

# THE DART

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

# relationships

Reference Webster's dictionary and you will find a simple definition for the word, but the relationships we share with those around us cannot be summed up in mere words. From parents to siblings, friends to boyfriends and cousins to pets, the connections we make enrich and sustain our lives. For this special issue of *The Dart*, students in the journalism class sought out these unique relationships.

## Senior couple to part for college, try long-distance dating

Megan Isom, Colin Looby push dating experience to limits of 650 miles six weeks after graduation

by CHLOE LUNDGREN  
Staff Writer

STA senior Megan Isom and Rockhurst senior Colin Looby have a relationship of numbers. Nineteen is the number of months they have been dating. Three is the average amount of times they see each other a week. Thirty is the number of minutes they drive to see one another. Five is the number of minutes Looby will get on the phone each day when he is in college. And seven is the number of weeks before Looby heads off to college.

"I like to talk about college and future," said Looby. "She doesn't really like to; she starts crying."

However, they always knew they would be attending two different schools, so their personal relationship never affected their choices of colleges. This fall, Isom will be attending Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Starting the third Wednesday in June, Looby will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Although the two will be separated by about 650 miles, they fully intend to keep a long-distance relationship going.

The part that makes it even more difficult is that Looby only will get five minutes on the phone each day when attending the Naval Academy. The five minutes are to be split up between his family, his close friends, and his girlfriend. To make up for this time, the two have come up with a unique solution.

Looby and Isom will mail a tape recorder back and forth. The tapes will include the two talking about their days and how their weeks are going. This method will help them keep their relationship strong.

"The tape recorder offers a more personal aspect to communication, rather than say, a letter," said Isom.

Even though their plans for the near future are largely mapped out, they are aware that their last month together will end. Within these 19 months, their relationship has grown to every point of acceptance.

"People don't realize the other person's flaws and when they are realized, they don't always agree with them," said Looby. "Sometimes I don't agree with some of the stuff she does, sometimes I do. I know she is not perfect and I respect that."

They feel like they can continue to date even when they are facing the disadvantage of distance.

"We know basically everything about each other," said Looby. "We don't hide anything, we couldn't."

The two say their relationship has now become bittersweet. Becoming a more serious couple has offered a strong relationship; but at the same time they are getting to the point where time is of the essence.

"Every moment we spend together is more precious, now that we are getting closer to going to college," said Isom.

According to Isom and Looby there are some great benefits of dating as seniors such as emotional maturity and independence that allows them to have a more serious and worldly experience.

After this year, however, the two will be starting a completely new chapter in their relationship, with more numbers to add to their growing list; and what they experienced as seniors will have strengthened their possibilities as a couple, in college. ★



**A soft kiss** ★ Colin Looby, left, and Megan Isom share a moment after the Fine Arts Showcase at the STA campus. The two seniors have dated for 19 months and will continue dating even though they will attend different colleges. PHOTO BY CHLOE LUNDGREN

# Siblings look to shape friendships beyond age

Brothers and sisters look to create and spread new-found bond with friends

by STEPHANIE LANKFORD  
Staff Writer

As twelve high school friends file down the basement stairs yelling, “hi,” blaring music, and the rest of the friends talking while playing pool and ping pong, they realize how crowded room seems on this particular night. This makes sense considering not only are the high school friends there, but their younger siblings too.

When kids are toddlers, parents generally have them play together for convenience, but once the kids become teenagers, parents back off, knowing their teenagers are seeking independence.

Yet who would figure siblings would want to hang out together with each others’ friends? That’s the case for some siblings; one such is Anna Sullivan, of Miege, and Peter Brown, of Rockhurst, and their younger siblings Kathleen Sullivan and Brian Brown, both of St. Elizabeth School.

“I consider [my sister’s friends] some of my ‘closest friends’ because they are fun to hang out with and they listen to your problems,” said Kathleen.

“[My brother’s friends] can teach me things my friends, of my own age, can’t because of experience, like how to deal with friends, high school, and girls,” said Brian.

Although the younger siblings feel it’s great to be around their sibling friends, sometimes they think otherwise.

“At times, I don’t want my younger sister around, but I have grown to enjoy it,” said Anna. “We like being with each other and each other’s friends. I think it takes a lot for you and your friends to hang out with your sibling and their friends.”

Beginning such friendship with your sibling and friends can start with a mutual understanding and toleration of each other.

“We all grew a trust wall, to where we never tell anyone our secrets,” said Kathleen Sullivan. “I believe that is how we be-



**This will be clever** ★ Kathleen Sullivan, eighth grade, from left, Anna Sullivan, sophomore and Steven Roschitz, eighth grade, lie one Friday night on the basement floor of Peter Brown’s house. They talked as if they were one big family. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE LANKFORD

came so close.”

One event brought everyone together.

“There was always a friendship there, but not as great as now,” said Brian. “[In February] one of my brother’s greatest friends, Matt Baker, suddenly died. He was one of my closest friends too. After his death, I feel that I have begun to feel closer [to my brother’s friends] as they help to fill his gap in me and I help to fill his gap for them. I do think that we would not be as close to each other if [Matt] had not died.”

Peter agrees one life-changing event could transform bonds and friendships.

“Matt’s death really brought everyone

together and pulled my brother in,” said Peter Brown. “It is a horrible thing that only something like that brings us together. Without Matt, togetherness can never be as meaningful as if he was with us.”

According to all four people, this type of friendship is not as common as it should be.

When a sibling relationship does happen, it opens a whole new set of doors and creates an interesting set of surroundings. Peter said it creates a type of environment where someone can be both follower and leader, but it isn’t how it seems, it’s how it is. He feels as though the younger kids look

up to the older ones and the older ones just fit in with each other.

“When we’re together, we all just get along so well,” said Anna. “We get together almost every weekend now and it’s as if we’re all one big family.”

“Whenever we gather together in someone’s basement, it’s so much fun,” said Kathleen. “We play pool, ping pong, guitar hero, DDR and lots of stuff. Everyone has a really good time and it’s just fun.”

According to Brian, a bond between siblings is unbreakable. When siblings share this bond with friends, it creates even bigger, more unbreakable bond. ★

# Quadruplet’s friendship grows on the softball fields

On and off the softball field, the Thomsen quadruplets nurture their sisterhood through athletics, academics

by JESSICA ANN  
Staff Writer

It is 6 o’clock on a Monday night and the Avalanche softball team is just warming up. The coaches are deciding the line-up: Forbes at 3rd, Carlile catching, Thomsen on 1st, Thomsen at 2nd, Thomsen at short, and Thomsen in left field... these girls are not just sisters, they are quadruplets.

Jessica, Hana, Emily and Katie Thomsen were born September 19, 1991, to Ms. Wendy Thomsen and Mr. Chip Thomsen of Pleasant Hill. They grew up there and have attended Pleasant Hill Schools for 10 years.

According to the quads, they have plenty in common, other than their birthday and softball team. All four of them are athletic, playing basketball, softball, and running track.

They also share the family trait of being loud and happy almost all the time. Their common sense of humor is a key factor in their family’s happy persona.

“They’re always happy,” said Katie. “It’s harder for me to dwell on [a mistake], because they keep me in a happier mood.”

Although they share more than clothes and rooms, they believe their personalities are all their own. Jessica, the oldest, is known to be the loudest of the family, spending a lot of her hours in laughter. Hana, however, can make any of them

laugh and is the best athlete of the family. Emily’s the shy and artistic individual, and loves taking her art classes. The youngest, Katie is the most academic quad, reserved at times and loving to read.

The quads said they share a unique bond and connection. They have gone through the same phases of life together and they know how the others might be feeling. Their relationship also bestows some convenience.

“It’s better to be a quad, because you don’t have to invite people over,” said Hana. “You already have people to hang out with at home.”

The sisters are a tight-knit bunch, but Katie said that they also enjoy time apart.

“We’re pretty close,” said Katie. “[But] I am closer with my friends.”

Each of the quads has their own group of friends. Hana, Jessica and Emily, however, mostly belong to the same group of friends.

Katie is more separated from her sisters, sometimes referred to as the “weird one.” She likes more peace and quiet than the rest, and considers herself more open-minded than the others.

“If I want something I’ll go and get it,” said Katie. “I like to experiment and do new things.”

Through all the differences, sports have been able to bring them together.



**Time to practice** ★ The Thomsen sisters wait to practice batting during a recent afternoon of softball. The girls have been playing softball for multiple years and each one of them has different athletic and academic strengths. PHOTO BY JESSICA ANN

By playing basketball and softball together, they find a way to support each other and bond.

Softball, especially, gives them that opportunity, because they all play for the same team, the Avalanche.

“If we’re doing well, we shine,” said Katie. “If we’re doing bad, we don’t.”

For them to share the hard work is something special that many siblings don’t have. Katie says their chance to share victory is something special for them.

“Being on the same softball team helps us support each other, not only on the field but at home, too, and that’s really cool,” said Emily. ★

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# Middle children find equality in home

## Mothers and daughters dispute the 'syndrome'

by ANGELICA DESIMIO  
Staff Writer

Middle Child Syndrome can include neglect, forgotten dates, and most of the time, fewer pictures in the family album. Research suggests that middle children are more likely to engage in dangerous sports, because they are used to taking risks. By choosing a niche that isn't already occupied, a middle child increases the chance of being noticed. Ms. Debbie Lueke, mother of six children and middle child herself, agrees.

"I think middle kids are either over-achievers to gain attention or underachievers with a 'Why try?' attitude," said Ms. Lueke.

Anne Schwartz, STA freshman, believes this to be true. She has played soccer for many years and currently plays on the STA Freshmen Team. Her older and younger sisters do not play soccer at all.

"I've played soccer since pre-school," said Schwartz. "I guess I was singled out in a good way."

Becca Lueke is 12 years old and her mom's first middle child. She understands she is lucky to have many brothers and sisters, but doesn't feel the need to live in the limelight all the time.

"I'm really good at sports [golf and backyard games], but I like having other siblings to keep me company," said Lueke.

Having company is one aspect of her life that she won't worry about losing. Though the Lueke parents are constantly taking their children to a sports or school practice, she doesn't complain about being alone. Schwartz disagrees.

"Every once in a while, having a younger sibling isn't the best," said Schwartz. "I sometimes feel neglected most when I need my parents [attention]."

A study done by [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com) suggests for parents to listen to their middle child, allow that child to make their own decisions and to update the family photo album. Research shows that often the first child has many more pictures than the second or third.

It was noted parents thought those last



**Sisterly bonding** ★ 12 year old Becca Lueke, left, shoots some hops with younger sister Eleanor Lueke in front of their Kansas City home. Becca said she likes having other siblings to play with and is never alone. PHOTO BY ANGELICA DESIMIO

children were just more children, so actions like riding a bike for the first time didn't seem as special.

"In my family albums, there are many more photos of Rachel alone doing the 'firsts,'" said Schwartz. "[There are] less pictures of me or my little sister alone, riding our bikes or on the first day of school."

At the Lueke residence, Becca put down the idea of her older siblings having more photographs in the family albums.

"[My parents] have a lot of pictures around the house and in the books," Lu-

eke said. "I don't think there are more pictures of any of [my siblings]."

Ms. Lueke believes in equality, no matter what the age or ability. She described how responsible actions by any of her children, are rewarded with privileges. Her daughter Becca commented differently.

"I want more privileges, but not the responsibilities that come with them," said Lueke.

Schwartz disagreed with the Lueke's. In her home, age determines who gets what.

"We basically all get the same things once we are old enough," said Schwartz. "It's just the matter of time."

Ms. Lueke commented how time is needed for a middle child to find their own niche and become good at it, so they won't be lost in the crowd. Studies showed that once middle children do this, their confidence goes up by 15 percent. As for this mom of six, she loves being close to her family, no matter what they can or cannot do.

"It's great to be so close with all my siblings," Ms. Lueke. ★

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# Freshman misses her now collegian brothers



**Left Behind** ★ Freshman Anne Marie Whitehead stands in her brother Tommy's empty closet. Two years since he left for college, the family has begun remodeling his old bedroom. PHOTO BY MCKENZIE MILLER

## Freshman feels relationship mature after brothers leave for university, learns to accept subtle living changes

by MCKENZIE MILLER  
Staff Writer

Each year in the United States an estimated 2,630,000 freshmen enroll in residential colleges, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics. Tommy and Andy Whitehead, brothers of freshman Anne Marie Whitehead, were two among this number. With brothers away from home, the Whitehead's family has felt a shift in their relationship.

Anne Marie is baby sister to three brothers. Anne Marie's brothers have moved out of their home and onto college, with the exception of her eldest brother Ricky Whitehead, who is disabled. Tommy is 21 and a junior at the University of Kansas.

"Tommy was always in honors classes at Rockhurst," Anne Marie said of her brother. "He played football, lacrosse, and swam. He was busy."

Her brother Andy also attends KU after graduating Rockhurst High School in 2006.

Anne Marie said that Andy met Tommy's academic standards and played football as well.

"You wouldn't think that [Tommy, Andy, and I] would be as close since they were older...but I never remember feeling

isolated or anything," said Anne Marie describing her childhood relationship with her brothers. "I was just such a tomboy."

When Tommy first left for college, Anne Marie said that the family was pretty well prepared.

"Tommy kind of distanced himself senior year, just doing more stuff on his own," Anne Marie said. "It wasn't anything rude or sad... we were all ready and knew he needed to go."

Dr. Viaji P. Sharma, a writer and clinical psychologist, described the transition from home life to a more independent one.

"The first year of college should be taken as a transitional period for separation rather than an abrupt ending of all contact with home," said Sharma in his online article "The Ups and Downs of Leaving Home for College."

As a freshman, Andy is still connected rather closely to home.

"Andy visits like every weekend," said Anne Marie. "He's always been more of a homebody. He'd have friends come over a lot instead of spending a lot of time running around."

Anne Marie said that living without two brothers has made an impact on her life. According to her, subtle things have changed. Everyday activities such as get-

ting ready for school in the morning or being chauffeured to sports practices are missed.

"Even just being at home kind of changed," Anne Marie said. "We wouldn't necessarily talk a whole lot, but knowing they were there was ...missed. There was definitely that absence."

Though she still sees them on holiday breaks and other special occasions, Anne Marie has noticed a change in their relationship.

"It feels like we're trying to change back to a time that's passed," said Anne Marie. "It's not really that sad because you know everything's going to change eventually."

Ms. Candida Peterson wrote on the topic during research on sibling psychology.

"The need to become emotionally independent of parents may lead adolescents to turn their siblings for advice, solidarity, and emotional support," Peterson said in her article "Adolescent Sibling Relationships."

However more mature, Anne Marie said she still feels she can go to her brothers when she needs them.

"They come and tell me what not to do and teach me their lessons," Anne Marie said. "Knowing they've done it all can help when I'm starting all my high school stuff. Sometimes it sucks when they're not here for me to ask, though. I think that since I have them and their experiences I have more insight into my future choices." ★

# Six sisters share STA experience

Setting examples for their young sisters, looking up

by LEE FRYER  
Staff Writer

It is 7:30 a.m. on a typical school day at the Schrader's house, and the rush to get to school on time has already begun. As everyone runs through the house looking for their shoes, and making their lunches, they yell goodbye to each other and head off to school. STA is right around the corner from all the morning madness, and is or will soon become the home away from home for all six of the Schrader sisters.

Ms. Jean and Mr. Jim Schrader have eight children; two boys, Tommy and Matt, and six girls, Mary Jean, Janice, Janie, Megan, Kathleen, and Amy. All eight children attended Visitation for grade school and will either attend Rockhurst or STA for high school. Mary Jean graduated from STA in the class of 2006 and began a tradition for the Schrader girls. According to the sisters, having all six sisters attend STA for high school has definitely had a huge impact on their relationship.

"Being able to go to the same school as all my sisters has definitely made us a lot closer," said Janice. "If we didn't go to the same school, we wouldn't be able to go to Hi Hat for coffee before school, get bagels, or any of the other things we love to do together on our way."

Mornings according to Janie however, are a bit tougher to wake up in time than for some of her sisters.

"Getting coffee before school is always fun," said Janie. "But, mornings are definitely not the best for me. I always happen to be the last one in the car while Janice is honking at me to hurry up."

This year, Janice was the oldest of the sisters at STA. She was a junior, while Janie was a sophomore.

"After being Mary Jean's younger sister, I was excited to have Janie come to STA last year," said Janie. "I was also really nervous though. I knew I would have to be her role model and would need to give her lots of advice about high school."

Next year three of the girls will all be at STA together.



**All in the Family** ★ Schrader sisters Kathleen, from left, Mary Jean, Megan, Janie, Janice and Amy sit on their back porch on April 9. The girls are listening to Janie recall times of laughter the girls have shared as a family. PHOTO BY LEE FRYER

"I feel like I have an advantage over other freshman because of all the advice I gain from my sisters," said Megan. "Since they have already been in my shoes before as a freshman, they have told me what to expect from all the teachers, which classes to take, and what free periods are like."

With many of the sisters attending STA, it is not uncommon for many of the teachers to have previously taught a Schrader girl.

"I never feel like the teachers really compare me to my sisters," said Janie.

"They definitely recognize me though and are always like 'Oh you're a Schrader girl! I know your sisters!'"

According to all of the girls, having a sister always there with them at school, gives them a sense of comfort.

"Just being able to know I could always find them for anything comforts me," said Janie. "I also know many of their friends, which makes me feel like I know more people to talk to around school."

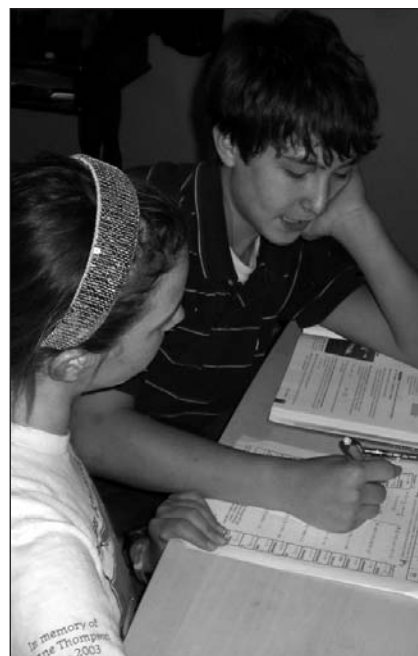
The Schrader's long legacy with all six sisters will end with Kathleen, fourth grader, and Amy, a second grader. Ac-

ording to the young girls, to be able to wear the same uniforms, and be just like their older sisters, is exciting.

As the girls return home from school, backpacks are strewn all over the kitchen and after school snacks are brought out. Each girl heads off to friend's houses and sports practices before getting ready for another day at school. Although each school day eventually has an end, and each girl eventually will graduate from St. Teresa's, the sisterly bond of the six Schrader sisters will carry on beyond just the campus of their high school. ★

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## Closely connected twins reach for independence



**Study Time** ★ Freshman Katie Sharp, left, helps her twin brother Sam with his homework. Sam attends Shawnee Mission East High School and often asks Katie for help with school work. PHOTO BY CLAIRE HANSEN

To some people, having someone at your side at all moments to share memories would be ideal, but is it?

by CLAIRE HANSEN  
Staff Writer

From playing basketball together to doing their homework together, the Sharp twins were inseparable. They played on the same sports teams, and participated in the same activities. However, since high school began, a separation has begun to form between them, and they don't have the type of relationship they used to.

Freshmen Katie and Sam Sharp were born fraternal twins and experienced the process of growing up and maturing together.

"Growing up as a twin was really fun because we were the same age, we could have the same friends over and we played the same sports, we had the same homework. It was convenient," said Katie.

They grew up both attending St. Peter's Catholic Grade School and were used to going to classes together every day.

"It's kind of weird," said Sam. "I barely see her [now]."

Katie and Sam, when younger, were close as brother and sister. She enjoyed having a twin brother around.

"I'd rather have him than a twin sis-

ter; there would be too much competition between us if he was a girl," said Katie. "The fact that he's a boy is better - he has his friends and I have mine and no one really cares."

Katie attends STA and Sam attends Shawnee Mission East. However, they both view their school worlds quite differently now that they are both in high school.

Katie claims STA has made her unique while Sam believes Shawnee Mission East has opened him up to new things, and going to school with so many different of people has affected him.

Katie believes she and Sam have a deeper understanding of each other, and are connected on another level.

"We have like telekinesis or something," said Katie. "Sometimes we don't have to talk and we know what the other one is thinking."

Katie enjoys the freedom away from her brother at school, and believes it has strengthened their relationship.

"I don't have to hear his voice as much in class and I don't have to be known as Sam Sharp's twin," said Katie. "I'm my own person I have my own identity; we're

not the Sharp twins."

However, along with positives come negatives. Freshman Katelyn Devine, a friend of the twins thinks high school has put a strain on their relationship.

"In grade school, they kind of hung out with the same people, but now he goes to a public high school and she goes to a catholic one so they've kind of separated," said Devine. "Now as brother and sister they've grown apart as well, not just as friends."

Sam has also noticed these changes but doesn't believe that the effects seem to be serious to their sibling relationship.

"She's my sister," said Sam. "We have bad days, but at the end of the day, she's still my sister."

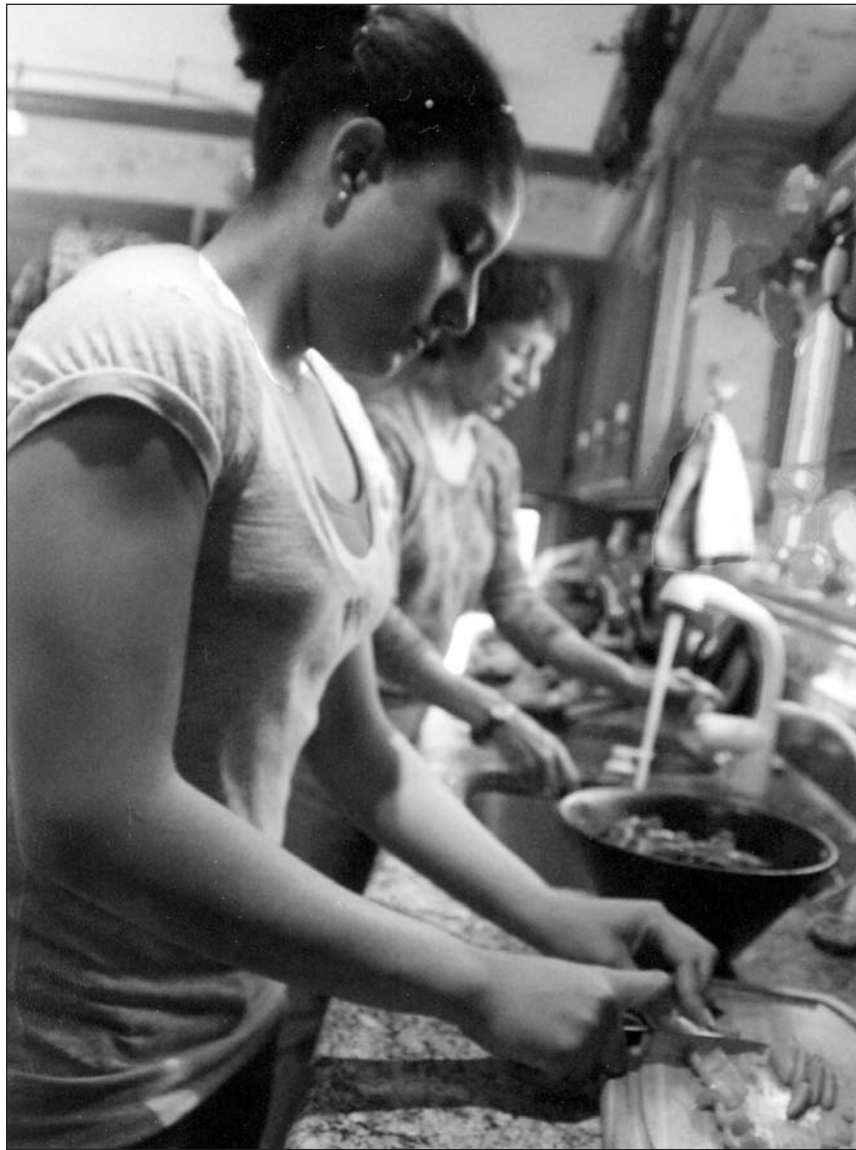
In the past, Katie and Sam had many common interests and often hung out with the same group of people.

"In grade school we, as Katie's group of friends, could hang out with Sam's friends but now that he has different friends than Katie we can't," said Devine.

Sam says he likes having his freedom with different friends from Katie but misses talking to her and having a close relationship with her.

"It was fun to be able to have friends over at the same time," said Sam, "but at the same time, it's nice to be my own person." ★

# Campbells add new ingredient to family soup



**Cooking up family** ★ Caitlin Campbell, left, and her mother, Theresa, prepare a meal for their family April 15. Caitlin often helps her parents cook meals.

PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

## Family turns to adoption, shares loving relationship with bi-racial daughter

by TRACY BURNS-YOCUM  
Staff Writer

After a day of working, cheering on her daughter at a track meet, making dinner and finally getting to relax, Theresa Campbell reflects on her daughter's accomplishments.

"You think at first that you would think about them being adopted, but you don't. I think of her as the same as my biological daughter," said Theresa.

Theresa and her husband Richard adopted STA freshman Caitlin when she was born, from a mother who was unable to take care of a baby. The Campbell's biological daughter, Genny, was 22 years-old when Caitlin was adopted.

Caitlin's adoption was private. A private adoption means the parents bypass the use of an agency and the waiting lists. The parents, in most cases, contact an attorney specializing in adoption or physicians who know of women who want to put their babies up for adoption.

Caitlin is bi-racial, while her adoptive parents are both Caucasian. They all say that it is not usually a big issue because they are family and skin color doesn't matter. Though Caitlin has wondered about why her skin was a different color than her parents.

"Sometimes it bothers me because everyone looks like their parents. It's weird at times when I don't blend in with my family," said Caitlin.

The Campbells turned to adoption when they were unable to conceive a second child. Theresa and Richard had always wanted more children and they decided adoption was the best alterna-

tive. They both loved the experience.

"It's been wonderful," said Richard. Caitlin sometimes wonders about her biological mother and what life would have been like if she had not been adopted.

"I think it would be cool to know who my siblings are and know my family and them look like me," said Caitlin.

Theresa sends pictures of Caitlin to her biological mother and occasionally talks with her on the phone.

"I think every mother wants to know how their child is doing," said Theresa.

Since there has been little contact between Caitlin and her biological mother, Caitlin says that once she gets older she would like to try and find her biological mother. If Caitlin is successful in tracking her down, she also wants to find out if she has any biological siblings.

Her parents say that they only talked about her being adopted when it was pertinent to a situation, like when Caitlin started asking questions about her skin color. Despite the race difference, Theresa and Richard cannot recall a time where a person did not believe Caitlin was their daughter.

"People were always wondering where she got her curly hair because ours are straight," said Richard.

Caitlin usually does not feel a difference in the way she is treated by her parents and does not think about the racial difference much, but every once and a while, it affects her.

"I feel left out sometimes, but most of the time I don't. I don't look anything like my family and sometimes that bothers me," said Caitlin.

Though the Campbells have daughters who are twenty-two years apart in age and have different skin colors, they are a loving, complete family.

"[We have] a good relationship with a good family bond and connection," said Caitlin. ★

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# Small world after all: family finds joy overseas

## Siblings manage to create close bonds with newly adopted foreign brothers

by BRADY ESSMANN  
Staff Writer

It's October 20, 1997 and a large crowd of people are huddled together inside Kansas City International airport. They are holding an assortment of signs and listening to a hired band play "Kansas City" nearby. As the awaited plane lands, the anticipation of the group intensifies as people start shuffling through the jetway. Finally, the last passengers emerge, a couple carrying a baby with fiery red hair. The couple walks through the people until they find their daughter, seven-year-old Katie, and hand her the chubby baby and newest member of their family, Mark Alexander "Sasha" Embree.

STA junior Katie Embree's first encounter with her brother was untraditional, because her adopted sibling, Mark, was born and raised for the first year of his life in Alaty, Russia.

When Katie was in second grade, her parents decided to expand the family by adopting overseas after unsuccessful attempts to have another child. When agencies and adoptions fell through, Katie recalls her mother turning to prayer.

"She was very spiritual," said Katie. "My parents consider Mark their miracle."

The adoption was not only an answer to the family's prayers, but also beneficial to the young Russian child.

"Russia was a very poor country and had gotten dangerous," said Katie. "It was just not a safe place to be."

She explains that her and Mark bonded as sister and brother right from the beginning. Yet, as siblings do, they occasionally get annoyed with each other.

"I often get frustrated because Mark's at that age when he is learning how to be obnoxious," said Katie. "But I can never get too mad, because he always knows how to put a smile on my face."

Katie recently finished college searching and admits she has no idea what she'll do without her siblings when she leaves for school.

"I love them with all my heart," said Katie. "They are my heart."

The Rielley family, who adopted a son from China, feels similarly, yet mentioned setbacks to overseas adoption.

"It was a very long, expensive process with a ton of paperwork and waiting," said Maureen Rielley, a junior at Bishop Miege High School.

Inversely, Rielley explains that unlike American adoptions, there was no complicated story behind the child and no attachment issues to deal with, making the adjustment fairly simple.

Ms. Peggy Rielley, Maureen's mother, agrees adopting overseas was the right choice.

"We didn't need another child," said Peggy. "We already had three grown biological children. But the problem in China is poverty, and for us it seems that is simply what separates orphans from having parents."

The communication barrier was an obstacle the Rielley family faced when wel-



**Play time** ★ Mark Embree, left, hides his face in embarrassment as his older sister, junior Katie Embree, teases him by making him wear his Russian baby bonnet.

PHOTO BY BRADY ESSMANN

coming their new son. They adopted Hank two years ago when he was five years old. He was fluent in Cantonese (a dialect of Chinese) and spoke no English when he first came to America. But the family thought the language complication was not a nuisance as he picked it up quickly by attending English as a Second Language classes.

As soon as Hank became familiar with his new home, he had no intentions of returning to his old one.

"About six months after he came here

he told us 'I know I can go back to China to that mommy, but I want you guys,'" said Peggy.

Likewise, the Rielleys enjoy having Hank around. And because they were so fortunate with him, the family is adopting from China again in May.

"I had someone tell me once 'You're too old, and it's just one child,'" said Peggy. "But Mother Teresa said 'Saving just one child is saving all humanity' and that's what I believe." ★

# Coach turns passion into family affair

Ms. Lori Hanaway with daughter Lindsey survive scrutiny while boosting personal relationship

by HALEY VONDEMKAMP  
Staff Writer

Lindsey Hanaway, just like many average teens, is faced with the same bothersome chores day after day. Her mom distributes these tasks only to Lindsey's dismay. Take out the trash. Wash the dishes. Clean your room. Run five suicides?

"I am a coach, but I'm also her mom," said Lori Hanaway of her relationship with her fourteen-year-old daughter, Lindsey.

Hanaway has served as Lindsey's volleyball coach for three years now; two seasons as coach for Presentation school and one season as the head coach for Team KC, a competitive volleyball club in the area.

The outside expectations and pressures for any athlete playing under a parent can be uniquely high, but for Lindsey, those expectations are intensified given her mother's status on the volleyball circuit. Hanaway was head coach at Archbishop O'Hara High school for 16 seasons, and lead this year's STA squad to the school's first volleyball state championship.

"It's hard for [Lindsey] just having the last name Hanaway," said Hanaway. Lindsey agrees.

"People expect more from me because I'm her daughter," said Lindsey.

With the need to meet the expectations that accompany being the coach's daughter are accusations of special treatment and favoritism.

"When people compare [their child] to the coach's kid, they automatically assume there's an unfair advantage," said Hanaway.

Hanaway believes there is always someone, whether a parent or player, who will be resentful of playing time. She feels being so closely involved with

parents and their children competing in sports is "playing with fire, especially when you throw your own kid in there."

But, Lindsey realizes her mom's need to treat her like everyone else.

"I shouldn't get any special treatment," said Lindsey. "I should act just like any of her other players."

According to freshman Courtney Watkins, a volleyball player for both STA and Team KC, the relationship between Hanaway and Lindsey is undetectable on the court to those who don't know the pair personally.

"I would never know they're mother and daughter [from observation alone]," said Watkins.

Despite obstacles inevitably faced in most mother-daughter and coach-player relationships, Hanaway and Lindsey believe the positive aspects of their situation heavily outweigh the negatives.

"[Kids whose parents coach them] get the mental intangibles of the sport," said Hanaway. "It gives them the whole package."

Lindsey has similar feelings. "It makes me better overall," she said. "[My mom] knows me better. She's more upfront with me."

Along with the positive repercussions Hanaway's coaching has on Lindsey's play, both mother and daughter agree it's had an affect on their personal relationship. Hanaway stressed the strength of their communication, which is due in part to their unique situation. She explained that coaching Lindsey's club team has forced them to spend a lot more time together.

"It's brought Lindsey and I closer," said Hanaway. "A relationship is strengthened when you share a passion."

"It has made us better friends," said Lindsey. "We endure things together."

Coaching and playing alongside each other has brought them to certain realizations about their relationship.

"You can't parent like you coach," said Hanaway.

Lindsey believes her competitive personality is comparable to that of her mom.



**Nothin' But Net** ★ Ms. Lori Hanaway, left, and her daughter Lindsey reflect on their passion for volleyball at a sand court near their home after the club season ended. The pair took advantage of the rare opportunity to play the sport together without national bids and rankings on the line. PHOTO BY HALEY VONDEMKAMP

"I think I'm exactly like her because she rubs off on me so much," said Lindsey.

But, most important to the pair is even though volleyball is a main and active component in their lives, the sport

shouldn't come between them personally.

"[Volleyball is] a big part of our lives, but it doesn't have to affect our family and our mother-daughter relationship," said Hanaway. ★

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# Mother teaches at home, school

O'Rear daughters reveal how relationship with mother, Stacie O'Rear, as teacher, parent has affected them, allowed them unique experiences during high school

by KAYLA LOOSEN  
Staff Writer

In a 15/16 freshman PE class, Ms. Stacie O'Rear, substituting for Ms. Ann Bode-Rodriguez, calls roll while clumps of girls lounge on the gym floor chatting. Mrs. O'Rear moves down the attendance list till she reaches the O's, where she calls off the name of her own freshman daughter, Madeline O'Rear. Madeline responds with, "Present," as other students giggle at the situation. Stacie O'Rear is not only the mother of Madeline and junior, Mo O'Rear, but also a teacher at STA.

"With my mom at school I've got this safety net around me that the other girls don't have," said Madeline. "If I'm ever in a bad situation she's going to be there, and I can count on that."

With Madeline's involvement in volleyball, her daily amount of homework, and social escapades, the two agree that even though they live at home and go to school with one another, it's never too much time together.

"The fact that my Mom is at home and school [with me] doesn't phase me anymore," said Madeline. "I'm busy most of the weekends, so school can be quality time together for us."

Although there are advantages to the O'Rear's situation, Mo and Madeline, decided that there are also drawbacks to it as well.

"It can be frustrating, because she knows all of the teachers, all of our grades, friends, and gossip," said Mo.

Madeline added that her mother hears enough at school to restrain Madeline and Mo from hanging out at certain events or with certain people.

"She knows a lot about high school students and their behavior that other parents don't," said Madeline.

"I know about the good things and the bad things," said Mrs. O'Rear.

Regardless of the advantages and disadvantages, the trio says overall their relationships have strengthened at STA. They talk more, and as a result have learned more about each other.

"My relationship with my Mom has improved in an interesting way," said Mo. "Bad grades can be detected before I even know. She's restrained us from hanging with the wrong crowd, and she knows more about me as a person."

Madeline and Mo both said they see their mother as a parent, a friend, and a teacher.

"Except when she gives us sex talks,

though. After those awkward 30 minutes, we can't consider her a friend," said Madeline. "Mom randomly will lock us in the car and make us talk about it."

While the O'Rears are in the middle of their experience, English teacher Mr. Mark Fudemberg, better known to students as Mr. Fud, is anticipating the arrival of his 8<sup>th</sup> grade daughter, Hayden Fudemberg, to STA.

"I'm looking forward to spending everyday with her," said Fud. "And I'm curious about how our relationship will change."

Fud notes that this will be a whole new experience for the two, and he hopes for their relationships to strengthen.

Fud expressed some concern for Hayden's identity at STA. His goal is for her to be known as a student and not as a "Fudlett" as one of his past students put her.

"I need to see her like she's not my daughter, but just this kid I know," said Fud. "If she wants me to be a parent, I can be. If she wants me to be a teacher I can be that too."

Like Fud, the O'Rear's also await the impending arrival of 7<sup>th</sup> grade sister, McLaren O'Rear, to STA. Stacie predicts it to be a good experience.

"They are all different individuals, with different extracurriculars, and different lives. It'll be interesting to see how the rest of their high school years turn out," said Stacie. ★



**Family Bond** ★ Ms. Stacie O'Rear stamps accountabilities at her desk in the language lab while junior daughter Mo, middle, and freshman daughter Madeline chat during an activity period on April 18. Madeline and Mo have been visiting their mother's classroom for many activities during their days at STA. PHOTO BY KAYLA LOOSEN

# Busy father finds time for family

Sports broadcaster looks forward to time with kids as hockey season ends

by SAM WACKERLE  
Staff Writer

As a traveling broadcaster, Mr. John Wiedeman, has scored his ultimate hat trick with a wife, two children and his dream job. Wiedeman lives out his career everyday as the official radio broadcaster for the Chicago Blackhawks hockey team while pressing for overtime with his two children and wife, Ms. Kelly Wiedeman.

"I'm just waiting for the season to be over so I can have time with my kids," said John.

Currently, John and Kelly live in Chicago with their two children, Reilly, two years, and Sean Patrick, four months. The family constantly struggles to find time with each other while working around John's job.

In the summer of 1995, John met his future wife at a hockey rink where their friendship began. At the time, she was training for the United States Women's National Hockey Team in Auburn, Mass. and he was broadcasting for the Worcester Ice Cats in nearby town Worcester. Until the couple was married, they dated long distance, barely managing to see each other once a month.

"We weren't even driving distance away," said Kelly.

Once married, the couple moved to Long Island, New York where they had their first daughter, Reilly. The trio moved to Chicago 19 months later, where they had Sean Patrick.

"[Reilly] knew something was going on because we got back from a trip and started taking down pictures on the walls and packing boxes," said Kelly. "Part of me thinks she thought we were leaving her."

The previous radio voice of the New York Islanders journeyed to the Chicago Blackhawks to face-off to the 2006-2007 season. Attending every game and almost every practice, John travels 40 times for games alone.

In a perfect situation, John would like to play every one of the 82 games at home, that way he would never have to travel. Traveling two to three times a month, John can be gone from a day and a half to 12 days each time.

"I begin missing my wife and kids the minute I get into the car and pull out of my driveway," said John.

Not seeing his family as often as other families is tough for John.

"My wife has to deal with the strain of handling everything on her own, and that is tough," said John.

Kelly feels the demands of an active two-year-old and infant rank as the hardest challenge.

"[Reilly] does not ask for him," said Kelly. "Every once in a while she'll say 'Daddy, Daddy,' but I think it will be a totally different story next year when she's three years old. Sean will be older which is good, but Reilly will be more aware."

In New York, Kelly could spend little time with Reilly whereas in Chicago, she can spend all day with her. But, because of the responsibility of caring for an infant, sometimes Kelly finds Reilly in the back room playing by herself.

"I have intervals of play time if I'm lucky," said Kelly.

Without the help and support of either John or Kelly's parents and a babysitter back in New York, the move was and is still hard on the family. Extra effort is required to help get through it.

"Make the most out of every moment, the good and the bad," said John. ★



**Family Outing** ★ Mr. John Wiedeman and daughter, Reilly, walk along railroad tracks March 20. The two awaited the incoming train as Reilly curiously observed the station. PHOTO BY SAM WACKERLE

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# Overworked parents feel job strain



**Spring Cleaning** ★ After dinner, Mr. Joe Sommerhauser cleans up from the meal and stores the leftovers. The family often tries to eat dinner together, but does not always have the opportunity to do so.

PHOTO BY KAYLA KRATOFIL

School distracts from a busy schedule but summer explodes into all work, no play for this busy family

by KAYLA KRATOFIL  
Staff Writer

Many people long to hear, "Honey, I'm home," after a tiresome day, but for senior, Jenny, and freshman, Becca Sommerhauser, these words are only occasionally heard.

Lately they've noticed the increasing absence of their parents, Janet and Joe. They are busy working full time jobs in the legal department at RED Development, and as a communications analyst for The Federal Reserve Bank.

The couple made the decision to work full time so their daughters could attend Catholic schools, although it creates a bit of a busy family schedule.

"I know we are all busy," said Jenny. "Sometimes my mom works crazy hours."

Although Jenny feels that her family spends a couple of hours together every day, she says she hardly notices it during the school year.

"The more time I put into school work," said Jenny, "the less time I get to spend with them."

Jenny is engulfed in schoolwork and barely notices that her parents departed, but that all changes when school ends.

"I notice it more in the summer

[when] they aren't around as much," said Jenny.

The Sommerhausers noticed the absence one summer when Joe had to go home for work during one day of their anticipated fourth of July trip. The Sommerhausers vacation at their lake house every summer for a couple days. The fourth of July is their favorite holiday.

"It sounds weird, but not Christmas," said Janet. "There is too much to it. With the fourth of July, there is no big expectation."

Joe says he likes the vacation because "there is no set agenda." He believes it's a relaxing holiday you spend with your family.

"All you do is eat and swim [at the lake]," said Joe.

When summers and lake vacations end, the chaos restarts. Everyone readjusts to his or her busy schedule. Becca begins playing volleyball once more. Jenny succeeds in maintaining a number two class ranking at Bishop Miege High school. Janet and Joe go back to their full time jobs. Jenny thinks her parents are often stressed from their jobs.

"[My mom] would get frustrated," said Jenny. "Sometimes the frustration would just translate back to us."

Janet agrees that work can both

"frustrate and delight her." She gets swamped with new projects and sometimes has to spend the night at her work, come home to change, only to go right back again.

Janet feels part of working a full time job is maintaining balance between family and work, something she puts a lot of effort into.

Janet feels her job can also bring her family together. Since her job allows her to bring her family to grand openings of the projects, they are able to see the finished product of what she worked so hard to complete.

"No job is perfect," said Janet.

With everyone busy, people go their own ways, according to Joe.

Janet believes it is difficult to find time as a family. She says Becca's and Jenny's activities often diverge, causing them to separate. These conflicts can create barriers when trying to spend time as a family.

"There's not much going places together," said Janet. "It's more like divide and conquer."

Although separation is sometimes the result, Janet and Joe try to be the best parents they can, despite their jobs.

Joe feels letting the girls be on their own is difficult, but trust is necessary.

"You let them make their own decisions," said Joe. "You can hopefully trust that they are making good judgment." ★

# New mother, baby share emotion

Newborn, mother share close bond within family

by ALLIE LUEKE  
Staff Writer

As the new baby boy wails, the crying mother receives him in her arms. Family and friends offer congratulations and the pink baby is weighed, measured, and finger printed to ensure its identity. As the hospital room buzzes with excitement, the baby and mother spend their first few moments together.

According to retired labor and delivery nurse, Jennifer Blanck, a new baby has a big impact on the family it is born into. She states that after labor the mothers usually feel very tired and that they may seem surprised when they see the baby.

"Most people are pretty excited when they have a baby," said Blanck. "It's a big accomplishment and relief. It's hard to get through it but once it is all over it's worth it. My favorite part of being a labor and delivery nurse was when everything went really well and how good [the patient] felt. No more special part of a woman's life is when she has a baby."

After six years of experience at Baptist Medical Center, Blanck has seen many mothers and their new babies interact.

"The most striking thing [I've observed] is the attachment [the mother has to the child] and how strong it is," said Blanck. "If it's a mother's first baby then they tend to think they will love it like the family dog. New mom's are surprised at how close they seem to each other. The baby becomes the most important thing."

Doctor T. Berry Brazelton and Doctor Bertrand G. Cramer's book *The Earliest Relationship* states that the mother's attachment to her child is based on three different phases. The first phase is how the mother and the father picture their child before it is conceived. The second phase is the bond that the mother feels with her child while it is in the womb. The third and final phase is after the child is born and can be seen, held and touched.



**Holding Hands** ★ Newborn Kelan reaches out for mother Ms. Jonelle Mattox's comforting touch. The two share a close, loving bond, as most newborns and mothers do. PHOTO BY ALLIE LUEKE

Ms. Jonelle Mattox, is a new mother who has four children. Dillon 10 years old, Hanna 5 years old, Dominic 3 years old, and Kelan who is 2 months old.

"Kelan is a cuddly and easy going baby," said Mattox.

Mattox spends most of the time with her newborn. She feels that her son identifies her by her voice because he has been hearing it since he was in the womb, and by her face because she spends so much time with him.

Ms. Jamie Cooper is also a new mother. Her three children are, Tommy,

six-years-old, Jackson, 17 months and her infant daughter, Mancini, who is five weeks old. She also is a former STA basketball player, and currently coaches basketball at STA. She described her relationship with her daughter as very close and peaceful. When she was handed her baby for the first time, it was an emotional experience.

"I had tears in my eyes and [everything] just felt complete," said Jamie.

New father, Mr. Greg Cooper, is thrilled to have a new baby. He has witnessed the relationship between his wife

and new daughter grow since the day of Mancini's birth.

"I would say that they have bonded really closely," said Greg. "I think they've had a great attachment. [A] baby to mother attachment [is] very close and caring and attentive."

The birth of the Coopers' daughter has changed the family in more ways than one.

"It's kind of crazy and chaotic, [there's] not a lot of sleep, but it feels like [Mancini] completes the family," said Jamie. ★

# Concern for autistic son shapes unique family

Common developmental disability poses challenge for family, yet provides lessons, experiences in life, love

by ERIN ANDRES  
Staff Writer



**Reaching Out** ★ John Jones, left, shows his mother, Ms. Mary Jones (names have been changed), what he wants for a snack after school. As is common in autistic children, he used his mother's arm to point because of his low speech level. PHOTO BY ERIN ANDRES

Ms. Mary Jones, whose name has been changed for privacy, has given up many things for her autistic son, John (name also changed for privacy). His need for constant care has changed Mary, but she is doing what she believes is best.

"I don't have the same flexibility as other people do," said Mary. "I have lost some of my freedom of just doing things because decisions have been made for me."

When John was diagnosed with autism, Mary had two other children, Elizabeth\*, and John's twin, Tom\*. John was about 18 months old, and had progressed normally until he hit 15 months.

"[John] started to [speak] by babbling, then stopped," said Mary. "Then it seemed like something was bothering him internally. We also thought he wasn't hearing us. He pushed the buttons on the books with sounds, why would he do that if he couldn't hear it?"

After hearing tests proved his hearing was fine, an Auditory Brain Stem Response test was done. By this time he wasn't speaking at all. Speech therapy began after a two-year wait, and he works with the same program today.

The symptoms of autism are usually detected before age three and include decreased communication; especially not responding to their name, not using gestures like waving or not smiling.

When Mary found out she was to have another baby, she was told John might hurt a child. Mary said this was far from the case; John was always careful with his sister.

Even though John's communication is poor, he has a special bond with his mother.

"I can tell if he has had a bad day because of my relationship with him," said Mary. "Also, he uses body language to express his feelings, and is very loving. When I drop him off at school, he blows kisses from the door."

Elizabeth, John's sister, has only experienced family with an autistic bother, but she believes her family is stronger and more close-knit because they come together to help him.

"I think it really affects my mom because she only has time to take care of John with all of his doctor's appointments, medicine, and updates with his doctor," said Elizabeth.

There is a time for therapy and tutors, and for having fun and enjoying each other.

"I can make him laugh by making a weird face, and we play catch together," said Tom.

However, frustration in a relationship can happen, as well as guilt.

When running errands with her son, Mary tries to stop where she can stay in the car, in case something would upset John.

Recently, she stopped to drop something off at a neighbor's, and the neighbor asked her in. She explained why she couldn't, then as she turned to leave she looked into her son's face.

"For the first time I noticed a sad face, where I could tell [John] understood," said Mary. "So, then I felt really bad. His progression is still good, but he is no where close to his age."

When asked if he had brought her family closer, Mary said if she had experienced both lives it would be easier to know, but she thought that it probably had.

Although awareness of autism isn't high, it is a growing epidemic. According to National Institutes of Health, autism will be diagnosed to 400,000 children this year, more than AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined. Statistics show one out of every 166 children will be diagnosed with autism, making it the fastest growing developmental disease in the US. But, the funding for autism research is lower than most other childhood diseases.

No cause or cure has emerged through extreme increase. Mary and her family just have to take everything day by day. ★

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# Students admire single mothers

STA daughters respect mothers for their self-reliance; bond between them grows in love during hardships

by SHERIE WALLACE  
Staff Writer

The Brogotos' devastating divorce strengthened mother Mary Jo Spino and daughter Michaela Brogoto's relationship, with the help of faith and independence.

The Brogoto family was split into half. STA junior Michaela Brogoto decided to live with her mom, and her brother decided to live with their father in northern Kansas City. It has been seven years since Michaela's parents been together: two years separated and five years divorced.

"I felt like the kids had to pick a side, but they really didn't have to," said Spino.

Michaela and Spino said it was difficult adjusting to the arrangements of the divorce. Michaela said it was hard for her because, first, she could be considered as a daddy's girl and she wanted to be with both of her parents. Spino said that she would miss when the Brogotos were a family that was not divided.

"Yeah, [separation] was very hard," said Spino. "Just the idea of not having a spouse for support. Sometimes I would like to be able to discuss and to share the responsibilities of raising our daughter."

Spino admits some obstacles for a single parents are financial support, loneliness and maintaining independence. Spino had lived with her parents until she was married. She said she never had to experience being independent until she became a single mother.

"It's lonely at times, but I lean on God a lot," said Spino. "Sometimes I just give it to Him. God is awesome because He always comes out with some kind of plan. It may not be the plan I see fit, but God always sees me through."

Spino built a stronger relationship in

faith and with her daughter.

"With the help from God, friends and family, good things did come out," said Spino. "I learned how to have a stronger relationship with God."

Michaela admires her mother's spirituality, hard work and independence.

"I think it's great that she is proud to be on her own," said Michaela. "I think about [independence] all the time, being on my own, how to get by in life and not rely on someone."

STA junior Sophie Briend also considers her mom as a role model. Briend said her mother's spiritual and positive perspective influence her to become optimistic when she is frustrated. For example, Briend said her mother gives her advice not commands and her mom supports her with her decisions.

Spino said her relationship with Michaela is strong because their similarities, interests, understanding and their open communication with each other. In Michaela's perspective, they are like sisters.

Spino said it's their love that makes their connection go beyond a typical relationship.

"Our love just makes us do for one another without us even thinking about it, like the times we just give each other hugs or go out for some brunch," said Spino.

Spino supports her children through involvement in their school work, games, attending church every Sunday or even just hanging out.

"My mother is always encouraging me to do my best, she makes sure to make time for me and my brother even though she keeps herself busy," said Michaela.

Spino said it was easy to parent Michaela because God blessed her with a kind and sweet girl. Michaela and Spino love spending quality time together.

Their time, love and support for one another creates their strong bond. ★



**Comic relief** ★ Ms. Mary Jo Spino, left, and her daughter Michaela Brogoto share a moment of laughter after Michaela's soccer game March 17. Because the Stars lost, Spino wanted to lighten her daughter's mood. PHOTO BY SHERIE WALLACE

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# Family copes with stress during father's deployment

Dr. Brian Caffey serves army as reserve captain; daughter takes on new family role, responsibility

by MEGAN MONSEES  
Staff Writer

As soldiers pull heavy camouflage bags from their cars and exchange casual hello's with old friends, the Caffey family says their last good-bye to Mr. Brian Caffey, a father, a husband, and a captain in the army reserve.

Caffey is an anesthetist at Shawnee Mission Medical Center. However, periodically he makes military trips over seas. There, he provides anesthetics to soldiers for surgery. In 2004, he served 3 months in Afghanistan. Currently, he is serving in Germany.

"After he left for Afghanistan last time I came home and cried, but it was more because he was gone, not because he was in a third world country," said sophomore, Mollie Caffey, daughter of Caffey.

While away, Caffey misses a lot of his children's activities.

"The hardest thing about being away is not being involved, and not talking to people all the time," said Caffey. "I can't watch soccer games, watch TV, or eat dinner with my family. The only information

I get is from over the phone."

According to Caffey, the distance, affects his relationship with his daughter.

"We don't have the face-to-face to conversations which causes us to lose each other," said Caffey. "Our relationship suffers because we don't have one-on-one interaction."

Mollie also feels that their connection undergoes stress during his absence.

"It puts strain on our relationship and makes it really off and on," said Mollie.

Despite the effect it has on Mollie, she has stepped up to help manage her family and cope with his absence.

"It puts some sort of strain on all of us and stresses us out," said Mollie. "[My brother] is at the age where he is just going to miss him. My mom takes the position of worrying. I have to step up and take over."

Outside family and friends have been there to support Mollie and the

Caffey family.

"The second Mr. Caffey got out of the car he said hi to one of his buddies, and I immediately started crying," said sophomore Lauren Damico, a family friend of the Caffeyes. "I didn't even know [tears]



**Apparent absence** ★ Matthew, from left, Denise and Mollie Caffey gather around the dining room table to eat dinner, just days after Brian Caffey left for Germany. "I miss him most at dinners because that is when we are all together and act kind of stupid," said Mollie. PHOTO BY MEGAN MONSEES

were coming, but I couldn't stop them. I just started to think, 'What if he dies?' I thought how it would affect my life, but then I thought more importantly, how it would affect [Mollie's brother], and Mollie."

Damico was used to eating family dinners with the Caffeyes while her parents went through a divorce. This routine changed once Caffey left.

"When [overseas] I am not part of a group, not part of my family," said Caffey. "I'm kind of in limbo."

According to Mollie their family life is not only affected when he is away, but also during the weeks leading up to his departure.

"The first few months before, it pushes us apart, but then right before he leaves it

brings us close together again," said Mollie.

This feeling of unity was felt on the way to the airport.

"I got picked up at 6 a.m. and it was silent in the car," said Damico. "Everybody knew what was coming, but didn't know what to say; nothing seemed appropriate."

After their good-bye, Caffey departed, leaving the rest of the family with tears in their eyes. Mollie, her mom and her brother all had each other to lean on, but Caffey walked through the terminal on his own.

"I go from a family situation to a situation with no family at all; everything's different," said Caffey. "I have to figure out an entirely new system right when I get there. I have no support system, it's just me." ★

# Parents ask children's help with technology

Role reversal, changing times have younger generation teaching parents ins, outs of technological equipment

by ELLIE MULLANE  
Staff Writer

As sophomore Kelly Younger sits at home with friends, she hears the familiar sound of her mother struggling on the computer. Finally, she sighs, and gets up to help.

Teaching a parent how to do something on a computer, phone or TV is a typical occurrence in the Younger household, along with many other households.

"My mom is so technologically challenged," said Younger. "She doesn't even know how to work her voicemail. I have to check them for her."

Sophomore Katie Kieffer has a similar story.

"My mom was telling me that someone had tried

to call her and that her phone wouldn't let them leave a voicemail," said Katie. "I went in to check them and her inbox was full, she thought her phone was broken!"

In a world where everything is changing so quickly, it can be hard for the older generation to adjust to the new lifestyle. Parents such as Ms. Jane Kieffer, mother of Katie, and Ms. Robin Younger, mother of Kelly, grew up with none of the new equipment available to them today.

"When I was growing up, we only had one black and white television and only one phone for the whole family," says Robin. "We played outside, slept in the basement when it was hot and made our own [forms] of entertainment. It's amazing to see how far we've come, and how

different life is for [Kelly]."

Kelly, on the other hand, cannot begin to fathom how her mom grew up lacking the every day essentials to which Kelly has access.

"I can't go one day without my phone [or] my computer, and I always have the AC on cool," said Kelly. "I don't know how my mom did it."

Ms. Hazel Spencer, Senior Vice President of Bank of America, holds a different perspective on the issue. With her job and title, she has to remain brushed up on the latest technology to stay ahead at work.

"I'm always doing some sort of inventory or other on the computer, and I like to have all of the newest programs," said Spencer. "I would be lost without [my laptop] or my

Blackberry."

Spencer is constantly e-mailing, instant messaging and plugging inventory into her computer. She knows a lot of the latest advancements, but does admit to not understanding the TV or texting on her phone.

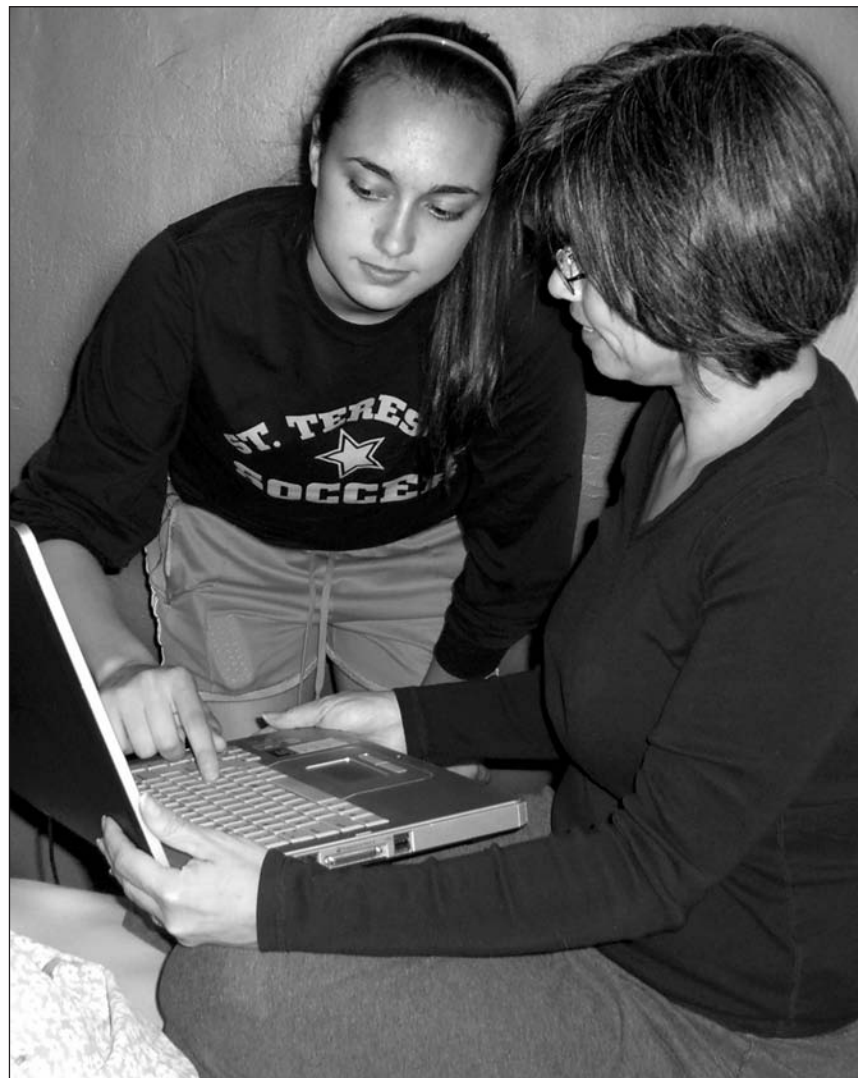
Sophomore Maggie Steinert said her father also struggles with the TV.

"My dad doesn't know how to work the volume," said Maggie. "I have to hold the remote when we watch TV, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing."

Many teens struggle to keep their parents up to date on the world of technology with which they have grown up. Some, like Kelly, get easily frustrated with constantly helping their parents to do some-

*"When I was growing up, we only had one black and white television and only one phone for the whole family."*

Robin Younger, mother



**Lending a hand** ★ Kelly Younger, left, helps Ms. Hazel Spencer with her slide show. Younger is a frequent visitor to the Spencer household. **PHOTO BY ELLIE MULLANE**

thing, and having to explain it multiple times. Parents, like Robin, also get frustrated with themselves for not being able to understand.

"It frustrates me because I can tell it frustrates Kelly when I don't understand the little things," said Robin. "I don't like to feel like a burden." ★

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# Parental deaths spark closer relationships in end

Woman lost both of her parents at age ten, became stronger, able to develop greater bonds with others

by KELSEY McCORMICK  
Staff Writer

Changing diapers, helping with school projects, and raising children to be the best they can be, parents are there for everything. They wore a big smile when they heard you say your first words, which more often than not, were either "mama" or "dada." They anxiously watched as you lifted yourself up off the ground to take your first steps on the road of life. They were ecstatic as they saw you hop up on the "big potty," knowing that they no longer had to change your diapers. There is no other relationship more satisfying than the one you have with your mom and dad. But imagine losing that relationship to death.

Ms. Kelly Murray, 34, lost both of her parents in a car crash 20 days before her tenth birthday.

"You can never find that unconditional love you get from a parent," said Murray.

Her husband, Mr. Dan Murray, can relate after losing his father at the age of 10.

"I believe I am able to better understand and deal with feelings that come along with losing a parent," said Mr. Murray.

According to Kelly Murray, her parents were going through a divorce before the wreck, and her and her brother, Josh Schmitt, had enough to deal with because

of that.

"My brother and I were already a mess before our parents died," said Murray. "We were worried about whether our parent's relationship was going to survive or not."

Instantly after the death of their parents, Josh and Kelly's relationship suffered greatly, but with time it healed and became much stronger.

"When we were younger it definitely pulled us apart...We acted out on each other and blamed each other for what happened," said Kelly Murray. "In the end, we are stronger together and have a greater bond."

Kelly's relationship with Josh was not the only one that suffered immediately following the death of her parents. So did her relationships at school with her friends and her teachers.

"I was very insecure...I acted out a lot for attention," said Murray. "No one gives you the attention that your parents could give you."

Now that Kelly is older, the death of her parents has still had an effect on her through the relationships that she now bears with her son, Jacob Frum, 11, her husband and her brother.

Kelly feels that she has missed out on having a mother, especially when it came to having and raising Jacob. She felt that she didn't have the guidance that most people get from their parents when it comes to have children, considering that



**Time out** ★ Danny Murray, from left, Jacob Frum and Kelly Murray are at odds with each other as Jacob argues about doing his make-up work for school. The family had just returned from a long trip. **PHOTO BY KELSEY McCORMICK**

she had Jacob at a very young age. Jacob, however, feels that he missed out on the opportunity to spend time with his grandparents.

"It makes me sad because I didn't get the chance to see them and spend time with them like most people do," said Jacob.

Mr. Murray feels that because Kelly lost her parents and had Jacob at a very young age that this has made her more aware when it comes to parenting Jacob.

"My feeling is that Kelly has a heightened sense of commitment and determi-

nation to do well as a mother," said Mr. Murray.

The deaths have motivated Kelly to work harder and to give herself and Jacob a better life.

"I want to be successful, to have ethics, especially for Jake," said Ms. Murray.

When asked what she would have done differently knowing that her parents would die, Kelly said, "If you knew that you were going to lose someone...you just would've been a better person." ★

# Divorced parents re-enter dating world

# 11 relationships



**A welcome addition** ★ Bruce Libowitz, from left, Kirby Buckley, Laurie Buckley and Eric Buckley eat dinner together in the Buckley's home. Libowitz and Laurie met on a blind date and have been dating for almost two years. **PHOTO BY RACHEL FLATTERY**

## After separation or divorce, families let go of the past, begin seeing different people; children learn about love

by **RACHEL FLATTERY**  
Staff Writer

Sophomore Paulina Wentworth thought life as she knew it was over after her parents divorced, especially when they started dating other people.

"At first I didn't like my parents dating other people because I wanted my parents to be together," said Paulina. "As I grew older, I realized what has to be and I'm fine with it now."

Her and her twin sister Jacqueline's parents have been divorced for six years. The sisters had a rough time dealing with their parents break up. Soon after the divorce, the girls schemed at how to get their parents back together.

"My sister and I would talk to each other and see if both our parents would go on a date with each other or talk about things," said Paulina. "We would talk to

[our parents] and ask them to go out again or talk."

When their parents began to date other people, the girls knew they would not reunite.

"At first, when my parents were dating others, I was shocked and surprised," said Paulina.

Their mother, Christina, is dating a man named Mark, who the girls think is nice.

"Mark is funny and fun to be around," said Paulina. "He takes us out, like go-cart racing."

Their father, Kenny, is now married to Brooke. The girls say Brooke is outgoing and takes care of them.

"Brooke is someone I go to when I need someone to talk to because she knows what to say," said Paulina. "She includes us like daughters."

Paulina says her mom seems happier, and her father and stepmother are a good couple.

Paulina no longer resents her parents for breaking up. She also gives advice to those dealing with the same issue.

"Give it a chance to see what people are like," said Paulina. "It's OK that your parents are divorced. Let them be able to date other people. Don't be mad or give them a hard time. Everything is going to be OK."

Eric Buckley, a sophomore at Rockhurst High School, said his parents divorced about three years ago and are now dating other people.

"It was really weird when they began dating," said Eric. "I don't do so well with new people."

His mother, Laurie, is dating a man named Bruce who Eric describes as funny and quite eccentric. His father, Pete, is dating a woman named Lori, who Eric says is very nice, polite and funny.

"I'm glad that [my parents] are not holding onto the past," said Eric.

Laurie wondered what her children thought about her dating again.

"I was concerned what my kids thought of [Bruce]," said Laurie. "I wondered if they would accept him."

She had a difficult time after the divorce and was wondering about dating again.

"When I first thought about dating I thought, 'Who would date a 43-year-old woman with three kids?'" said Laurie.

Although she was anxious about dating, she said it has turned out fine.

"My advice to mothers going through this is to not be afraid," said Laurie. "A lot of men and women are going through the same thing."

Pete, Eric's father, also thought about his dating and whether it affected his kids.

"I'm sure at first they thought it was strange," said Pete. "Finally, they got the idea, and [we] have given them a positive example to use when dating."

Not only did life continue after divorce for Paulina, but there is also love.

"I'm happy [my mom] found someone else she loves and cares for," she said. ★

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## Sharing work strengthens mother-daughter bond

### Best friends, co-workers: mother, daughter team did not expect to teach together at dance studio

by **RILEY COWING**  
Staff Writer

At Jody Phillips Dance Company in Overland Park, two blonde women teach class, talk to students and parents and work in the office. The two have a bond unlike any other pair of employees at the studio: they are mother and daughter. Ms. Jody Phillips and her daughter, Lindsay Phillips, have become teammates who work together and share a passion for dance.

Jody enrolled Lindsay in dance class when she was three. Lindsay first danced at Miller-Marley, where her mom taught. Eventually, the studio closed and Jody started her own, Jody Phillips Dance Company, where Lindsay also danced.

"At a young age, I did a lot of different things," said Lindsay. "And dance was what I was best at."

Jody never pushed Lindsay to dance, but Lindsay grew up with it. Lindsay feels the time spent at the studio affected her personality.

"I learned how to be outgoing because there were always a lot of people around,"

said Lindsay. "It really influenced my personality. I'm a people person."

Lindsay continued to dance at her mom's studio and on dance teams in high school and college. Whether Lindsay was dancing at her mom's studio or on the dance team at KU, Jody was supportive of her daughter and often came to Lindsay's performances. Sometimes Jody would help out with the KU dance team by letting them practice at her studio.

In college, Lindsay started working with her mom at the studio in Overland Park. The time she spent there varied and did not usually exceed once a week. Teaching was not always a dream of hers, but after developing relationships with the kids at the studio, she became more involved.

"I never thought that I would be as involved [at the studio] as I am now," said Lindsay. "But once I got to know the kids, the more involved I became. I love being able to make a difference."

As Lindsay's time at the studio increased, Jody thinks their relationship has grown significantly. Now they work together, they have learned to respect each other

on a business level and have transitioned from being mother-daughter to a team. Jody thinks of her daughter as a blessing – someone extremely dedicated, with a rare passion for what she does.

"She's my soldier and 'protects' me," said Jody. "Sometimes people can be nasty and nobody messes with her."

Lindsay enjoys working with her mom. According to Lindsay, her mom is easy to work with. She admires how Jody deals with people and her positive personality is. Lindsay thinks her mom's personality is similar to her own, just sweeter.

"She's my best friend," said Lindsay. "I really do tell her everything. I wish that other kids could have a mom like her."

Emma Brockschmidt, a 15-year-old student at Jody Phillips Dance Company, sees many similarities in Jody and Lindsay's personalities. Brockschmidt describes the pair as strong-willed, spiritual and optimistic. She admires how they know how to work separately and together without bringing each other down.

"They are good people who have managed to do something great," said Brockschmidt.

One reason Jody and Lindsay work so well together is they share the common goal to make a difference in their students' lives.



**In step** ★ Lindsay Phillips, left, and her mother Jody Phillips teach an adult tap class. The pair helped parents learn and practice a routine. **PHOTO BY RILEY COWING**

"It's not about dance, but helping them with their self esteem, achievement, and believing in themselves through the art of dance," said Jody. ★

## High school sweethearts unite in marriage after years together



**A quiet evening** ★ Betsy, left, and George Medina laugh together while watching a television sitcom on April 16. The high school sweethearts made time for each other after their busy workdays. **PHOTO BY KAITLIN ZIDAR**

## Medinas enjoy marriage after long courtship, time as couple

by KAITLIN ZIDAR  
Staff Writer

It was a dark night about 33 years ago, when Mrs. Betsy Medina saw Mr. George Medina hitchhiking on Holmes Road, and she contemplated picking him up. She decided to pick him up and take him home because she recognized him from Bishop Hogan High School. Little did they realize, they would end up dating and becoming high school sweethearts.

They were engaged twice and eventually married and had children, whom attended STA, alumna Eli and senior Kathleen.

On their first date, George borrowed his sister's convertible and took Betsy out to dinner at the Plaza III.

"[My] high school relationship was all about me and all about him," said Betsy. "We were a couple."

According to the couple, the steadiest part of their relationship lasted while Betsy was in high school.

"It's not like it was an overnight deal," said George. "I kept working on her."

The high school sweethearts accompanied each other to four consecutive Bishop Hogan High School proms.

After Betsy graduated high school, the two went to separate states because they moved with their jobs. Eventually, the two were transferred back to Kansas City, where George saw Betsy's family.

"It just kind of seemed like everywhere I was going, [her family was going]," said George. "I was running into her, just not actually her. Then I called her to go to lunch."

Betsy believes if high school sweethearts are going to marry, they must complete college, date others, and then reconnect. Marriage and family therapist, Philip Klever, also has similar views to Betsy's.

"There is the notion that if your high school

sweethearts, that you should date around," said Klever. "Sometimes they end up married with a great marriage, if you have two people that are mature."

The two reunited and caught up as friends. Betsy had a new boyfriend, but continuously went to lunches with George.

"It was off and on because I was dating the other guy," said Betsy. "I feel like there is so much in life to experience between high school and marriage. After experiencing other relationships, maybe [marriage] can be better."

George proposed to Betsy after seeking her father's approval when he was 21 and she was 19, but according to Betsy, because of their age, the engagement was unable to work at that time.

"We just started going out and after a month or two, her dad said, 'you're going to marry this guy,'" said George. "And he was right."

George's determination led to a second engagement and the couple married on October 13, 1984, when George was 28 and Betsy was 27.

"I wasn't going to let go," said George. "I just wasn't going to give up. The more we went out, I knew I started to win her over."

The couple's relationship strengthened over time by reconnecting, according to George. Their youngest daughter, Kathleen, felt some pressure to find her high school sweetheart.

"It's rare these days that high school sweethearts end up married because we're so young," said Kathleen. "We have college ahead of us."

According to Klever, the couple approached their marriage correctly because they left room to be individuals and to grow in their own lives before marriage.

"When people get married before the age of 20, their chances of divorce will increase," said Klever. "You can be high school sweethearts and not marry until 24 because each person will have more time to do their own thing."

Through Betsy's experience of marrying her high school sweetheart, she has learned that the most important part was discovering herself.

"If you're going to marry your high school sweetheart, discover yourself first," said Betsy. ★

# Society does not show them the love

Interracial marriages face stigma, negativity despite supposed growing cultural acceptance; couples fight society's opposition

by MARGARET SCHNEIDER  
Staff Writer

As they walk down the street hand-in-hand, glancing in adorned store windows, onlookers whisper and stare. They have done nothing to draw attention to themselves, but society views their relationship differently than others.

"We get a lot of glares and talking behind hands," said Dr. Tame Adams, an African-American woman married to a Caucasian man. "I just don't think on an intellectual and socio-economic level, people are as advanced as they think they are."

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2.9 percent of marriages are interracial. These relationships carry a stigma in today's society, despite advances made in integration.

Adams said her family was originally against her relationship, but adjusted to the idea with the birth of their child. Her husband, Mr. Erik Adams, didn't receive opposition from his family.

"They love Tame," said Erik. "My brother calls her 'sister' and my mother begs for time [with her]."

The Bureau of the Census reports that the majority of interracial marriages are between an Asian and a Caucasian.

Mr. Kris Owara, father of sophomore Megan Owara, is a third generation Japanese-American and said his family knew it was unlikely he would marry another Asian.

"My parents were realistic," said Owara, who grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "There were few chances to date other Asians."

According to Ms. Terry Welsh-Owara, peoples' attitudes toward interracial couples depend

on their upbringing and where they live. Erik agrees.

"It's not a nature issue," he said. "It's a nurture issue. If it was a physiological issue like Homo sapien versus Neanderthal, one of the races would be extinct by now."

Welsh-Owara also believes the varying attitudes come from diversity and cultural differences.

"Between Kris and I, there wasn't much of a difference," she said. "Between other cultures, there might be a bigger difference."

The black community is less accepting of interracial dating, said Tame.

"[The African-American community believes that] to be in an interracial marriage you have sold out to the white man primarily, and you have no concept of being part of the black community," she said.

Erik believes treatment of blacks from the past has an effect today.

"Up until the 1960s, white-Anglo society basically put the black community under the bus," he said. "The black community's psyche has become comfortable with that embarrassment. It is hard to grow out of circumstances like that."

Tame also believes gender plays a part in the black community's attitude. Her parents accepted her brother's marriage to a Hispanic more readily than her relationship with Erik, because her brother is the "alpha-black male."

"They felt that by marrying a white man, I de-based myself and was no longer self-sufficient," she said. "I put my trust in a white man, and he could tear me down like other white men in the past."

Despite such negativity, interracial relationships are becoming more common. A Cornell



**Two of hearts** ★ Erik Adams, left, allows his wife, Tame, to rest on his lap as he searches mspace.com at their Rockhill home Monday night. They enjoyed a relaxed moment between cleaning the kitchen and preparing their daughter for bed. **PHOTO BY MARGARET SCHNEIDER**

University study shows this is especially true among the younger generation, suggesting that cultural acceptance is growing.

"A major catalyst towards gaining an understanding is going to be the children," said Erik.

He also believes that the stigma will disappear if people can follow behavioral rules.

"There are fundamental principles that everyone should abide by: be polite, have courtesy, and just be a good person," said Erik. "It's a Ten

Commandments thing. If everybody did this, we would have more acceptance. In the words of Rodney King, 'Can't we all just get along?'"

Owara said the situation should get better. "The world is changing, so hopefully everyone becomes a little more tolerant," said Owara.

Tame hopes for a change in society.

"Life is too short anyway," she said. "We need to get through these issues and over these issues and just move on." ★

# Couples ignore age differences in relationships

Teens find challenges, advantages to dating partners with different maturity levels, perspectives in high school relationships

by JOELLEN REDLINGSHAFFER  
Staff Writer

Imagine dating someone in a different grade. Picture yourself driving around a younger guy, or having someone three years older take you to his parties. Or think about dating a guy that is in the same grade as one of your siblings.

"During the summer all of my friends were fine because we all hung out," said freshman Ellen Gude. "But once school started, it got weird. I was having to make the decision of hanging out with [my boyfriend], or people my own age. My friends were getting fed up with me basically."

Gude and Rockhurst High School junior Zack Tomlinson previously dated for five months. They met in the summer while acting together in a play. According to Gude, her parents trusted her enough to date an older guy, but they never felt completely comfortable with the situation.

It isn't only parents and friends that worry about age difference in dating. According to Rockhurst High School freshman Andrew Riga, most of the Rockhurst sophomores hate him for dating a girl in their grade.

Sophomore Brittanie Cali met Riga, her boy-

friend of 15 months, through her younger brother Joey. The two boys played together on a baseball team during the summer, but now rarely speak to each other.

"My brother was more mad at Andrew than me," said Cali. "[My brother and my's] relationship didn't really change, but [my brother and Andrew's] did. They used to be friends, and now they are more of acquaintances. My parents used to not like me dating Andrew, but now they are like, 'Get over it Joey.'"

Other couples will have to face the challenge of one going to college and one staying in high school. Kelly Younger, sophomore at STA, and her boyfriend Mike West, senior at Shawnee Mission East, will be faced with college challenges very soon. West intends to go to the University of Kansas next year.

"We don't really talk about it much, but who knows," said Younger about the worries of her boyfriend going to college.

But other younger couples worry about what will happen when college comes. Notre Dame de Sion sophomore Carrie Barton and Rockhurst High School junior Peter O'Neill have been dating for nine months and have already thought about O'Neill's plans for college.



**Clever photo kicker** ★ Carrie Barton, Notre Dame de Sion sophomore, and boyfriend Peter O'Neill, Rockhurst junior, playfully fight for the soccer ball. **PHOTO BY JOELLEN REDLINGSHAFFER**

"Us dating will not affect our college decisions," said O'Neill. "I want to play soccer, and she wants to go to [University of] Missouri. We will not go to the same college, but most likely, if we are still together, it would be more of an open type deal where when we are back home we would be back together again."

Grade difference in relationships can be common. Some grade difference relationships require work to stay together, while others come very naturally. Friends merge and new groups of friends form, while some lose friends. Balancing friends and significant others can be a challenge, but for many, it is worth it. ★

## Teenage dating affects outside relationships



**Date night** ★ At the McCue house April 17, STA junior Mary McCue, left, and her boyfriend Rockhurst junior Danny Riesmeyer flip through the channels. McCue and Riesmeyer spend time together everyday, often watching movies or playing Nintendo. **PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN**

## Couple works to manage time between family, friends, school

by TAYLOR BROWN  
Staff Writer

It is 7 p.m. on another typical school day. Mary McCue, STA junior, answers her front door to her boyfriend of 14 months, Danny Riesmeyer, Rockhurst High School junior. They walk into the house together, ready to watch the Tennessee football game with the rest of the McCue family.

After this, the couple retreats to the recreational room to play a game of "King Kong" on Nintendo 64. They joke, laugh and snack together on chips and pizza rolls, as they often do when together.

The couple hangs out almost everyday, said McCue. A survey conducted by Mediamark Research, Inc. shows that McCue and Riesmeyer are among 12 percent of teens who have been dating for over a year. However, both McCue and Riesmeyer agree that their relationship has had very few negative effects on their ties with family and friends.

"The effects on my family are that I don't spend as much time at home, but I think that if I wasn't dating Danny, I still would spend the same amount of time away from the house," said McCue.

According to McCue, her family approves of her relationship with Riesmeyer.

"I think my parents are happy with my relationship," said McCue. "My parents both like Danny a lot, and I think my sister secretly does, too."

Freshman Sadie McCue and her sister Mary act like many sisters do, despite the relationship between Mary and Riesmeyer.

"Sometimes Mary and I are really good friends, and sometimes we're not," said Sadie. "I don't see her as much as I did before [her and Danny] dated, and when I do, he's there."

Her friendships are not changed because her

friends understand, explained Mary.

"She acts the same as she did before," said Mary's close friend, junior Michelle Samborski. "There are some times when she would hang out with [Danny] and not me, but it doesn't make me mad. I understand, because I would do the same with my boyfriend."

On the other hand, Riesmeyer believes that his outside relationships are somewhat affected by his girlfriend.

"I have less time with my other friends and I have to learn to manage my time better," said Riesmeyer.

As for extra-curricular activities, Riesmeyer believes his are not changed by his girlfriend.

"[Our relationship] doesn't really affect my extra-curricular activities unless I spend too much time with Mary," said Riesmeyer, soccer player for Rockhurst.

Mary explains that playing soccer at STA affects her relationship with Danny more than the relationship affects her soccer career.

"When I play soccer and stuff, I try to push personal things away," said Mary, a returning varsity player.

Sadie explained that after watching her sister and Riesmeyer juggle between priorities, her views on dating have changed.

"Their relationship has showed me how you can be young and still love someone, because they are totally in love," said Sadie.

Mary is drawn to Riesmeyer because he is "attractive, plays soccer, and funny."

"I'm comfortable around him. He's someone I can trust and I find that really rare, especially with guys," said Mary.

Likewise, Riesmeyer is attracted to Mary because

"she's good looking, she's fun to be with and she's intelligent."

The couple takes their relationship "day-by-day," said Mary.

"We don't really have any plans [for the future]. We at least [wanted] to stay together until Junior Ring, though," said Mary. ★

*"I feel like there is so much in life to experience between high school and marriage."*

Betsy Medina

*"He's someone I can trust and I find that really rare, especially with guys."*

Mary McCue, junior

# All's fair in love and war, until someone gets hurt

## Emotional damage persists in abuse victims, their families and community

by ALLISON PERICICH  
Staff Writer

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network every two and a half minutes, somewhere in America, a woman is sexually assaulted.

Many teenage girls find themselves sexually abused or assaulted in their relationships with boys. When an unhealthy relationship occurs, a girl can be damaged physically, emotionally, and psychologically.

"In abusive relationships, the abuser often doesn't actually have strong feelings of self-worth himself and so he feels that sense of control and importance by controlling someone else," said Ms. Tehani El-Ghoussein, Adult Specialist for Girl Scout's Positive Power Program. "... if a woman is attempting to end the relationship, then the abusive person is going to feel unsteady because the foundation that they stand on isn't going to be there and they want to regain that control, potentially by any means necessary."

El-Ghoussein said an unhealthy relationship occurs when there is an inequality or misuse of power when there should be an equal partnership.

Ms. Karen Sinco, personal counselor at STA said, "Anytime there is fighting

and constant struggling in a new relationship it is probably an unhealthy one."

Sometimes girls realize they are being abused but don't leave their boyfriends. They either want to help change the boy's life or they don't realize the abuse they are receiving is irregular.

El-Ghoussein, a former worker at the Hope House, a shelter for battered women, has seen many such cases.

"A woman at the Hope House told me, 'It's not that we like it, but it doesn't feel strange,'" she said.

Mr. William Edwards, an online blog writer, thinks girls are attracted to the "bad boy" because he is more exciting and interesting and girls believe that they can turn his life around with the power of love.

"It is not the girl's responsibility to cure the boy," said Sinco. "It is, however, her responsibility to protect herself and to leave the relationship as quickly as possible."

Girls who find themselves in abusive relationships are often afraid to leave. Many abusers alienate their partner from her family and friends. When she needs help she is alone. There are also other motives for staying with an abusive boyfriend that many people don't understand.

"They still care about the other person," said Ms. Alison Jones-Lockwood, Community Liaison at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA). "They want the good times to

continue and the bad times to stop. Leaving can be the most dangerous time."

Abuse has many warning signs that friends and family should look for including the following: if a friend pulls away and hangs out with her boyfriend more and more; if a boyfriend calls many times in one evening, questioning his partner's location or who she is with; or if a boyfriend blames everything on his partner, including any abuse he inflicts upon her.

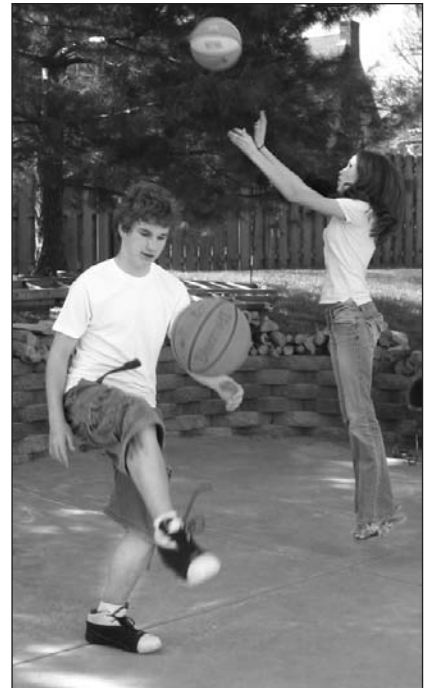
"[Abuse] happens gradually, said El-Ghoussein. "Most women won't continue a relationship if they are blatantly belittled or harmed on their first date."

Over 5,000 teenagers call MOCSA's hotline a year. Many of the callers are friends of victims of abuse. If help is needed, call 816-531-0233.

Other hotlines include the National Talk Line, 1-800-273-8255, Kids Under 21, 1-888-644-5886, and the Peer Listening Line, 1-800-399-7337. If a friend is being abused and advice is needed, any of these support lines can answer questions. Sinco said that the best person a girl should turn to if she or a friend is being abused is a trusted adult.

The National Center for Victims of Crime said that girls ages 12-19 are the most targeted for sexual abuse. Teenage girls need to protect themselves from the consequences of this abuse.

"Trust your instincts," said Jones-Lockwood. "When you feel like you are unsafe, get out of the situation." ★



**No harm, no foul** ★ Alex Baylie, left, and Kristen Manhood play basketball in Baylie's backyard after school, something they do most days. According to research, they have a healthy relationship full of open communication and fun, two important aspects of teenage relationships. PHOTO BY ALLISON PERICICH

# Rivalry matures into tolerance

As brothers develop into peers with the onset of high school, they learn to accept one another's differences

by SYDNEY DEATHERAGE  
Staff Writer

A revengeful glare fills 12-year-old Connor Doolan's eyes as the welt from an airsoft gun bullet from his older brother, 14-year-old Ryan Doolan, stings his leg. In retaliation, the younger Doolan, wielding a loaded pellet gun, pounds upon the bathroom door, behind which the elder Doolan is garrisoned. The minutes stretch long for the imprisoned brother as he awaits the arrival of the peacekeeper, mother Rhonda Doolan, to rescue him from his crazed pellet-gun-armed younger brother.

Ms. Doolan recalled the fights that used to occur regularly between her sons, now ages 15 and 17, with a mixture of laughter and head shaking.

"At least it was never bloody," she said.

However, these sorts of brawls, typical of brothers, are becoming a less common occurrence for the Doolan family as Ryan and Connor become older and more independent of each other.

"We aren't really around each other that much anymore because we're both in our own room, doing our own thing most of the time," said Connor. "It was different when we shared a room, though."

When the two shared living space, fights were much more common for the boys, according to Ms. Doolan. The age difference between the two also seemed much vaster than it is now.

Since Connor has joined his brother at Rockhurst High School, Ryan seems to have accepted his younger brother more as a peer, which has developed a more friendly relationship between the two.

"They go out to eat together a lot," said Ms. Doolan. "Sometimes they play video games together or watch T.V."

Eating seems to be a central part of Ryan and Connor's sometimes tense

brotherly relationship, observed father Pat Doolan.

"Usually when they argue now, it's about where to go to eat or what to have for dinner," said Mr. Doolan.

But, the boys say that even when the boys do argue about food, they find a solution easily.

"Chipotle," said Ryan. "I always want Chipotle, and even if Connor doesn't, I can easily make him eat Chipotle. It is the god of all foods."

Video games and eating are about the extent of similarities in friendship between the two brothers, due to conflict between individual personalities. According to their parents, Ryan is responsible, organized, and more willing to try things, while Connor is creative, kind, and more willing to help others. Ryan is the multi-tasker, while Connor can only focus on the task at hand.

Not only do their personalities vary, but the Doolan brothers' interests are also different from each other. Connor is a musician who spends most of his time practicing and playing guitar, and Ryan is more sports-oriented. Connor listens to classic and alternative rock and has an acute dislike for rap, while rap and hip hop are Ryan's genres of choice.

"Connor hates rap," said Ryan. "He gets all in a fit when I play it loud in the car or in my room."

According to Mr. and Ms. Doolan, their difference in personalities and interests don't cause problems, unless they're deciding on which music to listen to on the road.

"One reason the arguing has toned down is because they're each in their own room most of the time, working on homework or other things," said Ms. Doolan. "They aren't around each other as much as they used to be."

Though they don't interact as much as they once did, there are still certain aspects of life that draw Ryan and Connor closer as brothers. Food is one



**Brotherly love** ★ Connor Doolan, left, plays the video game "Guitar Hero" while avoiding the distraction of older brother Ryan. The boys took a break from homework on a school night to battle one another in Ryan's room. PHOTO BY SYDNEY DEATHERAGE

thing, video games are another. Every so often, the two even gang up on their parents.

"Only when it's time to go to church,"

said Ms. Doolan, rolling her eyes.

As for the fighting, the Doolan family hopes battles involving airsoft and pellet guns are forever in the past. ★

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# Friends surpass gender differences

Students form stress-free relationships with friends of the opposite sex

by SALLY NULTON  
Staff Writer

John Barnthouse meets Gabriella Garozzo on the corner where their streets intersect to go on a bike ride. Ignoring the scorching heat they mount their bikes and start off. They spend many hours together peddling side-by-side, enjoying each other's company and laughing. For some, this much time spent with a person of the opposite gender would only be found in a dating relationship. But, Garozzo and many other students at St. Teresa's prove that these types of relationships can remain as friendships.

"John is so much fun to be around. But as much as I love him, I know we'll always be just friends," said sophomore Garozzo.

Garozzo has been best friends with Barnthouse, a sophomore at Rockhurst High School, since freshman year.

"I'm never nervous when I'm with [Gabriella]," said Barnthouse. "It's a lot easier for me to be myself when I'm around her."

Garozzo compared her relationship with Barnthouse to her romantic relationships with boys she likes.

"When I'm around a guy I like I'm usually concerned with my appearance and the things I say," said Garozzo. "But when I'm with John everything just comes naturally and I'm never worried about the way I'm acting."

Sophomore Jenny McLiney and Sean Hodes, a sophomore at Rockhurst, have been best friends since kindergarten. Hodes explained how comfortable he and McLiney are with each other.

"Most girls change their personalities around guys, but when Jenny is with me she isn't afraid to act weird or creepy," said Hodes.

Freshman Ellen Gude is best friends with Rockhurst freshman, Cary McRoberts. McRoberts feels that their ability to have fun with each other despite gender differences is what makes the friendship



**As alike as they are different** ★ Rockhurst freshman Cary McRoberts, left, laughs with best friend freshman Ellen Gude at dinner April 18. The two do not allow their difference in gender to be an issue in their friendly relationship. **PHOTO BY SALLY NULTON**

work.

"When [Ellen] is with me she doesn't change her personality just because I'm a boy," said McRoberts.

McRoberts and Gude take advantage of one another's perspectives when they talk about serious relationships.

"It's interesting listening to Ellen talk about her relationships with other boys," said McRoberts. "It's nice because it allows me to get a completely different point of view on things."

Gude finds it easier to talk to McRoberts rather than her girlfriends.

"Talking to girls is sometimes hard because they can be dramatic," said Gude. "But when I'm talking to Cary, he listens and is always really laid back."

Like McRoberts, Barnthouse sees a benefit to listening to Garozzo's perspective on boys.

"I tell John everything because I know I

can trust him to give me his honest feelings about any situation," said Garozzo.

Garozzo and Barnthouse both agree that

*"Just like having a good friend. The fact that Ellen's a girl doesn't really matter to me."*

Cary McRoberts, freshman

they are better remaining as friends instead of pursuing a serious relationship.

"Nothing will happen in the future as far as the both of us dating each other," said Garozzo. "I don't want us to be any-

thing more than just friends."

For McLiney, the amount of time she spends with Hodes makes people believe their friendship will someday become a serious dating relationship.

"Our parents always talk about how Sean and I will get married someday," said McLiney. "My mom always jokes and tells me 'Be nice to his parents because they're going to be your in-laws someday.'"

McLiney and Hodes feel that their relationship will always remain a friendship.

"We don't flirt," said McLiney. "When we're together we're just having fun. And I wouldn't date my best girlfriend. So why would I date my best guy friend?"

McRoberts has similar feelings as McLiney. McRoberts doesn't view gender as a factor in his friendship with Gude.

"I just like having a good friend," said McRoberts. "The fact that Ellen's a girl doesn't really matter to me." ★

## Friendships at work help teachers get through the day

Some work relationships grow stronger because of common interest, do not end when the last bell rings

by BECCA SOMMERHAUSER  
Staff Writer

As you walk down the halls of your school and give a little wave to friends you pass, you see a group of teachers talking quietly in a group. As you approach, those teachers suddenly stop their conversation and look at you as you walk by. As you pass them, questions begin to flash through your mind. "Were they talking about me? Do they not like me? Have I done anything wrong?"

One teacher STA students may see talking with other teachers in the hall is Ms. Arlene Herson, one of the math teachers. Herson likes to chat with other teachers about interests like gardening, books and politics. Mrs. Jo Weller and Dr. Joe Grantham, both math teachers, Herson enjoys talking with Weller about gardening Grantham educates Herson on the subject of sports.

"I do not know a lot about sports and he keeps trying to teach me about them," said Herson.

Herson has known Dr. Joe for about 20 years and considers him to be a real asset to the staff.

"He is one in a million," said Herson.

Though Herson has friends in other departments, she feels that since she sees more of the math department teachers, she is closer with them.

Science teacher, Mary Montag, believes that her closest friend is Mrs. Jackie Hershewe, the librarian, because they started teaching the same year. Sometimes after school they like to go antiquing and look at real estate.

Another close friend of Montag's is fellow science teacher Ms. Mary Rietbrock, a science teacher. They have known each other before STA because Rietbrock taught at Warrensburg High school; coincidentally, this is where Montag used to student teach. Rietbrock and Montag enjoy discussing and attending sporting events. Montag believes that she is close to many of the science teachers because they have things to talk about with each other like new experiments that they try for the first time.

"Because they teach the same things they understand," said Montag.

Montag truly enjoys her job and thinks that all of the other teachers can teach her something as well.

"When you teach with people who have common interests it makes the day even more enjoyable... I learn from them and we learn from each other," said Montag.

Mrs. Mary Engler, head of the English department at Bishop Miege High School, has a group of teachers who have been friends for a few years. The group has grown to eight women all of whom have promised to be friends forever.

"You have to have good girl friends be-



**Teaming up** ★ Ms. Arlene Herson, left, listens to good friend, Dr. Jo Weller March 16. The two chatted, as they often do, one last time before leaving on spring break. **PHOTO BY BECCA SOMMERHAUSER**

cause they will stick with you your whole life," said Engler.

The friends from many different departments including history, religion, and mostly English meet every month to talk and eat with each other.

"We get together to vent because women need to vent," said Engler.

The group started out as friends just supporting each other in times of need and hardship. The group thinks that it is

a man's world, which is why women need to bond.

Engler also believes friendship is very important to any girl's life.

"Having friendships is what keeps me sane," said Engler.

Each of these women believes that they are friends with teachers because they are interested in the same things.

"Everyone who is here has the well being of students at heart," said Herson. ★

# Dating enters the fast lane

After years of chauffeurs, sophomores are able to become more independent

by EMMA SPENCER  
Staff Writer

When Molly Fakoury was a freshman, life for her was all about branching out and meeting new people. For her and others, it was a transition period from old boys to a whole sea of new ones. She soon learned that meeting and dating new boys would be harder with her parents driving her everywhere. Now, Sophomore Molly Fakoury is thankful to have a car and to be able to drive herself and others around.

"I was so embarrassed, I had my parents drop me off a block away so that I could walk to where I was going," Fakoury said.

Fakoury has been driving for about nine months now and she feels she has become more independent and free. Since she has been driving Fakoury says she has made a lot of new friends and has broadened who she hangs out with on the weekends. She also thinks that driving has improved the number of boys she sees during her week. Fakoury has begun dating a lot more than she had before.

"In eighth grade I would go to either the Plaza or Town Center and tell my parents I was just going with some of my friends, but I would never mention we were meeting up with guys," said

Fakoury.

Fakoury's first actual date was a double date where she had to drive. She did end up telling her parents because it was an actual one on one thing and it had only been about a month after she had got her license. Her parents did not feel too comfortable about this but let her go and enjoy the experience. Her parents gave her restrictions such as she couldn't leave the Brookside area and had to be home at a reasonable hour. So for her first date she went to Jalapeños, a Mexican restaurant in Brookside. The date then went on to renting a scary movie and watching it in the dark at her friend's house.

For the guys it is still the same but they handle themselves very differently. Caleb Wurth, sophomore at Pembroke Hill, is 16 and drives himself everywhere. He still dated when he was younger and the only way he could get around was through his dad. Wurth explains that his dad didn't make him feel embarrassed but it is easier to date without him.

"I think people should still date when they can't drive even though there are embarrassing moments," said Wurth. You just have to tell yourself that everyone goes through this. I feel I have really expanded my horizons."

Shauna Muehlbach, a sophomore at STA, is 15 and feels that when she can drive her life will change dramatically. Her ways of hanging out with boys always included the use of big groups and going to see a movie. Her transporta-



**Stopping by** ★ Molly Fakoury, left, laughs as Alex Horvatn jokes about how late it is. While Fakoury ran errands, she stopped by Horvatn's house just to visit because she is able to do it with the freedom of driving herself. **PHOTO BY EMMA SPENCER**

tion methods were to always ride with friends, but once in a while her parents would be the drivers.

"One time I was going to the movies and my dad dropped us all off at the movie and walked in with us and started talking to the guys we were going with. He watched us buy the movie the movie

tickets that we had not planned on buying in the first place and watched us walk into the theatre. It was so embarrassing," said Muehlbach.

Muehlbach cannot wait to be on the road by herself so she can experience going on more dates and being alone without her parents there by her side. ★

# Carpool causes unexpected friendships

Junior and freshmen change normal routine to nonstop laughing and prank war to spice up rides home

by LANE LIVERS  
Staff Writer

The music from 96.5 "The Buzz," blasting from the speakers, mixes with laughter from the girls in the backseat, as junior, Elizabeth Keaveny drives freshmen, Jordan Miller and Katie Sharp home from STA. Miller and Sharp giggle and whisper to each other, but Keaveny pays no attention and focuses on the road. What she doesn't know is the two freshmen are probably concocting a prank to pull on her when she least expects it. This is a typical day in the Keaveny carpool.

"I always look forward to riding home with Katie and Keevs," said Miller. "There hasn't been one car ride when I haven't had fun."

Miller first met Keaveny at a shoe store near the end of the summer while she was shopping with her Grandmother for cross-country shoes.

"When I met [Elizabeth] in Gary Gribbles I could tell she was a really good runner," said Miller. "I was intimidated because here I was, some freshman shopping for shoes with her grandma, but Elizabeth was really nice and made me excited to run cross country...that's when it all began."

Keaveny offered to drive Sharp and Miller home from cross country practice on the first day, and when she saw that Miller was on the way, decided she'd drive her to school as well. After that, the carpool began. Since all girls ran cross-country, they had something to talk about, so the first few rides weren't awkward.

On the way to school, Miller says it is never strained, even though they usually don't talk.

"It is understood that we are both tired, so when I get in the car the music is always turned up...unless there is something important we need to talk

about, like what we should do to Katie after school," said Miller. "The rides home are really different because Katie and I are hyper and excited to be out of school, so we talk non-stop."

The three girls have been engaged in a prank war almost the whole year. Miller and Sharp secretly create a "master plan," or what they should do to Keaveny, and after they execute it, Keaveny makes her "master plan" to get them back.

"Once they had cans of whipped cream and they sort of attacked me in my car with my windows down," said Keaveny. "I had to get them back."

A couple of days later, Keaveny went to Sharp's house with another friend and pied her in the face.

According to Miller, the pranks keep getting better and better.

"Once we put a kite on the back of her car," said Miller with a smile. "It flew up in the air when we drove away, and all three of us couldn't stop laughing."

Pranks aside, all three girls agree that carpooling together has made them closer as friends.

"We would have known each other from cross country, but we wouldn't have been as close as we are now," said Sharp.

For these three girls, being in a carpool isn't all about pranks and jokes, it's about developing friendships with unlikely people.

"I know that I wouldn't know so much about Jordan or Elizabeth if I didn't see them every day of my life," said Sharp.

Next year Sharp and Miller are going to be sophomores so they will be able to drive themselves to school, but when asked both claimed they would rather ride with Keaveny.

"Even if I get a car, I don't know if



**Crazy carpool** ★ After climbing on the car to scare junior Elizabeth Keaveny, bottom left, freshman Katie Sharp, top left, accidentally gets her fingers slammed in the car door by freshman Jordan Miller. **PHOTO BY LANE LIVERS**

I would want to leave Katie and Keevs," said Miller. "It wouldn't be the same"

According to Keaveny, she would

miss not having the two hyper girls in her car, and she would definitely want to drive them next year. ★

# Lisa Kratofil battles cancer for family

STA mom's struggle with cancer blossoms into increased spirituality

by CASEY O'FLAHERTY  
Staff Writer

Walking back and forth over the cream tiles of her kitchen floor, Ms. Lisa Kratofil wonders how to tell her children her news. Exhausted from not sleeping for days, she goes over her speech in her head. Her husband Patrick calls the children from their rooms into the family room. Lisa's heart starts to race now that she knows it's the moment of truth. As they all sit down together on their couch, Lisa gets to the point. "Zach, Kayla, a week ago, while you were on spring break, I found a tumor in my left breast...and it's cancerous."

When Lisa Kratofil found out two years ago that she had breast cancer, she knew that everything would change. With that change came an altering in relationships with friends and family.

"When I told people I had cancer, [they] were shocked, but at the same time supportive," Lisa said.

Lisa's main support was from her girlfriends, Ms. Janet Sommerhauser and Ms. Denise Rowland.

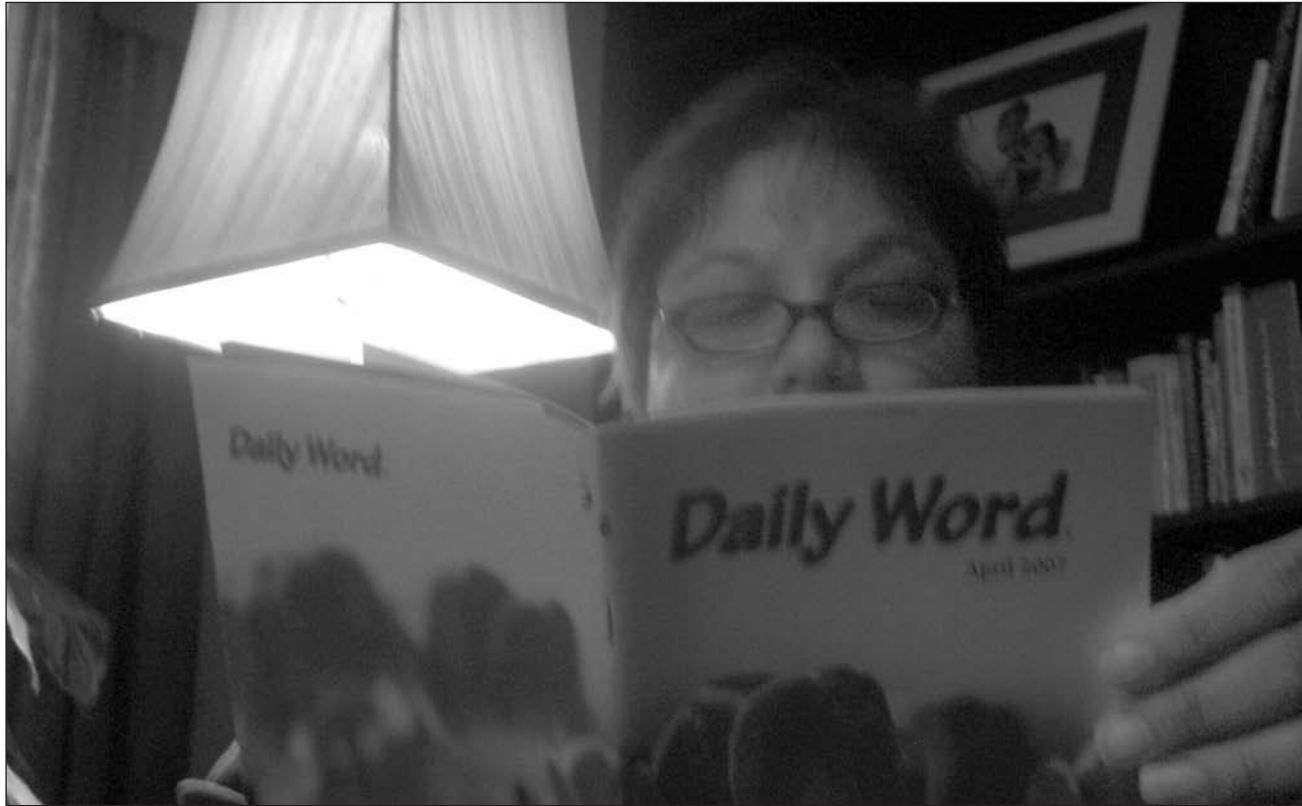
"It's great to get support from your husband, but sometimes you just need a girlfriend that can relate to you," said Lisa.

Lisa remembers the day she found the cancerous tumor. She was so anxious to see her doctor, because she wanted it out of her.

"I felt really overwhelmed at first, but the doctors were a big help and gave me books so I could educate myself and get better faster," said Lisa.

Her reaction to the cancer was never blame, but when Lisa came to the realization that cancer was actually happening to her, she couldn't believe it.

"It was like being in a Felini movie; it was surreal," said Lisa. "Like living in a dream, or more like a nightmare. It was terrible waiting to tell the kids also. I didn't think it was happening, but as soon as the



**The power of prayer** ★Ms. Lisa Kratofil reads her daily prayer book in the living room of her home April 18. When Lisa was diagnosed with cancer, she read her book everyday to keep up a positive attitude. PHOTO BY CASEY O'FLAHERTY

tumor was out, it felt so much better. It felt like everything was going to be fine. But waiting for that to happen was terrible. Waiting is the worst."

When Lisa told her children about her cancer, she admits their relationship changed for a short time.

"It was really hard to tell Zach, because the last thing a teenage boy wants to talk about is his mom's breast," said Lisa. "He seemed really angry for a while. Kayla was more concerned and worried because she's a girl, and it was easier to understand."

Lisa described how cancer can really change a person, mentally and spiritually.

It can make a person shut down, but it can make others to look on the positive side of things. Everyone around noticed how having breast cancer changed Lisa.

"Before cancer, Lisa only focused on day-to-day things, and just trying to get through the day," said Sommerhauser. "But after the diagnosis, I noticed she said morning prayers, night prayers, and goes to church every week. It seems that now she is more balanced, and from that, our relationship has grown stronger."

Lisa's husband, Patrick, saw many different changes as well.

"It shut me down for a while, I just

didn't want to accept it," Patrick says. "It's really hard to see the one you love in pain, and there's nothing you can do about it. It's a terrible helpless feeling."

Lisa went through chemotherapy and the cancer did not spread. She has been cancer free for two years after she had her mastectomy, and she counts herself fortunate for all the relationships that have grown stronger.

"In something as dramatic as cancer, I can see now why many people would divorce or lose friends, but that didn't happen to me," said Lisa. "And for that, I'm very fortunate." ★

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## STA alumnae maintain friendships across the country

After graduating from high school, girls try to keep old friendships while adjusting to new college life

by EMILY SCHAPKER  
Staff Writer

Ms. Laura Brewer remembered sitting in her dorm room at Loyola University of Chicago on her first day of freshman year, wishing she could just go home. After graduating from STA in 2005, Brewer feared losing her friends back in Kansas City.

"I felt sick to my stomach when I thought about [leaving]," said Brewer. "I felt like as soon as I left it was the end of my childhood. It meant that I was no longer the person I had been for my whole life."

After a break up with her boyfriend who was then a senior at Rockhurst High School, Brewer lost many friends from Kansas City who were torn between her and her boyfriend. Eventually, however, Brewer made friends around campus and in her dorm.

"The dorms are an experience that everyone should have because you meet so many different people and you have to learn to live with them," said Brewer.

Brewer is now a sophomore at Loyola University. In her STA graduating class, there were seven girls attending Loyola. Even though most of her current friends didn't come from STA, she appreciated the familiar faces around campus, especially during her first week at Loyola. She said that she has cut ties with all but three of her old friends from STA. Although a lot has changed for Brewer, she is happy with her new life and her new friends, one of whom she is living with this semester.

"The best thing that I could have done in my life was to leave home," said Brewer. "You need to experience something different from home and you need to get out of your comfort zone."

Although Brewer has fallen out of touch with many of her STA friends, STA alumnae and college freshmen Sarah Murphy, Anna Johnson, and Brooks Fitzpatrick feel that they have been able to maintain strong friendships even though they are many miles apart. After being best friends at STA, the girls have managed to stay close to one another while still making new friends at college.

"I think we're still really close," said Fitzpatrick, a freshman at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. "We send each other postcards and we talk on the phone a lot. We saw each other so much while we were at STA that we've got really solid relationships."

Johnson, a freshman at Nebraska University, feels that the key to maintaining friendships is finding a creative way to communicate. She says that after a while Facebook messages and telephone calls can get boring and old. Johnson, Murphy, and Fitzpatrick said they chose to send each other postcards from strange places in their college town and letters which they decorated with funny drawings.

"Find something unique to make each other happy," said Johnson.

Murphy, a freshman at Kansas University, feels that she and her friends have



**Missing home** ★Anna Johnson, from left, Bill Murphy and his daughter Sarah Murphy chat during one of the girls' returns from college April 14. Johnson and Sarah graduated from STA in 2006. PHOTO BY EMILY SCHAPKER

reained close because they accept the fact that they are changing, rather than trying to keep their relationships the same as they've always been.

"Recognize that people will be experiencing other things than you," said Murphy. "That's okay. It just brings more to your friendships. They're richer and, in some ways, even better."

Johnson also feels that this is a crucial part of college friendships.

"My STA friends are still my closest friends," said Johnson. "But they've all

made their place at their new schools. They have new friends and boyfriends."

Brewer, Fitzpatrick, Johnson, and Murphy agree that leaving home has changed many things, some for better some for worse. But, they are still grateful for Kansas City and their time spent at STA.

"In some ways I'm a completely different person now," said Brewer. "But when you go home, your home is still your home, and your family is still your family, even if you're 500 miles away. You appreciate them so much more." ★



# Five freshmen find friendship in new school

Girls from four different grade schools form strong friendships at STA

by NICOLE TWADDLE  
Staff Writer

It's the end of another school day at STA. Two girls walk across the quad towards M & A. They are both dressed in the STA uniform. One has brown hair, and the other has brownish reddish hair that reaches more than half way down her back. One girl laughs at something the other one said. Then, the two girls spot three more girls on the steps of M & A. One girl has glasses and dark brown hair. Another is naturally skinny with blonde hair. The last girl is the tallest; she has glasses and blonde hair that is tied back in a ponytail. They get excited and run to the steps to say hello. Soon the five girls are talking and laughing. A few minutes later they walk to the parking lot and get in a waiting car. STA freshmen Hillary Johnson, Celeste Bremen, Mia Hawkins, Louisa Blevins, and Nina Salazar are the five friends.

Many freshmen make new friends at STA. Some, like Johnson, find it easy to make friends.

"I can just basically talk to anybody," said Johnson. "I'm not afraid to be myself or of what people think of me."

Others slightly disagreed with Johnson.

"I think everyone was kind of intimidating but knowing that a lot of people were nervous made it a lot better," said Blevins.

Some students have combined both old and new friends. Hawkins met Bremen on the first day of school in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, in Ms. Roach's class.

"I thought she was cool and we became best friends," said Hawkins.

Salazar didn't meet Hawkins until freshman gym class, when she asked to be locker buddies. They didn't become locker buddies, but they did become friends.

First impressions are important to Johnson.

"I don't like it when people are being



**Hanging out** ★ Freshmen Hillary Johnson, left, and Mia Hawkins talk at a lunch table in the commons. The two became friends this past year. PHOTO BY NICOLE TWADDLE

fake just to get friends," said Johnson.

After friendships are formed, people find qualities in their friends that stick out. Whenever Johnson thinks about Salazar, the first thing that comes to mind is Salazar's humor. While the first trait that comes to her mind about Bremen is her red hair.

Hawkins finds that everyone blends in.

"I think we all blend in with each other and that's what holds us together," said Hawkins.

Even though Hawkins believes that

they all blend in together, she thinks that a person's individual qualities also make them stand out. Salazar's individual qualities make her stand out to Hawkins.

"She has her own mind and she will be herself no matter what," said Hawkins. "She's her own character and she's not faking who she is."

These five friends can be seen together throughout the school day. Sometimes they can be found playing intermural badminton, or talking in classrooms during activity. A lot of times you can

catch them eating lunch together.

Hawkins definition of friendship is having a group of people you can trust, and you can tell them anything and you won't have to worry about being criticized. Hawkins said this applies to all of her friends.

Johnson thinks people should apply that definition to their own friendship.

"I think it's very important to be yourself, because if you portray someone else that your not then you're not letting your friends accept who you really are," said Johnson. ★

# New high school pressure weighs on old friendships

Life-long friends find ways to keep their relationship alive while attending two different high schools

by JULIA BARNETT  
Staff Writer

A shoulder to cry on, four hour phone calls, giggling about boys, and pulling all-nighters are just a few of the perks that come with having a best friend. However, once high school rolls around some friendships must come to an end. Best friends who choose to attend different schools face difficulties as new people and activities come into their lives. Pressure begins to weigh upon these relationships and girls find it hard to maintain a friendship. Some friends, however, are able to prevail through these obstacles and uphold a strong friendship.

STA freshman Mary Warwick has been best friends with Notre Dame De Sion freshman Emmy Bird for nearly thirteen years. The two have upheld a friendship almost all of their life and they now are facing the transition from grade school to high school without each other.

"I definitely supported her choice to go to Sion," said Warwick. "I was very upset that she wasn't going to be with me though."

Bird states that she was incredibly nervous about attending a new school with out her best friend. She says she was greatly reliant on Warwick throughout the school

year.

"I was more nervous for [Bird] to start school," said Warwick. "She's very smart, but sometimes she just has those days and I'm usually the one who helps her through those."

The two girls do not get to see each other often, but make it a priority to create time for one another.

"We don't see each other a lot on the weekdays," said Bird. "But we hang out almost every weekend and talk on the phone basically every day."

According to Warwick and Bird they will keep this tradition up and do whatever it takes to maintain their friendship.

Senior Abby Fagan has been able to do just what Warwick and Bird are striving to accomplish, with her best friend Kelsey Fagan.

Abby and Kelsey have been best friends virtually their whole lives, from selling mud pies to the mail man when they were

four all the way to graduating high school. Through this they have managed to maintain their friendship all through their high school years; working through the obstacle of separation.

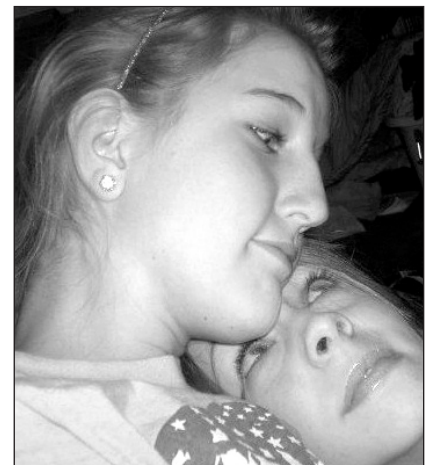
"We were so close when high school came around," said Abby. "I didn't really think we could ever not be friends."

Even though the two attend different high schools they see each other about five times a week and talk over the phone even more. The best friends can get tired of each other though, but they never let a fight fracture their relationship.

"We are really good at fighting," said Abby. "We have this thing when we tell each other when we were sick of each other. Then we take a two day break and things are instantly better afterward."

As high school comes to an end for the best friends they are again embarking on a journey to separate schools. Abby would like to attend a college on the West Coast while Kelsey will be flying up to Dayton University in Ohio. However, the girls have no intention of letting the miles come between them.

"We will talk every day if not more," said Abby. "She is such a great girl. I don't



**Snuggle buddies** ★ Mimi Koppen, left, and Brady Essmann snuggle up for a movie night at Koppens house April 15. Koppen and Essmann set aside the week's pressure to catch up with each other's lives and relax. PHOTO BY JULIA BARNETT

know what I would do without her."

Warwick and Bird's future looks bright as well with them showing no signs of giving up. They both see themselves as best friends ten years from now and even beyond that.

"Mary and I will always be friends," said Bird. "We'll probably even be power walking in Loose Park together when we're in our 70's." ★

*"I didn't really think we could ever not be friends."*

Abby Fagan, senior

# Punk vs. hardcore music: united in rebellion



**Good music, good cause** ★ A crowd gathers around Cool, a local hardcore band, as they play in a benefit concert at the Westport Community center, March 31. The proceeds went to support the Cristo Rey school. PHOTO BY CAMELLIA JAHANSHAH

## Here is a look at the differences and similarities between the punk and hardcore music scenes

by CAMELLIA JAHANSHAH  
Staff Writer

Punk and hardcore are both known in the music scene as offspring of rock. They are not thought of as separate genres or individual groups. Punk originated in the early 60s as corporate backwash as a way to rebel against the popular corporate pop rock. Hardcore is a mix of metal and punk that started around the 80s as a response to the political issues that were going on around that time, mainly those surrounding president Ronald Reagan.

Jonhenry Grothaus a junior at Rockhurst High School, quoted "American Hardcore" saying, "Punks are more nihilistic and hardcore kids are more idealistic."

'American Hardcore' is a documen-

tary about hardcore music in the United States between 1980 and 1986. Grothaus elaborates in what he said explaining that it's a good reason as to why the two groups don't get along. Punks are generally more for destruction, the ones who will stand up and shout anarchy. They don't generally care about most things in life unless it affects them. Hardcore kids believe in pursuing ideals whether they're possible to reach or not said Grothaus.

As different as they seem, hardcore and punk all started as a way to rebel against parents, according to Eric Houser. He is a local music hobbyist running open microphone night at the Crave Café.

"Punk is a reaction to the sophisticated rock that kids couldn't play anymore and hardcore was an offspring of [sophisticated rock]," said Houser.

Punk music is usually inspired by boredom. Punks generally don't care about what other people think or about what's going on around them. Hardcore music on the other hand is inspired by political and social issues going on in the world, you just can't always tell because it's all condensed into a short amount of time matched with loud pounding music, thinks junior Paris Mantz.

"Hardcore kids look like they want to punch you in the face while punk kids don't care about you enough to do so," said Mantz.

Each scene has prominent local bands. In the punk scene there are The Rippers and in the hardcore scene there is SYM. In the hardcore scene, Bret Ray is a key figure. Ray is the front man for SYM and inspiring figure to most other bands punk and hardcore alike. He has a different opinion on the relationship between the two genres.

"Real punk and hardcore are one in

the same," Ray said. "It was all kids listening to punk rock, rock and roll, and metal. It's just a nastier side of rock and roll."

Ray believes the only difference between punk and hardcore is the speed of the music, the image and the subject matter in the lyrics. He said punk is more image based. To fit in you have to have the ideal image. In hardcore, you can show up in whatever you'd like and still fit in. Hardcore music incorporates political issues, especially in the 80s when they all hated Reagan being in office. Hardcore is just an angrier faster version of punk.

"Hardcore and punk is for people who don't fit in everywhere," Ray said. "Punk rock and hardcore are communities. [That's the] beautiful thing about it. People think that it's dead, but it will never die. There will always be new generations looking for it and starting it over again." ★

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## Friends stick together despite racial differences

Freshmen Alli Calia, Shanese Bell, Cierra Marzett talk about interracial friendships

by SHELBY NACE  
Staff Writer

It is 11 a.m. and lunchtime at St. Teresa's, and approximately 250 freshmen and juniors rush into the cafeteria. At one table in particular sits a group of girls. They are just like everyone else, except that this group of girls is a mix of African Americans and Caucasians, something that is not often seen in the freshman class, according to St. Teresa's ninth grader Cierra Marzett.

"I've always had friends that weren't the same race as me, even in grade school at St. Peter's.," said Marzett. "It's hard not to when the majority of your school is white and you're African-American."

A close friend of Marzett's, Shanese Bell, another STA freshman, is also part of this group.

"Most people recognize us because we're the only African-American people in the freshman class and for the most part we stick together. But I have a lot of friends from a lot of different races at STA, it's hard not to," said Bell.

Being two of only four African American freshmen at STA is hard according to these two girls, who believe that people view them differently than they do other freshmen at STA.

"I think that people view our group of friends differently than everyone else. When people see us walking through the halls they give us looks that just say 'Oh, there's the black people and those white girls that are always with them.' But it's not like that, were all one group," said Marzett. "People sometimes see [our group] as loud or annoying, because sometimes we are loud and they think of that as a stereotype of black people, but half the time it's the white people in our group that are the loud ones, but were just trying to enjoy life and not sit back and be shy."

Alexandra Calia, a Caucasian freshman is good friends with Bell and Marzett.

"My friends who are of a different race or ethnic background are way more outspoken about their opinions and don't hold back about their feelings, but, other than that they act the same way my friends of my same race act," said Calia.

Bell has similar views on interracial friendship.

"I think that people should not limit they're friendship with people based on race, even if it's strange to them," said Bell.

Although all three of these girls have similar views friendship with people outside their race, others have not always been so open to the idea of it.

"When people I don't know look at me, they think I'm white, because I'm light skinned, so sometimes I get treated



**Whispered words** ★ Brianna Lux, left, and Quinn Beisser share a secret at a lunchtable in the commons. The two are close friends despite racial differences. PHOTO BY SHELBY NACE

differently, until they realize that I'm really black," said Marzett.

Others they know, however, have no problems with interracial friendship.

"All my friends are very open minded and they don't care said Calia. "It's

2007 and people need to start realizing that there will always be people of different races where ever you go and being ignorant and close minded shouldn't allow you to judge who people are friends with." ★

# Practicum strengthens relationship

Students take practicum course for elective credit, find themselves closer to teachers for the course

by LINDSEY JONES  
Staff Writer

Senior Sarah Gramlich can often be seen in her advisory at St. Teresa's having a friendly conversation with her advisor of four years, Mrs. Robin Good. This may be a familiar scene to some people, as Good and Gramlich have a good relationship. Gramlich is taking the student practicum course from Good this year and feels that the relationship between the two of them has increased in some way.

"My relationship with Mrs. Good is very close," said Gramlich. "Our relationship has become much tighter."

Good mentioned taking the student practicum course to Gramlich's class her junior year to add it as an extra course, so Gramlich decided to do the practicum for her. She helps Mrs. Good during three modules a week, with tasks such as recording service hours for the juniors and seniors, doing work for Kairos, helping with retreats, sending mail to teachers, and does things to help seniors finish their service hours.

Student practicum is not a class that counts toward the student's GPA, but it does count towards a quarter of an elective credit. However, there are alternative motives for students registered for the class.

Good and Gramlich spend a lot of time together because of Gramlich taking the course, and she is Good's advisee.

"The other day, we just sat and talked about school and where I'm planning on going next year," said Gramlich. "We're pretty tight. Overall, I do think that I have become to know [Mrs. Good] better as a person because of doing the practicum for her."

Mrs. Good said that she literally could not function without her student practicum students.

"The student practicum students do so much work for me," said Good. "I seri-



**Helping hand** ★ Senior Sarah Gramlich, right, shares a laugh with Ms. Robin Good as she files papers for her. Gramlich has been doing practicum for the last semester. PHOTO BY LINDSEY JONES

ously could not do service at all without their help. They create file folders and do all of the manual recording for me. I match up the paper files and computer files at the end of the year."

Many of the students who apply for the student practicum were either asked to take it by a teacher, performed well in the teacher's class, had a good relationship with the teacher, or simply were their advisees.

Mrs. Renee Blake, who has had many practicum students in the past, sometimes will ask students if they would like

to do the biology practicum.

"Usually, the students choose to sign up for the course, but once in a while, I'll ask a student if they would be interested in signing up for it," said Blake. "Usually I'll ask a student to take it if they're a responsible and independent person."

The students who do the biology practicum spend their time helping Mrs. Blake set up labs for biology students, cleaning up labs, filing, putting together packets, and other various tasks. They spend a lot of time helping and getting to know the teacher.

"After taking the course, a benefit to the students is that they are usually a lot more comfortable around me and asking me questions," said Blake.

Good agrees that the student and teacher's relationship changes in some kind of way because of the student taking the practicum.

"The relationship between the teacher and [the practicum student] is a little different from the relationship between a teacher and a student in class," said Good. "I know the students in a different way or level than I know the students in my class." ★

## Teachers set comfortable atmosphere for students

Teachers are now trying to create a more comfortable atmosphere for their students by getting to know them

by LAUREN McQUAID  
Staff Writer

Mr. Mark Fudenberg strides into his advisory and hears the chatter and laughter of his advisees. When he walks into the room, senior Carina Murphy and junior Meredith Pavicic walk towards him, ready to begin their daily rants and discussions. He begins talking to them and listening to them vent about other teachers and the stress of school. They question him, knowing he will listen.

"I consider it important to have a good relationship with my students because I feel that learning is meant to be personal and I do think it is in my personality," Fudenberg said.

Fudenberg, who is a teacher at St. Teresa's Academy, is frequently seen talking to girls in the halls or after classes. Almost everyday after school, junior Meredith Pavicic stops to talk to Fudenberg after she checks out from advisory.

"I feel like [Fudenberg] is there to vent about someone and he understands that I'm not exactly upset, I just need to

vent," Pavicic said. "He's been helpful with helping me decide my classes because he knows the classes and teachers and my personality and interests."

Because Pavicic is in Fudenberg's advisory and AP American Literature class, the two of them are around each other a lot and have grown to know each other relatively well.

"I listen to her and get to know what she needs," Fudenberg said. "I spend 180 days with her. How could you not get to know her?"

Some students are often scared or too intimidated to ask questions in class. This is a problem for teachers and students. The same students raise their hands and those students who do not participate in class often suffer.

"It helps to create a comfortable non-threatening environment," Fudenberg said. "There are developmental theories that support that."

According to Mary Beth Blegan, former U.S. Department of Education teacher-in-residence, it is found that students who are taught in a more comfortable and relaxed atmosphere will do better than students who are not.

"[Being close with a teacher] benefits

me because I have someone, an adult, who I can talk to and I don't feel stupid asking questions," Pavicic said.

Murphy feels that it is very important for students and teachers to be comfortable around each other. Teachers are often scared by what other students have portrayed them to be.

"I think that it is important to have mutual respect between a teacher and a student," Murphy said. "It's important to approach a class with an open mind and to offer a teacher a chance to give their own impression."

Ms. Katie Dolan, English teacher, considers her relationship with her students to be open and friendly. Dolan likes to set an open atmosphere in her classroom so students do not feel threatened or helpless.

"[Being close with my students] helps me better teach their needs and helps them respect me as a teacher," Dolan said. "I want them to look at me as a facilitator that helps them develop their own talents."

According to Murphy, if teachers treat students with maturity and respect then they will grow from being treated this way.

"If you give teachers respect, they will treat you with respect," Murphy said. ★



**Free time** ★ Sophomore Molly Fakoury jokes around with Ms. Charlotte Chronister, counselor at STA during a free. Chronister's room is often full of students hoping to stay in her house. PHOTO BY LAUREN McQUAID

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# Family enlarges with three more on the way

## 45-member Thompson family of Kansas City connect in many ways

by ROSIE HODES  
Staff Writer

An assortment of children, oblivious to anything except plastic eggs hidden behind trees, wander around green grass, the cold only seeming to bother their parents who keep watch and give hints. These children have a head start to those still filing in the gate with their families coming from the Carriage Club. Matching outfits make it easy to spot siblings. A small toddler asks his mother to open a chocolate egg, while an older, braver soul sneaks off to the side to stuff his own face.

"His poop is going to be like rocks," said Ms. Ann Thompson, opening the chocolate for her son.

Only about a minute before, Ms. Ann Eckels was describing the petting zoo she had just attended with her family at the Carriage Club.

"Nothing says Easter like stepping in poop," she said.

The Thompson family includes a large amount of relatives, and when they come together for annual occasions like Easter, it brings them closer emotionally and they become open to talk about anything and everything.

According to STA freshman Caroline Thompson, her extended family talks openly to relatives and other people not only on Easter, but also throughout the years.

The aunts and uncles of the Thompson family have plenty to talk about. The fact that they are the producers of 45 grand kids (and three more on the way) brings up discussion.

"I forget they're siblings still," says Caroline.

Caroline's dad Paul is one of 11 children, most of whom live in Kansas City. The everyday lives of the family end up overlapping. Caroline's family and her aunt Julie and uncle Chris's family both attend Nativ-

ity parish and school, so she feels closest to them. According to Caroline, the cousins do things like have "night games" in the back yard, ride bikes, and hang out at the pool. Caroline's cousin, Rockhurst High School freshman Scott Brown, agrees and says he sees his extended family about once a week, considering four families attend Visitation parish.

Although two branches of the Thompson family live in Michigan and Maryland, effort is still made to continue familiarity.

Excitement builds when the entire family meets for a trip, with destinations including Colorado or Florida. Everyone stays together, and awkwardness fades as the family is inseparable through the duration of the trip.

"We're planning another trip this summer, apparently," said Brown.

The Thompsons don't usually have discomfort with each other, especially when they're together for a week, but the relationships weaken between the cousins when they reach college.

"They only see each other when we see them," said Caroline. "They don't even know what's going on in each others' lives."

Other times the entire extended family pulls together are for the Amy Thompson Run, and for deaths in the family.

The Amy Thompson Run is a fundraiser dedicated to an aunt of the family who was into running, but was murdered at a young age. According to Caroline, her aunt Amy remained alive longer than expected because she had such a strong heart. The annual run brings the entire family and much of Kansas City together. Additional people come each year, and there is a gathering at their grandpa's afterwards.

Another example of support in the Thompson family came around at the death of their grandmother Genie, three summers ago. Everyone came into town and talked through it. Caroline thinks that having a big family helps her socialize in a variety of situations because she was able to bring to mind getting through the death of her grandmother and have pride in the support



**Family circle** ★ Members of the Thompson family laugh and converse in the entrance of their family home on Easter Sunday. They discussed the impending birth of three grandchildren. PHOTO BY ROSIE HODES

of her family.

Although the Thompsons and their relatives don't forget their friendships with each other, they sometimes forget how many of

them there are.

"This is embarrassing," said Bradley Wiedeman, another Thompson cousin, counting on his fingers. ★

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# Physicians build healing partnership, equal relationship

## Doctors strive to provide support in patients' lives by building trusting relationship with their patients

by MICHELLE REICHMEIER  
Staff Writer

Julianne Huber, a freshman at Notre Dame de Sion High School, underwent arthroscopic knee surgery March 16 afraid and nervous. But, she was comforted and supported by the doctors, nurses and family that helped her through the physical and emotional recuperation process.

"They make you feel at home, like part of a family," said Huber. "The doctors and nurses want to take care of you like they would their own family."

Huber had knee surgery to remove meniscal tissue at Olathe Medical Center and previously had two biopsies performed on her fingers at St. Joseph Medical Center. According to Huber, she had an overall positive experience because of her relationship with her doctors and nurses and the presence of her family.

"You feel like they are really caring for you, and aren't just there to cut you open," said Huber.

She was always well informed about the procedure and any pain she was to experience during recuperation.

"We talked about other things besides my surgery, like sports, extracurricular activities and school," said Huber. "I don't know everything in my body. If I had a doctor or nurse who didn't communicate, or establish a relationship, I would be worried, unsure, and not as comfortable."

Dr. Bernard Lown, M.D., former professor at Harvard School of Public Health,

notes that it is important for doctors to strive to provide support and stability in a patient's life.

"The patient desires to be known as a human being, not merely to be recognized as the outer wrappings for a disease," said Lown.

Dental hygienist Ms. Pamela Alvarez, R.D.H agrees with Lown.

"As a doctor, you have to build that relationship so your patients trust you," said Alvarez. "It is important to establish a good relationship so they remain your patient consistently. It helps us give the best care and accurately meet the patients' needs."

Huber's family was present throughout her medical procedures, however, in some situations, patients do not have close family or friends to care for them and offer support.

"If no family members were with me I would have felt awkward, uncomfortable, and kind of lonely, because I wasn't 100 percent sure what was going to happen to me in recovery, and there's always a chance something can go wrong," said Huber.

Ms. Marilyn Kramer, R.N., a cardiac nurse at St. Luke's Hospital, has noticed a difference in a patient's attitude and energy level depending on their amount of active family support.

"Patients, with their needs, become either more dependant or independent with or without family," said Kramer.

Some nurses see an increase in comfort and confidence and a decrease in anxiety in patients with visiting families. But often, a



**Open wide** ★ Dam Alvarez, RDH, left, shows her patient Rhonda Brown her x-rays and updates her on recent changes and progressions on April 11. PHOTO BY MICHELLE REICHMEIER

patient has no one to visit him or her.

"You'd be surprised at how many people have no one," said Kramer. "Being sick is not as frightening when you know someone who is going to be there to care for you."

Kramer sees how these patients worry about what is going to happen to them when they leave the hospital and must care for themselves. She spends more time conversing with these patients about their concerns,

needs and fears along with their life in general to help them cope with loneliness.

"While medical science has its limits, hope does not," said Lown. "If a patient is ready to be helped, even a little, and grateful for the marginal, it enhances the doctor's commitment to fostering a relationship between equals. Only such a relationship, bonded by understanding and respect, can deepen into a true healing partnership." ★

# Returning members encourage new teammates

Freshmen receive moral support, guidance from upperclassmen as they fulfill their new responsibilities

by ELIZABETH WILSON  
Staff Writer

The returning varsity members on the STA track and field team feel that hazing and conflict don't exist on the team, unless making the freshmen carry a heavy water jug to suicide hill is considered hazing. A clear-cut varsity team was never announced but a handful of freshmen have been competing with varsity in numerous events. The new freshmen have felt encouragement from their new teammates despite the manual labor placed upon them with their new varsity responsibilities.

"We carry everything out," said freshman Anne Marie Whitehead. "They're kind of kidding, kind of serious [about it]. [We carry] the water, any equipment, shot disks, [and] starting blocks. It's not a problem; manual labor is good for you."

Although the freshmen are in charge of the manual labor, the managers lend a hand, and the varsity runners give the freshmen support.

"Coming onto the team and becoming really close with the girls was amazing," said sophomore Shauna Muehlbach of her freshman year. "The track team is another sisterhood inside STA."

According to Whitehead, varsity track is challenging but fun.

"[The returning varsity members] encourage me and help me improve everyday," said Whitehead. "They give me the moral support I need."

Senior Jacqui Lindsey said running is 10 percent physical and 90 percent mental which means runners only do what they think they can do.

"I want the freshmen and all of us on the team to think big," said Lindsey. "So, I always try to be encouraging."

Muehlbach said the freshmen do a lot of manual labor, but that it's like that every year. Whitehead said she doesn't have a problem with it because it's a known fact that freshmen carry everything for the team.

"I love them all," said sophomore Leah Barthol of the new freshmen. "They are really fun to be around and are all good teammates. None of them think they are better than anyone else which is good."

Lindsey said the freshmen that joined varsity are hard workers and that she enjoys running with them. She said having freshmen on varsity pushes the upperclassmen to step up their game.

"The returning varsity and the new freshmen get along really well," said Barthol. "Grade doesn't really matter to any of us. When we're at the meets and practices you don't even realize you're running with people younger or older than you."

Muehlbach said she helps the freshmen out by giving them pep talks before they run and cheering them on.

"I'm always encouraging people," said Barthol. "It's really hard when you're in a race and you feel like you're about to pass out. But when someone is there cheering you on, it makes it so much easier. Our team always spreads out around the track to cheer people on and that always seems to work well."

Lindsey said everyone on the track and field team is very supportive of one another. She said that as an experienced senior runner she tries to keep a positive attitude and work hard during practices and meets as a good example for the other runners that look up to her.

"I expect [my teammates] to believe in themselves and [in] our team," said Lindsey. "If they believe and work hard, fast times and medals will follow." ★



A hug goodbye ★ Freshmen Shelby Nace, left, and Anne Marie Whitehead hug each other with a "see you tomorrow" after track and field practice April 18. PHOTO BY ELIZABETH WILSON

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# Rivalry between KU, MU fans flares since Civil War

During MU-KU games, neighbors, friends become rivals, abandoning civility, turning to fighting

by PAIGE KUHLMANN  
Staff Writer

Rockchalk Jayhawk, GO MU! No, no. M-I-Z Z-K-U! That's not right either.

Die-hard MU fan Kevin Harrison said these types of cheer mistakes from fans are unacceptable when it comes to the college rivalry between University of Kansas (KU) and University of Missouri-Columbia (MU).

"If you're unable to get it right, then just sit there and look spirited," said Harrison. "KU is the enemy, and we have to present [MU's] best front."

However, KU fan Pam Ludwinski thinks differently.

"I definitely think it's a friendly competition," said Ludwinski. "It would be stupid to truly dislike someone because of a sports team they support."

Whether a fan is radical or easy-going, the fierce contest between these two colleges is undoubtedly there. Some think this dispute is unfounded, but Ms. Deborah Twellman, an MU alumna, contradicts them with an account of the colleges' history.

Twellman recalls that during the Civil War, Missouri supported slavery and Kansas didn't. Therefore, Missouri General William C. Quantrill led his supporters, called Bushwhackers, into Lawrence, the location of KU, where they proceeded to burn down the town. This incident became known as the Quantrill Massacre.

"I guess the people at KU haven't forgotten, because every time I talk to someone from there, they are able to tell that story in full detail," said Twellman.

The rivalry that resulted from the Quantrill Massacre causes fans to interact with each other in many ways.

Harrison recalls his most memorable moment with a rival fan, when verbal sparring turned into a drink-throwing altercation in a bar.

"That was a good time," said Harrison. "Usually I don't get that upset, but who knows what will happen around [KU fans]."

Ludwinski's idea of an unpleasant moment was when she called a rival fan a curse word at a game.

"I felt so bad afterwards," said Ludwinski. "I guess MU fans just push me to the limit sometimes, which is completely ridiculous."

Although some, like Ludwinski, think it is acceptable to befriend the competitor outside of games, there are others who remain steadfast in their hate of the rival.

"I hate [MU] fans, any time, any place," said Mr. Dan Forness, a KU alumnus. "It doesn't matter if they are strangers or relatives, I can't stand them."

Harrison sees it differently.

"During the game, I like [being around rival fans] because it's all good-natured ribbing," said Harrison. "But after the games, they get annoying because they always have excuses for why they lost."

The rivalry is not just based on history; it draws fuel from stereotypes as well.

Ludwinski believes MU fans' bad rap is they are snobbish, while Harrison, Twellman and Forness all agree the stereotype for MU is they always choke in the big game.

"They can beat the little teams," said



Border battle ★ Brendon Marquart, left, decapitates Grant Wilson's Jayhawk bobblehead in front of Wilson's house April 18. The two boys were sucked into the college rivalry young. Marquart loves the Missouri tigers, while Wilson worships the Kansas Jayhawks. PHOTO BY PAIGE KUHLMANN

Forness. "But they can never finish it and go all the way to the finals."

Meanwhile, Forness and Ludwinski feel many people believe KU fans are unintelligent, whereas Twellman thinks KU fans are whiners who complain about the referees and constantly make excuses.

"You'd think after they'd lost they'd just want to get away from [MU fans]," said Twellman. "But no, they stay around and gripe about how lucky [MU] was to win."

Harrison considers KU's stereotype to

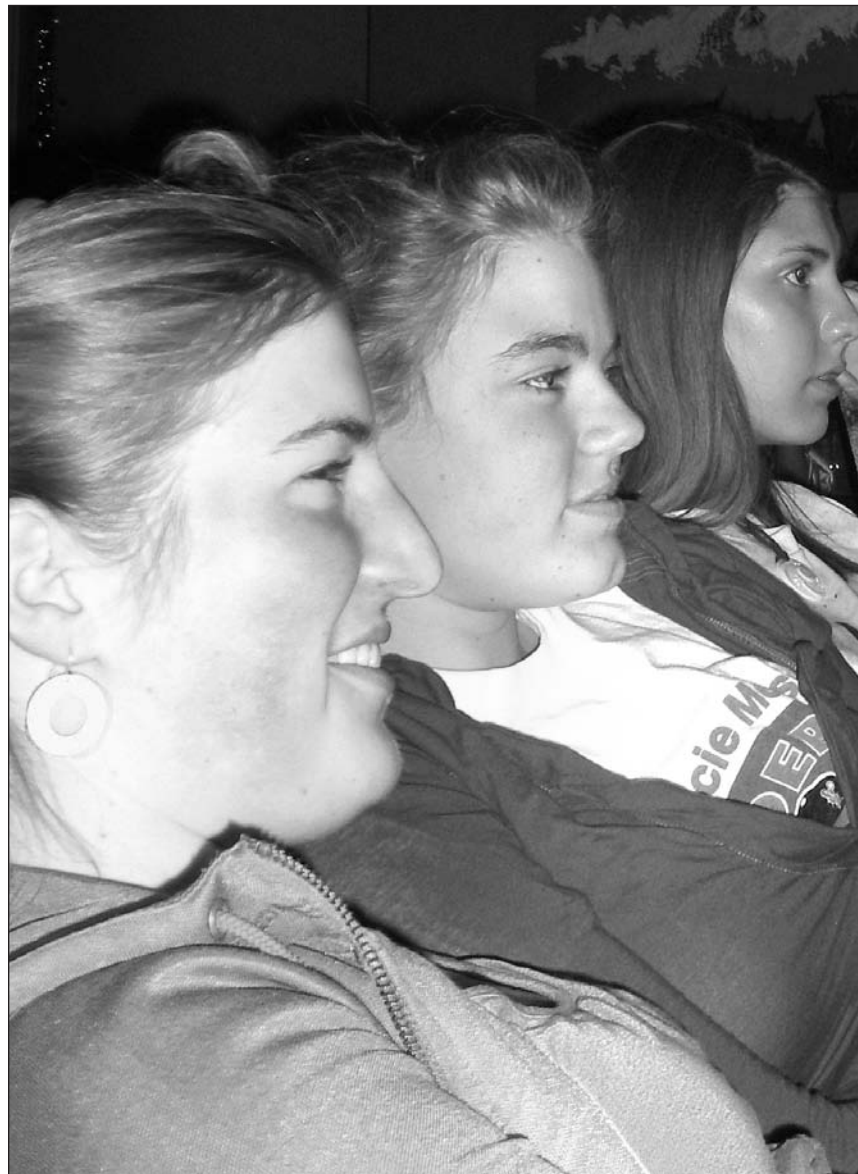
be something else.

"KU chokes in the big games too," said Harrison. "And their football program is terrible. The [football] coach is so fat; he looks like a sumo wrestler."

What exactly does MU and KU fans' relationships consist of besides stereotypes, drink throwing and the ultimate rivalry?

"[The relationship] is about the win, the glory, the bragging rights," said Twellman. "But most of all, [the relationship] is about having fun and having something to believe in and support." ★

# Perfect harmony brews among fans



**All smiles** ★ STA junior Maddie Hickey, from left, and Sion juniors Allie Woods and Lauren Ziegler attend a Virtuosity, Empire and Thundermuffin concert April 14 at the Yaweh Underground. The girls interacted with friends and new acquaintances. **PHOTO BY BIANCA DANG**

For audience, shared concert experience creates affinity that moves beyond performance to intimate connections

by **BIANCA DANG**  
Staff Writer

As STA junior Hannah Bailey weaves through the packed crowd at a concert at the Sokol Underground in Omaha, Nebraska, she runs into members of some of her favorite bands. Seeing as Bailey has traveled to Omaha numerous times for shows, she is no longer surprised when she sees these people.

Bailey and many other concertgoers see shows as a unifying experience. Bailey observes the interaction between different age groups and different people when she attends concerts. She sees the music scene in Kansas City and other places she has traveled as unique communities.

"I used to be nervous when I went, but [the bands and people are] all really accepting and nice," said Bailey. "I do feel a sense of community there. The fact that they all play music or listen to music and are generally from the same place makes it so they're familiar with the music that surrounds us and gives us a common interest."

Bailey is not the only one that feels as if music is a connecting factor in communities. Others, like STA junior Marian Nguyen, have found certain places and venues in Kansas City, such as downtown's Abdiana building, where they have felt a tight bond being formed.

"[The Abdiana] instilled in me a real community and it's where I met [the bands and a lot of friends] and got to know everyone," said Nguyen.

Nguyen said that although the Kansas City music scene is not as thriving as it once was, she believes that the people who are still part of the music setting continue to work towards keeping Kansas City music going.

"I know a lot of older people who are trying to get younger kids to come to shows to instill that [sense of communi-

ty]," said Nguyen.

One of these people, Ms. Monique Maes, a member of two local bands, has the same thoughts on incorporating youth into the music world. A self-described punk, Maes says that bringing kids into the music scene not only allows them the ability to think on their own, but helps them make a difference as well.

"What punk is really about is seeing what's really going on and changing what's happening," said Maes.

Some people who are not part of the Kansas City punk locale but who are still involved in music see this unifying of different ages as something that adds to the community.

"I think a music lover is a music lover," says Ms. Julia Peterson, bartender and booking agent for the Bottleneck, a music venue in Lawrence, Kansas. "There's a big mix of people [at shows]. You can't really tell the difference."

The integration of different people at shows is so common to STA senior Meredith Snyder that she has never witnessed a show divided by age.

"I've never been to a split show," said Snyder. "I didn't even know [venues had] them."

The love for music and love for the band that take place at concerts are the main thing that draw people like Ms. Madeline Smith, a junior at the Kansas City Art Institute, to local shows.

"At shows, there is definitely a sense of community," said Smith. "The concept of 'when you fall down in a mosh pit, someone picks you up,' is so cool."

The populace at concerts leads Smith to seeing better and more meaningful shows.

"When you go see a show, it can be such a moving experience that you get caught up in the moment," said Smith. "The community impacts this experience because everyone can enjoy [the music] together." ★

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## You've got more than mail: internet side effects

Recent studies link excessive internet use to such problems as academic failure, divorce, addiction

by **KATY CRATER**  
Staff Writer

Within the first month of broadening its service to high school students in September 2005, 22,000 high school accounts were created on the popular social networking website Facebook. The site has also seen an increase in its overall use, with more than 13 million additional accounts since last July.

But despite Facebook's popularity, studies have found excessive internet use to have detrimental effects. One such effect is internet addiction, which more and more psychologists are classifying as a serious problem. Internet addiction is so widespread, that the American Psychiatric Association is thinking of adding it to the next edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which is to be released in 2012.

In China, 13 percent of the country's youth have become addicted to the internet, and some parents sent their children to an internet addiction boot camp, where therapy and military-style drills supposedly help them overcome their addictions.

Last year, a Stanford study of internet usage trends concluded that one in eight people showed signs of "problematic internet use." Approximately 12 percent of those in the study frequently stayed online longer than they intended, and 14

percent reported difficulty staying away from the computer for than a few days.

Eight percent of the study participants reported trying to hide their internet use from family and friends, and six percent reported having personal relationships suffer as a result of their internet use.

Other recent reports indicate that for some internet addicts, their addiction eventually led to reduced work performance, academic failure, and for some, divorce.

Social skills are also affected in many different ways by extensive internet use.

In most daily interactions, most people rely on visual cues. These cues help one to read body language, interact without verbalization, and share emotion; but, when communicating using the internet, such cues cannot be seen. Researchers and psychologists fear that prolonged internet communication may cause users to be unable to read others' body language and other signals in face to face interaction. Such degradation of social skills may lead to relationship problems in the future, psy-

chologists fear.

The internet's anonymity, or the ability to create your own identity, can lead any user to distort, exaggerate, or deceive others.

"It gives a sense of false courage," said Maura Lammers, sophomore. "It allows people to say things they wouldn't ordinarily say in person."

Lammers, who spends approximately one to two hours on Facebook each day, sees the networking site as a way to find people with interests similar to her own and to keep in touch with distant friends.

Facebook was viewed by 69 percent of U.S. females ages 17 to 25, making it the most viewed site, according to an April 2 study conducted by eMarket.com. The social networking site, which accounts for 1 percent of all time on the internet, has nearly 1.5 billion page views per month.

"It's just a part of high school," said freshman Gaby Wilson, who spends about three hours on the site each day.

One of the more than thirteen million, Wilson, gets on Facebook 'whenever.'

With 500,000 new users each week, Facebook is now the sixth most viewed site.

*"Facebook allows people to say things they wouldn't ordinarily say in person."*

Maura Lammers, sophomore



**Sneaking on** ★ A junior checks her Facebook in Language Lab during activity. Despite the school's ban on this website, many students access the site through other websites. **PHOTO BY KATY CRATER**

"There's a fun element," said sophomore Crysta Henthorne of the site's growing popularity. "People think it's fun to put up pictures and quotes for others to see."

Henthorne, who got her Facebook because her friends are on it, goes on every couple of days for about 15 minutes.

"I'm terrified of the telephone," she said. ★

# Dogs play crucial role in owners' lives

Parents form lifelong friendships with 'big, furry, surrogate children'

by KYLIE HORNBECK  
Staff Writer

He hangs out with friends at school, exercises daily, goes hiking in Colorado each winter, enjoys swimming each summer and has a family that loves him dearly. He is Truman Rimel, a student at doggie day care, and a part of the Rimel family.

Pet owner, Amy Rimel takes her English labrador retriever, Truman, to Colorado on her annual hiking trip and often takes him to the lake to swim. According to Rimel, Truman loves the outdoors and is a normal and very loving four-year-old. Just like Truman in the Rimel home, dogs are considered family members in many households.

"Truman shows unconditional love," Rimel said. "You walk in the door and he's always happy to see you. He's like a little kid, and we definitely consider him a family member."

Rimel believes Truman is a delightful companion for her and for the dogs at doggie day care where she sends him once a week.

"He's a good companion, and he's always there for me," Rimel said. "It's just nice to have a buddy."

According to Rimel, Truman is always there to cheer her up. She constantly spoils him and takes him places with her so he can experience things as part of the family.

Like Rimel, Shaughnessy Miller, a STA freshman and owner of two-and-a-half-year-old Peja, feels that her chocolate labrador is a great companion because Peja never lets her down.

"If you're crying, it's really sweet because Peja will come up and whimper, cock her head, perk up her ears and cry with you," Miller said. "It makes you feel better because you just have to smile."

Miller thinks Peja is adorable, gives her lots of attention and often slips her ex-



**High five** ★ Amy Rimel, left, rewards her dog Truman after he correctly performed a trick in their backyard April 16. Rimel enjoys teaching her "buddy" Truman new tricks. PHOTO BY KYLIE HORNBECK

tra food, left over from dinner, though her parents do not always approve.

"Peja's a pretty dog, and every time you see her, you just want to hug her because she's so cute and sweet," Miller said.

Ms. Cheryl Morgan, owner of a four-year-old Weimaraner, shares a similar story with both Miller and Rimel. She spends nearly 24 hours a day with her dog, Gabe. He's like a son to Morgan, so she makes sure he receives a healthy diet, lots of attention and plenty of exercise.

"My husband takes Gabe out into the country every weekend so he can run free off his leash for two-and-a-half hours," Morgan said. "[Gabe] always comes back, and he gets great exercise. We feel it's really important."

For Morgan, Gabe is a very important part of her life, and she enjoys spending time bonding with her pet. He is there for her to play with, watch birds with and talk to when she is alone. Because she has no children, Morgan takes pleasure in dressing her dog with a variety of collars for many occasions; Gabe has ten in all.

Additionally, Morgan believes that good care for her dog is vital, so she walks him twice a day, brushes his teeth with an electric toothbrush and gives him allergy shots when needed.

To dog owners, Miller, Morgan and Rimel, their pets are loved as a part of the family. Like parents, they spend lots of time with their pets and take good care of them.

"We treat Truman as a member of the family because he's important to us," said Rimel. "We aren't just pet owners, we're pet parents." ★

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# Feline friends: They're the 'cat's meow'

Pet owners let the 'cat out of the bag' about their unique relationships with their pampered felines

by JULIA STAPINSKI  
Staff Writer

From self-cleaning litter boxes and cat clothing, to cat magazines and online cat discussions, it has become more and more apparent that cat obsession is widespread in American society. Some cat owners spoil their felines, treating them like humans and giving them gifts that aren't vital for their cats' survival.

"My mom and I took [our cat] every Wednesday...for a massage, acupuncture, or an alternative treatment," said STA freshman Celeste Bremen, who speaks fondly of her deceased cat, Pierre.

Bremen admits to being an obsessive cat owner. At one point, she threw a birthday party for Pierre, complete with cake, presents and cat-sized party hats.

Bremen would also spoon-feed her cat, and dress him in sweaters.

"He liked to wear turtlenecks," said Bremen.

Bremen's friend, STA freshman Mia Hawkins, also admits to being infatuated with her cats.

"I'm definitely not as much of a cat-lover as Celeste is," said Hawkins. "But we have done some crazy things [for our cats], like once we built the cats a little house, with drapes and everything."

Although Hawkins doesn't spoon-feed her cats, she said that she spoils them with a special diet.

"We give them tuna and milk," said Hawkins. "They really love it."

Latin teacher Sue Marquis feeds her cats three different kinds of food at every meal and often pampers them with treats.

"Every time Maximus looks at me and cries, they get snacks," said Marquis. "They're pudgy little boys."

Ms. Meri Bara, a Brookside resident, owns two cats: Puck and Joon. According to Bara, her cats have a distinctive diet as well.

"They get tuna in oil, because the oil is full of replenishing fluids," said Bara. "They treat it like it's kitty champagne."

Bara confesses that her cats are spoiled, but she does not think that pampering them is wrong.

"I'm not the weird cat lady," said Bara. "Sure, I let Puck crawl on my head, but that doesn't mean anything. There are old men who spoil their cats worse."

Mr. Glenn Logan, a local retired resident, lives in an apartment building where every tenant has at least one cat. Logan says that the number of cats around caused him to become more obsessive over his cat.

"I didn't think when I got Forest that



**Cat fancy** ★ Mr. Glenn Logan sits on his front porch with his cat, Forest, April 8. According to Logan, Forest's favorite place is the front porch. PHOTO BY JULIA STAPINSKI

I would end up letting him rule my life," said Logan. "He's a big part of me. I don't know what life would be like without him."

According to Logan, he spends "way too much money" on scratching posts, beds and toys for his cat.

"Forest has a lot more scratching posts than he will ever use," said Logan.

However, Logan believes that he has good reason to spoil Forest.

"He's comforting and reliable," said Logan. "He's one of my best friends. He deserves to be spoiled." ★