Girls

Written & Directed by Robin Towle

Cast List:

Colleen: Caitlin Sweeny
Nick: Julia Adriano
Alex: Katrina Abella
Allie: Paris Mantz

"The Boy's Guide to Girls' is about one girl's journey to get her best guy friend to notice her."

"The hardest part is probably casting the right people for each part."

Slackastan: The Beginning

Written & Directed by Katie Meyers & Katie Burns-Yocum

Cast List:

Narrator: Eleanor Dillon
Waig Critney: Kate Bohnert
Fen Jinley: Meredith Stoops
Matie Keyers: Kelly Fitzpatrick
Waura Leich: Emily Schapker
Yatie Kearns-Bocum: Allie Lueke
Atrina Kabella: Meredith Snyder
Ficole Narley: Kayla Hogan

"...Six students who found their own country in their AP US History class. It is about their struggles to found and protect their nation, and it is styled after history documentaries."

The Second Missionary Baptist Church

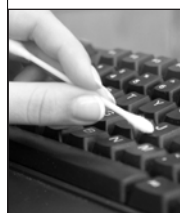
Written & Directed by Amanda Morrall

Cast List:

Ashley Michelle: Katherine Williams
Mom: Lauryn Howard
Deacon Brown: Rachel Janose
Reverend: Alisha Henderson
Sis Myra: Dacoda Hoggatt
Danielle Watkins: Leia Darden
GP: Amanda Morrall

"The play is about a little girl named Ashley going to church. Throughout the play, Ashley comments on different situations she faces."

inside out



Health:

The Dart explores the sanitation of things from lockers to keyboards in order to determine the level of bacteria at STA.

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Features:

Former Spanish teacher Karen Moran Redlich introduces baby Michael Thomas to the STA community.

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SISTERHOOD OF THE PLAID SKIRT

Is high school just like in the movies?

I grew up on this idea, the John Hughes' vision of high school: a homogeny of Zack Morris, Karate Kids, Molly Ringwalds and Marty McFlys. A vision of Duckies, Dannys, Sandys, Chers and Romy and Michelles. A vision of Fast Times and American Pies, of Dirty Dancers and Goonies, of teen wolves and valley/mean girls. A vision of nerds and animal houses, of corvettes, proms, wild parties and above all, the belief that anything was possible. This is the most important element to all teen movies and I believe it to be true, thanks to John Hughes' and all the rest.

But is it realistic? Well, that's a whole different story. Reality in the movie industry is kind of a joke, but I do not have the heart to believe this about the movies that have chronicled the classic American high school experience. Don't we all dream of marrying a Jake Ryan someday?

Don't we hope sometime in these four years, we'll wind up on a parade float singing "Danke Shaen" in front of a gyrating dancing crowd?

I do. So, here is my list of my favorite teen movies ever:

1. "Sixteen Candles"

This movie has it all: the I'm-so-adorable-I-don't-even-know-how-adorable-I-am staple Molly Ringwald, the ridiculously good-looking Jake Ryan love interest and, let's not forget, Anthony Michael Hall playing the ultimate dweeb role. To start off, Molly Ringwald, the quintessential girl, has it all in hindsight, but it wouldn't be a quality teen movie if she knew how great she was, right? Isn't every girl like this, though; blind to her own best qualities? Personally, I resonate best with Anthony Michael Hall's nerd persona. He's goofy, hysterical and underdeveloped. He makes a fool of himself dancing and in the end, gets the popular girl. This guy is the coolest. RENT IT!

2. "The Breakfast Club"

I wish detention were like this, except for the eight-hour Saturday aspect of it. Reality hits hard on this high school dream of five strangers coming together. And so begins the witty banter, the ultimate teen slang, the fights, the bonding, the detention break-out, the love connections. The princess, the athlete, the brain, the criminal and the basket case...oh, I wish life were this simple. No, indeed, STA cannot be reduced to five starkly strange character categories, but this movie is so effective because it is this human connection with the different people that surround us every day that intrigues us most of all. We can all relate to this movie because STA holds this intrigue well.

3. "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"

This movie is so attractive to the teenage spirit of rebellion. Ferris is the ultimate adventurer, and this appeals to our young hearts. There is a little bit of Ferris in all of us: from planning senior pranks to the teachers hurling water balloons on yard day. We just can't afford to act on this part of ourselves too much or else we might have a meddling principal on our tails. I always tell my friends, "One of these days, I'm gonna have a Ferris Buller's day off." Everyone needs to have a taste of freedom like Ferris. We are on the verge of adulthood, and it is this guy that gives us a taste of freedom before we become adults.

4. "Clueless"

This movie is for pure enjoyment. There is almost no connection between the

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Speakers inspire students

SCO brings guest speakers to STA for day to promote awareness of current issues

by KELLY NELSON
Section Editor

The room of over 500 students and teachers erupted in applause April 17 as the keynote speaker at this year's biennial Awareness Day, Mr. Rich Linden, ended his speech encouraging students to go out and positively influence others.

"Every person in this school has the power to make a difference," he said. "I love STA; the girls are awesome, and they really listen and go out and act on what they learn."

Linden spoke out against the society's negative effects on teens and about his own personal experience with drunk driving and peer pressure.

While everyone was required to listen to his seminar, students were given the chance to pick which speakers they listened to during three other sessions throughout the morning.

According to SCO advisor Stacie O'Rear, the club puts on this event every two years to give students an opportunity to learn about a wide range of issues they may face in the future.

"SCO makes students more aware of things going on in not only the STA community, but in the local and global ones as well," she said. "We're trying to prepare students to go out into the real world and introduce them to what it's like out there."

Ms. Ann Hakan, mother of juniors Claire and Maddie Hickey, spoke about current issues facing women. Hakan teaches women's studies at Rockhurst University and believes girls especially must be aware of issues that affect today's society and continue the positive movement other generations began before them.

"[Awareness Day] gives perspectives they might touch on in classes, but not get a concentrated dose of," she said. "Sometimes hearing more about it



Listen up ★ Mr. Rich Linden, keynote speaker at STA's biennial Awareness Day, motions toward the crowd April 17 in the M&A Auditorium. Linden's speech focused on the negative effects society places on teens in terms of drunk driving. PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS

can inspire girls to go out and make a change."

Senior Carolyn Wiedeman, SCO President, said a lot of planning went into the day in an effort to inspire girls and keep students' attention and interest.

"We planned a lot for it just with brainstorming and setting up the technical stuff and everything," she said. "It's mostly just talking about who we think people would want to listen to because people are pretty willing to participate if they can. It was really easy to call

people, and they'd be really excited about it."

Wiedeman feels holding an Awareness Day was beneficial to the student body because it brought in an outside perspective.

"When other people come in from their jobs and everyday life, it just makes us all realize how protected we are here and just that we need to take who we've become at STA and stick with that and also know and be aware of what's out there," she said. ★

celebrating holy thursday



Moving Mass ★ Seniors Katrina Abella, left, and Meredith Snyder practice for the Holy Thursday liturgy April 3. In an effort to liven up the mass, the girls did an interactive skit. PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS

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Uganda

The creators of award-winning documentary, "Invisible Children" visited the STA campus yesterday to help promote the movement for peace in Uganda. The documentary chronicles the experiences of three college students. The movement focuses on the war's effects on children, particularly child soldiers. The filmmakers found that thousands of children flee their homes nightly in order to escape being abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The children who run from their homes walk miles to find shelter from rebel camps. The filmmakers have started a non-profit organization, called Invisible Children Inc.

Junior forms team for EarthWalk

Participants gathered Saturday for the eleventh annual EarthWalk followed by vendors, live entertainment

by CAROLINE QUINN
Staff Writer

Junior Anna Martin greeted the people who passed by her family's booth with a tone of enthusiasm. She smiled at the children who came to the table, pointing at a stack of pea pots and asking them to plant a native Missouri flower. She quickly added that the pots were, of course, biodegradable.

"My personal philosophy about the environment is that it's completely essential to our every day lives and we have the responsibility to look after it," said Martin. "We live in it every day and it's important for us to make the right decisions such as recycling, reducing, reusing, conserving, preserving and all of that."

Martin says she and her stepsister, sophomore Jenny Gottsch, decided months ago that they wanted to do something to bring the community together in protecting the environment. Martin's mother, Ms. Julie Koppen, recently created a local environmental magazine, *Greenability*, to promote a more sustainable, healthy Kansas City. To advertise the new publication, Koppen decided to run a booth at Kansas City's EarthFest following EarthWalk and encouraged the girls to participate in the event as well. Martin said she loved the idea and wanted to make an STA team for the walk to bring environmental awareness to the teens.

EarthWalk and EarthFest are a part of the company Bridging the Gap, which works to make Kansas City eco-friendly by connecting environment, economy and community. Bridging the Gap's EarthWalk Coordinator Leslie Barland believes the popularity of the celebrations has grown because of people's increasing con-

cern with the environment.

"Both the EarthWalk and EarthFest are greeted with enthusiasm each year by the Kansas City community," said Barland. "As the environment continues to become more and more a household topic of conversation, we look forward to growing participation in these events."

Though this year's data has not been collected, Barland says that over the past 10 years, EarthWalk has grossed more than \$245,000 for local environmental efforts. Over 6,900 walkers have walked approximately 20,500 miles.

Participants chose to walk either the 1.5 mile or 2.5 mile trail. After the walk, the 3rd Annual Kansas City EarthFest took place. EarthFest featured 75 exhibitors, ranging from the "Recycled Bike Jewelry" booth to the "Habitat ReStore" exhibit. The center stage showcased performer Eco Elvis, singer Mr. Stinkyfeet and the Hiccups, local band Five Defy, and the Experimental Instrument Orchestra.

In addition to forming an EarthWalk team and helping her mother at the *Greenability* booth, Martin can be seen digging plastic bottles and aluminum cans out of garbage cans throughout the school. After assemblies, she asks students for their program papers. Every day Martin or another member of STA's PB&J club must take the products to the recycling center. Martin feels that simple measures like these may take time, but will form a "greener" world.

"In a perfect world, everyone would pay attention," said Martin. "Everyone would recycle, walk, ride their bikes, take the bus more often, invest in hybrid cars

See EARTHWALK, page 22



Spring planting ★ Junior Anna Martin helps a young boy scoop soil into a cup to grow a native Missouri plant in Shawnee Mission Park April 22. Martin and her family attended the Earth Walk fair to promote her mother's new magazine, "Greenability." PHOTO BY SARAH COOPER

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Blue Angel Dies

On Saturday, Lt. Cmdr. Kevin J. Davis was killed after a fatal plane crash during an air demonstration by the Navy Blue Angels. The show took place 35 miles northwest of Hilton Head Island, and more than 100,000 people were expected to attend. While performing a maneuver, Davis' plane disappeared and a plume of smoke was seen. Plastic and metal debris hit homes in the surrounding area. The following day, Davis was honored in a tribute at the beginning of Sunday's show.

Museum earns 'most anticipated' award

Architect Steven Holl incorporated light and illusions in order to design new contemporary Nelson addition

by COLLEEN OWENS
Managing Editor of Design

The Bloch Building, the new appendage to the Nelson Atkin's Museum of Art, opening this June, was awarded *Time Magazine's* Most Anticipated Building of 2007.

In Kansas City, the public opinion on the work has been mixed.

"I think [the architects] were trying to be modern, chic and innovative, but it does not mix well with the original architecture of the old building," said junior Maddie Hickey. "I can see it in a downtown skyline, but not where it is now."

Junior Claire Hickey agreed with her sister's remarks.

"It is really cool by itself, but it just doesn't match the rest of the building, the older look of it," said Claire.

On skyscraperpage.com, the news of The Bloch Building's new status with *Time Magazine* produced many varying reactions and opinions from web users.

"What is so great about it anyway," wrote blogger BnaBreaker. "From the outside, it looks like a series of large trailer homes."

Although Steven Holl Architects has refused to respond, the firm is no stranger to success and widespread press.

Mr. Steven Holl was selected to design the expansion project in 1999 out of six hopeful architects around the country. His design impressed the Architectural Expansion Committee, which was looking to add onto the campus without destroying the Nelson's original front

landscape and without clashing with the 1933 neo-classic structure. Holl's idea of building several glass pavilions along the museums eastern hills, and his attention to light, pleased the Committee enough to hire him as the official Bloch Building's architect.

Over the next several years, Holl constructed what *Metropolis Magazine* named the "magical lantern."

"From the outside, they appear to be separate buildings, minimalist ice blocks popping up out of the Kansas City Sculpture Park with no purpose except to stand there and look pretty," wrote Stephen Zacks in the March 14 edition of *Metropolis*.

Holl's design incorporated more than just an outward effect. He selected translucent materials to reflect and refract light both outside and inside the structure.

"Everything that happens on the outside for the sake of spectacle has a functional equivalent in the daylight pouring through the subterranean galleries, bringing the interior spaces to life and producing as many different experiences for viewing art as there are qualities of natural light," wrote Zacks. "The interplay between the interior and exterior—the blocks rising above the surface are fundamentally vehicles for light, and the landscape flows into and on top of the exhibition spaces, making this one of the most captivating contemporary museum experiences since the opening of the Tate Modern."

The Bloch Building creates an illusion



Let there be light! ★ The newest wing of the Nelson-Atkins Museum, the Bloch Building, opens June 9 with free admission during its inaugural weekend. PHOTO BY LIBBY CONWELL

to the naked eye when viewing its façade from Broadway. Most of the galleries are underground, but the light and the landscape of the structure appear otherwise. The building looks as though it were divided into five separate box-shape buildings spaced evenly down the slope towards the main street, when in actuality, these translucent glass-pavilions are connected to the elongated building underneath.

As controversial as the building might have seemed to citizens getting used to the new structure, critics and glorifiers alike agree the light is what makes this building unique.

"During the day [photon hydraulics] pour diffused light into the galleries," wrote Mr. Richard, *Time's* senior writ-

er. "After dark, lit from within, they'll pump it back against the night sky. Call them lenses, Holl's term or lanterns. They're illuminating."

Steven Holl Architects is currently involved in designing several structures in China, France and New York City.

The summer of 2007 will hold events and galas celebrating the opening of the highly anticipated museum.

"More than just a building, the new Nelson-Atkins will be a world-class destination," says the Nelson-Atkins website. "It will be a source of inspiration, creativity and enjoyment. Simply put, it will be a place for community."

Opening weekend, June 9 and 10, the museum invites free admission into the Bloch Building for curious visitors. ★

BY KATE RAINEY

March 23: Cub saved



Knowing Knut ★ Knut, a baby polar bear in a Berlin zoo, survived the call for his execution by lethal injection when an animal rights activist stated raising the bear by hand "is not appropriate to the species...the zoo needs to kill the bear cub."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Knut the polar bear has caused a sensation in the Berlin Zoo. Knut and his twin brother were abandoned by their mother shortly after birth. The brother died, but Knut was adopted by zookeeper Thomas Doerflein, according to Reuters.com. Doerflein moved into Knut's enclosure and sleeps next to his crate. When the zoo first saved Knut, some animal rights activists demanded the bear be allowed to fend for itself. They believed it violated the animal's rights for the zookeeper to care for Knut (bottle feeding, bathing, etc.) because it would domesticate the cub. Zookeepers rejected the claim, saying they would continue to care for the bear.

March 23: Captured sailors

Iran seized 15 British sailors and marines March 23, claiming the soldiers traveled into Iranian waters. Britain asserts the sailors were within Iraqi waters. The British were released April 15 after being held captive for 13 days. Iran stated that the release was in celebration of the birthday of the prophet Muhammad and no compromise or concession was made. Two soldiers have faced criticism for selling their stories to the media, according to ireland.com.

April 16: Tech massacre



Support system ★ Virginia Tech freshmen Sarah Carlson, from left, Sarah Peet and Danica Van Thorn support each other during a memorial service April 17, the day after 33 people were shot on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Va. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Cho Seung-Hui killed 32 fellow students and teachers, and then himself on the Virginia Tech campus April 16. Fifteen more people were injured, according to the *New York Times*. Before the shooting, Cho mailed a multimedia manifesto to NBC news. The manifesto included a video confession, writings and photographs, including one of Cho pointing his gun directly into the camera. Cho was ordered to undergo mental evaluation in December 2005 and was ruled a danger to himself and others. He was ordered to undergo outpatient treatment, according to Fox News. ★

Pope approaches sainthood



His holiness ★ A statue of Pope John Paul II stands outside the Kalwaria basilica near his home town of Wadowice in rural Poland. Throughout his life, Pope John Paul II used a small side chapel in the basilica as a place of deep prayer in times of stress and doubt.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

John Paul II is on way to becoming fastest canonized saint in history after nun attributes miracle to leader

by ANNE TAMPKE
Staff Writer

Pope John Paul II is on the fast track to sainthood after recently being promoted to a blessed status two years after his death. The normal canonization process usually takes a decade or two for a person to move one or two steps in line.

Recently, Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, a French nun, claimed she was healed of Parkinson's disease (an illness the pope was afflicted with himself), through John Paul's intercession.

"I was ill, and now I am healed," said Marie-Simon-Pierre at a press conference March 30. "My healing was the work of God through the intercession of John Paul."

The possible miracle is under investigation by both medical professionals and theologians. If the miracle is proven to be authentic, John Paul would be catapulted up to a Blessed status, breaking record times.

Pope John Paul II eased the process

of sainthood during his 26-year tenure by requiring only two miracles for canonization instead of four. He also added more saints and blessed to the communion than all other popes combined, starting from the papacy of the apostle St. Peter.

The traditional canonization process has several steps, and with each one, the candidate receives a higher ranking. It is necessary for at least five years to have passed since the candidate's death to be considered. Then the bishop of the candidate's diocese is responsible for beginning the investigation and witnesses are called before the tribunal to report facts on the demonstration of theological and cardinal virtues by the candidate.

When this information is gathered, the candidate is titled Servant of God, and its case is brought to the postulator in Rome and before a congregation of theologians. If the Servant of God's case passes through, it is then brought to the Pope, and if he approves, the beatification process begins.

In order for a saint to be blessed, a required miracle must be proven through canonical investigation after the candidate's death. Another miracle fitting the same criteria must be proven for the canonization process to be complete.

Crowds urged Pope Benedict XVI to canonize John Paul II very shortly after his death, chanting "Santo Subito," which translates to "Sainthood Immediately!" Technically, the pope has the power to canonize a saint immediately, but Benedict followed a more restrictive approach to the process. He did, however, waive the five-year waiting period after a person's death before beatification, done only once before by John Paul II for Mother Teresa.

"But speed doesn't mean a lack of seriousness," said Monsignor Slawomir Oder, a key player in John Paul's investigation, in an interview with ABC. "The beatification process is not a media question; it is a question of the Holy Spirit."

Pope John Paul II is one miracle short of becoming a saint and being understood as the concession of public worship in the Universal Church. Oder has commented on other possible miracle cases being presented at the moment, all involving unexplainable medical healings. ★

States work to ban texting while driving

While some legislatures push for laws prohibiting use of cell phones, Kansas, Missouri take no precautions

by NICOLE GRAVINO
Staff Writer

An STA student rolls out of the parking lot changing radio stations, scrolling through her iPod and stopping to talk before pulling onto 57th St. On top of everything else, she is texting.

Talking on cell phones while driving is a common occurrence, but texting on them is also becoming a problem, which has caused some states, to push for legislation making the practice illegal.

On the streets of Kansas or Missouri, there is not a law in place banning texting while driving, but in Washington, this is a reality. It is the only state to pass a law making it illegal to drive while texting, or DWT. New Jersey, Arizona, Connecticut and the District of Columbia are currently in the process of enacting similar laws.

Washington's law cites that a police officer cannot pull an individual over for DWT. A primary offense such as speeding or running a stop sign is necessary before a police officer can issue a fine for texting. The fine in Washington is \$101 and goes on the driver's permanent record.

New Jersey's law lists DWT as a primary offense, making it possible for someone to be pulled over exclusively for texting. A law proposed in Connecticut includes fines starting at \$500.

The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute released a study in April which concluded 80 percent of crashes and 65 percent of near crashes last year involved driver inattention within three seconds of the event.

"Anything that diverts the driver's attention can be a factor in an accident,"

said Captain Wes Jordan of the Prairie Village Police Department. "It could be talking, changing the radio station, shaving. Is one worse than the other?"

Any number of things can qualify as something that would divert the driver's attention. The diversion is not always related to cell phone use and could be reaching for something out of reach while driving. However, cell phones are beginning to gain prominence as the cause of accidents. There are 27 states tracking the number of accidents due to cell phone use, but Kansas and Missouri are not among them.

"Technically, it is not something we are tracking right now," said Jordan. "It is not a common violation."

Kansas and Missouri have not taken any steps toward proposing a law such as the one passed in Washington. There is not enough support for such an action in this area.

"Laws are passed to change behaviors," said Jordan. "Until the public sees a need for a law and voluntarily complies with it, it isn't going to change." ★

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Le president
Last Sunday, the election for the next president of France began. The voters selected Nicholas Sarkozy and Segolene Royal from a dozen other candidates. These two will face a final round of voting May 6. President Jacques Chirac has served as head of state for the past 12 years. The successor to Chirac will be greeted by a large and listless economy, a downbeat workforce and an alienated Muslim population.

Are STA uniforms practical?

Most private schools require students to wear uniforms. Uniforms are said to eliminate social class distinctions, while promoting equality and reducing jealousy. Some schools are more lenient on what they require, allowing students to choose certain items.

Current school uniforms need new practical, comfortable look

Short skirts, itchy sweaters and short sleeved polo shirts. Practical? Not in this lifetime. As students wake up and dress for the day's events ahead, they wear what they are required to wear. This is the uniform. Uniforms are handy when establishing a general school style and level of presentable appeal, but short skirts? Itchy sweaters? Short-sleeved polo shirts? Why this uniform? Comfort and practicality must not be worth much to STA because both are completely lacking.

When students get home from school to begin homework, they change out of their clothes into comfortable pants, sweatshirts, t-shirts and so on. If the uniforms were comfortable enough for them to continue wearing them into the night, they would leave it on.

STA is also a college preparatory school, so in what way exactly does a questionably flame-retardant sweater conform to this ideal? Students in college do not have to wear these get-ups. STA should be preparing us for the real world, not for Britney Spears's first music video.

A short skirt is an item of clothing that is best worn on a nice day, or on a weekend, not when attempting to solve a chemistry equation. Since STA is a school with stairs, it makes more sense to develop shorts, like a breathable, J-Crew-style plaid short about the same length as the school skirts are now. Shorts are worn under the skirts anyway, to prevent embarrassing situations, so why not just eliminate the middleman: that ridiculously

useless skirt?

The material of the red and black sweaters is quite offensive to the human touch. Its wiry, abrasive and crude texture distracts students throughout the day. STA should require sweaters that breathe, sweaters that students can wear when it is a bit chilly in the morning but also sweaters that students can keep on for later in the day when the temperature warms up; it has to breathe to do this. Also, a sweater that does a little more for blocking the cold weather in the winter would be nice. Cotton is an ideal, natural fiber for the material of a new sweater, and would be a guaranteed hit if applied to next year's uniforms.

Comfort



The main editorial board of *The Dart* concluded in a 4-1 vote that the STA uniform should remain as is. Our editorial board is comprised of the co-editors-in-chief and managing editors.

School uniforms are a lovely equalizer and serve a genuine purpose for this wonderful school. But why not spend a little time and effort rethinking the very symbol of what our student body is: the uniforms, and why not incorporate comfort and practicality into its everyday use? It is about time STA does. ★

Uniforms provide sentimental, functional dress for students

There is something inextricably STA in those red and black-themed uniforms.

Students complain and joke about the uniform melting instead of burning when lit on fire, and girls wish the shirts weren't as wide as they are long or that the sweater didn't fray on the ends. But every year, seniors, glassy-eyed and emotional, pack up that skirt to take away to college, a visible connection to the institution that gave them so much over their four years.

While the uniform holds sentimental value by the end of four years, there is also an extremely functional aspect. The skirts, while

The sweater, while not the most flattering cut or of the finest fabric, proves to be just what an STA girl needs to cross the quad in the middle of January. They're warm enough and aren't terribly absorbent, really a perfect solution to outdoor passing in Kansas City winters. The sweater does not die. Every sweater will inevitably wind up in the lost and found several times, only to stretch or hang off of girls of all heights and builds. It's all about the flexibility and about the fact that they don't have to hang dry.

But the STA uniform isn't all about the flexibility and durability. It provides a bond to a family of alumnae and an image of women powered by intelligence and respect. Despite the low-maintenance nature of the uniform, STA girls always manage to look (fairly) put together on a day-to-day basis, and they look impressive at Open House.

Driving up to the parking lot as girls commute from building to building is inspiring and comforting. The skirt, most missing buttons or zippers, is STA. The skirt is recognizable in the community... "So you're an STA girl, right?" or "I remember when I was in that plaid skirt; see, I'm still wearing my class ring."

The skirt obviously isn't what instills in the students the confidence and skills needed to succeed, but it is a representation of what has aided STA girls everywhere in making a difference: tradition and a connection to a community. ★



Nostalgia

they might lose a button or two along the way, do ultimately hold up to the wear and tear of daily life at STA. Girls can go weeks without washing them, even when they serve as a napkin. Students are able to stretch the skirt to last four years and then return it to be sold for ten dollars to an underclassman.

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★in brief

Abortion ruling

The Supreme Court last week upheld the nationwide ban placed on partial birth abortions. Some doctors claim this could be a step toward greater government intrusion into private medical practices and decisions. They say the ruling will intimidate doctors who provide any type of abortion services.

In 2003, President George W. Bush signed into law the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, the first act of its kind since the Roe v. Wade decision of 1973 that legalized abortion.

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Ownership and sponsorship: The Dart, a monthly newspaper, is written, designed and typeset by student members of the newspaper staff. Students enroll in the newspaper class after completing Introduction to Journalism during freshman or sophomore year. The Dart is published with funds from the St. Teresa's Academy general operating fund and advertising revenue. St. Teresa's Academy is a Catholic, independent college preparatory school, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Editorial Policy: In cases of potentially controversial material, the students of the editorial board will meet to resolve conflict and reach decisions. However, the administration of St. Teresa's Academy reserves the right to restrain news and editorial content based on Catholic values and respect for the educational environment. Unsigned editorials present the opinions of The Dart staff editorial board. Signed columns reflect the opinions of the individual, and not necessarily the staff or school community.

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

Saying 'no' to bottled water

SARAH SMITH



STAFF WRITER

Running six flights of stairs in five minutes with a 50-pound backpack seems like the perfect excuse to chug an ice cold bottle of water. However, before you are too quick to indulge in your thirst-quenching treat, there are some startling facts about water bottles that might make you choke a little bit.

Ghastly price markups, irrevocable environmental harm and misleading sales tactics are just a few things that the bottled water industry can boast about. It seems to be working as the Beverage Marketing Corporation reports an annual growth rate of 7 percent, the industry bringing in more than \$35 billion each year.

One in five Americans admits to solely drinking bottled water. Water sommeliers and bottled water bars are popping up in metropolitan areas. The producers of bottled water have created a culture based on label images of immaculate flowing streams and lush foliage. But the truth is that Dasani, the bottles sold in The Commons for \$1.25, is drawn straight from municipal taps. You could get up to 10,000 times as much tap water for the price of one bottle of water.

According to the Container Recycling Institute, the production and transportation

of bottled water uses 47 million gallons of oil each year. This is enough to power 100,000 cars for one year. While we all bemoan the price of gas, no one even stops to question the fact that a gallon of purified water costs almost twice as much as a gallon of gas.

The World Wildlife Federation estimates 1.5 million tons of plastic are used to manufacture just the bottles. Nine out of ten water bottles end up as garbage or litter at a rate of 30 million bottles per day, taking up to 500 years to biodegrade. All of this combined creates one billion pounds of carbon dioxide each year, a major contributor to the greenhouse effect and ergo global warming.

So, the answer should be recycling, right? You may be surprised to learn despite the dramatic increase in consumption, plastic bottle recycling has steadily declined since 1995. The industry has actively opposed legislation to improve recycling rates.

Fiji water, a common companion to the Academy girl's North Face backpack, has been called the "Hummer of bottled water." Sustaining engineer Mr. Pablo Paster calculated that to produce, transport and store one bottle of Fiji water it takes 6.74 gallons of water, 0.26 gallons of fossil fuel and creates 1.3 pounds of greenhouse gases. This proves that the bottle itself is often more important than what is inside of it.

Bottled water has become one of America's most affordable status symbols. It is synonymous with affluence, athleticism and health, and it has become common knowledge that tap water is totally passé.

The solution is really quite simple. Stop buying bottled water. In a recent test by *Men's Health Magazine*, Kansas City's tap water was rated third cleanest among 100



CARTOON BY SARAH SMITH

largest cities, "containing no detected impurities." We have to learn to shed our preconceptions about tap water; in reality the federal standards for tap water are stricter than those for bottled water. If chlorine is an issue for your taste buds, purchasing a water filtration system is an easy fix. In a blind taste test conducted by "Good Morning America" almost all the participants chose the New York City tap water over the bottled alternative.

As ABC News said, "Ad campaigns

touting spring fed or glacier-born H₂O are winning over a population increasingly skeptical of taps and willing to shell out big bucks for what they consider a purer, tastier and safer drink." This deception has created a crazy cycle. The waste from plastic bottles seeps toxins into the groundwater. This will lead to contaminated tap water and more excuses for the bottled water industry to exploit consumers into drinking something, as Aquafina says, "So pure we promise nothing." ★

Prestigious group denies deserving applicants

NICOLE FARLEY



CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As I walked about campus April 4 and watched fellow senior classmates carry the gold cords they will wear on graduation day, I realized dejectedly, as I did at the National Honor Society ceremony last year, that I would not get the chance to wear those cords. Regardless of how much I wanted to be in NHS, an unclear and imbalanced application process rejected my induction, as well as the inductions of other deserving students like me. Such an unfair procedure hurts our students, and needs to be changed.

According to NHS moderator Steph Hart, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher to apply. The application consists of three one-page essays on the four pillars of NHS (scholarship, leadership, character, service), as well as a listing of the student's leadership and service commitments. A faculty review committee then grades the applications. This is where the subjective part of the process comes in.

Heading into the NHS application process, a student should have a good idea as to whether or not she will be admitted. However, because of the arbitrary decisions being made behind closed doors, no student is a safe bet.

At other area high schools, the application process is clearly defined for students. For example, at Shawnee Mission West, all sophomores and juniors with a 3.6 or

above GPA (who would qualify for their junior and senior years) are notified of their eligibility. Shawnee Mission North's acceptance rate is over 90 percent and, according to NHS moderator Ms. Laurie Matson-Ritter, applications are generally only denied if the student neglected to fill out all of the required parts or to get all necessary teacher signatures. Meanwhile, at Shawnee Mission South, 99 percent of students who apply are inducted.

This year, STA accepted 82 percent of its applicants – but, if one of the main objectives of the organization is to do service for the community, why doesn't NHS want as many capable helping hands as they could get? Higher acceptance rates, such as those of other schools, would also allow STA to flaunt the great number of academically successful students.

By keeping such a guarded hold on determining which students are good enough to get into the STA chapter of NHS, Hart and the teacher panels are preventing many of our students from reaching their highest academic potentials. Colleges are looking to see if students are members of NHS when receiving applications, especially for students with high GPAs who appear as if they would meet the organization's requirements. However, students who look on paper like they would have met the requirements but were not involved in NHS may seem lazy or unmotivated for their lack of participation. NHS is a national organization, and it is unfair for the STA chapter to create such a subjective

application process. Admission into NHS should be more similar to that of other local schools, as well as to the national organization's standards. Furthermore, after these criteria are adjusted, they should be clearly stated and widely distributed among all students so that everyone who could qualify knows what the organization is looking for. When I applied for NHS, I was certain that I was qualified. Unfortunately, I didn't know what the teacher committee and Hart wanted from me additionally.

When I applied for NHS during my sophomore year, I had a 4.0 cumulative GPA. I had been enrolled in seven honors/accelerated classes, including several that also happened to be junior-level classes. I was a first-year staff writer/photographer on *The Dart*, had received the Outstanding Journalism Student award and was a writer and member of *The Kansas City Star's* TeenStar section. I had received an academic scholarship from STA each year, including the Presidential Scholarship for my freshman year because I scored a 99 on the entrance exam. I had been in two clubs at STA, and had both in-school and out-of-school service hours. Looking at the requirements on the application, I felt I surpassed them, and was confident that I would get in.

Later, when the list of new inductees was posted, I was surprised and upset to find my name absent from the list. Many other deserving students were similarly disappointed. Because I was unsure of what had kept me out of the organization, I decided to go to Hart. I asked her what I hadn't done, what I should concentrate on the following year so that, perhaps, I

could be inducted as a junior.

I was told that my essays had not been developed fully enough.

Despite the rest of my application and despite the fact that I had met all of the other qualifications, one round of underdeveloped essays had kept me from getting into NHS? Essays that, in the directions, had specifically stated to be "brief" and to be one page "maximum." Two

See NHS, page 23

our opinion BY THE NUMBERS

The Dart polled 100 students about the gold cords given to NHS members for graduation.

Traditionally, cords at graduation are meant to be a recognition of academic achievement. At STA, students used to receive cords for being in the top 10 percent of their class. Now, only NHS members receive these cords. Is this a fair practice?

71% said "no, students should receive cords for being in the top 10 percent, or for having first honors."

25% said "yes, students should receive cords for being members of National Honor Society."

4% said "students should receive cords for being in NHS and/or for being in the top 10 percent of the class."

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Troubled kids
Milwaukee schools voted Monday to permit the use of plastic handcuffs on disruptive and violent students. Opponents have claimed this measure could hurt students mentally and physically. Others have said it is a necessary step in protecting both students and teachers from unruly students, while allowing them to remain in school.

Students should not try to 'do it all' in high school

ELIZABETH NELSON



POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

It's not a stretch to assume most STA students start thinking about college during freshman year. "Will my grades be good enough?" "Will varsity sports give me a leg up?" "Should I volunteer somewhere?" It's not a stretch because it is expected.

Most of us have been raised to strive to be the best we can be. We should go to Harvard. We should play sports, have a 4.0 and be beautiful and thin at the same time. The added pressure coming from top colleges and teachers gives us the impression we are failures if we do not overachieve.

It is this pressure, this expectation, that leads some girls to résumé building. Whether they admit it or not, many girls at STA are guilty of this practice, and it is unfair to all students.

For example, consider a girl (let's call her Sally) who wants to go to a top-level school like Harvard. Sally knows she will need to stand out. She has an A+ average and awesome test scores, but that is not enough for Harvard. So, Sally joins the maximum number of clubs she is allowed - one. She

plans to one day lead this club, and there is nothing wrong with that because being limited to one club suggests she actually cares about it. But, she also joins yearbook, Peer Helpers, PB&J, math team and NHS, along with anything else she is permitted to join, even though she is not actually interested in any of them.

Now you may be thinking, "What's wrong with that? Sally wants to go to Harvard. She'll put in a good effort because she wants the recognition." Well, the problem is this: what about the girl (let's call her Susie) who wants to be a counselor? Maybe Peer Helpers is Susie's calling, but the club is full of Sally's friends. It is pretty unlikely Susie will ever be elected to a position of leadership. Is that fair?

The fact is, this pressure is hurting us. It may be Susie cannot reach her potential, or Sally is unable to realize what she's truly interested in and will never get past the goal of impressing someone.

Colleges need a way to set people apart, but are they really looking for someone who has a passion for 20 different things? We all need to step back and look at why we want to go to these schools. We also need to consider why these colleges expect so much from us. If at 17 we are expected to do it all, what will we be expected to do at 40? Will we ever be able to sit back and enjoy life? Will we still be building résumés after graduating high school and college? No, we will not be able to enjoy life, until we are able to do what we want without worrying about being judged, whether by a college, a boss or a friend. ★

30 Seconds With ★ Ms. Stacie O'Rear by Rachel Schwartz



What is the purpose of Awareness Day, and why is it important to you?

Awareness Day is important because it gives us the opportunity to bring in speak-

ers giving presentations on various topics, in a condensed time frame, to bring awareness of things going on in our own community and the world community to girls here.

Speakers talk about [their experiences] here and in other countries. This may open up options for our girls to get involved in things they've never thought about getting involved in before...It also educates girls on other subjects and helps them become more aware and prepared for different situations. For example, a speaker [came] to talk about self defense. ★

Exemption from finals will encourage effort

CARLIE CAMPBELL



STAFF WRITER

The STA student handbook states, "Seniors, second semester only, may be exempt from final exams if they have an A- or above for the semester." If this option were presented to all students, the outcome would be positive. It could raise many students' grades and motivate them to try harder in all classes.

Schools like St. Thomas Aquinas and

Blue Springs South are willing to let any student choose to waive their finals in certain classes if their grade is high enough in that class. At Blue Springs South, students with a 95-percent attendance rate and a grade point average of 3.5 or higher are allowed to "card out," or, waive any two of their finals each semester (except Advanced Placement classes). If STA instituted a policy like this, it would provide students incentive to make good grades all semester long and provide a welcome break from studying before finals.

Let's face it, we have all resented the dreaded "finals week" full of studying. The option of waiving finals for all students would give students the incentive to apply themselves throughout the semester, not just before finals. It would also encourage students to strive for the best possible grade they could achieve in every class.

Let's assume a student is strong academ-

Letter to the Editors

Ms. Shana Prentiss,
fine arts department chair

Re: Issue 6, "Course requirements spark debate"

I empathize with student frustrations regarding graduation expectations, but would be remiss if I didn't address some misconceptions in your recent editorial. Yes, all STA students must complete one fine arts credit before graduation, but most students fulfill this requirement in their freshman year. All freshmen must choose between Drawing I, Chorus, Instrumental Music, Drama or Journalism. Journalism stands alone as not counting toward a fine arts credit. Therefore, only journalism students do not fulfill the requirement in their first year at STA (or students transferring to STA after freshman year). You've implied this was a school-wide issue when it simply is not.

Students enroll in fine arts classes, not only to fulfill elective requirements, but also because they enjoy the content area. Having a fine arts requirement hanging over their heads is not the sole motivation for taking these classes. Moreover, the fine arts have been considered part of a well-rounded education for centuries, and students often never discover their talents until given opportunities in these courses but this is a whole other argument all together. I will save that for another time.

As for frustration over courses only counting for half a credit, I agree. Believe me, this is frustrating on our end too. I would love to offer more full-year, full-credit courses. The problem there lies in scheduling and enrollment. Year-long courses are more likely to conflict with student-schedules, given the constraints of our modular scheduling system, and there are no plans to change this system at this time.

While I recognize your concerns about the fine arts requirement, they need to be seen in the larger context of the student body as a whole and the scheduling system. ★

Photo Poll

COMPILED BY KELLY NELSON

If you could bring any person to speak at STA, who would it be?



"Bill Cosby, because he's funny and I'd have him do 'The Kids Say the Darndest Things,' because it's crazy."

- Emily Quatman, freshman



"Randy Nadler, because he spoke at our grade school, and he goes all over the world on trips, and I think it's really cool learning about all the places he visits."

- Casey O'Flaherty, freshman



"I would probably have Sr. Helen Prejean come back to emphasize all she said because I find her views on the death penalty interesting."

- Elizabeth Howard, sophomore



"Paul Rusesabagina from Brussels, Belgium [portrayed in 'Hotel Rwanda'], because he's considered a hero when it comes to [protesting] the genocide in Rwanda and does speeches all over the country and world."

- Maggie Henehan, junior



"I would have Al Gore's presentation from 'An Inconvenient Truth' because it'd be beneficial for our school to learn about global warming."

- Alice Collins, senior

GRAPHIC BY ELIZABETH NELSON

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Gun control
According to a new CBS News Poll, about 66 percent of adults surveyed said laws dealing with the sale of handguns should be stricter. Only a few said stricter gun control would have helped prevent the shootings last week at Virginia Tech.

Finals Policies

St. Thomas Aquinas

Any student with a semester grade of 96 percent or above, before the semester test(s), may be exempt.

Any student achieving a semester grade of 86 percent or above and who has missed two days, or less, and has not received more than two late to school detentions will be able to waive one final exam.

Notre Dame de Sion

Any student who has seven finals may waive one for a class in which she has a B- or higher. Juniors may waive one final per semester. AP tests must be taken for AP classes. Seniors second semester are exempt from any final if they have not missed more than 35 days of school.

Rockhurst High School

Only seniors are able to waive finals. Seniors may waive any final second semester for a class in which they have an A- or higher. It is up to a teacher's discretion on whether or not to let any students waive a final.

A+

Juniors head to State for NHD

Group presents project on F. Scott Fitzgerald for National History Day

by ALLISON POINTER
Staff Writer

It was the last long-awaited bubble. With two minutes to think, junior Lily Hough took her pencil and marked her answer. Finally, the ACT was over. However, instead of joining her friends for the rest of the weekend, Hough, along with four other juniors, made her way to Columbia, Mo.

National History Day (NHD) State Competition took place April 14. This is a day for teens around the state of Missouri to gather and present projects relating the theme Triumph and Tragedy. The group also used the documentary for their junior class 1920s project.

"F. Scott [Fitzgerald] fits parallel to the 1920s," said junior Jordan Leinen. "We just sort of combined two projects. F. Scott tied to the 20s project and we narrowed down and just kind of explored the irony of it being parallel to the 20s and the NHD topic of Triumph and Tragedy."

This year, after placing at locals, Hough and Leinen, along with juniors Alex Miller and Sarah Smith, rushed to show off their documentary on F. Scott Fitzgerald.

"We had to rush down there because the ACT ran over," said Hough. "We were just happy that they would look at ours."

Last year, as sophomores, Hough, Leinen and Smith worked together to complete their NHD project for the Accelerated World Literature class. This year, Miller joined the group and they chose to do their topic on Fitzgerald.

After winning at regionals, the state competition was the next step at the University of Missouri.

After presenting to two judges, the group was told they had made it to the finals; a chosen six who were again to be judged for the winners. Ten minutes later, they were giving their presentation to two new judges. Three hours later, they found out they did not place.

"We were just happy to get a chance and to make it to finals," said Hough. "When we found out [about that], we were excited enough because we hardly



Provocative presentation ★ Juniors Anna Boisseau, from left, and Eleanor Dillon present their 1920s project on birth control. The junior class was required to choose a topic, incorporating history and literature, of prominence in the 1920s. PHOTO BY MARY KATE BIRD

made it there. It was hard not to get a place after waiting for three hours, hard to come back to and kind of a letdown."

Mr. Mark Fudenburg, their AP American Literature teacher, was shocked when he heard of their finals scores.

"I really thought they might go to nationals," he said. "It just must get really tough as you go higher."

Because the topic went so well with both NHD and the annual 1920s projects, it was used for both.

The girls said they created a good, well-rounded group.

"Sarah knew a lot of the technology stuff really well," said Hough. "She was really good at the computer program [for the documentary]. The rest of us just divided the work for the paper and wrote different parts."

Hough said technology seemed to

make them suffer the most.

"I think that ours, in terms of the other videos, we were good in the script and context," she said. "I think we had one of the best subjects but couldn't keep up technologically. Last year, ours was one of the most impressive in terms of technology; this year, it was a lot bigger and new schools came. Our technology got blown away, and obviously that is what appealed to the judges."

Before State, they knew a little more about what to expect based on last year.

"When we won last year, I kind of expected that we would go through this year," said Hough. "But I was [still] a little surprised when we won because I hadn't seen the other projects. This year, it wasn't a class assignment, and we just had to go off on everything we knew last year just because we were kind of more

on our own."

Leinen agrees with Hough about knowing, but not knowing what to expect.

"You never know what other people's looks like," said Leinen. "I think ours is a really strong and good topic, but it is also based on what others bring to the table."

During this whole project, Fudenburg stood by their side.

"I was really rather flattered that they asked for my help," Fudenburg said. "It was also a thrill for me because they chose my favorite author."

Leinen agreed Fudenburg was enthused by the whole project.

"I think he kind of expected [the win] and was excited because he knew we worked really hard and knew we deserved it," said Leinen. ★

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Academic Awards

The Academic Honors & Awards assembly was held today to honor those students who are high achievers in a specific class, as well as those who meet the qualifications for First Honors and Second Honors. Receiving Second Honors requires a minimum 3.3 GPA, while First Honors requires a minimum 3.7 GPA.

Seniors to take AP test without help of class

STA's lack of AP Government course does not deter four seniors; they utilize outside material to prepare

by ELIZABETH NELSON
Section Editor

Four students will take the AP United States Government exam May 7, but STA does not offer an AP course for government.

"[An AP Government course] has been considered," said US government teacher Pat Sirridge. "But a limited number of students would be willing to take advanced government for a year, and [AP government] is intended to be a year-long course."

Sirridge does not encourage his students to take the exam; in fact, he was "quite surprised."

"It came out of the blue," said Sirridge.

This is the first year STA is offering the AP government exam on campus.

"We just don't have enough days to cover all the material I would like to cover," said Sirridge. "I think we will find out when we see how these students do if [the extra effort] is worth it."

Sirridge listed several topics that, because of the short amount of time, cannot be covered. These include exploring all of the landmark Supreme Court cases and going in-depth into local and state government.

The four seniors to take the exam are Carina Murphy, Colleen Owens, Kathleen Pointer and Alison Raybould.

"I just figure why not [take the exam]," said Murphy. "I think if we do well, it might encourage STA to make an AP government program, which I think a lot of girls would take."

To prepare, the girls must work hard to learn additional material and get more details on topics covered. Murphy is using study books along with help from teachers.

"I think [learning on my own] does come easier for me," said Murphy. "I've been in AP and honors classes, so it is different - I read pretty thoroughly, unlike other girls. If I don't do well [on the exam], I don't consider it a waste of time. There really are no disadvantages to taking it." ★

AP United States Government

Because STA does not offer an AP United States Government course, students who choose to take the exam must put in extra effort to learn additional material.

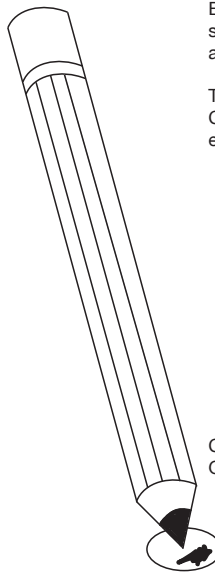
The official website of AP exams is www.collegeboard.com. According to College Board, students who will take the AP United States Government exam should be able to:

- ✓ Know the important facts, concepts and theories pertaining to US government and politics
- ✓ Understand the typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences (including the components of political behavior, the principles used to explain or justify various government structures and procedures and the political effects of these structures and procedures)
- ✓ Be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to US government and politics

College Board says the following topics should be covered in an AP US Government course:

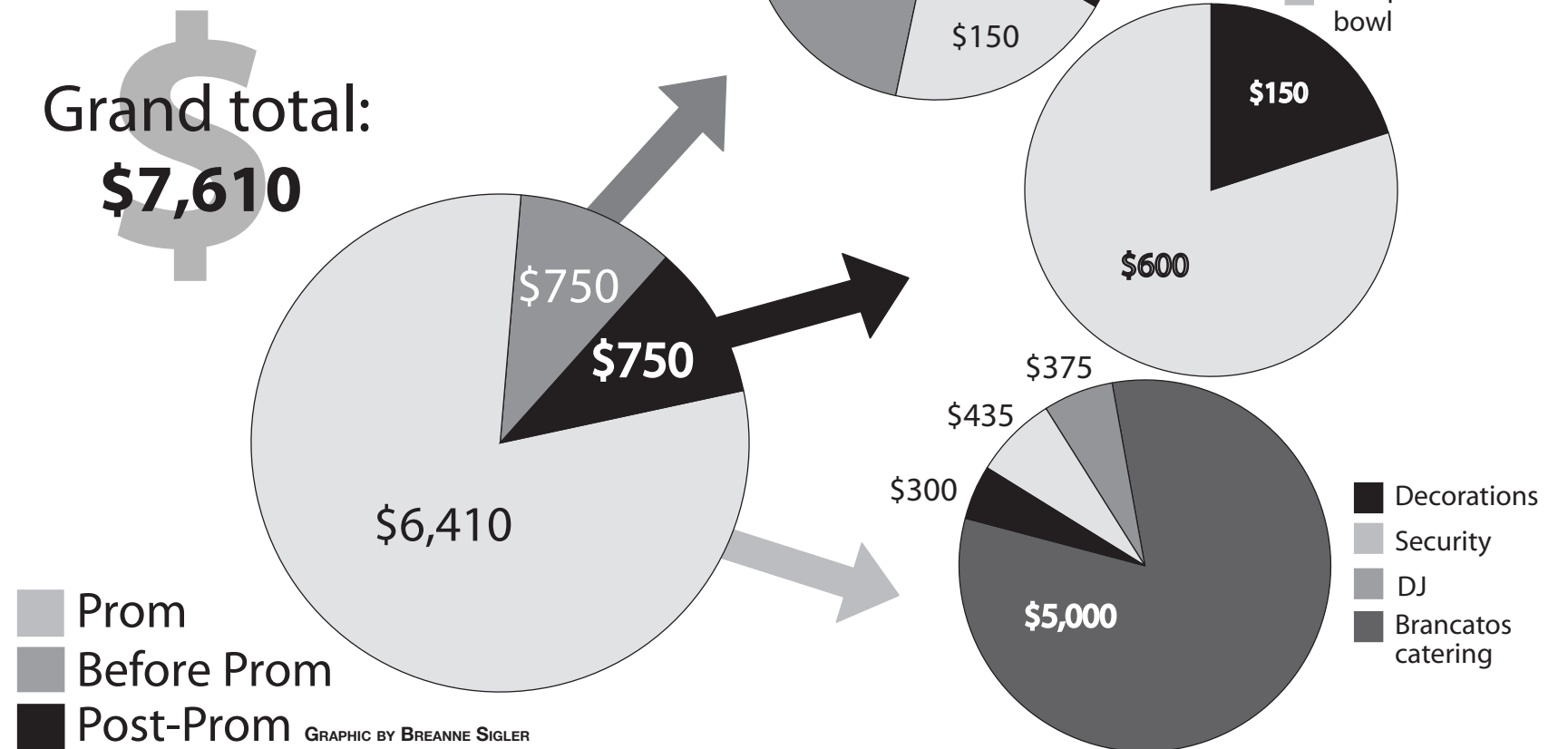
- ✓ Constitutional Underpinnings of the US Government
- ✓ Political Beliefs and Behaviors
- ✓ Political Parties, Interest Groups and Mass Media
- ✓ Institutions of National Government
- ✓ Public Policy
- ✓ Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

GRAPHIC BY ELIZABETH NELSON



Big Spender

Prom totalled \$7,610 this year. Ticket sales and prior fundraising paid for prom. Prom costs were divided into three categories in the largest pie graph below. Then each category was separated into its own pie graph to illustrate the individual costs that made up the three sections of the main graph.



★in brief

Fresh faces
The annual Star Night will be held May 3 in The Commons. This event is a chance for incoming freshmen to meet their Big Sisters, who are chosen by their advisors, and receive important documents. The girls play games, such as Human Bingo, and eat ice cream in order to mingle with and get to know their future classmates.

Students host national protest

Participants in annual Day of Silence quiet themselves to protest hate crimes against LGBT community

by SARAH COOPER
Section Editor

Over 50 students participated in the national Day of Silence, an annual event during which students do not speak in order to protest discrimination faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) students and their allies in schools.

The Day of Silence was started 11 years ago, and it is a student-led event sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). This was the second year it was recognized at STA, making STA one of over 5,000 schools to participate in the event. Senior Rachel Janose organized the event, held April 18.

"[The Day of Silence] is important and necessary at St. Teresa's because [homosexuality] is one of the least talked about issues and it's very controversial within the Catholic Church," said Janose. "A lot of girls were brought up that [homosexuality] is taboo or morally wrong. I think there is a lot of pressure at St. Teresa's that you have to be straight or you won't be accepted."

Principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker approved the event.

"I don't believe [the Day of Silence] is contrary to the values of the Sisters of St. Joseph," said Hoecker. "Supporting gay and lesbian rights is acceptable to the mission of the school, 'Support your neighbor.'"

Janose said the event brings attention

to discrimination against the LGBT community. According to a national 2005 GLSEN survey, 64 percent of LGBT students reported verbal, physical or sexual assault at their school.

"People aren't aware of the hate crimes, but there are hundreds of them committed every year, and just because the media doesn't cover them doesn't mean they don't happen," said Janose. "If it wasn't for this day, a lot of girls wouldn't know they happen."

Janose said most of the past participants have been "more of the liberal girls," such as those involved in the Unitown and Anytown programs and the Peace Biodiversity and Justice group. Sophomore Kate Bohnert became involved after encouragement from her friends.

"[Last year], some people were shocked because they weren't aware that I would be so active in this cause," said Bohnert. "Overall, the reaction was supportive because they knew it was for a good cause. People observed that we were being quiet and just left us alone."

Janose explained the ideas behind promoting awareness through silence.

"What you're trying to communicate by being silent is you're representing someone killed by a hate crime," she said. "When you're quiet, it's like your body is there, but your personality and voice aren't. It reminds everyone that when a hate crime is committed, that's a life taken away."

Hoecker said the activity was condoned



Solidarity in silence ★ Seniors Caitlin Clark, left, and Lauryn Howard walk across the quad wearing signs for the Day of Silence April 18. Those who participated did not speak during passing periods in order to draw attention to hate crimes committed against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS

as long as it didn't affect classes.

"Giving permission for students to be quiet between classes felt fine to me," said Hoecker. "I don't want to allow anything that would create conflict for learning or teachers, and I wasn't asked to."

Bohnert feels the event is appropriate at STA.

"I just think St. Teresa's boasts that it's such a diverse community, and it's like a sisterhood," said Bohnert. "The Day of Silence is needed because it makes people more aware of different sexualities...If

we were to say we're so diverse and not observe the Day of Silence, I think it would contradict what we are saying about our community."

Janose and Bohnert agreed the event received a lot of support.

"I definitely would say [the Day of Silence] was a success," said Janose. "I felt a lot of unity among the people participating. If we passed each other in the hall we would nod to each other or smile really big. We felt we were doing something really important." ★

Experiment exposes bacteria

The Dart set out to investigate the presence of the invisible organisms that lurk on door handles, towel dispensers and computer keyboards. In its investigation, The Dart cultured bacteria off surfaces students encounter daily.

Before the experiment began, a trip to Brookside Toy and Science was in order. There, reporter Alison Raybould purchased

Petri dishes and agar, a nutrient that speeds up the growth of bacteria. She set out for school with her equipment in tow. Raybould collected the bacteria samples with Q-tips by blotting it across the surface in question. Careful not to expose the sample to bacteria in the air, she quickly lifted a corner of the lid and rubbed the Q-tip over the agar. Then, she placed

the Petri dish in the school's incubator and allowed the bacteria to culture for five days. According to a handout provided by Ms. Mary Montag, most bacterial colonies are white, cream or yellow and circular in shape. The Dart thanks Montag for her help in each step of the experiment. **Story by Alison Raybould. Photos by Sarah Smith.**

Surface 1: Donnelly Building right door handle

Arriving at school, I reach for the right Donnelly door and open it. Without a second thought, I head toward Ms. Hernon's room to check into advisory.

Findings: Four small irregular spots were cultured and over 100 negligible spots formed. Two spots were yellow, the rest were cream. Germaphobes, don't worry about opening the Donnelly door for a friend.

Surface 2: Donnelly south second floor stair rail

I continue my journey toward my advisory on the second floor. After playing a soccer game the previous night, my legs are tired, and I pull myself up the steps using the handrail. I feel my hand slide over someone's chewed gum, write for a moment, but do not stop to wash my hands.

Findings: Three large spots of irregular shape formed. Three circular, medium-sized spots formed, while about 15 spots of negligible size also appeared. All but three were cream in color; of the remaining three, two were yellow and one irregular, medium spot was an alarming peach. The stair rail sample cultured large and colored bacteria... never a good sign.

Surface 3: Locker combination

I arrive at my locker and enter my combination into the lock. After fiddling around with the dial, I open my locker, stuff several textbooks into my backpack, sling one of the straps over my shoulder and head off to my first class, Spanish.

Findings: Three medium spots and about 15 small,

circular spots appeared, along with a filmy, cream-colored layer that spans the entire Petri dish. Three spots were lemon yellow; the rest were cream. The cream-colored layer was unique only to this Petri dish. While I can conclude little from the anomalous Petri dish, I do know it is trouble.

Surface 4: Front row seat in Ms. Bernal's classroom

Once I arrive to Spanish, I snag a seat in the front row and rest my hands on the top of the desk. I look down at my hands and notice my fingertips have a black residue on them.

Findings: Three medium, irregular spots, seven slightly smaller spots and over 50 spots of insignificant size formed. All but five spots were cream; of the remaining five, three were peach and two were yellow. There were far too many spots for my liking; I think it's time to switch seats.

Surface 5: Handle of the second microwave from the right on the top shelf in The Commons

Lunchtime finally arrives, and I head down to the cafeteria to heat up some leftovers from last night's dinner. I stand in a long line and watch as several students touch their food and then the microwave handles.

Findings: Two giant, irregularly shaped spots were cultured. Three medium, irregular colonies also formed. The microwave sample may have cultured only cream-colored spots, but the colonies were the biggest of the ten Petri dishes. Tomorrow, I am bringing a cold lunch.

Surface 6: The mouse of the fourth computer from the left in Mr. Thomas's room

During second activity, I head upstairs and begin working at the computers in Mr. Thomas's room. By touching the white mouse, I continue to expose myself to colo-

nies of bacteria.

Findings: One medium, irregular, white colony and about 10 small, circular, white colonies appeared. Additionally, 15 small, circular, orange colonies were cultured, and nearly 20 small, circular, yellow colonies appeared. Color, perhaps the most foreboding sign of deadly bacteria, set surface six apart from the rest. I think I need to invest in Lysol disinfecting wipes.

Surface 7: Behind the computer in the front lab table in Ms. Thompson's room

Before the start of my 9/10 class, I rest my head on the lab table in Ms. Thompson's room, hoping to take a five-minute nap. Now, my face has also come into contact with colonies of bacteria.

Findings: Two large, irregular spots grew. Three small spots formed alongside 20 tiny spots. Three spots were yellow and peaked in elevation. Two of the small spots were white, peaked in elevation, and had a grainy texture along their surfaces. Some large spots, a lot of small spots, elevated spots, colorful spots. This sample had it all. Surface seven was not the dirtiest, but nor was it the cleanest.

Surface 8: The letter "j" on the keyboard of the computer second to the right

A free and an unfinished essay call me to the library. I frantically type away, and with each sentence I write, I expose myself to the bacteria lurking on each letter of the keyboard.

Findings: Five medium, irregular colonies formed and about 40 small colonies also

appeared. Nearly all of the small, circular bacteria were either peach or yellow. Again, the color of the colonies raises a red flag. When typing in the library, avoid using words with the letter "j."

Surface 9: The sink handle in the second floor M&A bathroom

During passing period, I make a quick bathroom stop in the second floor M&A bathroom. I look suspiciously at the door knob, the stall lock, the toilet and the sink handle. After thoroughly rinsing my hands, I reach for the sink handle and turn off the water. My clean hands have come into contact with more bacteria.

Findings: One medium, cream, irregular spot formed. A filmy layer of thin, cream-colored strips also appeared. Two yellow, medium-sized globules elevated in height were cultured along with ten small, circular spots. The elevation of the colonies distinguishes this surface as alarming. I am beginning to think it is safer not to wash my hands after going to the bathroom.

Surface 10: My cell phone

Finally, the bell rings, signaling the end of school. I reach for my cell phone and check my messages, placing the device against my face.

Findings: Five medium, irregular spots appeared. Additionally, 25 small spots formed alongside nearly 50 spots of negligible size. All spots were cream-colored except for one yellow colony. Several of the small circular spots had a peach hue. If the cell phone sample had been given one more day to grow, I believe it would have earned the title of the grossest and deadliest.

The moral of my experiment: don't become a germaphobe, but be mindful of the surfaces you touch. ★

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★
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★in brief

Miracle drug
According to CBS News, clinical tests are underway on a breakthrough drug that has proven to override genetic mutations that cause Duchenne muscular dystrophy. This form is the most common form of muscular dystrophy in children. The drug, PCT124, eliminated the disease's effects in lab tests on mice.

Allergies in Bloom

Kansas City is one of the Top 100 allergy capitols of the United States. Many residents suffer from this condition, but most do not know why they seasonally start sneezing and itching.

Every spring, summer and fall, tiny particles called pollen are released from trees, grass and weeds. The pollen is transported on air currents and enters human throats and noses, triggering allergies.

Allergies are caused by over-sensitive immune systems. When a person breathes in an allergen, like dust or pollen, the body produces antibodies. When the antibodies are stimulated by the allergen, the antibodies produce chemicals that cause itching, swelling and mucus production.

Congestion, runny nose, sneezing, itching, tearing eyes, loss of smell/taste

Sources: medicine.net, cbs.com

141 things to do before graduating STA

STA is a school full of long-held traditions, quirky characters and annual events. The four years students spend at STA offer enough time to experience many of these unique activities. The following ideas are just a few “must dos” recommended by *The Dart* staff. So hitch up your plaid skirt, slip on some Birks, grab a friend and try out some of these school-spirited suggestions.



1. QT, The STA microcosm

When: after school, Monday-Friday

Where: 10232 Wornall Rd. Kansas City, Mo.

Why: QT is always packed with STA girls after school filling up their tanks and a 52 oz.

"It has a really good atmosphere and I really like the workers." - Tracy Haden, senior

63. Take a break from shaving your legs... for a month

When: preferably in the winter

Where: within STA walls

Why: STA girls can get a little lazy in the hygiene departments, but making it a month-long game is always acceptable

"[Here's why I don't shave]: one, it's time consuming, two, I have sensitive skin, and three, the longer you wait [to shave], the softer your legs are." - Kathleen Bryant, junior

1. Stop by Quik Trip, the STA microcosm, for a 52-ounce Rooster Booster
2. Burst into verses of “We Salute Our Alma Mater” with your friends on a whim
3. Study with the doctor with the black licorice, a harmonica and stories of Ol’ Paint
4. Purchase five useless items for under a dollar during the most wonderful time of the year: TNT
5. Strain your ears until they hurt to hear the muffled announcements
6. Spend a free trying to hack into Facebook
7. Sit back with a bag of popcorn and watch the freshman eat at overpopulated tables
8. Wander around the hallways during a free
9. Bring a water bottle into the computer lab and see what happens
10. Go nearly insane on a single 25-minute chemistry problem
11. Nearly die after tripping *up* the steps
12. Feel as though STA were your very own home
13. Meet Tony, Ms. Rez’s husband, from across the pond
14. Be baptized into the United States by receiving your pocket Constitution in government class
15. Be bombarded by obnoxious election posters
16. Watch Mr. Garvin crowd surf
17. Watch the varsity soccer team win State again
18. Receive life/literary advice from Ms. Dunlay
19. Spend the first 15 minutes of calculus class making up math pick-up lines
20. Argue for 20 minutes with Mr. Wilson that you weren’t late to class because you dropped off your backpack before you went to the bathroom
21. Struggle to understand quadratic equations only to be told by Ms. Weller the concept is groovy
22. Speculate on whether or not Ms. Hernon has a tattoo on the back of her neck
23. Listen with rapt attention to Ms. McCarthy’s favorite fifteen-minute-long poem about desire
24. Witness Ms. Hand clad in leather while walking across the quad
25. Receive chocolate from Ms. Montag for answering a question, right or wrong
26. Donate a dollar every Thursday for your

- morning breakfast donut
27. Have your class be interrupted by the strong, yet silent, Matt Stewart, to fix technical problems
28. Kick the vending machine after it eats your lunch money
29. Hear Mr. Fud’s name pronounced five different ways on the intercom
30. Scavenge for food during activity
31. Sneak onto the school elevator and go from floor two to one
32. Participate in an intramural sport, whether it’s to win the volleyball championship, whiff the birdie during badminton or lose every kickball game your team plays
33. Go through your bra-burning feminist stages
34. Spend many a day each spring playing red rover in the quad on yard days
35. Meditate (or sleep) in the chapel during finals week, spirituality class or meditation day
36. Watch the same teachers make fools of themselves each year in the Auction Skits
37. Scale up to the roof of the Donnelly Building
38. Pick up your pant from Ms. Whalen each fall
39. Receive your class ring Junior year
40. Get a nickname from Mr. Whitney
41. Write or be cast in the Student Productions
42. Get depantsed or depants someone in public
43. Shout “Boo Devil” after “Yeah God!”
44. Elbow your way in the line for the star cookies
45. Play a song completely irrelevant to your message on announcements
46. Learn about the love lives of seniors in your freshman health class

47. Cheer on your classmates getting down and dirty doing the Polka at Cultural Awareness Assembly, even though none of them are Polish
48. Prepare yourself mentally, emotionally and physically for the announcement that will reportedly come in the next two minutes
49. Almost be run over in the parking lot by a senior on a power trip
50. Listen as Ms. Thompson receives a text/call from her daughter, Mary, who is asking her mom to call her out of school. Then giggle with the rest of the class while she answers it
51. Feel the draining powers of finals week
52. Evacuate the building when the JoJo’s lady burns another panini
53. Be a blessing minister. Everyone loves hugs
54. Be Gossed out during the birthing video in biology. Then watch the baby go back in when Ms. Blake rewinds the video
55. Eat a Chipotle burrito during an advisory party
56. Fill up your water bottle at the fountain on the first floor of M&A to prove the water is yellow. Don’t drink it
57. Visit the CCC projects just for the food
58. Sing “Happy Birthday” in The Commons
59. Dole out advice to the grades behind you, as if you possess some needed wisdom
60. Walk around for twenty minutes before you can find somewhere to stay during Activity
61. Use every toilet in the school
62. Spend time with your grandma, at school, during the Grandmother’s Tea
63. Take a break from shaving your legs...for a month
64. Write a letter to yourself on class retreats
65. Display work in the Fine Arts Showcase
66. Go on Kairos just to get that cool necklace
67. Eat turkey with your advisory on Thanksgiving
68. Slip on the seal in the snow
69. Be quoted in the newspaper
70. Have Ms. Bode beat you in badminton
71. Be chased down by Ms. O’Brien to get your fifth uniform violation of the week
72. Lose your accountability, find it a week later
73. Talk about “American Idol” with Ms. Dolan
74. Forget to wear shorts under your skirt
75. Run into someone when you turn the corner
76. Go to the wrong class
77. Wear colored socks
78. Send a text message in your backpack
79. Hear the name “Sally Twinklotoes” and “Sally Jo” in PE class
80. Go on a food run for your advisory
81. Search the walls of the fourth floor of M&A for a bloody handprint
82. Finish Mr. Fud’s sentence
83. Get yelled at for sitting in the boys section of a Rockhurst High School football game
84. Hear Mr. Serridge make a political joke
85. Make an announcement
86. Memorize the “Hamlet” soliloquy
87. Learn The Commons was never a swimming pool
88. Learn self-defense from the maintenance men
89. Wear a sweater from the lost & found
90. Take a nap on the Campus Ministry couches
91. Attend a Christmas party in which Mr. Whitney is in attendance dressed as Santa Claus

92. Turn directly around when in a hallway only to hear Dunlay’s voice screaming at you from the other end
93. Sleep under Mr. Thomas’ light board
94. Enjoy the STA campus in spring
95. Listen to multiple Nobel Peace Prize Nominees speak to your student body
96. Dress up as a superhero, Greek god or Girl Scout to attend an STA-Sion game
97. Spend all of Ms. Thompson’s class watching YouTube videos
98. Have a clown make you a balloon animal hat on Student Appreciation Day
99. Spot the morning walkers on campus with their barking dogs
100. Hit a classmate or teacher with a snowball during passing in the quad
101. Memorize the gym ceilings banners on Mother Evelyn O’Neill Day
102. Support the various trends of STA, like wearing Birkenstocks or Uggs
103. Knock on Matt Stewart’s door and run away
104. Catch pancakes on Chris Cakes day and go back four times for more
105. Cry when they announce Academy Woman
106. Light your skirt on fire to see for yourself that it melts, not burns
107. Witness Mr. Fud in a skirt
108. Wet your pants laughing so hard during lunch
109. Steal food from another advisory party
110. Hear Ms. Hansbrough assert how wonderful Mr. Rogers is
111. “Borrow” someone else’s gym clothes from their locker for PE class
112. Get to know our protector, Security Bob
113. Get rained, snowed or hailed on during passing period
114. Listen to Mr. Thomas tell a five-minute long story about what his daughter Ella ate for dinner the previous night
115. Park behind Goppert, just to be bad
116. Creep up the stairwell behind the stage
117. Sit in Mr. Fud’s armchair during a free
118. Explore the secret tunnel between M&A and Donnelly
119. Participate in a shakedown in The Commons before a play or musical
120. Sit inside the organ in the auditorium
121. Await eagerly for the next issue of *The Dart*
122. Calculate the calories in a JoJo’s panini
123. Stay at school until Security Bob asks you to leave
124. Count the number of stairs climbed in one day
125. Write a letter to the editor of *The Dart* to offer your praises for the latest journalistic masterpiece
126. Join in the crowd of people laughing at the poor freshman who didn’t know not to step on the seal in the rain
127. Discuss the many instances of phallic architecture on the STA campus with Ms. Dunlay
128. Take as many naps as possible during your frees, and wake up with the telltale sweater scar on your cheek
129. When boys are on campus, notice the freshman excitement and the seniors disgusted attitude
130. Dance with your dad at the Father-Daughter Dinner Dance
131. Staple the hemline in your skirt
132. Scream at people from the third floor window
133. Walk down the runway at the Mother-Daughter Luncheon
134. Have a class in the quad
135. Beg for tampons because our school has none
136. Receive communion from Sister Harriet
137. Decorate your planner the first week of school
138. Argue over lost advisory contests you “should have won”
139. Finish an essay during activity period
140. Have a conversation with Mr. Egner’s bobble heads
141. Befriend Zoey Ferguson ★

101. Memorize the gym’s ceiling banners on Mother Evelyn O’Neill Day

When: on Mother Evelyn O’Neill Day, in March
Where: Verheyen

Why: While sitting through this assembly, it is no wonder our minds wander to other things. “I start the day off wishing I didn’t have to go. Then, when we get there, I have a tendency to make competitions with my friends, such as choosing a word and [who] ever guesses the word they say the most [in the assembly], wins.” - Mo O’Rear, junior

140. Have a conversation with Mr. Egner’s bobble heads

When: during Western Civilization
Where: the bookshelf in his classroom on the far reaches of the gymnasium

Why: Because no one feels comfortable being stared at, Mr. Egner’s bobble heads confound even the quirkiest of minds
“George W. Bush [bobble head] has been sitting in a fish tank for a long time...you might guess why.” - Katie Murphy, senior

Stars rocket past Broncos

Varsity's season mounts to 8-1 with lopsided win over Lee's Summit North

by CLAIRE McINERNEY
Staff Writer

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY 5 ★
LEE'S SUMMIT NORTH 1

After just eight minutes into the game junior Ellen Jantsch had scored the first goal against Lee's Summit North High School's varsity soccer team last Thursday. Four more goals followed by the STA offense, while LSN fought hard for their only goal in the last five minutes. In the end, STA won 5-1 against the Broncos.

"They did great," said coach Scott Siegel after the game. "The majority of the game was really good, and we put a lot of pressure on them."

During the game, the LSN team struggled with the Stars' quick passes and corner kicks. Three of the five goals scored by the Stars were off corner kicks crossed by junior Molly Campbell.

Besides the three goals off of headers, one of which was scored by senior Lauren Fowlkes and two scored by Jantsch, junior Britney Scott put two balls in the back of the net, both from outside of the goal box.

As a team, Scott feels they performed well, but could improve more for the rest of the season.

"We could be more aggressive," she said. "We need to win more tackles and not force passes so much. We need to work on keeping [the ball] instead of trying to force the pass and ending up losing it."

Though Scott sees these as negative aspects of the game, Siegel believed those were strong points. However, he did see a need for consistency in the play.

"[We need to work on] playing at our best for the whole time, not just 20 minutes of hard work then 10 minutes of bad play," said Siegel.



Going for the goal ★ Senior captain Lauren Fowlkes fights past two Lee's Summit North defenders toward the goal at a home game April 19. Fowlkes scored on the breakaway, and the Stars beat LSN 5-1. PHOTO BY MARY KATE BIRD

Despite the negatives, the team felt the game was successful. LSN, which the Stars deemed a worthy opponent, has had a similar season to STA. Prior to this game, their only loss was to St. Thomas Aquinas.

"They are a really good team," said junior Jessica Nouri, who is currently one of

three managers for the team. "We knew they were a good team, but we know that we are a really good team, too."

Siegel agrees with Nouri, and believes LSN is the strongest team in the Kansas City, Mo. area. After their strong showing at the game, Scott hopes this is a fore-

shadowing for the rest of the season.

"We better dominate," she said. "We need to play harder and better."

If this is a preview for the season, a woman in the stands said it best, "They are a good team, but we have been dominating." ★

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★in brief

Teacher changes

Former volleyball head coach Amy Carlson will return to STA as a science teacher and head coach. Carlson coached at STA for three years before leaving to coach at Avila University last season. She will replace Ms. Lori Hanaway, who will return to her former teaching and coaching job at Archbishop O'Hara High School. Basketball Head Coach Rich Wilson will not return to coach or teach next year. He will teach math classes and coach varsity basketball at Blue Valley West. Wilson served as assistant coach to Mr. Mike Egner for three years before becoming head coach for the next four years.

Runners fight through injuries, win races



Tight finish ★ Juniors Kellyn Smith, middle, and Julia Gigliotti compete at Blue Springs South High School March 30. With several injured athletes, the team struggles at meets, but still succeeds with personal and team records. PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NELSON

Members of the track team forced to overcome pain caused by running; coach still pleased with results

by LINNY KAUFMAN
Staff Writer

Sophomore Shauna Muehlbach kneels down on the rock-hard concrete track of Paul Robeson to get ready for her start. As track coach Ann Bode-Rodriguez blows her whistle to start the timer, Muehlbach tries to ignore the pain tearing through her shins. Somehow managing to overlook her shin splits and pulled ligaments, Muehlbach finishes the 400-meter sprint and achieves a time she is proud of, injured or not.

Rodriguez said that although they have lost some athletes to injuries this year, the track team still consists of 45 runners. She said there are numerous girls with shin problems and other injuries, but most compete despite these issues.

"My shin splints affect my running sometimes, especially if I don't tape my legs," said Muehlbach. "It's hard because I'm thinking more about my shins and how much they hurt than running. I love to run though, so I just try not to think about it."

Muehlbach said her first injury came at the first practice of the year when she slipped on the mud at Brookside Park while running sprints. She said that despite her injuries, she does not think her

times are much different than they would be if she was completely healthy. Muehlbach, who has competed in three meets, runs the 200-meter and 400-meter for the varsity team.

"Bode will make me run no matter what," said Muehlbach. "Even with my injuries she wants me to compete. I'm disappointed that I'm hurt this year, but I think our team is doing really well. We've placed a lot this year."

Bode-Rodriguez said the injuries are not preventing the team from finding success. Junior Katie Drummond broke her own record, which was also the school record, in shot put this year. Junior Elizabeth Keaveny also won the Kerry Nomile 1600-meter Run traveling trophy which is sitting on Bode-Rodriguez's desk in her office.

"Unfortunately, injuries just often go with running sports," said Bode-Rodriguez. "The team has been doing very well this season, though. Everyone just hangs in there, and I'm proud of the wins they've brought home."

Bode-Rodriguez said that girls who are having serious injury problems will take medicine or see the trainer. She also tries to mix up the workouts with occasional

Tackling expectations

26 April 2007

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★in brief

Russell signs
Senior Alyson Russell signed to play soccer at Regis University in Denver next year Tuesday. Russell has been part of the varsity soccer team for the past two years and helped the team achieve their fourth State title in the last five years last season. She has played for her club team, FC Bayern Munich along with varsity teammates senior Kate LaTerza and junior Audrey Copenhaver for the past two years.

Sophomore plays rugby for all-girls team, faces stereotype of male sport

by JAIME HENRY-WHITE
Staff Writer

A girl in an orange and white jersey, number 25, stands on a muddy field. The day is cold, the college-level opponents look tough, and she hears the ringing of whistles blaring: one from the referee and the other from a train near by. However, those sounds and thoughts are soon muffled by the spirited cheering of her supportive team, coaches and parents on the sidelines. With this as motivation, sophomore Emily Hackman is ready to play rugby.

For one second, Hackman turns into a rugby ballerina and helps lift one of her teammates into the air to catch a ball thrown from the sidelines. The next, she becomes a football player, moving in a huddle, tackling opponents and being yelled at to “grab her leg!” or “take her down!”

“[Rugby is] a lot of fun and all of the girls on the team are amazing and fun,” said Hackman. “Even if something bad happens on the field, we can forget about it and have fun. I like the team I play on because it’s kind of like a different world because everyone is friends with everyone, literally.”

Hackman, a first-year player, has taken on a sport people normally expect men to play. But for the Kansas City Dragons all-girls rugby team, that expectation does not stop them from enjoying the game they love.

“They face stereotypes as well as just the sheer obstacle of doing a contact sport when they probably haven’t been allowed to in the past,” said Dragons’ founder and coach Tracey Davies. “Most girls are discouraged from contact sports or showing any aggression, and rugby allows you a lot of team camaraderie and a unity-oriented sport.”

Since all-girls rugby is a newer sport today, the Dragons are the only all-girls high school team in Kansas City. The team, which consists of mainly Park Hill High School girls, usually plays local women’s teams, college teams, such as Kansas State, University of Missouri and Kansas University and a new high school team from Iowa.

“When I started working at Park Hill [as a security guard], I had several girls approach me and asked me to start the team, and so, we put out flyers to see if there was any interest and there was,” said Davies, who played rugby herself at Truman State University, for the Kansas City Jazz and the US national team. “[The Kansas City Dragons] is an open team, so it’s open to anybody willing to put in the effort and the work.”

Hackman’s mother, Catherine Hodge, was the one who encouraged her to take up the sport. After giving rugby a try, Hackman joined the Dragons and now practices two hours, twice a week.

“I think a lot of people think [rugby is] really violent,” said Hackman. “People think it’s kind of a weird sport. People are always kind of surprised because they think rugby players are manly and gross.”

The Dragons team is made of around 26 high school girls with a coaching staff of eight, some from England and New Zealand, where the sport began.

The objective of rugby, which originated from soccer, is to advance the ball down the field by running forward, passing sideways or backwards, and kicking the ball to another teammate to try to score points. Meanwhile, the other team tries to do the same. Rugby, which has many penalties and detailed rules, uses such



Eye on the ball ★ Sophomore Emily Hackman, middle, watches the ball as it is thrown in bounds during a game against KU April 14 at the Seymour Rugby Park. Hackman’s team, the Dragons, must play college level teams since there are not enough high school girl’s Rugby teams in the Kansas City area. PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS

contact strategies as tackling, blocking, creating space and possession.

“I don’t know the game really well, so everything’s really new to me, so I feel like I ask stupid questions,” said Hackman. “The first game, I went out there and had no idea what I was doing. I guess it’s just really hard to learn the game and get better at it all at the same.”

After a few more practices and games, Hackman has finally begun to understand her position as front row prop, who plays in the scrum.

“I respect that she has a good attitude toward the game and she doesn’t get down about any of the bad things during a game

See RUGBY, page 23

Giant leap ★ Hackman, bottom right, lifts her teammate, Jennifer Jones, during a game against the KU Rugby team April 14 at Seymour Rugby Park. Hackman plays front row prop and is responsible for holding her teammate for this pass in bounds. PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS



Just a side note

Rugby

- Rugby is thought to have begun in 1823 in Warwickshire
- The first game ever recorded on American soil was played at Harvard University in 1874
- The objective of the game is to score more points than the opposing team through scoring tries, conversions, drop goals and penalties
- Traditional games of rugby are played by two teams of 15 players
- In rugby, the ball is advanced up the field with both the hands and feet through passes and runs down the field

The fate of State: MSHSAA debates changes



Eliminating the competition ★ Juniors Kellyn Smith and Julia Gigliotti run against public schools at Blue Springs South March 30. If the MSHSAA proposal succeeds, STA will only compete with athletes from private schools at State. **PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NELSON**

Proposal separates State tournaments based on public, non-public schools, limits post-season competition

by **ALY BROWNLEE**
Web Editor

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) will vote this April on a proposal to decide whether to separate public and non-public schools in state championships, or to leave the games as they are.

There are currently 578 schools that claim membership in MSHSAA, of those, only 70 are non-public schools. In order for member schools to submit a petition to MSHSAA, 10 percent of the member schools must sign to support it. Proposal 24 had 58 schools sign for its approval, the exact amount required for it to be added to the ballot.

"We have been working with member schools and our committee on some of the goals for this proposal," said Mr. Rick Kindhart, MSHSAA assistant executive director. "We'd like to have some kind of compromise for both sides of the issue."

One of the complaints is that public schools must seek their student enrollment from a specific district, where as private

schools may enroll any student who can afford to pay tuition.

"[In previous] years, private schools have won more state championships than public schools," said athletic director Mike Egner. "That's why the support for this issue comes mainly from public schools."

Junior Ellen Jantsch believes public and non-public schools are already evenly matched.

"We play schools that are just as competitive as we are," said Jantsch, who plays for the varsity soccer and volleyball teams. "I don't think they should separate. I don't see a need."

Should the decision receive a majority vote from MSHSAA, the regular season games and tournaments would still take place with a normal schedule. Both public and private schools would host athletic events and compete against each other. However, state championships and state-sponsored tournaments would be separated by school type.

"The public schools have a bigger talent pool to choose from," said junior Amy Hymer, a member of the varsity softball

team. "Less people can afford to go to a private school, and so private schools have less of a talent pool to choose from. Public schools also have an advantage just by sheer numbers. We don't have the ability to cut people from the softball team, because we only have 500 students to choose from, when the public schools have 1,000."

Small enrollment in private schools is felt in Kansas City, but in other cities, like St. Louis, private schools are more numerous and have a higher enrollment.

"Nobody is for sure how this would affect the athletes here at STA," said Egner. "Nothing like this has ever been tried before, and the competition around here would be small. It still wouldn't be fair because of the discrepancy in the size of the private schools."

Several other states in the nation, such as Texas and New Jersey, already have similar rules for state championships in place. If Missouri came to a majority vote in favor of the decision, it would not become effective until July 1, 2008.

"This decision would only water down the significance of state championships and competition if we were to only play private schools," said Egner. "No one wants to be the champion of only six schools in the state; you want to be the state champion overall." ★

Photo Poll

COMPILED BY ALY BROWNLEE

What do you think about the proposal on the MSHSAA's annual ballot to separate public and non-public state championships?



"I understand their view, but if we don't play against public schools, [the championship] won't be as fulfilling as if we had the opportunity to play against everyone."
— Alex Miller, junior



"I think [the championships] should be kept together and not limited by what kind of school you go to. That way we all have an equal chance to do well."
— Haley Doyle, sophomore



"If it's a state championship, I think it should include all the schools. Separating them makes it seem like we're different people and we're not."
— Katie Sharp, freshman

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★
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★in brief

Soccer ranks up
Varsity soccer is currently ranked 16th in the nation in Student Sport's Feb 50 Spring Girls Soccer Ranking. Rival St. Thomas Aquinas is currently ranked second as of April 5. In the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/Adidas April 10 poll, STA was ranked third in the region behind Aquinas and Incarnate Word Academy of St. Louis. In the NSCAA/Adidas National Poll, STA is ranked 18th in the country.

★Scoreboard★

Varsity Soccer (8-1)

Mar. 28	Blue Valley Northwest*	W (3-1)
Mar. 29	Olathe South*	W (2-0)
Mar. 31	St. Thomas Aquinas*	L (1-2)
Apr. 2	Lee's Summit West	W (4-1)
Apr. 3	Notre Dame de Sion	W (2-1)
Apr. 11	Blue Valley Northwest	W (6-1)
Apr. 11	Blue Valley West	W (4-2)
Apr. 16	Platte County	W (8-0)
Apr. 19	Lee's Summit North	W (5-1)

* Denotes the annual Mo-Kan Challenge Tournament held at St. Thomas Aquinas. The Stars received 2nd place overall.

JV Soccer (6-2)

Mar. 29	St Thomas Aquinas	L (0-6)
Mar. 30	Blue Valley Northwest	W (2-1)

Apr. 2	Lee's Summit West	W (4-0)
Apr. 3	Notre Dame de Sion	W (2-0)
Apr. 11	Blue Valley West	W (2-0)
Apr. 16	Platte County	W (10-0)
Apr. 17	St. Thomas Aquinas	L (0-1)
Apr. 19	Lee's Summit North	W (2-0)

C-Team Soccer (6-2-1)

Mar. 29	St. Thomas Aquinas	L (0-5)
Mar. 30	Blue Valley North	T (1-1)
Apr. 2	Shawnee Mission East	W (5-0)
Apr. 3	Christ Prep. Academy	W (12-0)
Apr. 4	Olathe North	W (3-1)
Apr. 7	St. Thomas Aquinas	L (0-3)
Apr. 12	Shawnee Mission East	W (3-0)
Apr. 16	Basehor-Linwood	W
Apr. 24	Blue Valley North	W (1-0)

Track and Field

★ Junior Katie Drummond set the school record in the shot put last season at 33 feet, 6 inches. This year, Drummond has re-set the record twice, most recently at the Lee's Sum-

mit meet last Saturday with a distance of 33 feet, 6 1/2 inches.

★ Junior Elizabeth Keaveny joined the track team for the first time this season. She helped the team to a third place finish with her victory in the 1600-meter. This win earned her the traveling Kerry Nomile trophy, a honor held by only three past STA runners. Keaveny also represented STA at the annual KU Relays last weekend earning tenth place in the 3200-meter with a time of 11:35 and tenth in the 1600-meter with a time of 5:14.

★ Seniors Jacqui Lindsey and Katherine Williams, junior Jordan Behnken and sophomore Leah Barthol won the 4x400-meter relay at the largely-attended Ron Ives Invitational held at Liberty High School March 23.

★ Senior Katherine Williams achieved three all-time personal records last Saturday at the Lee's Summit Meet. Williams placed sixth in

the long jump at 15 feet, 8.75 inches, fifth in the 100-meter at 12.6 seconds, and helped her team win third in the 4x400-meter relay after

Coming Up

Apr. 26	Soccer (C) @ St. James
Apr. 27	Soccer (V) Fort Zumalt West*
Apr. 27	Track (V) @ St. Thomas Aquinas
Apr. 28	Soccer (V) St. Joseph Academy*
Apr. 28	Soccer (V) West Des Moines*
Apr. 30	Soccer (JV/V) @ O'Hara
May 3	Soccer (JV/V) Blue Springs
May 3	Track (JV/V) @ Piper
May 5	Soccer (JV/V) @ Olathe East
May 7	Soccer (JV/V) @ Pembroke Hill
May 8	Track (V) @ Benton
May 11	Soccer (V) @ St. Pius
May 12	Soccer (JV) St. Pius
May 12	Soccer (C) @ Blue Valley NW
May 12	Track (V) District Event
May 14	Soccer (V) District Event
May 19	Track (V) Sectional Event
May 22	Soccer (V) Sectional Event
May 25	Track (V) State Event
May 26	Soccer (V) Quarterfinal Event
Jun. 1	Soccer (V) State Event



Sing, sing a song ★ Juniors Vanessa Hemkens, from left, Katie McSorley, Sara Donaldson and senior Emily Ingraham perform with the STA Singers. **PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER**

Fine Arts

STA hosted its annual Fine Arts Showcase April 18. Artwork was on display throughout both the M&A and Donnelly Buildings.

In the auditorium, two acts of performances ran from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The performances included a Fibers and Textiles fashion show Acting and Directing and Forensics skits, vocal performances by Freshmen Chorus, STA Singers and A Capella Choir. The evening ended with the Intro to Dance class grooving to Christina Aguilera's "Carwash."

STARS

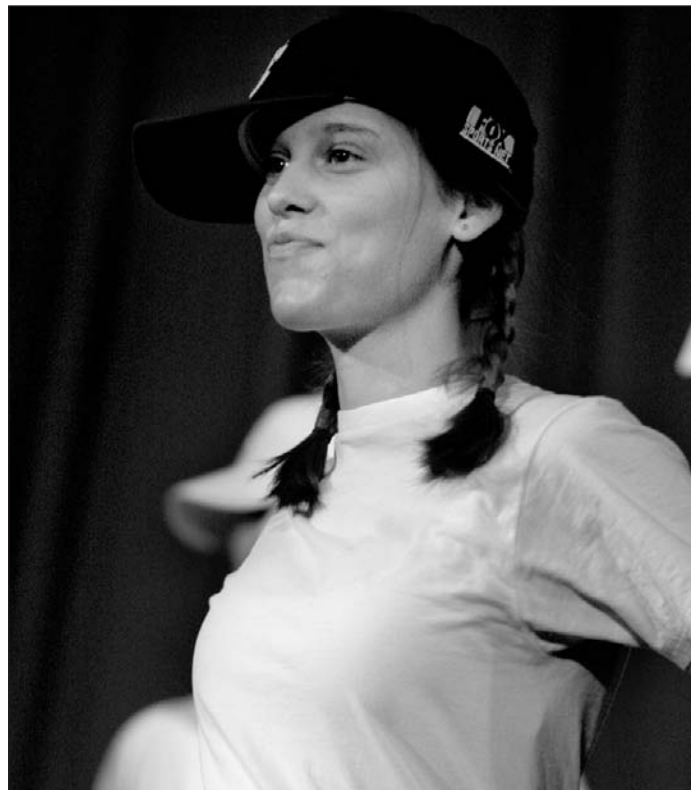


17 fine arts

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Key to success
Six STA students were awarded Golden Key Awards in the Scholastic Art & Writing awards. Senior Kristi Kirk won for her sculpture "Indian Marriage Slippers." Senior Katie Meyers won for her ceramic vase "Bloom." Senior Emily Tummons won for her basket "Anegre Basket." Junior Emily Duesing won for her drawing "Blind Contour with Day Dreams." Junior Katherine Kuhn won for her textile piece "Hosoito Yoko Kairyō Scarf." And junior Roni Katz won two awards for her drawing "Verheyen Room" and her textile piece "Brown and Yellow."



Strike a pose
★ (Above) Junior Berta Navarro participates in the Fibers and Textiles fashion show at the Fine Arts Showcase April 18. **PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER**

Show your stuff ★ (Left) Sophomore Kate Bohnert, bottom, and junior Anna Essmann act out their skit CSI: STA Forensics. (Right) Junior Elizabeth Warwick dances to the song "Carwash" by Christina Aguilera. **PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN POINTER**

Rockhurst senior discovers Kansas City swing scene

Dance hobby becomes student's college goal

by BREANNE SIGLER
Graphics Editor

The first time Rockhurst senior Chris Guggisberg went swing dancing at Louis and Company's Saturday Swing Night, he was alone. His face stayed a consistent red, and he began sweating profusely as soon as he walked through the door. Everyone else looked like they knew what they were doing, and he was having trouble paying attention because his dress shoes were so uncomfortable. His hands were so clammy that it felt like holding a warm, wet washcloth when he first took his partner's hand. As they started to dance, he felt like a statue, immobile and unable to move his body. He stared at his feet as he and his partner repeated the same basic steps over and over again. When the lesson was over, he retreated to the wall to watch the more experienced dancers.



Guggisberg

"I was enamored," said Guggisberg. "I just stood in the corner watching."

Unknown to many people, Kansas City is home to a sizeable swing scene. One can find swing lessons or swing parties in count-

less dance clubs, church basements and dance halls.

"It's sad because most people don't know about all the swing opportunities in Kansas City," said Guggisberg.

Swing dancing is a relatively inexpensive activity. For example, at the Kansas City Swing Club it costs between \$5 and \$7 to attend a swing dance party. The Saturday Swing Party at Louis and Company costs \$10 and consists of a basic introduction lesson the first hour, followed by three hours of dancing.

During the three hours of dancing his first night at Louis and Company, Guggisberg was faced with the challenge of working up the courage to ask a girl to dance.

"I would scuttle towards her..." said Guggisberg. "I had my arms crossed, so I probably looked so pretentious. I would look away at the wall, and then at her... Finally I just stammered out my question but she couldn't understand what I said, and was like 'what?' so I had to repeat it."

Even after such an embarrassing first night, Guggisberg left feeling good about himself and ready for more.

"When I got back to my car afterwards,

I was like 'that was the best thing ever. I'm coming back next weekend,'" said Guggisberg.

He continued taking lessons all summer at Louis and Company and going to swing clubs in Kansas City. Guggisberg continued improving, but experienced more embarrassing moments along the way.

"I was paired with a girl who was a good 150 pounds heavier than me when we were practicing dips," said Guggisberg. "When I dipped her, I had the wrong angle of approach and I lost control, dropped her and fell on top of her. We were never partners again."

As Guggisberg continued taking swing lessons, he began to think about how he could incorporate dancing into his future. Guggisberg plans to attend Pamona College next year, which is located on a campus with four other colleges. The collective colleges, called Claremont, are home to one of the best ballroom dance teams in the nation. They won the ballroom dancing college nationals last year. Guggisberg plans to dance with the team next year.

"They always have a shortage of boys,"

said Guggisberg. "A lot of people who go there have no prior dance experience."

Guggisberg visited Pamona over spring break and got to watch the dance team practice.

The next day, he got to learn a new dance move with the team. A senior girl, one of the best on the team, asked him to try out the move with her.

"That was the most intimidated I've ever been on the dance floor," said Guggisberg. "I kneed her in the shins and stepped on her foot, but it went pretty well after that. She was really nice."

Guggisberg is excited to be a part of the team.

"You spend 30 hours a week dancing with these people," said Guggisberg. "You get really close, especially with your partner."

The intimacy between dancers is one of the aspects of dancing Guggisberg enjoys.

"There's a strong connection between dancers," said Guggisberg.

Although Guggisberg considers dancing an important part of his life, not many of his friends have actually seen him dance.

"My friends think it's acceptably cool," said Guggisberg. "If I was better, they might consider it impressive."

Guggisberg encourages others to try swing dancing.

"It's relatively easy to pick up," said Guggisberg. "And it's extremely fun. You get a real sense of fulfillment after you finish a dance. ★"

"When I got back to my car afterward, I was like 'That was the best thing ever.'"

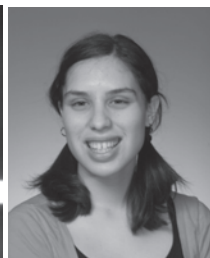
Chris Guggisberg, Rockhurst senior

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
GRAPHIC BY BREANNE SIGLER

★ The Fame Game ★

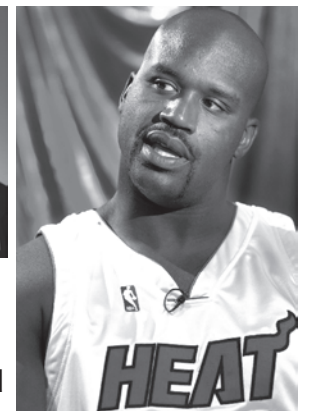
It's been said that everyone has at least one encounter with fame. These four students shared their experiences with *The Dart*.

Jesse McCartney & senior Leanna Yanes



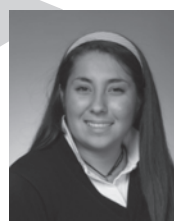
"I won a contest for Mix 93.3, and I got to go to his concert and meet him. He was really nice and I was a huge fan, but I'm not anymore."

freshman Sarah Kindscher & Shaq



"We were in Disney World at a restaurant and we were eating and talked to [Shaq]. He just said 'Hi' and signed an autograph and we took a picture with him."

junior Olivia DeSimio & Kelly Clarkson



"My dad works security at the Plaza and the tour manager asked my dad for directions. Kelly's manager said [my dad] could invite people and gave my dad four tickets and backstage passes... We went backstage and checked it out and got to meet her, take a picture and she signed a photo. She was really nice, really down home and adorable."

Justin Timberlake & freshman Abby Schleicher



"My mom was working at the Rafael Hotel and [Justin] was there and wanted a Big Mac. We got him one and he gave us concert tickets and signed a poster."

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★in brief

Ugly situation

"Ugly Betty" star America Ferrera is reportedly not too happy about having to spend this summer shooting "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2." However Alcon Entertainment is exercising the sequel stipulation in her contract and forcing her back. The original, released in 2005, only made \$39 million in the theaters, averaging less per screen than Ferrera's debut film "Real Women Have Curves."

Imus earns hyperbolic backlash

KATE RAINEY



VIDEOPHILE

A couple of weeks ago, I spent a Thursday and Friday home sick from school. I spent both days in front of the TV with a box of Puffs plus tissues. All I heard about was Don Imus. This was the first time I'd heard of Imus, and wouldn't be surprised if most of you had never heard of him, either.

Imus is a shock jock, host of the radio program "Imus in the Morning" for over thirty years. He makes his money by saying controversial things, pushing the limits, as reporters like to reiterate. Imus pushed too far, getting himself in serious trouble with the media and civil rights activists. The most outraged voice belonged to the Rev. Al Sharpton.

This event angered me. Not "nappy-headed hos," but the scandal this phrase created and the Rev.'s hypocrisy.

Imus has been saying racist things his entire career. *Slate* published some of the offensive things he has said on air: about women, Jews, African Americans, the Clintons, President Bush. Everyone. Nappy-headed hos, coming from this man, shouldn't have been surprising. It's mild compared to some of the things he has said.

No one said anything about his racist, sexist comments over the last thirty plus years. Tons of politicians and celebrities appeared on his program. He had a large audience. But this statement about a women's basketball team is the thing for which he gets fired.

The Rev. Sharpton invited Imus on his radio program, on which Imus apologized for the zillionth time. The Rev. didn't accept it. Has this man forgotten the ideological implication of his title? He is supposed to follow the teachings of the Bible, to forgive others.

He who is without sin should throw the first stone. The Rev. is not without sin, yet he makes his career throwing stones and rallying others to do the same. This is not a man who should be revered or listened to. Or, for that matter, called Reverend. He doesn't practice what he constantly preaches. If anything, men like him prolong racism by constantly sniffing it out and whipping it into a windstorm. He sees racism everywhere and points it out all the time. How is that helping?

Most entertainers build their careers on controversy and shock value. Rappers glamorize the gangster lifestyle, glorifying pimps and drug use. Shows like "The Colbert Report" and "Mind of Mencia" insult politicians, celebrities, the handicapped. These people hide behind poetic license or humor to get away with offensive material.

Imus had nothing behind which to hide. He's an old white man picking on female minorities. Rutgers head coach C. Vivian Stringer stated in a press conference the team was "physically, mentally and emotionally spent" by his comment. This is the second best women's basketball team in the nation, very accomplished athletes. Yet the words of this shock jock sapped them of their strength. They played the victim. And Imus played the racist lobbing insults.

To end racism, Imus and Sharpton's generation needs to die off. Imus either is or pretends to be racist. Sharpton constantly harps about racism in the name of ending it. Both men keep us thinking about nothing else. ★

Documentary meant to warn public about dangers of losing wetlands turns prophetic

Katrina proves filmmakers' theory

by KATIE MEYERS
Section Editor

For many of us, the IMAX Theater is a place for third-grade grade field trips, birthday parties and grandparents to get out of the heat that surrounds the Kansas City Zoo. That is how I felt pulling into the parking lot on a Monday evening to see the newest release, "Hurricane on the Bayou." I was thankful I had my nine-year-old sister with me as a decoy as I admired the young children being pulled out of the zoo by their tired parents. Walking into the theater, I, too felt nine years old as I stared at the massive screen. Until that moment, I had forgotten why the IMAX is so awesome.

The only clip that preceded the movie was a promo for Kansas City, coincidentally entitled "Kansas City Presents." It was about ten minutes long – a slide show of many different places and events that take place in Kansas City, set to classical music. That alone was worth the price of admission.

The lights in the theater dimmed further, and I prepared myself for "Hurricane on the Bayou," a documentary that sounded interesting, but I was sure it would be another accumulation of sad stories and footage from

Hurricane Katrina. I was shocked when upbeat Zydeco music started playing and the first five minutes of the film followed around a happy-go-lucky alligator – or rather, an alligator that was as close to happy-go-lucky as an alligator can be.

The film, directed by Greg MacGillivray, began shooting months before Katrina came. It was supposed to be about the deterioration of the Louisiana Bayou and all of the wetlands along the gulf coast. Said wetlands used to act as a speed bump for many natural disasters in that area, such as

of alligators in which dozens of eggs hatched just before the storm and only one baby was alive after. It also follows a group of Louisiana musicians; Amanda Shaw is a teenage fiddle prodigy, and Tab Benoit is a Cajun guitarist who lives on the Bayou and has dedicated much of his music to preserving the wetlands.

Shaw and Benoit began performing and writing music together to raise awareness for their cause when, suddenly, Katrina hit. They lost nearly everything to her.

Narrated by Meryl Streep, "Hurricane's" running time is just under an hour and the ticket prices (adult \$7, child \$4, senior \$6) are better than you can find at many regular movie theaters. The IMAX is located just inside the Kansas City Zoo at Swope Park at 6800 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, Mo.

This movie, from start to finish, is packed with beautiful images, lively music, good people and a great message. It is the kind of movie that makes you want to live in a shack on the Bayou, eat crab, listen to Zydeco and drive a fan boat. I was thoroughly blown away by it. I give this movie 4 1/2 out of 5 stars. ★

hurricanes, limiting the damage done to the cities further inland. The intention of the filmmakers was to alert the public about the potential devastation that could be caused by a large hurricane.

The crew even tried to conjure up what damage might occur if Louisiana were to be hit by "the big one." Little did they know, they wouldn't need those takes, because just months later, Katrina struck New Orleans, proving their theories right. "Hurricane" follows two stories: the story of a family

Rating:

★★★★★ 1/2

Let me tell you about 'Wait Wait...Don't tell me'

National Public Radio quiz show offers witty spin on current events

by EMILY BECKER
Section Editor

I used to believe strongly in one thing: NPR is boring. The monotone voices put me to sleep. I scoffed at the standard elevator music used for show breaks. In my immature, freshman mind, I could think of nothing more torturous than listening to NPR during the 45-minute drive to the Academy. Then, my world changed in an instant.

On the way to Junior Ring Dance last month, I was exposed to "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me," a discussion of current events in a humorous, witty environment. Each week, host Peter Sagal and scorekeeper Carl Kassell are joined by three rotating guest panelists, ranging from advice columnist Amy Dickinson to comedienne Paula Poundstone. The panel and listeners that call in participate in quiz games in an effort to earn points, or for the callers, an effort to win the show's only prize: a message from Kassell

on their home answering machine. With the few snippets of the amusing news-quiz show I heard while cruising down Ward Parkway, I was hooked.

My love affair with Kassell, Sagal and the weekly guest players began like most love affairs do. I always wanted to hear their voices, incessantly checking the Podcasts on my iTunes Sunday mornings, as I was usually occupied during the 7 p.m. to 8

"I always wanted to hear their voices, incessantly checking the Podcasts on my iTunes Sunday mornings."

p.m. Saturday night airings. I became dissatisfied with my listening experiences with other radio programs, NPR or otherwise. I found myself thinking about how "Wait Wait" could spin a particular current event

into a joke next Saturday night. A smile appeared on my face whenever I thought about jazz musician John Pizzarelli's impression of Bob Dylan boxing Quentin Tarantino during the "Not My Job" segment of the show one week.

As our relationship progressed and matured, I remained loyal to "Wait Wait" because of the spontaneity it brought. Every week, the show was completely different, a new set of panelists, a new set of current events to talk about and a new set of games to play. These shenanigans include "Who's Carl This Time?," in which Kassell reads a quotation from recent news and the listener must identify the context of the quotation and "Lightning Fill-In the Blank," in which panelists try to answer as many questions about the week's news as possible in a set amount of time. My favorite is "The Listener Limerick Challenge," in which the listener must complete a limerick about a current event. While the panelists or callers are not always correct, Sagal is always ready to offer a hint or a sarcastic remark.

It is these experiences with NPR's news-quiz show that have shown me our relationship will be a lasting one. And you do not have to wait to tell me that. ★

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They're back
Union Station presents "Dinosaurs Alive 3D." According to the Union Station website, audiences will journey with some of the world's preeminent paleontologists as they uncover evidence that the descendants of dinosaurs still walk (or fly) among us. The film opened on April 5 and will be playing through Jan. 2008. Showtimes are 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. daily.



“It was a hard choice, but I know it was the right choice for me.”

Ms. Karen Moran Redlich, speaking about deciding to leave her teaching job at St. Teresa's Academy

Bonding time ★ Spanish teacher, Karen Moran Redlich, plays with her three-week-old son Michael Thomas Redlich April 19 at her home. Moran does not plan to return to STA next year so she can stay home with Michael. PHOTO BY LIBBY CONWELL

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Time off

The following is a comparison of maternity leave in five countries:

Bulgaria
2 years paid,
1 year unpaid

Sweden
18 months paid

Australia
1 year unpaid

United Kingdom
39 weeks paid,
13 weeks unpaid

United States
12 weeks unpaid

NEWSPAPER

Legacy

While at STA, Ms. Karen Moran Redlich led an advisory, coached the cross country team and served as the advisor of Students Against Destructive Decisions. She will be greatly remembered and missed next year.

XC

Moran Redlich has coached cross country for eight years, serving as head coach for four years. She led the team to qualify for State five years. Individuals on the team qualified the remaining three years. She plans to return next year as coach.

Advisory

Moran Redlich leaves behind many friends and an advisory of 16 students. Her favorite memories of the last five years being an advisor include the holiday parties and the senior farewell.

SADD

Moran Redlich served as the advisor for Students Against Destructive Decisions for five years. During this time, she implemented an ad campaign before Prom and revived "Grim Reaper Day" to urge students to make good choices while at the event. This year, about 30 students were members of the club. The supervisor for next year is currently unknown.

Who's Next?

Ms. Jennifer Reagan is currently teaching Moran Redlich's classes and serving as supervisor for her advisory. STA alumna Courtney Jianas will replace Moran Redlich next school year.

Ms. Karen Moran Redlich leaves job of five years to stay at home, raise her son

by RACHEL SCHWARTZ
Staff Writer

After spending five years at St. Teresa's Academy as a Spanish teacher, Ms. Karen Moran Redlich left behind her fellow teachers and 95 students. It was not because she did not like the students and teachers. It was not because she did not like teaching. The reason she quit teaching weighed only eight pounds and three ounces. The reason she quit cannot even talk. He is Karen's new baby boy.

Michael Thomas Redlich came into the world March 26, and now Karen is a stay-at-home mom.

"[When Michael Thomas was born], it was amazing," recalled Karen. "I can't even really describe it in words."

After Karen had her baby boy, students came to visit and bring meals. One of these students was junior Elizabeth Keaveny, varsity cross country runner. Karen has coached Keaveny on the cross country team since Keaveny's freshman year.

Keaveny visited Karen in the hospital March 27 and also at her home April 5. Keaveny was very glad she was able to visit Karen and Michael Thomas and plans to visit a lot in the future.

"I want to [visit her and her baby again] because I miss her, but we haven't planned anything lately," said Keaveny. "I plan on keeping in touch with her. We'll be working together [at Garry Gribble's Running Sports], so that'll be good. We won't be able to see each other everyday, though, which is sad."

Keaveny enjoyed the two times she

was able to visit Karen and Michael Thomas.

"[Michael Thomas] is cute and he's just a baby with lots of hair," said Keaveny. "I love him...it makes me want to have a baby. He's so small and...just a baby."

Now that Karen has her new baby boy, she is staying at home and constantly taking care of him.

"It was a hard choice, but I know it was the right one for me," said Karen.

Part of the process involved in resigning was Karen announcing her resignation.

"It was very hard talking to Ms. [Nancy] Hand about it, but once I spoke with her, I felt good about everything," said Karen.

Ms. Lucile Bernal-Estudillo, fellow Spanish teacher, feels deciding to resign must have been hard for Karen.

"I think [it was hard for her] because I could tell that she loved to be here," said Bernal-Estudillo. "She had a really good relationship with the students, so I'm sure [leaving] was a hard thing to do."

Bernal-Estudillo and Karen both came to St. Teresa's to teach Spanish in 2002. Bernal-Estudillo immediately connected with Karen and found they had much in common.

"I met [Karen] when we had our first teacher in-service," said Bernal-Estudillo. "Everyone was new to me and I knew she

was new, too, and was teaching Spanish. I was very excited, and I talked to her and found out her mom was from Mexico, and it was all very exciting."

Bernal-Estudillo and Karen got along very well and talked a lot. They made sure to keep their classes on the same track, since they both taught Spanish II.

"We were always talking about where to start and finish our lessons for the day," said Bernal-Estudillo. "We didn't talk everyday, because of our different schedules, but almost everyday. We always wanted to make sure we were in the same spot in our classes."

Now that Karen is gone, Bernal-Estudillo will not be able to talk to her almost every day. Nevertheless, Bernal-Estudillo

hopes to stay in touch.

"I felt really sad when I found out she was leaving because we both started working here together," said Bernal-Estudillo. "We were like a team and we knew what to do. She said she would send e-mails so we can stay in touch. I hope I can see her again really soon and we can chat."

Keaveny was also very sad when she found out Karen would be leaving the school.

"I understand why she [decided to leave], because she had a kid, obviously, but I already miss her just being around," said Keaveny. "She would

always give me food when I forgot a lunch, so now I don't have food when I forget lunches."

However, Karen always knew, when she had a child, she would stay at home to raise him or her.

"Staying home is something I have always wanted to do once I had kids," said Karen. "My mom stayed home with us when we were little, so I wanted to do that too."

Even though Bernal-Estudillo and others already miss Karen, Bernal-Estudillo knows Karen just did what she thought was best.

"I know that it is good for her to be with her baby," said Bernal-Estudillo. "I know that it was the right thing, but of course I miss her."

Although Karen is leaving teaching, she will continue both coaching cross country and working at Gary Gribble's part time.

"Because [cross country] is only part time, [I am going to continue coaching]," said Karen. "Cross country is something that would have been too difficult for me to give up. It will be a good outlet for me, something to do to be more than just a stay-at-home mom; it will give me something else to do."

Keaveny is very happy about Karen coming back to coach because this way she will see her more. Keaveny cannot imagine cross country any other way.

"I wish she would be around next year [at school], too, but I'm glad she's still going to coach," said Keaveny. "I am really excited. I don't know what we would do without her because she's Ms. Moran and she's great." ★

"I love him...it makes me want to have a baby."
Elizabeth Keaveny, junior

26 april 2007

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The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Honoring mom
Mother's Day began in the United States after the Civil War in an effort to unite women against war. The holiday is now celebrated the second Sunday of May in the United States and Canada. According to the National Restaurant Association, Mother's Day is the most popular day to dine out.

26 April 2007

★
The Dart
★

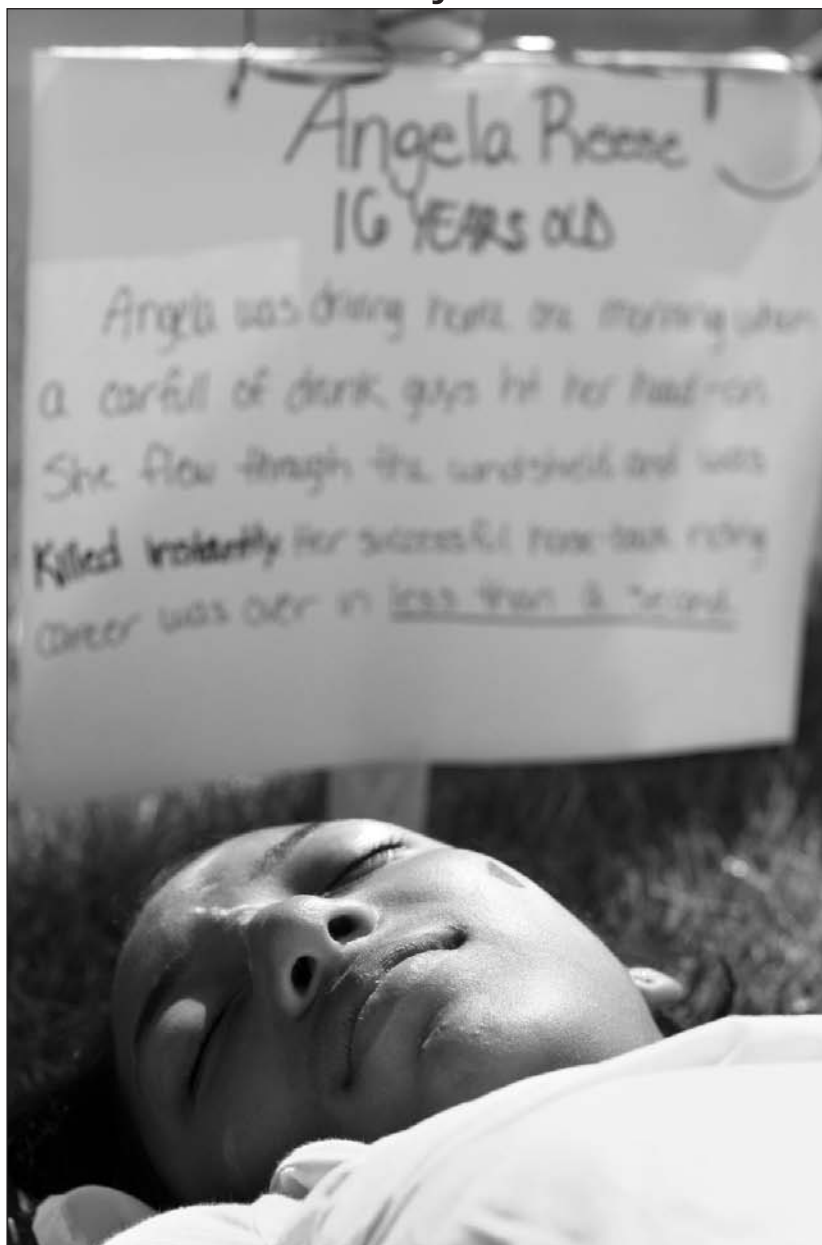
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Forced abortions

In Guangxi, China on April 17 and 18, 61 women were forced to have abortions in order to maintain the population growth. The government injected the babies while in the womb and quickly, the unborn child was born but colored darker than usual because of the necrotic from the shot. The Baise government said the overshot of last year's population by 0.11 percent risked the jobs of officials. Forced abortions have been popular since the 1980 law, which prohibits families larger than one child; however, in 2002 a law was passed to increase a mother's choice in family planning members.

SADD Thursday



Alcohol awareness ★ Junior Alisha Henderson displays the true story of 16 year-old Angela Reese who was killed by a careful of drunk teenage boys in a car accident, April 19. SADD held the Grim Reaper Day a day before prom to reinforce the magnitude of destructive decisions. PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER

EARTHWALK: Students gather to raise awareness about environment issues

Continued from page 4

rather than SUV's and use as little energy as they can. It's really hard to do all of these things for everyone, but as you get used to recycling your pop cans and turning off your lights and computer when you leave your room, you get used to it. It's all about the routine and the awareness."

Martin believes that next year's EarthWalk and EarthFest will draw a larger crowd from STA. She hopes that when she leaves for college, students will continue to work for a

healthier environment. According to Martin, the more environmental concerns are discussed, the more changes can be made.

"I think that a lot of people would be more interested in actively preserving our environment if they knew all of the atrocities happening in our world affecting our environment," said Martin. "We're a team in helping to protect our environment. I think that's it's extremely important for people our age to get involved with this early and become aware and educate others on how to help protect our environment." ★

MOVIES: High school experience reflected in teenage-themed films

Continued from page 3

shallow, pampered lifestyle that Cher leads and our own STA lives. But, nevertheless, it is a classic for its So-Cal slang, its over-the-top fashion, and its endearing main character. As a girl, I was smart enough to understand STA would never resemble this kind of high school, and thank God for that. I am grateful for a world free from "Barneys" and "what-ever's" spelled out with my hand. Hey, who are we to say we haven't acted clueless at times anyway?

5. "Can't Hardly Wait"

I urge every single STA girl who reads this to rent this movie. My older sisters, both alumnae, bought this movie when I was a mere sprout, but I watched it like a little girl peeking at her birthday

presents a month in advance. I loved every minute of it. Jennifer Love Hewitt plays the heroine and a lovable Ethan Embry plays the hero. It's the last day of school and all bets are off.

Above all, STA is more than the stereotypical teen movie experience. I would be a shallow, disappointed girl to have only lived a life like these movies. They are simply fun to dream of, fun to imagine ourselves in. High school is ultimately what we make of it; this message is true in the movies and in life. Cheesy as it is, that's the best thing my sisters ever let me know. And thanks to this idea: to John Hughes, to Molly Ringwald and Ferris Bueller, to Jake Ryan and Anthony Michael Hall, I am hopeful of an adventure everyday and I try to carpe diem, just like in the movies. ★

up to date

this week: April 23-29

Thursday:

Academic Honors & Awards Assembly: The school gather to honor the academic achievements of students. (Goppert, After mods 3/4)

Friday:

Student Productions: Student written, directed and acted plays are performed. The line-up includes 5 original productions. (M&A Auditorium, 7 p.m.)



Grandmother's Tea: Grandmothers and granddaughters gather in the Goppert Center for cookies, punch and bonding. (Goppert, Mods 13/14)

Saturday:

Student Productions: The second night for the student written, directed and acted plays. The line-up includes 5 original productions. (M&A Auditorium, 7 p.m.)

next week: April 30-May 6

Tuesday:

College Decision Day: Seniors everywhere put an end to the year-long college application process with a deposit to their school of choice.

Wednesday:

Student Appreciation Day: SCO sponsor

a student appreciation day. Past years' celebrations have included water balloon ambushes, clowns, face painting and ice cream.

Thursday:

Star Night: Wide-eyed eighth graders gather with their Big Sisters for ice breaking activities and ice cream. (The Commons, 5:30 p.m.)



the week of May 7-13

Monday:

AP Government Exam: (8 a.m.)
AP French Exam: (12 p.m.)

Tuesday:

AP Spanish Exam: (8 a.m.)
Senior Farewell Advisory Lunch: Seniors gather in advisories for a final time (11 a.m.)

Wednesday:

AP Calculus Exam: (8 a.m.)
Senior Exams

Thursday:

AP English Literature Exam: (8 a.m.)
Senior Exams

Friday:

AP U.S. History Exam: (8 a.m.)
AP European History Exam: (12 p.m.)

Sunday:

Mother's Day

the week of May 14-20

Monday:

AP Physics Exam: (12 p.m.)

Tuesday:

Spring Sports Awards Night: Soccer and track and field participants gather for presentation of team and senior awards. (Goppert, 7 p.m.)



Wednesday:

AP English Language Exam: (8 a.m.)
Junior Retreat: (Evening)
SCO Speeches: Officer nominees present speeches, skits and videos to the student body.

Thursday:

Parent Daughter Liturgy: (Chapel, 7 a.m.)
Class Day: Seniors gather with the STA community for a final time on campus.
Publications Banquet: The Dart, Teresian, and Windmoor staffs gather to present awards and to honor seniors. (The Commons, 6 p.m.)

Friday:

End of the Year Liturgy
AP Latin: (12 a.m.)

Sunday:

Graduation: (Bartle Hall, 2:30 p.m.)

the week of: May 21-27

Monday:

End of 2nd Semester

Wednesday:

Final Exams

Thursday:

Final Exams

Friday:

Final Exams

the week of May 28-31

Monday:

Memorial Day

Tuesday

Exam Make-Up Day

corrections ★

In the issue six story "Alumna assumes presidency," printed March 15, we misidentified the student in the photo with incoming president Nan Bone. The student is Kate Passentino, an eighth-grader at St. Peter's Elementary School. *The Dart* apologizes for this mistake. ★

INJURIES: Track team overcomes setbacks

Continued from page 14

swimming practices and use of the elliptical machines in the weight room.

"Mixing up practices gives [the runners'] legs a break," said Bode. "The concrete at Paul Robeson is especially hard on their shins. With the elliptical and pool workouts, there's no pounding on the pavement."

Junior Jessica Marak competes in the 3200-meter run for varsity. She is impressed with her teammates who have overcome their injuries and continue to do well in meets.

"Everybody's got little hurts," said Marak. "Sometimes my knee and shin hurts. But you just have to fight through the pain and run."

Marak said she is especially proud of her teammate, freshman Lindsay Bowers, who competes in the high jump and 300-meter hurdles. She said Bowers often finds it difficult to breathe at the end of a race but competes anyway.

"Lindsay's throat closes up and it's hard for her to breathe," said Marak. "She tried to get an inhaler, but it doesn't help her. She fights through it though, and she won last night." ★

NHS: Students left without recognition

Continued from page 7

it difficult to understand how Hart and a teacher committee could deny deserving students membership, based on unspecified criteria. Denying qualified girls based solely upon a one-page essay that wasn't quite up to par is illogical.

The national organization itself requires a 3.0 minimum GPA, as well as a display of the other pillars. All students who are involved leaders in the STA community, and want to participate further by joining NHS, should be recognized for their contributions. Instead, worthy students are being turned down because of the unfair application procedure.

Clearly, such a procedure needs to be reexamined, and it is up to the administration to intervene. The Curriculum Council could easily assist Hart in taking a look at other schools' policies, as the Council does when choosing the curriculum. Too many of our students have been slighted by National Honor Society's exclusivity, and the administration needs to correct this problem for future graduates.

As for now, I and several of my fellow classmates will graduate from the Academy on May 20 with GPAs higher than the required 3.6, plenty of service hours, and resumés full of activities to attest to our qualities of leadership and character. We will graduate having taken schedules full of honors, AP and ACCP courses. We will graduate having done all of the things that we were told throughout four years that we needed to do to be successful. We will not, however, graduate with the distinguished gold cords around our necks. ★

Dart and Teresian win local awards



Dart dominates ★ After their big win at the JEMKC awards, editors of *The Dart* were back to work Monday night to put out another issue. Mr. Eric Thomas, from left, senior Alison Raybould, senior Katie Meyers, senior Coco Owens, and junior Sarah Cooper worked on computers in the publications room designing pages. PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

Publications staffs receive coveted awards at JEMKC

by NICOLE FARLEY
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Dart took home twelve awards at a ceremony for the Journalism Educators of Metropolitan Kansas City (JEMKC) awards last Thursday, while *The Teresian* staff won two individual awards.

The Dart won third place in the Newspaper Sweepstakes category, coming in only behind Shawnee Mission East's *The Harbinger* and Blue Valley Northwest's *The Express*, two papers which were recognized nationally

last year with the top award from the National Scholastic Press Association. Over 30 schools were judged for the Sweepstakes award. The following are other individual awards received by the two publications.

The Dart

- ★ Staff writer Linny Kaufman: first place Sports Story
- ★ Managing Editor of News Mary Kate Bird: third place Critical Review
- ★ Staff writer Maddy McGannon: third place Feature Story
- ★ Staff writer Sarah Smith: honorable mention News Story
- ★ Co-Editor-in-Chief Alison Raybould: honorable mention In-depth/Special Section

★ Co-Editor-in-Chief Nicole Farley: honorable mention News/Informative Feature

- ★ Raybould and Farley: first and third places Single Page Design
- ★ Managing Editor of Visuals Kathleen Pointer: first place News Photography
- ★ Staff photographer Carlie Campbell: third place Newspaper Feature Photography
- ★ Bird: first place Newspaper Sports Photography

Teresian

- ★ Co-Editors-in-Chief Meredith Pavicic and Brynne Lee: second place Four Part Theme Presentation
- ★ Student Life Editor Anna Warm: third place Headline Package

RUGBY: Junior competes in male-dominated sport, surprises classmates with colorful bruises

Continued from page 15

or practice," said Maddie Pollard, a junior at Park Hill High School and one of the two captains on the team. "She's always trying hard and not giving up, because for some girls it's easy to give up. She can definitely move people on the other team; she's powerful."

On a normal day, Hackman walks into school with the same plaid skirt and polo shirt she wore the day before. But today, Hackman looks a little different. There's a three-inch wide bruise that wraps from the top inside of her leg and around to the bottom.

"I guess I bruise really easily and that's why I get weird bruises on weird spots," said Hackman.

Hackman and her team hardly get injured from the game, other than occasional bruises, sore muscles or sprains. In fact, Davies has the team practice falling safely, so the girls can avoid injuries during a game. Though the girls push and hit their opponents in rugby, the game is not as violent as people believe the sport to be, according to Hackman.

"I think [the difficulties of Emily playing this sport is] the perception," said Hodge. "I guess, worldwide, rugby is a well-respected sport, and in the United States, it has gotten a bad rap."

In addition to these conditions, Davies requires her team to do a certain amount of community service before they can suit up and play in a game.

"I think that the coaching staff is good, there's a lot of discipline and structure," said Hodge. "It's kind of nice to get in the habit of a diverse [atmosphere] and widen the scope of friendship."

Since Davies wanted the girls to work

for their spot on the team, most of the girls, including Hackman, worked together on such projects as preparing and closing up the rugby field before a game, participating in bowling with special populations, scoring for wrestling matches, and helping with children's rugby camps.

In the end, Hackman is muddy, rosy-faced, and exhausted. Though they lost the game to KU 10 to 15, the Dragons are just happy to get the chance to relax and enjoy the tent of food and Gatorade calling their names. Three "hip, hip, hurrah" cheers from the referee, and for the Dragons echo through the air. As they walk off the field, the sound of the team's laughter trails behind them. ★

"I think [the difficulties of Emily playing this sport is] the perception. I guess, worldwide, rugby is a well-respected sport, and in the United States, it has gotten a bad rap."

Catherine Hodge,
Hackman's mother

26 april 2007

★
The Dart
★

St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

National Merit
On Monday, a group of students met with college counselor Steph Hart to discuss the results of their PSAT test taken last October. The girls were informed that they made the first cuts of the National Merit Competition. They received letters from the National Merit Corporation, which asked each girl to list one or two colleges in order to allow them to track the individual's progress in the contest. The final decisions about National Merit will be decided next fall.



You better work, covergirl

Seniors take the runway by storm April 15 for annual Mother/Daughter Fashion Show

PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS

26 april 2007

★
The Dart
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St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

Mommy and Me: The STA List of Best Movies to watch with your Mommy:

1. Terms of Endearment
2. Step Mom
3. Mommie Dearest
4. Mermaids
5. Steel Magnolias
6. Spanglish
7. The Joy Luck Club
8. Real Women Have Curves
9. Tumbleweeds
10. How Stella Got Her Groove Back
11. She's Come Undone
12. Any Lifetime movie
13. Thirteen
14. Little Women
15. Freaky Friday
16. Anywhere but Here
17. Now and Then
18. The Horse Whisperer
19. The Water-boy
20. Pieces of April



PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER

The relationship between a mother and daughter is complicated. Mothers can drive you crazy. They can embarrass, nag, annoy, infuriate.

They can also be your confidant, support and morale booster. Mothers and daughters can be so similar, in physical appearance and personality.

This can lead to bickering or all-out fighting.

It can also make the relationship between mothers and daughters stronger than any other.

The Mother/Daughter Luncheon, held April 15 in the Count Basie Ballroom at the Marriott downtown, celebrated this complex relationship. The tropical-themed event featured a three-course lunch and senior fashion show. ★



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER

Walk this way ★ Beginning from top, seniors Rachel Janose and Oghosa Iyamu strut their stuff on the catwalk in the Mother/Daughter senior fashion show April 15. Also walking, bottom left, are seniors Amelia McGannon and Jen Finley, bottom center, Mallory Finn, and bottom right, Jessie Kramer.