

Volume 66 ★ Issue 1 ★ September 28, 2006

# THE DART

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY



# HEAVY secrets

Weight of eating disorders  
silences teens, creates  
insecurities

See pg 2

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KATHLEEN POINTER

# Senior hides secret, recovers from anorexia

Student feels insecure about body image, finds comfort in restricted diet

by ALISON RAYBOULD  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

No one whispers about her in the halls; her name isn't a part of the latest gossip. Yet she worries that someone might dig up her skeleton in the closet.

Of the nearly 500 students at STA, one senior, who for fear of embarrassment wished to remain anonymous, struggles to keep private her "dirty little secret."

She was diagnosed in seventh grade, transferred to a private school in eighth grade and by middle school graduation, had begun to recover from her battle with anorexia.

"I really prefer not to talk about it," she said. "No one, and I mean no one, at STA knows I have an eating disorder. [My boyfriend] doesn't even know."

Her mom noticed first, and sought out the medical knowledge of a doctor, who insisted that she get help. As the recovery process continued, her counselors instructed her to tell a friend—just one friend.

"My friend came to a few sessions, but we didn't talk about [my disorder] outside of the treatment," she said. "Then, she brought it up months later, and I acted like it wasn't a big deal, but I was still really uncomfortable talking about it."

STA personal counselor Karen Sinco believes that an unwillingness to discuss their eating disorders is a common occurrence among teens.

"For somebody entrenched in an eating disorder, that is their world," said Sinco. "And they work very hard to keep it a secret."

According to the National Eating Disorders Association, as many as 10 million females have been diagnosed with an eating disorder in the United States. And according to Anorexia Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders, Inc., about 2 percent of female adolescents have anorexia and nearly 4 percent of college-age women will suffer from bulimia. More than 80 percent of American women are dissatisfied with their appearance.

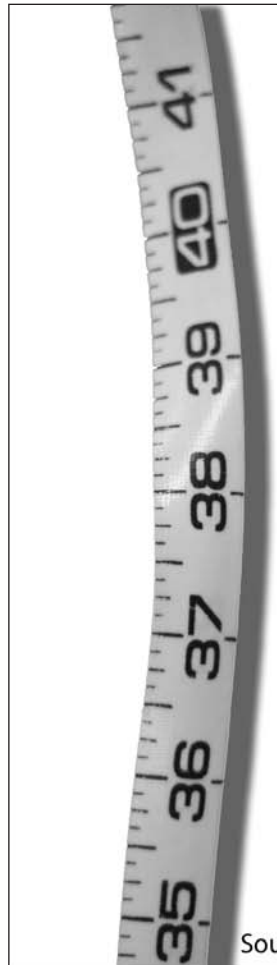
If these statistics held true to STA, then ten students would be diagnosed with anorexia and 20 students would suffer from bulimia, while nearly 400 students would feel inadequate about their body image.

The anonymous senior now considers herself to be one of the 100 students who are comfortable with their bodies.

Her awareness of the past and her desire to remain undiscovered lurk in the back of her mind.

"Five years later, the effects of my eating disorder are still present," she said. "Although I am satisfied with the way I look and although I don't want to get any skinnier, I know what problems could occur if I wanted to lose weight."

However, in seventh and eighth grade, psychologists and nutritionalists



## Teens Look to Measure Up

Many signs exist that someone is suffering from an eating disorder. If you or a friend suffer from any of the symptoms below, contact a counselor, parent or trusted adult. For online help, email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org), an online counseling system that is anonymous and replies in 24 hours. The following are a few red flags that warn of an eating disorder:

- Anxiety about gaining weight
- Distorted body image
- Frequent comments about feeling "fat" despite weight loss
- Denial of hunger
- Consistent excuses to avoid mealtimes or situations involving food
- A lack of energy
- Dramatic weight loss

Source: guidance counselor Karen Sinco; [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

GRAPHIC BY BREANNE SIGLER

determined that her distorted body image grew more warped as she was bombarded with fashion magazines. She had a subscription to Teen Vogue which she thought damaged her self-esteem.

"So many girls are suffering from eating disorders because they have a desire to be thin and to fit in with the media and magazines," said Sinco. "Obviously peer pressure also plays a role. [This desire] then develops into something that is much more uncontrollable."

The anonymous senior said she developed a distorted body image because of the combination of peer and media pressure.

"I had a really weird perception of other's people's bodies," she said. "I looked at my friends in seventh grade and thought they were really thin and that I was just average."

She said that the eating disorder embedded itself originally through peer pressure.

"A lot of the girls at my public school didn't eat very much at lunch," she said. "So I felt uncomfortable eating around them. But then I switched to [a private school] in eighth grade and immediately started to feel more comfortable about

my weight."

The STA environment has made the recovery process easier.

"I feel I am in a better school setting," she said. "I have friends at school who aren't constantly obsessing over weight. I do well in school and I am not completely overwhelmed with stress."

Sinco said that most people with eating disorders have "self-imposed pressures," along with those presented by the media and school setting.

"They think that being thin and pretty will make life easier," said Sinco.

Rockhurst University psychologist and outreach coordinator Shu-Fin Shih agreed that eating disorders stem from the need for perfection and control.

"Many people that have eating disorders simultaneously struggle with self-esteem," said Shih. "They have a constant feeling of inadequacy, but they want to be perfect. They want to have the perfect body, the perfect grades, the perfect boyfriend. Therefore, they go through a lot of pain—both physically and mentally—seeking this perfection."

Shih believes that individuals who suffer from an eating disorder maintain a level of secrecy for fear that someone might discover the truth about their hab-

its. She also said that they restrict food as a coping mechanism for other anxieties.

"By controlling their food, they are coping with and controlling their stress," said Shih. "But to recover, they need to discover healthy coping mechanisms to deal with life struggles besides bingeing, purging or starving themselves."

Both Sinco and Shih believe that a change in societal demands of young women is necessary to prevent the continuation of this disorder.

"For eating disorders to be prevented, we need to change culture from the very beginning," said Sinco. "There needs to be less of an emphasis on body image and more on just being healthy. We also need to teach girls that those women [in magazines] are not real. They are the exceptions."

In fact, according to the National Eating Disorders Association, most fashion models are thinner than 98 percent of American women. And while the average American woman is 5 feet 4 inches and weighs 140 pounds, the average American model is 5 feet 11 inches and weighs 117 pounds.

Shih similarly believes that society needs to celebrate diversity in body size.

"People need to challenge the society that perpetuates this belief that women are beautiful only if they are skinny," said Shih. "We should look at ourselves and appreciate our own body for the capabilities that it gives us to survive: to smell, think, feel, touch, breathe and eat." ★

*"For somebody entrenched in an eating disorder, that is their world."*  
Ms. Karen Sinco, counselor

28 september 2006  
★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

**National week**  
Held Feb. 25- March 3, National Eating Disorder Week is the largest national outreach effort since its inception in 1987 by the National Eating Disorders Association. The purpose of the week is to help promote positive body image ideals to young women across the country in an attempt for early intervention and prevention. Events are held at schools, colleges and businesses across the country that feature anything from panel discussions to fashion shows.



**Fine Arts:**  
Kansas City celebrates the largest Irish Fest in the history of the four-year-old festival with Irish dancers, The Elders and numerous street vendors.  
See Page 17

|                   |     |                    |       |
|-------------------|-----|--------------------|-------|
| Front page.....   | 1   | Health.....        | 11    |
| News.....         | 2   | Bull's-eye.....    | 12&13 |
| Campus News.....  | 3   | Sports.....        | 14-16 |
| Local News.....   | 4   | Fine Arts.....     | 17    |
| World News.....   | 5   | Entertainment..... | 18    |
| Opinion.....      | 6&7 | Reviews.....       | 19    |
| Open Forum.....   | 8   | Features.....      | 20&21 |
| Academics.....    | 9   | In the Mix.....    | 22&23 |
| Student Life..... | 10  | The Last Look..... | 24    |



**Features:**  
Sophomore Lauren Bly spends the year abroad studying Chinese culture, learns lessons and gains friendships.  
See Pages 20-21



SISTERHOOD OF THE PLAID SKIRT

## Senior does not think twice about riding shotgun

Once upon a time there was a little girl who imagined growing up and moving to a big city, where people never drove cars because everyone rode in taxi cabs.

Well, this little girl happened to grow up in the heart of Kansas City, a hub of car ownership.

On her 16 birthday, she never got her license. On her 17 birthday, she never got her license. On her 18 birthday, again, she never got her license, but she did register to vote (which, unfortunately, is not worth as much in today's society when compared to a driver's license).

I think you all know who I am referring to...myself, Colleen Louise Owens.

Am I crazy for not driving? Maybe for those with self-esteem issues, but this attitude has never been for me.

We are a rare breed, us non-drivers. We shrug off the quizzical stares of confusion when we're not pulling up alone in our SUV's, we answer all the demands from girls who just have to know why we don't "get it together" and get our license, and we get eye rolled for not having to deal with heinous gas prices.

But for all those who have pegged us as free-loading car junkies, let me enlighten this matter. You see, there are so many reasons why I personally do not drive, I could produce an actual novel on the subject matter. So I will condense my thoughts into a list:

### The Reason's I Do Not Drive:

1. I do not own a car. Cars do not miraculously fall from trees and neither does the money needed to buy one. This is not to say I am a jobless bum either (non-driver misconception #1). I have a job and have made plenty for a car; unfortunately, the funds must go to other more important categories, like my college savings account.

2. My parents cars are constantly unavailable. They have real jobs with their own cars, and taking them away for as much time as I would need to with a license would be quite impossible.

3. I swear the Missouri Licensing Bureau is out to get me. Laugh all you want about this, but I think it is a bit fishy that I have made about nine trips to the bureau off Troost and each encounter only brings frustration and irritation. Either I have not produced the right forms for them to check or they have lost my testing papers or they inconsistently close early. Whatever the reason, you couldn't pay me enough money to haul myself out there for a record tenth visit only to be turned away once again by a cop on a power trip.

4. It is the girl who has paid not a dime for the \$2.57 per gallon gas rates that laughs last, or so my newly adapted saying goes. This is a small, almost insignificant benefit for not driving, because believe me, the hassle lies more in finding someone who will be willing to overlook the gas prices to pick you up, rather than in actually paying for it.

5. I have been fortunate to find excellent friends who overlook this quirk about me, and would rather be in my presence than not because of lack of transportation.

Truly, this only names a few of the reasons why I remain a non-driver. Non-drivers must be twice as sociable, twice as generous and twice as patient as the average driver, because in my world, when I need a ride, I have to find people to actually agree to it. But this may not always be the case, so be a doll and take me home if I need it! ★

# Diocese holds Mass for local students

Bishop Boland presides over teenage congregation celebrating diocesan union

by KELLY NELSON  
Section Editor

Students from seven area high schools, including STA, filled the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception located in downtown Kansas City on the morning of Aug. 30. The students participated in a mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of the accumulation of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. Bishop Emeritus Raymond J. Boland presided over the celebration and used his homily to channel his hopes and visions for the future Catholic generations of the diocese to the congregation.

"I'm in the process of stepping off the stage, while you're just getting on it," said Boland. "We're handing over the responsibility and good work to a new generation."

Ms. Robin Good, a leader of STA's Campus Ministry team, was pleased with Boland's words.

"I was totally impressed with his homily," said Good. "It felt like he placed significant trust and confidence in us that we prepared you for the future."

Senior Katrina Abella also agreed with his message, but was not able to concentrate on it until later due to the large audience present.

"I was pretty distracted because I was sitting in the very back," said Abella. "I couldn't see the priest or readers and I couldn't really understand what he was saying, but it seemed like a good speech from what I read in *The Catholic Key*."

Nonetheless she enjoyed being a part of the union of seven different schools in one place. According to *The Catholic Key*, the students from STA, Rockhurst, Notre Dame de Sion, Archbishop O'Hara, St. Pius, St. Mary's in Independence and Cristo Rey numbered nearly 900 students, the majority of them seniors.

Ms. Rebecca Summers, Director of Communications for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph stated that in celebrating the anniversary, a Mass for students was a necessity.

"In terms of being a community of faith, celebrating Mass is central to our Catholic



Senior receives communion ★ Senior Oghosa Iyamu receives communion at the Golden Jubilee Mass Aug. 30. The mass was celebrated by the Bishop Emeritus, The Most Reverend Raymond J. Boland. PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER

identity and 168 years of Catholic schools is a very treasured piece of the tradition of Catholicism," said Summers. "You're the cream of our crop and our community has

invested in you as people who will be leaders of our faith and community and to have you all in one place, at one time, and ac-

See MASS, page 22

## Students question North Central testing

Teacher chairs explain motives behind testing, academic improvements

by ALLISON POINTER  
Staff Writer

As the time ticks away, sophomore Lauren McQuaid finishes her test, tucks her mechanical pencil into her floral pen bag, and then after responding to an attitude survey, her backpack returns to her shoulders and she leaves Ms. Acton's room, onto Language Lab. She took the examination. She turned it in. But does she really know why she must participate in North Central testing?

"I really don't find [North Central tests] that important," said McQuaid. "But then again, I don't really know why I am taking it."

After being informed on why exactly STA girls take the test, McQuaid responded differently.

"I think it's important for [the teachers] to know how we are doing and know how well they are teaching," she said.

North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement was founded in 1895. Since then they have accredited 8,500 public and private schools in 19 states, the Na-

Just a side note

Quick Facts about North Central

- Was founded in 1895.
- They accredit 8,500 public and private schools in 19 states.
- STA & North Central have been working together since 1923.

vajo Nation, and the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools worldwide.

In 1923, STA took part in the North Central Association (NCA), and still has an active role in it. Currently the school is focusing to improve on reading and writing portions of the test.

"The whole idea is for the students," said Dr. Jo Weller, STA's North Central co-chair. "We want to make sure we allow students to grow academically."

Assistant principal of academic affairs Nancy Hand has always taken apart in NCA and is now a board member of the Missouri Association of Secondary Principals and an ambassador for NCA, along with STA president, Dr. Faith

Wilson.

"For some schools, groups of outside educators hand them the curriculum and visit teachers and classes," said Hand. "We chose a different way to affirm our quality education and chose a route that lets us determine goals and see [STA's accomplishments]."

NCA is a two-cycle process. Students take the test in the fall and then re-take the test in the spring, comparing the difference in scores. The test is taken with student ID number, allowing the school to keep track of scores, but not keep them on records or transcripts.

"Students shouldn't worry about it, but should take it seriously," said Hand. "It's not on your transcripts, but it certainly enhances education and helps you to get better grades."

Some teachers feel that it is a way to prove that STA is a quality school.

"We can't just say students are improving because we say so," said Weller. "We have to have three tests to back it up. It gives us more than one score."

Other than Weller and Hand, STA has other teachers on board for NCA, including Ms. Renee Blake as chair of the committee and Ms. Sara Acton as the other co-chair with Weller. Members are Ms. Megan Filipowicz, Ms.

See NORTH CENTRAL, page 22

28 september 2006

★

The Dart

★

St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

#### Teresian

The 2006 Teresian dance will be held Oct. 21 in the Goppert Center. This year's theme, "Space," will include decorations provided by the Teresian yearbook staff. The dance is a fund raiser to help support the STA publications. This year's dance will be hosted by A Celebration DJ. The dance begins at 8 pm with doors closing at 8:30 pm and the dance ending at 11 pm. Tickets go on sale the week before Teresian, with prices ranging from \$20 for singles to \$35 for couples.

# New bistro cooks up European diversity

Avenues Bistro brings European culture, dishes to Brookside customers

by JAIME HENRY-WHITE  
Staff Writer

With European travels behind the apron and a hopeful attitude for success, Mr. Jason Rubis and Mr. Joe Birch take their experiences from the Eiffel Tower and the Leaning Tower of Pisa to the people of Kansas City. Their location of choice: the Brookside Avenues Bistro.

"[The Avenues Bistro is] different than most restaurants here because we have a mix of European foods," said Birch. "Some are from my family's recipes from all throughout Europe, and we are just unique. There's nothing like it around; it has a little bit of every country in it."

As of Aug. 10, Birch, executive chef and co-owner, and Rubis, general manager and owner, opened the Brookside Avenues Bistro on the corner of 63rd Street and Wornall Road for breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days a week.

Originally a dry cleaners building, the owners have transformed an old clothes hanger haven into a spacious environment ready to welcome customers. Here, Frank Sinatra's voice fills a setting of dimly lit chandeliers as vines of shadows reside upon walls of reds, blues, and creams. Rubis describes the Bistro's atmosphere as "casual-fine dining with warmth and elegance, great wines, nice food, and hopefully terrific service."

For the decision-maker on the "great wines, nice food" aspect, Birch is the Bistro's main man. Birch annually visits Europe to improve, study and discover the continent's cuisines for additional recipe inspirations, formed from regional specialties.

"Joe's been everywhere," said Rubis.



**Cookin' it up** ★ Mr. Mario Galan, left, listens to a suggestion from Mr. Joe Birch, co-owner of Avenues Bistro. The restaurant specializes in European cuisine such as French, Italian, Spanish and German. PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS

"Traveling is a Birch thing."

Besides Birch's culinary training and research, his family has been overseeing restaurants for several years and contributes numerous family recipes to the Bistro. Great-Grandmother Birch's German apple cake, a 100 year-old delicacy, was acquired from the family's food expertise and European ancestry.

"I've been in the [restaurant] business for about 15 years and Joe's been in it for about 20 plus," said Rubis. "After that you're pretty much stuck."

With family-owned restaurants in both Chicago and Kansas City, the Bis-

tro duo is supported by a solid kitchen staff. Birch and Rubis' idea, now a reality, was for a restaurant to be named after and located on Brookside's intersecting avenues.

"We've both been in the Kansas City area a long time and we know what such a nice place Brookside is," said Rubis. "It has nice people (who know wine). Everyone knows each other. The hostesses we hired are local girls... Brookside seemed like a good opportunity."

Rubis and Birch's "local girls" include STA sophomore Bianca Dang, juniors Maddy McGannon and Sarah

Smith and senior Alex LaPointe.

"I love the people I work with," said LaPointe. "The owners are really fun; the Potato al Forno is good. Feel free to come and eat!"

Just as LaPointe suggested, sophomore Libby Hastert has gone twice to eat at the Bistro, once to enjoy Brioche French toast and then again to try lunch with other STA students.

"[The owners] have created a new and different atmosphere that Brookside welcomes," said Hastert.

With over 70 meal options, the Bistro's prices range from \$5-\$26. ★

28 september 2006  
★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

## ★in brief

### Oprah in 2008

Mr. Patrick Crowe, Kansas City, says he has been promoting Oprah's campaign for President for years. Crowe's web site www.oprah08.net even sells T-shirts. However, lawyers for Oprah sent Crowe a letter on Aug. 22 demanding that Crowe remove her picture from the web site, as well as a book cited as copyright and trademark infringements. A spokeswoman for Harpo Industries, Oprah's company, says she has no political aspirations.

# Dog lovers howl about latest metro breed bans

After numerous Pit-bull attacks, city officials unite to discuss resolutions

by CAROLINE QUINN  
Staff Writer

On a scorching July morning in Kansas City, Kansas, 71-year-old Ms. Jimmie May McConnell tended her garden. As she knelt to water her plants, a neighbor's Pit-bull leapt over the fence and attacked her. When law enforcement arrived, the elderly woman's face and limbs were so severely mauled that she was unrecognizable. An ambulance raced McConnell to the hospital, but the massive blood loss seized the woman's life in a matter of minutes.

This memory, along with three other summer Pit-bull attacks, lingers in many Kansas City residents' minds. The season resulted in a total of four Pit-bull attacks, the highest recorded number ever in the political area. Overland Park issued a breed ban on Pit-bulls July 27 and Independence's city ordinance was placed in effect Aug. 28, leaving citizens wondering who is to blame for these summer attacks.

"We see animals of all different natures," said Wayside Waifs public relations director Jenny Brown. "While genetics can set the stage for the behavior of a dog, the way a dog is brought up is essentially how the dog will behave."

Brown, who began working at the humane society two years ago, believes that holding a dog accountable for its behavior will not make any progress in preventing future attacks. According to Brown, the problem will persist until the

dog owners are punished for their abuse, or in some cases, their negligence.

An organization that Brown says she respects highly, the Missouri Pit-bull Rescue was established in 2001 to save abandoned and mistreated Pit-bulls and place them into stable homes. Missouri Pit-bull reply team leader and Independence resident Amanda Botcher feels that the media often exposes the public to only the negative aspects of the breed.

"No one looks at the situation as a whole," said Botcher. "Look at the mass majority statistics that show population versus the number of dog bites. It's unfortunate that Pit-bull bites are in the media more than any other dog bite."

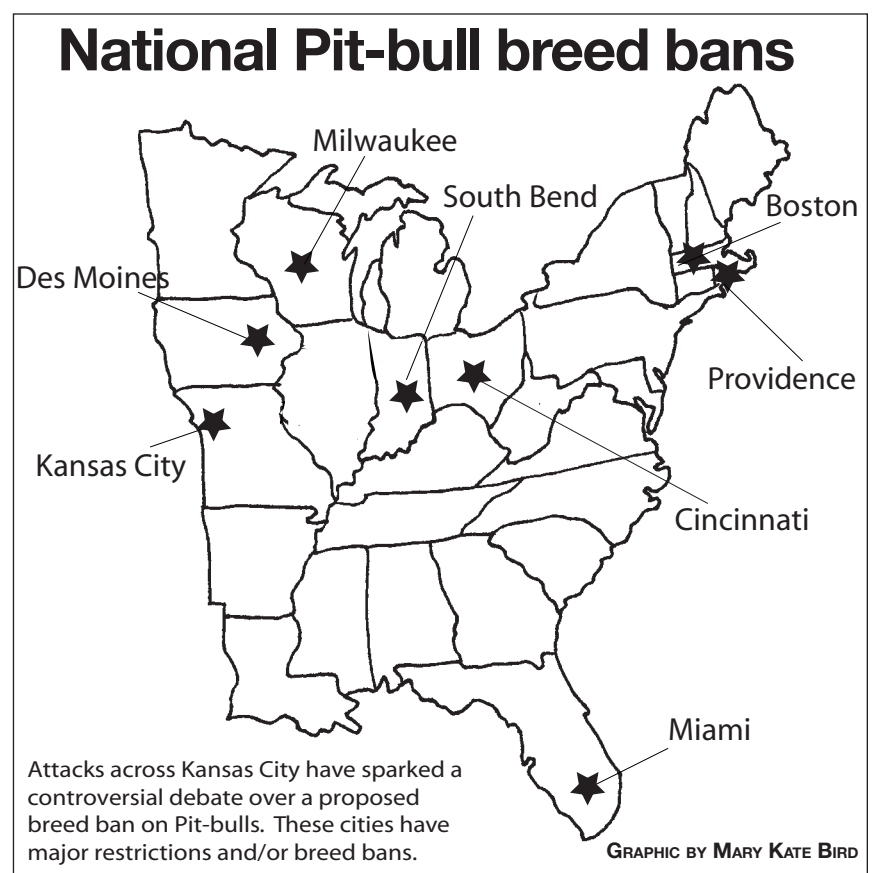
Botcher, who objected to Pit-bulls until five years ago when her boyfriend, Mr. Doug Davis, encouraged her to spend time with the breed, was shocked when she heard the news about the ban.

"I was horrified," said Botcher. "My heart just dropped because I knew exactly what was going to happen. It hurts me, it hurts us at MPR."

Despite their disagreement with the latest breed bans, Brown and Botcher agree that action must be taken to end the destruction that Pit-bulls can cause. At-large Independence city council member Jim Schultz, who played a significant role in the city ordinance, says the community needs to keep safety in mind.

"I understand that dogs are valued pets for humans, and we want dogs to stay part of their families, but public safety is our number one priority," said Schultz.

This decision has prompted a split between area residents. Some residents feel that banning the Pit-bull breed targets the root of the problem, but others like



Brown speculate that banning a breed may lead to deeper controversy.

"Banning a breed is not the right answer," said Brown. "There are three alternative measures that can be taken. First off, dangerous dog ordinances need

to be stricter. Secondly, there should be mandatory spaying and neutering of all dogs. Most importantly, the city needs to provide proper funding of animal control centers. These measures would prevent attacks." ★

# Event honors fallen, memories of 9/11



**A different perspective** ★ Farah Firman, 16, stands in front of a mural she and six other teens helped paint. The mural hangs in the Johnson County Central Resource Library and represents each teen's thoughts on freedom and democracy. PHOTO BY ALY BROWNLEE

## Library remembrance ceremony commemorates fifth anniversary, freedom through music, words, art

by ALY BROWNLEE  
Web Editor

Farah Firman stood at the podium, reading her poem and trying not to cry. She looked out over a crowd of about 150 people at the Johnson County Central Resource Library on Sept. 11, and spoke about how her life had changed that day five years ago. Firman, 16, is a junior at Shawnee Mission South and is Muslim.

"This has been a chance to talk about my point of view," Firman said. "To show how things changed for me on that day."

The remembrance ceremony took place at 7 p.m. with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department presenting the American flag. The library director opened the ceremony, with Overland Park firefighters and patrons present.

"It's the fifth anniversary, and we are also participating in a national organization called The September Project," said Ms. Jennifer Mahnkn, a coordinator of the event. "Libraries all over the world are participating. We want people not to focus on the terrorism of it, but the democracy, and the freedom of it, and to help them see it in a new light."

The keynote speaker of the event was Fire Captain Bill Parker of Olathe. Having grown up in Brooklyn, New York,

Parker and other firefighters in the area collected \$52,000 to go back to New York City to help.

"The city lost everything on 9/11," he said. "But America saw the very best of the first responders that day. We can't forget them. We have to tell our kids, so they tell their kids, so they never forget."

*"The city lost everything on 9/11. But America saw the very best of the first responders that day. We can't forget them."*

Bill Parker,  
Olathe Fire Captain

Firman supported Parker's message, saying she wanted peace, freedom and love for all people. She and six other teens had created a mural that hung to the side of the stage, representing their dif-

ferent backgrounds and interpretations of the day.

"Normally, people stare at me from top to bottom," Firman said about her clothing and scarves that keep her head and body covered for modesty. "People don't understand or know about my religion. But my faith has grown stronger. I want everyone to have a chance to see and understand my point of view."

Firman also said that participating in the library's ceremony helped her to share this point of view with the other present.

"We've been planning this event all summer," said Mahnkn. "We asked for volunteers from the library staff and put together a video."

The video contains speakers and patrons talking about their memories of 9/11 and what democracy and freedom meant to them. Time Warner Cable will be showing this video on their free KC On Demand channel.

"As far as I know, we're all the same," Firman said at the end of the ceremony. "I will do whatever it takes to have peace and freedom for everyone."

Though a candlelight vigil was planned to end the evening, it was deemed too windy outside, and so the first responders in attendance surrounded the crowd as everyone sang "God Bless America."

"I think [this date] means a lot of different things to a lot of different people," said Mahnkn. "I think some people are still bitter and angry. Our focus, though, is to honor the first responders and to celebrate freedom." ★

# Astronomy association snips Pluto from solar system

## Seventy years after discovery, planet is demoted to dwarf status based on size, orbit shape

by CARLIE CAMPBELL  
Staff Writer

Pluto, long considered the smallest planet in our solar system, as of Aug. 25 is no longer a planet. Pluto is now classified as a dwarf planet due to a change in definition of a planet by the International Astronomical Union.

A repercussion of this change in definition involves the way educators present the solar system to students in school.

"All the books in the library will have incorrect information," said Ms. Dianna Youngblood, junior high teacher at St. Peter's Elementary.

According to NASA's website, to be considered a planet, an object must fulfill three qualifications. It must orbit the sun, be large enough that its gravity pulls it into a nearly round shape and it must have cleared the area around its orbit. Pluto presents a dilemma because it has an unusual orbit. While it does circle the sun, every once in a while there is a period of time where Pluto's orbit crosses Neptune's, becoming the eighth planet and pushing Neptune out to the ninth.

"This debate has been going on for a while, ever since the Hayden Planetarium in New York took it off their list when they remodeled," said Mr. Joe Wright, President of the Astronomical Society of Kansas City.

That was in 2000, 70 years after Clyde Tombaugh discovered Pluto. Pluto is so small that, combined with its moon, Charon, it is roughly the size of the United States. This makes it hard for Pluto to clear a path in its orbit.

"It opens up a whole new can of worms," said Wright. "I don't think this [debate] is done yet."



**My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us...Nothing?** ★ With the new definition of the word 'planet', the International Astronomical Union has reduced Pluto to a dwarf planet. "That kind of ruined everything I learned about Pluto," said sophomore Rachel Turgeon.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS

STA students also felt the impact of Pluto's demotion.

"Whenever we did planet reports in grade school, I always chose Pluto," said sophomore Rachel Turgeon. She said she liked Pluto because of its tiny size, but Pluto is now the second largest of all the objects in its new classification.

"That kind of ruined everything I learned about Pluto," said Turgeon.

While some are disappointed by this news, others are thrilled about it.

"The fact that this has made front page news is kind of exciting to me," said Dr. Dave Dembinski, director of the Coffee Creek Observatory in Olathe. "It gives

people an opportunity to talk about science and educate the public about science."

While this definition change has created a buzz, the practical impact is harder to recognize.

"I don't think it matters," said Youngblood. "The world isn't going to stop turning because Pluto's not a planet." ★

28 september 2006  
★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

**Spinach Scare**  
An outbreak of E. coli bacteria is linked to bags of fresh baby spinach grown in Salinas Valley in California. At press time, 171 consumers in 25 states have reported illness caused by bacteria. The Food and Drug Administration has recommended not eating fresh, raw spinach, although spinach grown outside Salinas Valley has been deemed okay for consumption. California accounts for one-third of the nation's spinach crop.

# Is America safer since 9/11?

## Increased awareness of terrorism leads to prevention of threats

“We are safer, but we are not yet safe,” said President George W. Bush in his address to the nation Sept. 11.

As a nation, America is indeed safer since Sept. 11, 2001 because it is more aware. But as our awareness increases, so does the level and degree of threats from terrorists.

Now, America and its allies understand the ideology behind the enemy, which is the first necessary precaution.

“We have learned that they are evil and kill without mercy, but not without purpose,” said Bush. “We have learned that they form a global network of extremists who are driven by a perverted vision of Islam – a totalitarian ideology that hates freedom, rejects tolerance and despises all dissent.”

We are safer because we have taken action to protect the homeland. America and its allies exemplify their readiness for and awareness of a terrorist threat through increased security at public events and in airports and other traffic-heavy areas.

“Our nation is being tested in a way that we have not been since the start of the Cold War,” said Bush. “We saw what a handful of our enemies can do with box-cutters and plane tickets.”

The London bomb threat, in particular, revealed the ways in which we are ready to deal with

terrorist attacks. The terrorists planned to blow up as many as 10 jets headed for America from Britain by mixing a British sports drink with a gel-like substance to make a potent explosive, but British authorities caught the plotters in the final stages.

Since the foiled bomb threat Aug. 10, airport security no longer permits travelers to enter the plane with most liquid solutions, including drinks, makeup, lotions or gels.

While the terrorists might have succeeded in complicating travel plans, five years later, they have not and will not succeed in launching another attack on American soil.

However, their goal will remain unchanging because some Islamic extremists feel their religion requires jihad, or violence against non-Muslims. They are clever in their approach and constantly searching for new and better ways to serve their god Allah. Our own constant vigilance remains the only hope for the continuation of freedom and a life without fear in America.

“They remain determined to attack America and kill our citizens,” said Bush. “And we are determined to stop them.” ★

## Recent terror threats, Iraq war leave absence of safety, insecurities

One day, four hijacked planes and 2,973 victims later, Americans were certainly not safer than they had been on the day before Sept. 11. Five years, an additional 3,031 American casualties, over 43,000 Iraqi civilian casualties, roughly \$317 billion and 16 changes to the Homeland Security Advisory System later –

Americans are still not safer.

According to *The New York Times*, an assessment by the 16 intelligence agencies of

the US found the Iraq war has “invigorated Islamic radicalism and worsened the global terrorist threat.”

In a poll conducted by CBS News and *The New York Times*, researchers found 48 versus 12 percent of Americans think the war in Iraq has made the threat of terrorism against the US worse than it was prior to 9/11. Fifty-four percent of Americans say war has created more terrorists, and 59 percent believe that another attack is likely. Nearly 6 in 10 people believe the government has not done everything possible to keep the country safe from future attacks, while nearly

half of Americans believe terrorism is a problem that a president can not do much about anyway.

Since the 9/11 attacks, policies by the Bush administration concerning international relations have only further ostracized us from the rest of the world, and thwarted terrorist attacks continue to increase. The national debt increases with no sign of stopping. Casualties rise daily, the fighting continues and none of the original aims of the war have yet been achieved. We have not found Osama bin Laden, we have not found any of the supposed weapons of mass destruction, and we have no means of coping with something like an anthrax attack.

While we are more aware these days of the threats of terrorism, we have thus far failed to combat this problem. It will take a new administration before America can begin to look toward being safer. The current policies are only placing the country in further danger, and are putting the US in greater debt so that we will be unable to deal with further attacks later. As we try to bring democracy to the rest of the world, we are denying our own citizens the values of true democracy, through policies like the PATRIOT Act, a clear violation of the Constitution.

Five years later, an additional two hours at the airport before flight departure and an immeasurable loss of self-security later, the government has not done nearly enough to make the US safer since Sept. 11. ★

**The main editorial board of *The Dart* concluded in a 2-3 vote that America is not safer since 9/11. Our editorial board is comprised of the co-editors-in-chief and managing editors.**

28 september 2006

★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

#### Iraq & Terror

According to a 30-page report called the National Intelligence Estimate, the war in Iraq is spreading terror. US intelligence stated the war has led to the recruitment of violent Islamic extremists to become potential terrorists and their numbers are increasing faster than we can eliminate the threats they pose. Democrats have used this report to illustrate the need for a change in leadership, and the election of new candidates this November.

## staff

### Editors-in-Chief:

Nicole Farley & Alison Raybould

### Managing Editor Editor of News:

Mary Kate Bird

### Web Editor:

Aly Brownlee

### Managing Editor of Design:

Colleen Owens

### Copy Editor:

Kate Rainey

### Managing Editor of Visuals:

Kathleen Pointer

### Graphics Editor:

Breanne Sigler

### News/Features Editor:

Emily Becker

### Advertising Manager:

Libby Conwell

### Lifestyles Editor:

Sarah Cooper

### Writers & Photographers

Carlie Campbell  
Nicole Gravino  
Jaime Henry-White  
Liny Kaufman  
Maddy McGannon  
Claire McInerney  
Allison Pointer  
Caroline Quinn  
Rachel Schwartz  
Sarah Smith  
Anne Tampke

### Fine Arts & Entertainment Editor:

Katie Meyers

### Opinion Editor:

Elizabeth Nelson

### Sports Editor:

Kelly Nelson

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

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

**Letters Policy:** The Dart encourages letters to the editor about topics covered by the paper or other issues. Letters can be sent to the staff in the following ways: In person to Mr. Eric Thomas in Music & Arts 205; by mail to St. Teresa's Academy, Attn: Eric Thomas, 5600 Main Street, Kansas City, 64113; or by email to ethomas@stteresasacademy.org or to dart.editorinchief@gmail.com. Letters should be limited to 300 words. The Dart staff reserves the right to edit or shorten letters for publication.

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

# Reality TV sinks to all-time low with racism



**Brewing tensions** ★ This season of “Survivor” separates 20 participants into four groups based upon race. The “tribes” are segregated into, clockwise from bottom left, Caucasian, Hispanic, African American and Asian. This division has created controversy on different levels. **PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT DIRECT**

## CBS producers opt to divide teams by race in latest season of ‘Survivor,’ promoting segregation, division

by NICOLE FARLEY  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Just when everyone thought reality television couldn't have any less tact, CBS announced that the thirteenth season of “Survivor” would divide its 20 competitors into four teams according to race: African-Americans, Asians, Caucasians and Hispanics.

The idea was simple enough in theory. The show had already gone through different themes, and had included teams that were divided by age and by sex. However, racial boundaries are an entirely different set of issues in the United States' sensitive culture. To think that such a large group of people would attempt to rationalize such a

disgusting promotion of racism is utterly disturbing.

The producers say that the decision was largely made in order to promote minority inclusion on the show; however, it's difficult to see it as anything but a shameless attempt to boost ratings. Though it was the biggest primetime broadcast of the evening for its Sept. 14 premiere and garnered 18 million viewers, it was the least watched “Survivor” premiere since the opening season in 2000 (with 15.5 million viewers). And even though some have called this a success (reality television ratings have been dwindling over the past couple years), the show has still not achieved its goal of minority inclusion. The producers have included only four

racers; there are many other people who are still being excluded.

As could have been expected, much of the stereotyping came from within the teams themselves. The participants have now crossed from the realm of reality television into the world of acting, because they are trying so hard to play the part of “a typical African-American,” or “a regular Hispanic.” Some of the generalizations the competitors make about themselves and their teammates are astonishing. There is an interesting dynamic at play in the show (particularly within the Asian team, between the nail salon owner Cao Boi and his teammates) between those who are comfortable perpetuating the stereotype and those whom, despite the fact that they agreed to be on the show, seem bothered by the labels. The Caucasian group shied away from stereotyping the team as a whole and instead opted to focus on

the personality stereotypes that their members fit into (jock, family man, party girl, alternative girl and the studious type). This brings up another issue: what does grouping the teams by race prove? The final “survivor” must be chosen based on who can successfully ‘outwit, outplay and outlast’ the other competitors, which has more to do with personality, physical ability and intellect than race.

Ultimately, the show will be a failed experiment, because there are too many variables and no control. The competitors will run into problems of conflicting personalities, and will also have a difficult time not falling into a trap of playing too far into those racial stereotypes. The show has already tried dividing the teams by age, by sex and now by race. Next season, viewers ought to keep an eye out for teams to be divided by sexual orientation. ★

# Missouri law limits teenage drivers

Legislature decides ‘intermediate’ drivers cause some preventable wrecks, takes measures to keep adolescents focused on watching road rather than friends, peers

by SARAH SMITH  
Staff Writer

A recent change in Missouri law hopes to take some of the initial pressures and deadly distractions off of young drivers. In an effort to reduce accidents and fatalities, the state legislature passed a law to keep amateur eyes solely on the road.

“Any law that will reduce injuries and deaths in our state we are supportive of,” said Jackie Rogers, systems management specialist for the Missouri Department of Transportation.

As of Aug. 30, intermediate drivers – ages 16 to 18 – are prohibited from having more than one other person under the age of 19 in the car during the first six months of their license, and no more than three after that. The state has a ‘graduated driver program’ in place as a step-by-step approach to total freedom on the road.

According to Rogers, drivers under 21 make up less than 10 percent of the licensed population but account for over

30 percent of the motor vehicle accidents; statistics that only work to reinforce the stereotype of the reckless teen driver.

“We continue to lose far too many young people needlessly on our highways due to speed, driver inattention and impaired driving,” said Patrol Superintendent Col. Roger Stottlemire in a statement to the Associated Press.

One problem with the change is that it has not received much publicity and few people are aware of the new policies.

“What new driving laws?” asked junior Jordan Leinen when questioned how they would affect her.

Leinen received her license one month ago. Without knowing it, she has been illegally driving two to three girls to school everyday since then. Leinen's parents had set up similar rules of their own when she first got her license; she was not allowed to have more than two passengers. But, it's a lot easier to bend the rules at home than it is when you get pulled over.

“I guess it makes sense,” Leinen said. “I don't like it, but I guess some people need it to concentrate. I don't know if I'll really follow it though.”

Violation of this law won't be a life changing offense; it will come with a fine and a note on your record. Still, police officers don't want it to be overlooked.

“There will be more focus on weekend and night driving,” said Community Interactions Officer Dave DeLamare of the KCPD. “If an officer comes across it at an accident they'll be able to cite the driver. When you look at statistics the most common accidents are teen drivers.”

The rationale for this law is rooted in past trends. According to the Missouri Department of Transportation, in 2005, 267 people were killed and over 19,000 people were injured by a driver under the age of 21. This works out that one person was killed or injured every 26 minutes nationwide.

“Even adding one passenger to a car decreases the ability to drive safely, especially in female drivers,” said DeLamare. “Speed increases, safety declines and they become less aware of their surroundings.”

With gas prices on the rise and the parking space shortage crisis in the

STA parking lot, these new laws seem to compete with the commonly accepted benefits of carpooling.

“When you look at the news, teen driving accidents are everywhere,” said DeLamare. “This is an attempt to reduce these episodes. When you add more passengers you lose the ability to drive safely by virtue of inexperience and not knowing the ins and outs of driving.”

Providing rides to close relatives and operating farm equipment are the exclusions from the rule. But are police officers really going to believe that you were driving all four of your sisters to the farm? Will this just result in MacGyver-esque tactics to conceal the forbidden passengers? Because teens want to hold on to the few liberties they have, anything that seems threatening to their freedom becomes a violation of fundamental human rights. But skepticism of laws such as this one may not be the best approach.

If the Department of Transportation is correct that this will have a significant impact on the safety of Missouri roads, is six months really that long to wait? Although it certainly takes away from the allure of piling into a new car on your sweet sixteenth, hospital gowns and body bags aren't so glamorous either. ★

28 september 2006  
★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

**Clinton Reacts**  
Last Friday, former President Bill Clinton was interviewed on Fox News Sunday by Mr. Chris Wallace. Wallace posed the question, “Did you do enough to connect the dots and go after Al Qaida?” Clinton accused him of a “conservative hit job.” “That's the difference in me and some, including all of the right-wingers who are attacking me now,” Clinton said. “They ridiculed me for trying. They had eight months to try, they did not try. We contracted with people to kill him. I got closer to killing him than anybody's gotten since.”

# Sacrifices are necessary for safer airplane travel

COLLEEN OWENS



MANAGING EDITOR OF DESIGN

In light of the recently foiled terrorist plot to incapacitate 10 US airliners traveling from the UK, both the US and British airports have announced temporary restrictions on certain carry-on items that contain liquids and gels.

To the horror of the average convenience-obsessed American, beverages, lotions, toothpaste and other average-sized toiletries have all been prohibited as carry-ons. While these limitations may seem ridiculous, the reasons for implementing such strict regulations are logical and necessary to maintain a safer country at this violent time in our nation. As we are waging a war overseas, certain terrorist actions have spawned an ever-growing need for increased homeland protection.

While the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) scurries to improve our flawed airline safety rules and screening technology, it is up to us to make the transition into a safer America easier. Whining about not being able to carry on our Aquafina water

**Airport Security Updates:**

- ★ One quart plastic zip bags filled with 3 ounce or less liquid toiletries are allowed in carry-ons.
- ★ Food or drink is allowed if bought in a secure boarding area.

**Tips for Easier Travel:**

- ★ De-clutter carry-on bags so it is faster to get through the X-Ray machine.
- ★ Pack liquids in checked baggage if possible.
- ★ Limit quantities of liquid items to what is necessary during flight

GRAPHIC BY BREANNE SIGLER

bottles is about as important as a toothpick in the wide world of international safety precautions.

Terrorists have gotten “creative,” and Americans must adjust to their more recent efforts to harm our nation through these “creative” means. The US should strive to be a few steps ahead of the terrorist mind, and prepare technologically for any possible future airline dangers. Unfortunately, according to their website, the TSA has recently postponed the installation of airport checkpoint devices, designed to instantly identify an explosive sort of any kind. Such technology would greatly improve air security, yet modifications are still being made to the new equipment and until then, it looks like

we’ll have to endure the dehydration of a commercial flight.

But these poor airlines are trying the best they can. Why would they even bother lugging around bloody mary mix were it not for the thirsty passengers awaiting their refreshments? You see, the American people will never go thirsty. It is the thought of having to give up something for the benefit of our country that jabs us. Why is that? So what if everyone is inconvenienced and must take an extra ten minutes to check all their liquids and gels instead of carrying them on! It’s a small effort to help our desperate airlines reconfigure safety measurements. That is all it is, no conspiracy or lie, just a matter of wanting what’s best for this nation. ★

## Photo Poll

How do you feel about the Pope’s recent comments about Muslims in which he quoted a 14th century text? He said, “Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.”



“[His comments] are valid because in the content he was using the quote was appropriate. Plus, no religion should be formed around violence.”

—Allie Fiss, senior



“The Pope was talking about how violence and religion do not go together. His soundbite was taken out of context to create violence.”

—Betsy Hansborough, theology teacher



“I find it stupid of him because [his remarks] were so blatant. Especially with all the radicals; his advisors should have known.”

—Sarah Lueke, junior

COMPILED BY MARY KATE BIRD

28 september 2006

★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa’s Academy

### ★in brief

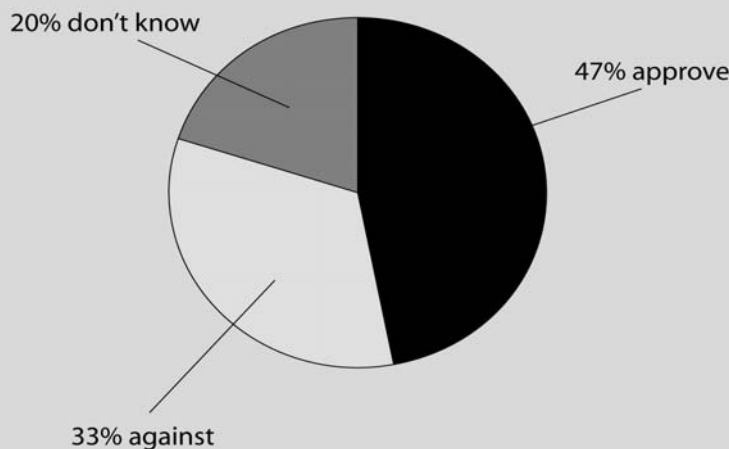
#### Saddam Hussein

The trial of Saddam Hussein resumed in Baghdad on Monday with Hussein being ordered out of the courtroom by the new judge. His defense team boycotted the trial, accusing the judge of violating Iraqi law. “I have a request here that I don’t want to be in this cage any more,” Hussein said. “I am the presiding judge, I decide your presence and your absence,” al-Ureybi, the judge told Hussein. “Get him out,” the judge then ordered to the guards. The argument started when a co-defendant referred to another co-defendant by his military rank. The court rejected the co-defendants being named by their former ranks.

Do you want your voice heard? Submit responses to what you have seen in issues of *The Dart* to Mr. Thomas in room M205.

## Voice off: Torture of suspected terrorists

100 students were asked how they felt about the torture of people who are accused of committing terrorist acts in order to gain incite into future plots.



COMPILED BY MARY KATE BIRD

## Photo Poll

COMPILED BY MARY KATE BIRD

How do you feel about the new Missouri law that restricts the number of people that can be in a car with a new driver?



“It’s good because [teens] are going to concentrate more on driving rather than who’s in the car or what music they’re bumping to.”—Leia Darden, senior



“It’s bad because you can’t carpool – if we care so much about bettering the world then why make laws trying to restrict us in doing so.”—Anna Martin, junior



“The point [of getting a license is] to carpool and take friends out. The fact that we can only take one person is inconvenient.”—Mollie Caffey, sophomore



# College mania engulfs campus



**Exchanging information** ★ William Jewell Associate Dean of Admissions Kelly Burnley Miller, from left, and STA graduate Carly Thomas-Perry answer questions from juniors Sarah Lueke and Lindsey Pericich. On Sept. 20, Rockhurst High School hosted an informational college fair in their gymnasium and lobby. **PHOTO BY KELLY NELSON**

## Representatives, counselors inform students about importance of beating deadlines, finding perfect fit

by **KATE RAINEY**  
Copy Editor

College festivities consumed STA Sept. 18-20. Five college related events occurred, starting with Catholic College Day and concluding with KC Catholic High Schools' College Night.

Catholic College Day was a smaller version of College Night. Several colleges lined up in the Goppert Building, answered questions and handed out information to juniors and seniors.

Senior College Planning Night happened Sept. 18 at Rockhurst High School in the Rose Theater, featuring representatives from four colleges. The event was held for STA, RHS and Sion seniors and their parents.

Senior Carolyn Wiedeman thought the night repeated what she already knew.

"That was the biggest waste of my time because it's nothing I haven't heard before," she said. "It was different in that it addressed the different kinds of colleges and I knew most of the information, but I think it still is important to tell people who don't know."

The representatives addressed what students should look for in a college and what they could expect as first-year students. The Seton University representative described college as "four short years of your life" that should be a wonderful experience. She also advised students to be themselves.

The other representatives

had a similar message. One representative discussed honors programs and advised students not to "meet deadlines, beat deadlines."

STA college counselor Steph Hart held a resume workshop in the Auditorium Sept. 19 during activity. She discussed what should appear on a resume, with her "Top 10 No-No's" and "Top 10 Yes-Please-Do's" lists.

"I thought it was good, it just reinforced everything," senior Christina Fuerst said. "It helped me realize that my resume was ready to be sent to colleges."

Wiedeman disliked the resume workshop as a junior.

"I went to the resume workshop as a junior thinking all this information would be so helpful and never looked at [my notes]," she said. "It didn't help as a junior. It really just made me feel more stressed out about writing my resume."

The Junior College Planning Night, held Sept. 19, had a workshop format. Representatives set up throughout the RHS campus, including the cafeteria and library. The topics ranged from ACT and SAT testing to student athletes.

"It really helped relax me, so I'm less nervous," said junior Elizabeth Kindscher. "They told us what to expect for interviews, essays, SAT and ACT."

Junior Amy Hymer agreed. "I thought it was incredibly useful and informative and I think it will be really helpful," said Hymer. "[It] gave useful tips that aren't widely known."

RHS hosted the College Night Sept. 20. Over 100 colleges, including Jesuit and local schools and schools nationwide, were represented.

College Night gave students an opportunity to ask questions, get on mailing lists and meet representatives responsible for recruitment at STA, said Hart.

Hart recommended students act professionally when meeting with representatives.

"[Students] are representing themselves, so they need to act intelligently," Hart said. "The impression you are giving [representatives] while talking to them is pretty important. [It's] a way for them to attach a face to the paperwork."

Hymer described the fair as "hectic." "I thought it was kind of crowded and it was hard to get information with so many people there," she said. "But it was helpful. The colleges I wanted to see I got to see."

The college fair helped Fuerst narrow her college choices when she attended as a junior.

"It made me start looking at the colleges there," said Fuerst. "There was one I crossed off my list because there was a rep there who didn't seem like she wanted to talk to me. Just talking to the reps helps you realize what the colleges will be like."

It also helped Wiedeman as a senior. "This year I felt much more confident asking the reps because I knew what I wanted," Wiedeman said. "I got to ask specific questions."

For those who missed the festivities, Shawnee Mission East will hold a college clinic Oct. 11 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on its campus. See [www.smecounselor.org](http://www.smecounselor.org) for more information. ★

# Women close gender gap in SAT scores

## College Board announces women outscore men on test's new writing section

by **ALISON RAYBOULD**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The College Board announced Aug. 29 that women outperformed men on the writing section of the SAT Reasoning Test by 11 points. This was the first time in 35 years that women outscored men on any section of the test.

"Traditionally, the purpose of the SAT has been to predict success in college," said Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions National Research Director Jeff Olson. "But it has been under-predicting female success as more women than men are going to college."

The average writing score overall was 497. Females scored an average of 502, while males scored an average of 491. The writing section aided females in closing the gap of total scores with males from 42 points to 26 points.

According to Olson, researchers believe that the SAT rewards boys for taking risks and girls for perfection.

"Boys take the risk of guessing, which is reflected on the multiple choice section," said Olson. "But girls consider different viewpoints and check work in a way that makes them more suited to answer open-ended questions."

Senior Amanda Wilson, who has taken the SAT once and plans to take it again

*The average writing score overall was 497. Females scored an average of 502 while males scored an average of 491.*

this fall, agreed that the female thought process gives women an advantage on the writing section.

"The general assumption is that women are better at creativity and writing," said Wilson. "We second guess ourselves and tend to analyze things more. Girls are more likely to sit down and plan their essay."

The new SAT with the required writing portion was administered for the first time March 12, 2005. These scores are the first full set to reflect those changes.

"The writing section was originally introduced to provide a national standard in the college application process," said STA college counselor Steph Hart. "The timed writing, in this discipline, truly reflects the student's ability."

Hart said that STA has traditionally scored higher than the national average for both the SAT and the ACT. The class of 2006 had an average ACT score of 24.4, while the national average was 21.1. The class of 2006 average score at STA beat the national average of 1518 by over 200 points for a score of 1721.

"The fact that women scored higher than men [on the writing section of the SAT] in terms of St. Teresa's does not surprise me," said Hart. "The score reflects more the demands and expectations of STA than whether or not a student is academically prepared for college."

According to Hart, STA chose the topic of writing to fulfill a requirement for

See SAT, page 22

28 september 2006  
★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

**Senior Scholars**  
Seniors Meaghann Taylor and Amanda Wilson were recognized as National Merit Semi-Finalists and are candidates to become finalists and a part of the National Merit Scholarship Program. Seniors Alison Raybould, Melissa Rhodes and Francesca Swalwell were named National Merit Commended students. These distinctions were based on their performance on the PSAT they took in October of their junior year.

### first semester October

- 11: Shawnee Mission East College Clinic 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- 13: Ms. Hart's deadline for Nov. 1 applications
- 14: SAT
- 18: No class for seniors
- 26: Senior class lock-in
- 28: ACT
- 30: Ms. Hart's deadline for Nov. 15 applications

### November

- 4: SAT
- 10: Ms. Hart's deadline for Dec. 1 applications
- 14: Kairos
- 17: Ms. Hart's deadline for Dec. 15 applications
- 29: College financial aid night at Sion

### 7:00-8:30 p.m. December

- 1: Ms. Hart's deadline for Jan. 1 applications
- 2: SAT
- 9: ACT

### second semester January

- 3: Ms. Hart's deadline for Jan. 15 applications
- 12: Ms. Hart's deadline for Feb. 1 applications

### February

- 2: Ms. Hart's deadline for Feb. 15 applications
- 10: ACT
- 26: Junior/senior service week

### March

### 10: SAT

- 16: Phase three service hours due
- 27: Kairos

### April

- 12: Senior retreat
- 14: ACT
- 16: Senior warning notices due
- 19: Deadline for copies of scholarship letters
- 20: Prom
- 23: Senior skip day
- 24: Seniors pick up caps and gowns
- 27: Senior Student productions
- 30: Final transcript request

### May

- 1: National candidate's reply deadline
- 8: Senior advisory farewell lunch
- 9-11: Senior final exams
- 17: Class day
- 20: Graduation

★in brief

**Bonding Time**  
The senior class officers coordinated a gathering for their class Sept. 22 in the Rose Garden in Loose Park. About 70 seniors met in the park and ate a breakfast donated by Hy-Vee. Several students read reflections about their class to the group. The seniors then walked together to STA and held an impromptu dance party in the parking lot.

# Administration rejects designated senior parking

Plan outlines solutions to crowded lot, draws tension between classes

by SARAH COOPER  
Section Editor

The STA administration rejected senior Mary Garcia's plan for designated senior parking spaces in the junior-senior lot Sept. 4. The plan proposed either a designated spot for each senior driver or designating two-thirds of the interior of the junior-senior lot for seniors until 7:40 a.m.

"It was a well-constructed proposal and I appreciated that," said principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker. "It has been a designated lot for juniors and seniors and [the administration does not] want to be exclusive to a certain class... We're selective enough when saying sophomores can't park in the lot. I want to give senior privileges, but I feel like [designated spots] would be too hard to monitor."

Garcia said she was upset when she heard the plan had been rejected, but said that she is still willing to talk to the administration about her plan.

"I know it was sort of a frivolous request," said Garcia. "I was disappointed, yes, but I wasn't angry or anything."

Hoecker said the junior-senior lot has space for 94-96 cars. Administrative assistant Julia Berardi gave out 114 parking stickers to sophomores, juniors and seniors at the beginning of the school year. Hoecker and Berardi agreed that 114 is not an accurate statistic of drivers able to park in the lot because many girls drive cars that already had stickers on them from previous years. Also, sophomores are encouraged to obtain parking stickers but are not allowed to park in the lot.

Garcia described parking on 57th Street as a senior as "frustrating."

"[The seniors] are older," said Garcia. "It is kind of unfair that we have to park on 57th Street again."



**A long walk** ★ Senior Kelli Hansen walks from her car, parked on 57th Street, into school on Thursday, Sept. 14. "I feel I have to come to school at 7:15 to get a spot," said Hansen. "Seniors should get priority when it comes to parking." PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS

Junior Paige Gramlich supported Garcia's plan.

"[The seniors] have waited two or three years to park in the lot," said Gramlich. "It's their last year. They should have a spot and not have to walk from 57th Street. I think [the seniors] deserve it because they get privileges. Once we become seniors, we get those same privileges. It's something to look forward to your senior year."

Junior Elizabeth Kindscher disagreed. She said there should be no distinction between junior and senior parking spots.

"It should be whoever gets there first," said Kindscher. "[If I were a senior] I'd still be against it. If I sleep in late, why should I get a spot when a

junior who gets there 20 minutes earlier has to park in the street?"

Hoecker agreed. "[Designated senior parking] is like classism among the classes," said Hoecker. "We're trying to promote a sense of community, helping each other."

Garcia argued that the lot is more crowded than it has been in the past.

"Because our class is so much smaller, [the plan] would be easy to use as a trial," said Garcia. "If the junior class doesn't get enough parking, we could change it back. We could always just try it out."

Hoecker said that STA has never had enough parking for the junior and senior

classes in the lot. The school expanded the lot behind the Goppert Building about five years ago, creating more parking for students. The administration has considered further expansion either south of the M&A Building or near the tennis courts and received estimates of \$100,000. She said that she wishes STA had the funds to create more parking, but renovating the buildings has taken priority in the recent past.

"[The lack of space in the junior-senior lot] is simply the reality and I don't consider it a hardship," said Hoecker. "Thinking that [having to park on the street] is this terrible injustice feels like a lack of appreciation for what we have: a beautiful campus and a great school." ★

# STA reacts to policy changes, enforcement

Administration unites, strives for 'united front,' school benefits from minute added to passing periods

by KATE RAINEY  
Copy Editor

Thanks to a new five minute passing period, students no longer need to sprint from class to class. The extra minute leaves room for placing (rather than jamming) books into a backpack, chatting with a friend while crossing the Quad and time to relax before the next class begins.

"Initially I didn't think one minute was that big of a deal," said social sciences teacher Denise Rueschhoff. "[But] I know I have seen a drop in the number of girls who are late to my class."

Rueschhoff also noticed the minute missing from her class.

"I think for the first couple weeks, it has seemed like the [classes] are shorter," she said. "You wouldn't think you'd notice, but you do notice."

According to Ms. Mary Anne Hoecker, principal of student affairs, the idea of changing the schedule was brought up numerous times before, but never approved because it extended the school day.

Before the 41-minute classes were created, each class period lasted 36 minutes. Teachers felt they needed more time, so the administration lengthened classes, which automatically lengthened the school day.

The administration decided to change the schedule to 40 minute classes and 5 minute passing periods after math teacher Rich Wilson suggested it.

"The one extra minute, I thought, served a bigger purpose in the passing period than it did in your class," Wilson said. "It's like a 25 percent increase in your passing period time."

During the faculty in-service days, the new schedule was put to a vote. The

*"I feel that extra minute really does help out a lot."*  
Sherie Wallace, sophomore

faculty overwhelmingly approved it, said Hoecker.

Wilson feels that the new schedule benefits students and teachers alike.

"I think that students feel much less rushed," Wilson said. "One, they're on time, [two] they're much calmer, and three, I don't feel rushed transitioning from one class to another."

Sophomore Sherie Wallace enjoys the extra minute in her passing period.

"I feel that we have enough time to get from class to class, which is good," Wallace said. "I feel that extra minute really does help out a lot."

Hoecker is pleased with the change. "I think it was the right time for it and I'm really happy with it," she said.

The administration felt the uniform policy and food outside the cafeteria were other issues that needed to be addressed.

"It feels important to have consistency in what we say and so we wanted the adults in the school to support each other in the rules that have been set," Hoecker said. "We wanted a united front."

Junior Eleanor Dillon is not thrilled about the stricter enforcement.

"I liked how last year people could wear different sweaters and get away with it," Dillon said. "I used to like to wear cut-off tights, which is kind of nitpicky. I mean, they're black tights."

Hoecker explained that the food policy needed enforcement because of bug problems.

"It feels good to be fair across the board and some of it was very practical," Hoecker said. "When you have food in all areas of the school, you can't always control the spills and it just attracts too many ants and bugs."

Hoecker seems optimistic about the emphasis on policy.

"I think what we might be changing is some students attitudes about disregarding



**Dodging SBRs** ★ Junior Eleanor Dillon checks her uniform while returning to class Sept. 26. During orientation for the 2006-2007 school year, principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker stressed the importance of staying in uniform. PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER

some of our rules: the attitude that I can hold to the rules that I want to and disregard the rules I want to," Hoecker said. "Because a certain percentage of students follow the rules and values of school, and I think there is a smaller percentage of students that do not. The question is whether we can bridge that gap." ★

# FDA certifies contraception pill for over-the-counter sale

Controversy surrounds decision allowing women to purchase 'morning-after pill' without prescription

by **BREANNE SIGLER**  
Graphics Editor

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Plan B, an emergency contraception pill taken after sexual intercourse, for over-the-counter sale to women over the age of 18 on Aug. 24.

"Plan B acts primarily by stopping the release of an egg from the ovary (ovulation)," according to the FDA website. "It may prevent the union of sperm and egg (fertilization). If fertilization does occur, Plan B may prevent a fertilized egg from attaching to the womb (implantation)."

The FDA approved Plan B to be sold by prescription only in 1999, and members have been working to make it available over-the-counter since 2003. A Barr Pharmaceutical Company spokeswoman estimated that 1.5 million packs are sold each year. The recent approval for over-the-counter sales has sparked controversy, especially for those with religious beliefs opposing birth control and emergency contraception.

"Birth control is really an issue about sex," said Ms. Mimi Harman of STA Campus Ministry. "When people don't realize the sacredness and consequences of sex, then they have to resort to this pill."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops agrees with Harman, calling the pill "completely unacceptable."

The Catholic Church doesn't oppose Plan B just because it's birth control. They consider it to be a "chemical abortion" according to Cardinal Egan of New York.

President Bush appointed Dr. David Hager to the FDA advisory board that was reviewing Plan B's over-the-counter application in 2002, according to CBS News' *60 Minutes*. Hager argued against Plan B.

"I'm not in favor of promotion of a product that would increase sexual activ-

ity among teenagers," said Hager.

Harman agreed that Plan B would increase sexual promiscuity.

"[Taking Plan B] is an irresponsible choice because [users] trying to fix something that in the first place they weren't ready for," said Harman. "[Plan B] makes it easier for people to think of sex as meaningless."

Ms. Ann Bode-Rodriguez, teacher of health in P.E. at STA, also agrees that teens are not prepared for sex to begin with.

"My prayer is that there wouldn't be a need for such a thing [as the morning-after pill]," said Bode-Rodriguez.

One of the major concerns of the FDA was whether or not the pill was safe and appropriate for preteens and teens to be able to buy Plan B over-the-counter.

"There isn't enough scientific evidence that young teens can safely use Plan B without a doctor's supervision," wrote Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, head FDA commissioner, in a memo.

However, there is no scientific evidence that the Plan B pill itself is unsafe for teens, according to the FDA website.

The FDA first proposed to make the age limit 16 and over, but then changed it to 18 and over.

Another possible outcome of making Plan B an over-the-counter drug is an increase in sexually transmitted diseases.

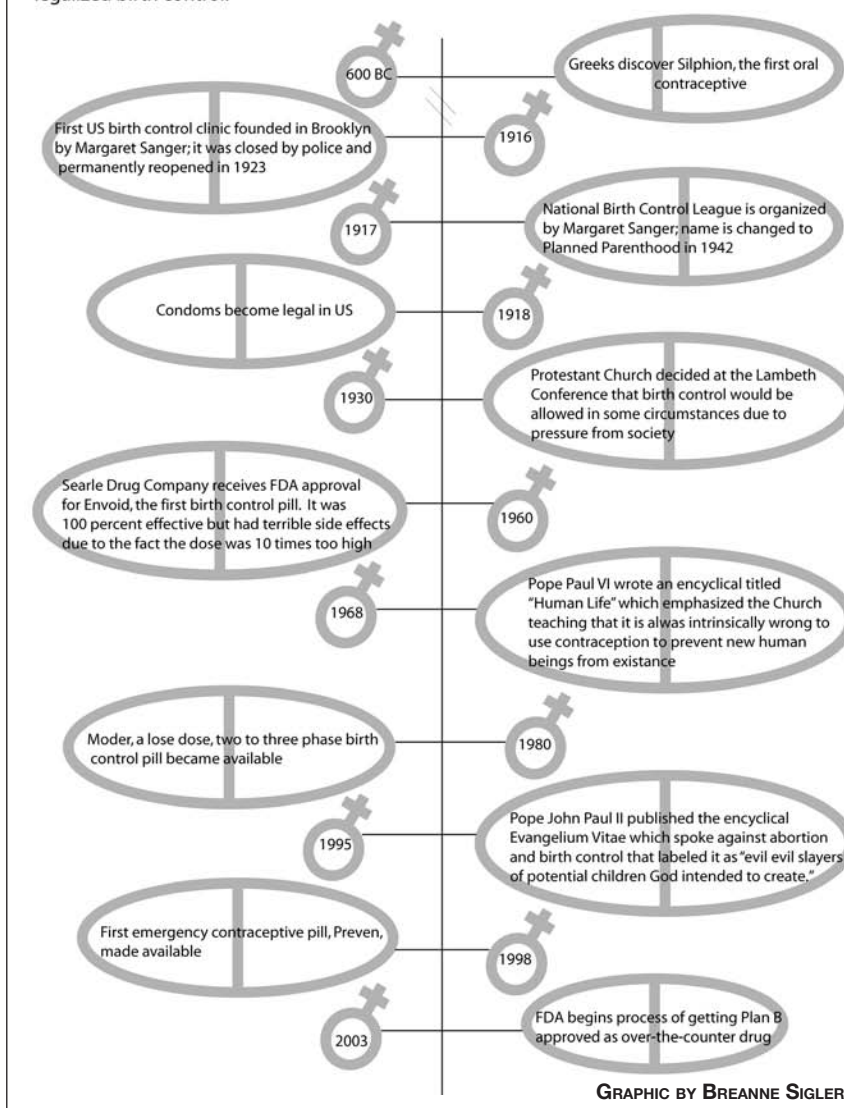
"I'm saying that it is possible that with the use of Plan B, the individual may put herself at greater risk," said Hager.

Plan B sales are expected to begin before the end of the year, and are estimated to cost between \$25 and \$40 for one dose. As the pending sales approach, controversy still surrounds this decision.

"[Plan B] is another way for society to take away individual responsibility and personal reflection about consequences of [one's] actions," said Harman. ★

## A History of Birth Control

Birth control has existed for thousands of years. Methods have evolved from primitive, like dung and wool, to more advanced, like pills and patches. The government and the Catholic Church both banned birth control at first, but unlike the Church, the government eventually legalized birth control.



GRAPHIC BY BREANNE SIGLER

28 september 2006  
★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

**Cutting Costs**  
According to CBS News, Wal-Mart plans to reduce the prices of about 300 generic prescription drugs, with a new \$4 price for a typical monthly dose. The program will cover all of Florida by January and will be nationwide by the end of next year.

# Vaccine prevents cancer-causing virus

Merck Co. produces research supporting treatment for women that prevents human papillomavirus

by **ELIZABETH NELSON**  
Section Editor

By the age of 50, at least 80 percent of women will have had this infection. It sounds like something as simple as strep throat or chickenpox, but this infection can also lead to cancer, infertility and skin inflammation.

This common disease known as HPV (human papillomavirus) will affect at least 50 percent of all sexually active people, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. On June 8, a new vaccine called Gardasil was approved for girls ages 9-26 by the Food and Drug Administration and it may be the answer to preventing some forms of HPV and its effects.

There are over 70 types of HPV, but only some of these affect the genital area. Gardasil targets four strains of HPV: HPV-6, HPV-11, HPV-16 and HPV-18. HPV-16 and HPV-18 are the cause of about 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases. HPV-6 and HPV-11 are the cause of about 90 percent of all genital warts cases according to the CDC.

"I think every girl should get [the vaccine]," said theology teacher Mary Jo Coughlin. "Any time there is a vaccine available, people should get it, as long as it has been proven safe."

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States and is passed through vaginal sex or anal sex with an infected person. The CDC has stated that no research has shown the passing of HPV by toilet seats, kissing, holding hands, poor personal hygiene, sharing food or swimming in pools or hot tubs.

"HPV is spread through sexual activity and is so dangerous because most women do not show any symptoms, so they do not get tested," said a gynecologist from the National Women's Health Organization, who wished to remain anonymous as not to promote her practice.

Studies done by Merck & Co., Inc., a pharmaceutical research company, have shown 100 percent effectiveness in preventing HPV-16 and HPV-18 in women who had not been previously exposed. These tests also show the vaccine lasts at least four years, though long-term results remain unclear.

"I recommend that all of my patients who are the appropriate age get [Gardasil]," said the same anonymous gynecologist. "My own daughter got it."

Junior Olivia DeSimio is one student who plans to get the vaccine.

"I want to [have the vaccine] because I want to know that I have less of a

chance of getting cervical cancer," said DeSimio. "Unless you never have sex, you're not going to know that you don't have HPV."

Many people who contract the virus do not show any symptoms, and unless they ask their doctor, they may not be tested for it. Not all HPV cases lead to complications. In fact, most cases of HPV infections clear on their own according to the CDC.

Some are still unwilling to discuss the disease and its effects, believing that it will lead to increased sexual activity among teenagers.

"It's all about educating parents," said Coughlin. "Some parents think that if they walk their daughter in to get the vaccine, they're condoning promiscuity, but that's just wrong."

DeSimio feels that modern society and entertainment are factors of increased sexual activity.

"Children grow up at a more rapid pace and 12 year-olds are already having sex," said DeSimio. "It's taking away their innocence. The media, parents and influences from friends all cause this. It's important for people to know this, and people aren't going to know unless everyone starts talking about it." ★



GRAPHIC BY ELIZABETH NELSON

# THE ART OF COLLEGE PREP

Eighth grade morning math class prepares students for accelerated academics

by COLLEEN OWENS  
Managing Editor of Design

Mary Frey was at the top of her math class in seventh grade and wanted a challenge for her last year at St. Thomas More. STA had the answer, offering an accelerated Algebra I course before school every day for selected eighth graders, taught by Dr. Joe Grantham. Her reasons were simple for taking the course this year.

"I want to get a good head start," said Frey.

### What is it?

Dr. Joe's morning math class has been held at STA for more than 15 years.

"When you're in grade school, you're like the star of your math class; when you come here [everybody's] a star," said Grantham.

The prerequisites to take the class include scoring a 90 percent or higher on the math portion of the seventh grade Iowa Testing of Basic Skills (ITBS) or testing highly on the High School Placement Test (HSPT). About 30 students are admitted yearly from diverse educational backgrounds, and partake in their first high school level class, which is an incentive for many students.

### Why is it hard to do?

College admissions often look at a student's transcript for the rigor of classes taken, stressing the importance of academic acceleration on resumes even more.

The morning math class is one of several options for advancing academically at STA and is one of the earliest sources of placement. Unfortunately, barriers stand in the way of some students and their goals in school.

Senior Shannon VanBuskirk received an invitation in the mail to apply for the math class when she was in eighth grade. Excited about the idea, she subsequently talked to her assistant principal at St. Thomas More, but was disappointed to hear her responses to the program.

According to VanBuskirk, the assistant principal said that due to the class time she would miss in the morning from taking the course, she would not be excused, ultimately dissuading VanBuskirk from signing up.

"I was really frustrated because I like math and I wish I had gotten on the accelerated path," she said. "I have taken normal math since, just because I did not have the encouragement."

Frey's mother, Ms. Ruth Frey noticed the tension the math class provoked in the case of her daughter, who is not allowed to receive the perfect attendance award.

"They did not give these girls the opportunity to be late," she said. "They also make them sit in the hall [during their regular math time] because teachers say they would be disruptive."

Ruth Frey believed these actions prevented students from attempting to join the math class, making it more difficult for these same students to gain admittance into certain honors classes later in their high school careers.

Those who either decided not to apply, did not test high enough, or were not aware of the program, know the struggle to advance to an equal academic standing with those who took the eighth grade course.

Ms. Nancy Hand, principal of academic affairs hopes students will take the course for more than advancement alone.

"I never underline the main benefit of program to a family as getting them on the honor's track," said Hand. "That never enters my mind. Quite frankly, if a student qualifies, it is a decision a family needs to make using all the resources available to them which is previous performance, teacher input and recommendation."

### How do I do it?

As a self-identified poor standardized test taker, senior Allie Fiss was, "really upset," with the notion of taking Essentials of Algebra her freshman year because of poor math scores on her entrance exam.

"I did not know I had the option to go to summer school [and catch up] to Algebra I," said Fiss, an example of the average student who did not take the eighth grade morning math class.

"So, Mr. Wilson gave me the idea of taking two math classes. No one had really ever done that before; it was not common."

After passing Algebra I with A's, Fiss decided to undertake both Geometry and Algebra II her junior year.

"I was so focused on showing [the administration] I could do it," she said. "I had the work ethic, I had A's, and they knew I was not just doing it to be in the smart classes."

Fiss used to wonder if she would regret her decision to move ahead; but now looks back with relief.

"I am so happy I did it because I am now taking Trigonometry and that looks good for college."

Although the math department discouraged students from attempting to do so personally. Interested students should contact Ms. Roseann Hudnall or Ms. Mary Casey in admissions for academic counseling on the subject.

Performing poorly on either the ITBS in grade school or the HSPT, however, does not prevent students from qualifying the "testing out" exam given in May, according to Hand. Teachers may also move students to different classes depending on their progress in the first few weeks of school.

Hand does not encourage parents to plead their daughter's admission into a certain class.

"STA, like other schools, do not allow parents to place students in classes," said Hand. "Students are placed in class based on performance in previous classes, standardized testing and teacher recommendation. We are not different from any educational institution in setting standards. And, in life there often are qualifiers that must be met."

Fiss understands qualifiers and is proud to have reached the school's standards. The bottom line is, you have got to know what you have got to do to get ahead," said Fiss. ★

## STUDENT RESUME

### ACADEMICS

MORNING MATH CLASS: 8

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD: 9, 10, 11, 12

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

DUKE UNIVERSITY TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM: 9, 10, 11, 12

## HART'S "DOS" AND "DON'TS"

(COLLEGE COUNSELOR, MS. STEPH HART, OFFERS HER BEST TIPS FOR BUILDING A PERFECT RESUME)

**DO INCLUDE BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION; DON'T TURN YOUR RESUME INTO A NOVEL**

**DO LIST ACTIVITIES BY LONGEVITY, THE MORE RECENT SHOULD BE LISTED FIRST; DON'T USE "TH" AFTER YOUR GRADES (EXAMPLE: 9, 10, 11, 12)**

**DO INCLUDE NAME ON EVERY PAGE OF YOUR RESUME**

GRAPHIC BY COLLEEN OWENS

# School no longer out for summer

Students utilize free time by enrolling in prestigious college programs

by ANNE TAMPKKE  
Staff Writer

This summer, STA students enrolled in college prep summer programs throughout the country. According to the college counselor Ms. Stephanie Hart, about one third of the senior class participated in a college program this summer.

### What is it?

Attendees were given unique social, travel and educational opportunities by living on actual college campuses and learning from credible professors.

Hart encourages STA students to attend these programs for the college

eleventh graders who showed exceptional standardized test scores from seventh grade and were invited to take the SAT reasoning test or ACT Assessment college entrance exam. Summer programs for students of that age range are located at university campuses mostly along the east coast and even at nearby University of Kansas.

The rigorous schedule is equivalent to a year of a high school course in a three week period for the students. Students in the TIP

ing on my own, I love learning about things I wouldn't have learned about in school."

The Explore program is split into three sections based on age level. Pavicic attended the senior program and took two classes one focusing on behavioral neu-

eligible for them online. Most programs require a certain SAT or ACT score and a written teacher recommendation.

### Why is it hard to do?

"They basically want to know about your work ethic and that you want to be there," said Pavicic of the Explore admissions process.

Hart suggests all students should look into these programs, despite the high prices. Duke TIP costs \$3,100 and Explore costs \$3,895 for a three-week session. TIP provides financial aide to students in need and scholarships are available to students based on geographic origin, ethnicity and orthopedic disabilities. According to Hart more and more students are getting involved each year and scholarships for these programs are attainable.

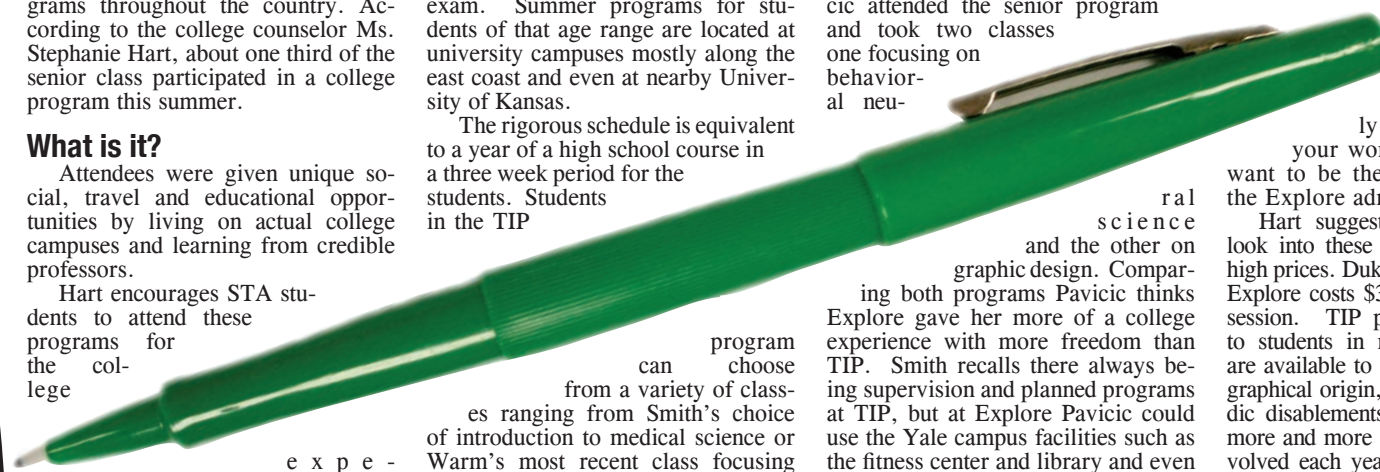
Although neither Smith, Warm nor Pavicic received college credit for their course work this summer, they agree it gave them a "leg up" by experiencing college first hand.

"I don't think [Explore] will help me get into college, but it helped me know what it was like," said Pavicic.

### How do I do it?

To download application forms and learn more about TIP or Explore visit their web sites:

[www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu)  
[www.explo.org](http://www.explo.org) ★



stressed at her résumé lecture on Sept. 19 that schools want to see how students are spending their free time.

"These are not watered down classes, they are taught by college professors giving students a true taste of college life," said Hart.

Juniors Anna Warm and Kellyn Smith attended the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) this past summer, Warm returning for her fourth consecutive summer and Smith experiencing it for the first time.

TIP is a program for eighth to

ral science and the other on graphic design. Comparing both programs Pavicic thinks Explore gave her more of a college experience with more freedom than TIP. Smith recalls there always being supervision and planned programs at TIP, but at Explore Pavicic could use the Yale campus facilities such as the fitness center and library and even room around the town of New Haven within certain limits.

Along with academic enrichment many social opportunities open up to students who come from across the country and even the world. Warm remarked that she was the only student from the Kansas City area at her TIP chapter at Appalachian State University. Pavicic said that two of her best friends were from Brazil and that she met many people from Spain and a boy from Turkey.

Although Smith, Warm and Pavicic were invited to attend these programs, any student may apply to be

"It was good because I learned how to live on my own and make my own decisions," said Pavicic. "I loved be-

# Students take advantage of service opportunities

STA stresses the importance of volunteering for every year in high school

by Katie Meyers  
Page Editor

Community service became a graduation requirement in 1988, however volunteer service at STA is not limited to upperclassmen.

### What is it?

For one full week during both their junior and senior years, students are exempt from classes to work with a specific not-for-profit agency for at least 30 hours per week. An additional 30 hours are to be earned on the student's own time.

"To me, service is woven in all that is STA," said theology teacher Ms. Robin Good. Good is the current moderator of the junior/senior service projects and also a leader in campus ministry. She says that every year there is some sort of service endeavor led by students that has nothing to do with the graduation requirement, such as the collection of care packages for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Last year, STARter Seminar, a freshmen course that meets during Activity 2 throughout first semester, brought in guest speakers to promote service. One such speaker was college

counselor Ms. Steph Hart.

"I place a lot of emphasis on service not just for [college] applications, but for what it does for you as a person," said Hart.

According to Hart, there are some colleges that offer scholarships for leadership and community service. These scholarships are often given by Jesuit universities, and the committees that award them usually look for a student that is involved in community service beyond any school or NHS requirements.

However, these awards are not always given to the student with the most hours, but rather to the student who best exhibits the spirit of community service. If the committee sees someone who has recorded their ser-

vice down to the minute, they know that he or she is doing it only for the credit.

"Yeah, [putting community service on a resume] is selfish, but so is reporting all of your sports awards and academic achievements," said Hart.

"You are doing what you need to do to afford an expensive collegiate education and if that extra \$1,000 dollars is all you need to get that, then be selfish. At least you're helping other people in the process."

amount of hours," said Krugh. Many students arrive on campus their freshman year with past experience in community service. For some, the desire to help the community stays with them, but others find it hard to continue when it is not required. "I've gone to the Upper Room a couple times, but not a lot," said Krugh. "I started going there in grade school."

### How do I do it?

Students can find volunteer opportunities on the community service bulletin board located on the first floor of the M & A Building, next to the Chapel.

According to Good, some agencies that are often looking for volunteers are Youth Service Alliance, Bridging the Gap, Bishop Sullivan Center, Upper Room and Children's Connection.

Good also recommends that students keep track of their service hours on the President's Volunteer Service Awards web page ([www.presidentialserviceawards.gov](http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov)). Directions for the site can be found in the "Junior/Senior Service Project" section of the STA website.

"I like [the presidential service website] because it encourages service from the heart," she said. ★

*"You are doing what you need to do to afford an expensive education, and if that extra \$1,000 dollars is all you need to get that, then be selfish."*

Steph Hart, college counselor

# Fitness finishes second to competition



**Stretching out** ★ Sophomores Lauren Durie, from left, Emily Bullington and Samantha Barker stretch after running from school to 63rd Street on Sept 4. The three runners, along with the whole cross country team, were required to run a timed try out, the second in the history of STA cross country, to join the team. **PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS**

28 september 2006  
★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

## ★in brief

**Alumna honored**  
STA graduate Kate Hercules, a member of the Missouri State University women's soccer team, was recently named the Prairie Farms/Missouri Valley Conference Scholar Athlete of the Week for the week of Sept. 11. To qualify for the award, the athlete must have at least a 3.0 average GPA and attend a Missouri Valley Conference school for at least a year.

Hercules was also recently named the Brine/Missouri Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Week. Hercules' defensive presence has helped her team to a record of 7-1-3.

## Cross country, track hold timed try outs to enforce importance of joining teams for competition, fitness

by LINNY KAUFMAN  
Staff Writer

Running sports at STA continue to hold try outs to keep teams competitive. Still, athletes choose to run for a variety of reasons. Some are in it for the competition, some for the workout, some for their college transcripts, while others are just looking for fun.

This was the second year STA cross country held try outs. Athletes were required to run 3.1 miles in 28 minutes. The track and field team also holds try outs each year. Holding try outs pushes girls who were planning on running just to stay in shape, into thinking hard about running for the competition.

Sophomore Kaitlin Zidar, who failed to meet this year's required cross country time, said her reason for trying out was not for the competition.

"Cross country should be a non-cut sport," said Zidar. "I was just trying out for it to exercise; I wasn't trying to be incredible. I think people could use it to stay in shape and not just compete."

However, cross country coach Karen Moran Redlich believes most of the athletes on the team run for reasons different from Zidar's.

"I think they do cross country because it gives them a sense of personal satisfaction and accomplishment," said Moran Redlich. "They like the teamwork aspect, and they're the students that are not afraid of a challenge. The majority run competitively, and athletes can be competitive at any level."

Freshman Jordan Miller said she and her friends run cross country for many of these same reasons.

"At the beginning, some of my friends ran cross country to meet people and have fun," said Miller. "Right now we're all

kind of in it for the competition. We try to break our records each meet and just keep getting better. It's a lot of teamwork because while you're racing, people will run by and cheer you on."

Track and field coach Ann Bode-Rodriguez similarly believes high school sports are about the competition.

"[Track and field] should be about competition," said Bode-Rodriguez. "Last year, and this was among the distance program, many girls were there more as a means of conditioning and staying in shape than for the competition."

Senior Mary Nulton was one of the 17 girls in the distance program who resigned during last year's track season. Nulton said she thought track would be a good way to stay in shape throughout the year.

"I decided to do track because I love running," said Nulton. "I love cross country, and I thought track would be kind of similar to that. Also, I figured it would be a good way to keep in shape during the springtime."

Bode-Rodriguez believes the 17 girls who resigned from last year's track team were more interested in fitness than competition.

"I think that there are two things that happened," said Bode-Rodriguez. "One was they were more interested in conditioning. Another was they knew my number of entries at meets are limited, which meant their opportunity to compete was limited as well."

However, Nulton said track was not what she had anticipated.

"I think with track it's a lot different," said Nulton. "In track, you run around in a circle, which is not as enjoyable. With cross country you are running outside, often where people can't see you, and it's a lot more mental. The team aspect is amazing.



**Under pressure** ★ Sophomores Kelly Younger, left, and Lauren Medina run on the Brookside Trolley Trail, Sept 7. The girls ran a four-mile timed workout that day. According to Medina, cross-country is fun because of the community the team forms. "Everyone is encouraging and we support each other," said Medina. **PHOTO BY MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS**

I love coach Moran and every single girl I run with; we have tons of fun. It's a huge team thing."

Bode-Rodriguez also believes that sports should be fun for everyone involved.

"I hope track and field was fun for everybody," said Bode-Rodriguez. "To me, that's why you do high school sports, to have fun. But you have to be ready to work hard. Athletes should be ready to compete. There are a lot of valuable lessons to be learned by being involved in a sport."

Nulton said that STA cross country runners are always ready to compete.

"I would definitely say cross country for everyone on our team is about winning," said Nulton. "We always run to win. Even the slowest people on our team are competing."

However, Zidar thinks that many girls should use sports such as track and cross country as a way to stay fit even if they are not competitive.

"I thought cross country would be fun and the sweatpants are cute," said Zidar. "It looks good for college applications to be involved. I would just run to exercise and have fun because I'm not competitive at all."

Whether for the work-out, the competition or the people, athletes of all grades continue to enjoy sports like cross country and track at STA.

"There are three main things I like most about cross country," said Miller. "Number one is the races. Number two is the people on the team. And number three is the pasta parties!" ★

# Juniors make college decisions based on soccer commitments

While seniors struggle with college applications, two juniors plan to attend, play at Notre Dame

by CLAIRE McINERNEY  
Staff Writer

After 12 years of soccer, four jerseys and one team, it all paid off for juniors Molly Campbell and Ellen Jantsch as they made a verbal commitment with the University of Notre Dame right before the start of this school year.

After Campbell went to Notre Dame's soccer camp, she wrote a letter to the coach of possible tournaments she would attend. Then, she went to Notre Dame last spring, watched the team play and met with the coach.

"It was a little intimidating," said Campbell. "I didn't know what [the coach] was going to say. I didn't know if they wanted me but it all turned out okay."

Campbell and Jantsch are set to join senior Lauren Fowlkes at Notre Dame after graduation. All three girls made verbal commitments during their junior years.

Campbell and Jantsch, who play together on KCFC Alliance Jazz and the STA varsity team, worked with their club coach throughout this college process.

"I have a meeting with all of the players to see what schools they were interested in," said Mr. Richard Davies, who has coached Campbell and Jantsch for eight years on KCFC Alliance Jazz. "The student comes to me with a short list of their interest. I call the coaches and open the lines of communication. They usually ask me to compare the players to other players in the region that have similar abilities."

Jantsch, who began thinking about colleges last year, attended the Notre Dame camp this summer.

"I went to a lot of camps over the summer; one was Notre Dame," said Jantsch. "Notre Dame already knew who I was because of Molly and Lauren. I got to know the program; it was like a week-long visit. I realized that was the school I wanted to go to, but I didn't make a decision because that would have been too fast. I waited two weeks, then that's where I knew I wanted to go."

Campbell has been working on this process since freshman year. A player can commit to a school anytime throughout their high school career.

"I was one of the last ones to commit," said Campbell. "Most girls our age committed last year."

Both girls verbally committed just before the start of this school year, which is the biggest commitment that a junior can make. A verbal commitment can be broken during their senior year if the athlete feels the school is not right for him or her. However, both girls will have a



**Kicking off** ★ Junior Molly Campbell, right, finishes her sprints during her soccer practice Sept. 13. She has verbally committed to attend Notre Dame University after graduation.

PHOTO BY CLAIRE McINERNEY

formal signing when they make their final commitment to the school.

Notre Dame, which is also known for academics, poses a challenge for Campbell and Jantsch.

"I think it will be hard," said Campbell. "But they have tutoring or whatever. Others do it, so I have to, too."

Davies believes STA has prepared the girls for what they will experience in college.

"Because their academics are so high, they have the best kind of tools to go and deal with being a student athlete," Davies said. "STA gives them a head start."

Jantsch is worried, though, about adjusting from this environment into a new one.

"I think it's going to be really hard," she said. "With school and adjusting and stuff, it's a new atmosphere in soccer and with teachers. That's a big factor freshman year. Just adjusting and getting on track and focusing."

For an easier transfer, both girls are currently enrolled in AP and honors classes and work to keep their grades up.

"I still have to send them a transcript," said Campbell. "I don't really want to send them one with 'D's'. They stressed to keep my grades up."

The athletes fear that lack of balance between grades and athletics.

"I just hope I don't fail out of my classes," said Jantsch.

Despite the academics, Campbell is looking forward to playing at such a high



**On the ball** ★ Junior Ellen Jantsch, left, shields the ball from St. Thomas Aquinas junior Caroline Duke during soccer practice Sept. 13. Jantsch will join junior Molly Campbell at the University of Notre Dame.

PHOTO BY CLAIRE McINERNEY

level. Last season, Notre Dame, the Division I School, had a record of 25-1-1. The only question is whether the girls are prepared for this level.

"I don't think I'm prepared fully," said Jantsch. "You're always trying to get better, and keep working and stay focused, so I know what to expect. I need to keep at it and stay focused." ★

|          |                    |          |
|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Sept. 20 | O'Hara             | L (3-11) |
| Sept. 21 | Smithville         | Rain out |
| Sept. 25 | Notre Dame de Sion | L (2-6)  |

# Denotes William Chrisman Tournament  
+ Denotes Winnetonka Tournament

## JV Softball (0-9)

|          |                    |          |
|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Aug. 29  | Grain Valley       | L (13-8) |
| Aug. 30  | Mid Buchanan       | L (1-16) |
| Aug. 31  | Park Hill South    | L (0-21) |
| Sept. 1  | Rockbridge         | L (1-10) |
| Sept. 5  | Notre Dame de Sion | L (0-15) |
| Sept. 11 | St. Joe Benton     | L (5-11) |
| Sept. 12 | O'Hara             | L (6-9)  |
| Sept. 20 | O'Hara             | L (2-10) |
| Sept. 25 | Notre Dame de Sion | L (1-9)  |

## Varsity Tennis (14-3)

|          |                     |     |
|----------|---------------------|-----|
| Aug. 22  | Truman              | W   |
| Aug. 25  | St. Thomas Aquinas  | L   |
| Aug. 29  | Park Hill           | W   |
| Aug. 31  | Blue Springs        | W   |
| Sept. 5  | Pembroke Hill       | W   |
| Sept. 7  | Notre Dame de Sion  | L   |
| Sept. 11 | St. Joe Lafayette   | W   |
| Sept. 12 | Barstow             | L   |
| Sept. 14 | Blue Valley West    | W   |
| Sept. 15 | Guilfoil Tournament | 1st |
| Sept. 18 | St. Joe Central     | W   |
| Sept. 20 | St. James           | W   |
| Sept. 25 | Bishop Miege        | W   |
| Sept. 26 | Aquinas Tournament  | 9th |

★ The Stars will compete in the district tournament on Oct. 5, held at the Plaza. The state tournament begins Oct. 19 in Springfield.

## Varsity Softball (5-14)

|          |                     |          |
|----------|---------------------|----------|
| Aug. 21  | Liberty #           | L (0-11) |
|          | St. Joe Central #   | L (3-10) |
| Aug. 23  | William Chrisman #  | L (3-13) |
|          | Grandview #         | W (22-0) |
| Aug. 24  | North Kansas City # | W (4-3)  |
| Aug. 29  | Grain Valley        | L (3-4)  |
| Aug. 30  | Mid Buchanan        | L (1-11) |
| Aug. 31  | Park Hill           | W (5-2)  |
| Sept. 1  | Rockbridge          | L (2-7)  |
| Sept. 5  | Notre Dame de Sion  | L (6-10) |
| Sept. 6  | Ruskin              | W (20-0) |
| Sept. 9  | St. Pius +          | L (4-6)  |
|          | Smithville +        | L (3-4)  |
| Sept. 11 | St. Joe Benton      | L (2-8)  |
| Sept. 12 | O'Hara              | L (1-5)  |
| Sept. 13 | Hickman Mills       | W (18-0) |
| Sept. 19 | St. Joe Lafayette   | Rain out |

## ★Scoreboard★

### Cross Country

|          |                                  |     |
|----------|----------------------------------|-----|
| Sept. 2  | Liberty Invitational (2.1 miles) |     |
|          | Varsity                          | 4th |
|          | Junior Varsity                   | 3rd |
|          | Sophomore                        | 1st |
|          | Freshmen                         | 2nd |
| Sept. 9  | Blue Springs                     |     |
|          | Varsity (5K)                     | 3rd |
|          | Junior Varsity (5K)              | 2nd |
|          | C Team (2.6 miles)               | 1st |
| Sept. 16 | Hazelwood Central (5K)           |     |
|          | Varsity                          | 4th |
|          | Junior Varsity                   | 2nd |
| Sept. 23 | KC Metro (5K)                    |     |
|          | Varsity                          | 1st |
|          | Junior Varsity                   | 4th |
|          | Sophomore                        | 2nd |
|          | Freshmen                         | 1st |

★ At the KC Metro Championships, junior Elizabeth Keaveny finished second with a time of 18:53 minutes. Her time beat the previous record held by Karina Milan, 18:56 minutes, that stood 13 years. Keaveny lead the team to a first place finish out of 30 teams. This is the first time STA has won the meet since 1991.

### Varsity Volleyball (21-1)

|          |                     |         |
|----------|---------------------|---------|
| Aug. 28  | Park Hill           | W (2-0) |
| Aug. 30  | Blue Valley West    | W (2-0) |
|          | Shawnee Mission NW  | W (2-0) |
| Aug. 31  | Oak Park            | W (2-0) |
| Sept. 7  | Notre Dame de Sion  | W (2-0) |
| Sept. 9  | Lee's Summit West * | 1st     |
| Sept. 12 | St. Thomas Aquinas  | W (2-1) |
|          | Blue Valley West    | W (2-0) |
|          | Bishop Miege        | L (0-2) |
| Sept. 16 | Lee's Summit West * | 1st     |
| Sept. 19 | Park Hill South     | W (2-0) |
| Sept. 25 | O'Hara              | W (2-0) |

\* Denotes Tournament Play

★ On Monday, all three volleyball teams defeated the Archbishop O'Hara Celtics at a home in two games a piece. Ms. Lori Hanaway was appointed head coach this year after 16 years of coaching at O'Hara.

### JV Volleyball (18-1)

|          |                    |         |
|----------|--------------------|---------|
| Aug. 28  | Park Hill          | W (2-0) |
| Aug. 31  | Oak Park           | W (2-0) |
| Sept. 7  | Notre Dame de Sion | W (2-0) |
| Sept. 9  | Park Hill South *  | 2nd     |
| Sept. 19 | Park Hill South    | W (2-0) |
| Sept. 23 | Bishop Miege *     | 1st     |
| Sept. 25 | O'Hara             | W (2-0) |

\* Denotes Tournament Play

### Freshman Volleyball (12-6-1)

|          |                       |         |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|
| Sept. 6  | Notre Dame de Sion    | W (2-1) |
| Sept. 9  | St. Thomas Aquinas    | L (1-2) |
|          | Bishop Miege          | L (0-2) |
|          | Notre Dame de Sion    | W (2-1) |
|          | O'Hara                | W (2-0) |
| Sept. 11 | St. Thomas Aquinas    | L (1-2) |
|          | Bishop Miege          | L (0-2) |
|          | Blue Valley Northwest | L (1-2) |
| Sept. 16 | Lee's Summit North *  | 1st     |
| Sept. 18 | Pembroke Hill         | W (2-0) |
| Sept. 21 | Notre Dame de Sion    | W (2-1) |
|          | St. James             | W (2-1) |
|          | Bishop Ward           | W (2-0) |
| Sept. 25 | O'Hara                | W (2-0) |

\* Denotes Tournament Play

### Varsity Golf (36-10)

|          |                     |     |
|----------|---------------------|-----|
| Aug. 24  | Liberty             | W   |
| Aug. 29  | Blue Springs South  | W   |
| Sept. 6  | Richmond Tournament | 4th |
| Sept. 12 | Blue Springs Quad   | 1st |
| Sept. 13 | Warrensburg         | W   |
| Sept. 13 | Pembroke Hill       | L   |
| Sept. 18 | Sion Tournament     | 5th |
| Sept. 21 | Lee's Summit North  | L   |

★ This year's golf team holds the best season record in all of the program's 10-year history, thus far. Senior Mary Kate Bird set the 18-hole school record with a score of 75 at the Sion Invitational at Blue Hills Country Club on Districts begin Wednesday at Drumm Farm in Independence. State will be held at Deer Lake in Springfield starting Oct. 19.

28 september 2006

★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

## ★in brief

**Chief Recovers**  
Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Trent Green continues to recover from the severe concussion he received Sept. 10 in a game against Cincinnati. Green did not play in the Chiefs' loss on Sept. 17 against the Denver Broncos. Doctors are unsure as to when it will be safe for Green to return to the field.

In response to the large amount of concerned emails and letters he received, Green posted a thank-you letter on the Chiefs' website.

# New coach aims for state title

New volleyball coach relieves apprehension, directs focus toward winning championship

by NICOLE GRAVINO  
Staff Writer

After coaching and teaching at Archbishop O'Hara High School for 16 years and winning three volleyball state championships, Ms. Lori Hanaway decided it was time for a change. Last year, Ms. Amy Carlson accepted a coaching position at Avila University and was faced with leaving behind a team of STA girls she had worked with for three years. These two coaches knew each other outside of volleyball, and discussed Hanaway taking over the team before Carlson announced she was leaving. After going through the interview process, Hanaway was hired as the varsity volleyball coach and Accelerated World History teacher.

"I left for a lot of reasons, but it was primarily just a good opportunity," said Hanaway. "I knew STA had good players and a strong volleyball program."

As athletic director, Mike Egner interviewed those interested in the position of head coach. Six people applied for the position, but Egner narrowed the field down to a few candidates to be presented to Ms. Nancy Hand, who made the final decision.

"Ms. Hanaway had a lot of experience and strong teaching and coaching skills," said Egner. "She stood out the most of all the candidates."

Egner hired Hanaway with the hope she would help STA win their first volleyball state championship.

"She seemed to have really high standards for us because of our high athletic potential," said senior Michelle Jantsch. "She told us she wanted to win state and that would be our goal for the whole year."

The news that Carlson was leaving came as a surprise to her volleyball team. She called a meeting last spring to tell them she would be leaving STA to take the position at Avila.

"She came in joking around saying she was going to Sion," said Jantsch. "Then she told us about the job at Avila and said



**Accustomed to victory** ★ Varsity volleyball manager Brandon Lingle, from left, head coach Lori Hanaway, assistant coach Mimi Harman, sophomore Linny Kaufman, senior Jessie Kramer and freshman Lindsay Bowers celebrate a point in the second game against Bishop Miege Sept. 9 at the Mo-Kan Challenge at Lee's Summit West. The Stars won the match in two games and went on to win the tournament, defeating St. Thomas Aquinas in three games for the final. **PHOTO BY SARAH COOPER**

she was sad to leave, but wanted to help improve a team that was struggling and needed help."

Hanaway met the girls at the annual team volleyball camp, held to prepare those who are interested in trying out and give coaches time to see the field before

entering a tryout situation.

"I was really intimidated by her at first because I had only seen her from the other side of the net playing against O'Hara," said junior Erin Vogel. "Once you get to know her, she is not like that at all."

The volleyball team worried they

would have a hard time adjusting to Hanaway, but were pleasantly surprised.

"[Carlson and Hanaway] are a lot alike," said Vogel. "Hanaway puts the best players on the court in the same re-

**See COACH, page 22**

28 september 2006

★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

## ★in brief

### Winning Tigers

Last Sunday, the University of Missouri football team earned a spot in the Associated Press's Top-25 list, entered at 25 after a win over Ohio last Saturday. This is only the sixth time in the program's history that the team has started off 4-0. The Tigers have not been nationally ranked since early 2004. This Saturday the Tigers will play their Big XII Conference opener against the Colorado Buffaloes at Missouri's Memorial Stadium. There, the Tigers will attempt their fifth game in a row, a feat they have not accomplished since 1981.

# Soccer stars unite, bring home another trophy

Four-time state champions acknowledge leadership, unity as reason for success

by CLAIRE McINERNEY  
Staff Writer

After a final score of 4-0, the varsity soccer team won their fourth state championship in the past five years last spring. With a final season record of 24-1-1, the Stars attribute their success to the unity and the leadership of the seniors.

"The seniors were amazing, I loved them," sophomore Caitlin Boger said. "[Past seniors] Riki [Allen] and Ashley [Devine] made me and Paige [Kuhlmann] comfortable with the team as the only freshmen on the team. They weren't just like 'little freshmen,' they brought us into the team."

Recently, the seniors have stepped up as leaders and ran the team to the Missouri State Tournament four times. The leadership drives the girls to win.

"I feel the leadership is even stronger because the drive to win is in every one of those girls," said Devine, now a freshman at Lewis University. "They know

what its like and want to do it again. They feel like they need to prove people wrong who say we can't do it. We are the underdogs and feel good when we win."

Winning State the past four out of five years can be difficult to stay on top. Junior Mary McCue thinks that it drives the other teams to beat the Stars.

"As champions, we are more of a target," McCue said. "With such a streak, it's harder to beat the other teams. It's easier being the underdogs; it's harder to maintain our title."

Also, McCue, Boger and Devine think the unity on the field helps bring the team to victory.

"The unity is amazing," Boger said. "Everyone is a friend to each other. There aren't any groups so there aren't any fights really. And it gets stronger as soon as we get on the field."

The girls not only have good relationships on the field, but off the field, also.

"People call us the cult during soccer season," Devine said. "We are together everyday after school. We have sleepovers and hang out on weekends. It seems kind of odd because of the different ages, but we have one thing we



**Number one** ★ Minutes after winning their fourth state championship in five years, members of the varsity soccer team celebrate for a cameraman. The Stars defeated Fort Zumalt West 4-0 on June 3 at Anheuser-Busch Stadium in St Louis to capture the title. **PHOTO BY LAUREN BEFORT**

all enjoy."

Every player has one thing in common; their enthusiasm for soccer.

"Our passion and drive to win [makes this team so strong]," Devine said. "We

know how it feels to win. Back to leadership, the returning girls know what it feels like. It's a great feeling; we go to state as underdogs and win. That's our motivation." ★

# Crown Center hosts Celtic culture



**Girls in curls** ★ O'Riada Irish dancers Brigid Walton, left, STA freshman Mollie Pointer, and Lara Pucci perform "The Crossroads" at the Kansas City Irish Festival Sept. 3. The O'Riada Academy of Irish Dance, headed by Ms. Christine O'Riada, hosted an Irish dance competition in the Crown Center Westin Hotel Sept. 2. **PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER**

## Board of KC Irish Fest considers fourth annual celebration 'success'

by **EMILY BECKER**  
Section Editor

In its fourth year, the Kansas City Irish Fest is placed as one of the top five largest Irish fests in the country based on the estimated attendance of 70,000 Labor Day weekend.

"You can walk around and see everyone you know, it's probably akin to STA girls going to a Rockhurst football game," said Ms. Kelli O'Neill Wenzel, executive director of the fest and an STA alumna.

The three-day fest began as a merger of the Westport and Brookside Irish Fests. When those locations outgrew their space, the celebrations were combined and moved to the current location at Crown Center Square. According to [www.kcirishtfest.com](http://www.kcirishtfest.com), the Kansas City Irish Fest is "dedicated to promoting the culture, music, character and history of Ireland and of the Irish people who call Kansas City home."

Besides drawing attendees from the Kansas City area, this year, 1,700 hotel rooms were booked for those coming to the fest from out of town.

Junior Molly Hamid has been attending the fest with her family since she was young.

"I'm Irish and my whole family went and we just kept a tradition by going every year," said Hamid. "Most of the time, I meet a lot of people there because my mom knows everyone there."

Hamid cites the diversity of the fest from year to year as a reason she keeps returning.

"I have a great time every year and

there's always something new to look at and new bands are playing," she said.

Besides performances by bands such as The Elders, Enter the Haggis and Gaelic Storm nightly on three stages, the fest featured stand up comics, a children's area, the five kilometer Luck of the Irish Trot, an outdoor mass Sunday morning and the second annual KC Feis, an Irish Dance competition.

"This year it was loud and crowded, but that just made it more fun," said Hamid.

The fest was originally run on a volunteer basis and now about 1,000 volunteers help make the fest possible each year. According to O'Neill Wenzel, filling the volunteer spots is one of the biggest challenges of running the fest.

"I helped post the results of the competition which is pretty exciting because all the dancers come down to check and see if they've placed," said sophomore Katie Kenney, who volunteered at the Feis.

Her shift lasted from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., but she notes the shifts vary, some lasting the whole day. This year, the Feis, pronounced "fesh," was hosted in the ballrooms of the Westin Crown Center Sept. 2.

"There's dancers running around everywhere and the moms are trying to see who's placed and when the dances are," said Kenney. "A lot of people describe it as tons of girls with curls running around."

According to O'Neill Wenzel, the board of the Irish Fest has stated it was a success this year.

"We're really pleased with the results," she said. "The weather was great and it seemed that every age group was having a good time...Everyone keeps writing in or saying they had a blast."

★

# 'Seussical' challenges cast to ignite imagination

## Musical composed of children's stories strives to entertain all age groups

by **MADDY MCGANNON**  
Staff Writer

In the words of Dr. Seuss, "This was no time for play. This was no time for fun. This was no time for games. There was work to be done."

The cast list is posted, rehearsals have begun. The company of "Seussical" unites as one.

"Seussical the Musical," presented by the STA theater department, combines imagination with reality to create an active production. The play will be showcased Nov. 9-11 at 7:30 p.m. in the M&A Auditorium.

The cast of 33 STA and Rockhurst High School students rehearses Monday through Friday after school.

"The show is about imagination and being boundless," said director Shana Prentiss. "So is Dr. Seuss."

Stories of familiar Dr. Seuss characters such as The Cat in the Hat and The Grinch appear throughout the musical. However, "Seussical" also includes less popular characters, such as the show's hero, Horton the Elephant.

"It's a complicated show," said Prentiss. "In a way it's simple, but it doesn't really make a lot of sense."

Prentiss hopes the rhymes, songs, characters and set will create a Seuss-like world. Mr. Matt Barr, an artist and friend of Prentiss, is assisting in the construction and design of the set. Together, they hope to compose a colorful and interactive stage.

Rockhurst junior Jonny Swift plays the role of Horton the Elephant. This is Swift's sixth play of his high school career and by far, his most challenging.

"I've never had a role this big before," said Swift. "It's just that 'Seussical' is going to be all singing. It's hard remembering everything and conquering my nerves."

Junior Elizabeth Warwick agrees that she has come across one of the biggest challenges she has experienced in her acting career as well. She plays one of Dr. Seuss' most recognizable characters in Seussical, The Cat in the Hat.

"I have a huge expectation to fulfill," said Warwick. "It's hard to take a cartoon character who is in everyone's imagination and create a character everyone likes."

In "Seussical," The Cat in the Hat encourages a little girl, JoJo, to use her imagination.

"I see the Cat as being quirky, funny, and clever," said Warwick. "All of my lines rhyme and are in rhythm, which becomes extremely difficult."

Warwick says her idea of how The Cat in the Hat behaves will most likely change throughout rehearsals. To help get to character, Warwick reads Dr. Seuss books at home.

For senior Katherine Williams, "Seussical" will be her first STA production. Williams loves to perform, but never had the time to participate in a musical.

"Eighth grade was the only for real musical I have been in," said Williams. "But I do a lot of singing and dancing in my church plays during Easter and Christmas."

In "Seussical," Williams takes on the role of a Who. However, getting into character and perfecting her part won't be difficult.

"Mrs. Prentiss is doing a wonderful job



**Story Time** ★ Junior Kathleen Bryant, left, gets into character in front of the cast during a Seussical rehearsal on Tuesday Sept. 12. **PHOTO BY MADDY MCGANNON**

of directing us and getting us into character," said Williams.

Prentiss says that she has had theatrical obstacles while directing plays for the past six years at STA.

"Every time I pick a show there's some kind of challenge involved," said Prentiss. "Whether it be involving the audience, the cast, or even the director. If there's not a challenge then it's just not worth it. For 'Seussical,' the challenge is on the cast."

Performing over 30 musical numbers, this large cast, assisted by music teacher Shana Moore, truly has their work cut out

for them. According to Prentiss, perfecting "Seussical" will take time and practice.

"The cast must learn to not hold back," said Prentiss. "You have to be completely committed and give 110 percent at every practice."

Prentiss believes the ultimate goal of "Seussical" is to create a sense of nostalgia for adults and imagination for children. For her, this is an age bridging event is an opportunity to be thoroughly entertained and most importantly to feel like a kid again. ★

28 september 2006

★

The Dart

★

St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

**Twilight Zone**  
Tonight through Saturday a production of "The Twilight Zone" will be put on in Rockhurst High School's Black Box Theater. The performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Rockhurst senior Timmy Trebon is directing "The Twilight Zone" and STA junior Anna Martin is assistant director. Martin, sophomore Emily Schapker and senior Mikhala Lantz-Simmons are acting in the show.



★in brief

**Brotherly love**  
Pop singer Aaron Carter has broken off his engagement. The 18-year-old teen idol broke his engagement to 22-year-old Kari Ann Peniche one week after proposing on stage in Las Vegas, *US Weekly* reported on its web site Sunday. Peniche is a former Miss Teen USA and a former *Playboy* Playmate. She is also an ex-girlfriend of Carter's older brother, Backstreet Boy Nick Carter.

# Junior faces 'American Idol'

Claire McFarland travels to Tennessee to audition for the popular show

by LIBBY CONWELL  
Advertising Manager

At 4 a.m. on Sept. 3 in Memphis, Tenn., 16,000 people from around the country waited in line for a chance to become the next "American Idol." Among these people, stood STA junior Claire McFarland, who anticipated what was at the beginning of the line: a shot at fame.

"Trying out for 'American Idol' started as a joke," said Claire. "[Junior] Elizabeth Warwick and I would always laugh about it. I asked my mom if I could try out, and she loves the show so we booked a hotel room. Then so many people found out that I was going that I didn't want to back out."

Although Warwick did not go on the trip with Claire, she helped her get ready for her audition.

"She sang three songs for some girls and me in a free," said Warwick. "Then we told her which one to go with based on what sounded the best."

Claire and her mother, Ms. Cathy McFarland, left Sept. 1 and drove eight hours to Memphis. On Saturday, she received her ticket to stand in line. The next morning, they got to the arena at 4 a.m. where they waited in line for three hours until the doors to the arena opened.

"While waiting to get into the arena they made us get in groups to say cheesy things to the camera like 'Welcome to American Idol Season Six,'" said Claire. "Then we all had to learn this song about Memphis and sing it. They change it for every city."

As Claire waited to audition, she walked around and joined different singing groups.

"There were different people sitting around performing their songs for one another," she said. "So I found a few and sang with them."

Around 7 p.m., Claire got her chance to sing. On the floor of the arena were 12 tables with a producer at each one. Four people would sing a song of their choice and the producer would decide who went on to the second round and who went home.

"The producers looked at everyone with a neutral face," said Claire. "Only about 300 people went on to Round Two,



GRAPHIC BY LIBBY CONWELL

but you don't get to audition for Simon Cowell until Round Three."

Claire sang "Sunday Morning" by Maroon 5. Although she was not chosen to continue to Round Two, she still appreciated the experience and liked seeing all the people.

"I expected there to be more weird people there," said Claire. "There were a few costumes, but mostly everyone looked normal and sounded like Christina Aguilera."

Cathy also expected the crowd to be a little more interesting.

"You could count the number of strange people on two hands," she said.

Warwick thinks people choose the costumes and acts so the producers will remember them. She believes the judges do not always go for the best and that Claire should have been chosen.

"I think she totally deserved to go on to Hollywood," said Warwick. "I'd say she's better than half of those people." ★

## Edgy doctor drama returns to television

KATE RAINEY



VIDEOPHILE

"House" is a crime drama with stethoscopes and syringes instead of badges and guns and diseases instead of criminals. It conforms to the basic "Law & Order," "CSI" formula. In fact, you could set a clock to it. At fifteen after, there will be a misdiagnosis. Thirty minutes in, there will be a break in the case.

Despite the formulaic structure, "House," which launched its third season on Fox, remains the coolest medical show on TV (even better than "Grey's Anatomy") thanks to the obscure cases, writing and acting.

"House" follows a curmudgeonly Dr. Gregory House (Hugh Laurie) and his team of diagnosticians. The team deals with obscure medical cases, ranging from rare illnesses to unusual manifestations of common illnesses. The cases keep me coming back every Tuesday night at 7 p.m., even more than House's foul mouth. According to the creator David Shore in an interview on NPR's "Fresh Air," the cases are real. The writers research to find the most interesting cases to build a story around. I love learning that a rare symptom of Bubonic plague is insomnia. It gives the show a uniqueness you can't find anywhere else.

House's cynical personality spices up the show and gives it a humorous edge. Laurie brings to life the amazing character the writers have created. As a British actor, Laurie transformed from a regular bloke to a scruffy American doctor with a limp. That epitomizes great acting.

He also brings a subtlety to the character that cannot be found on most TV shows. In several episodes he shows feelings toward others besides his usual disgust and mild interest. But he does not break character when he shows empathy. In one episode, House deals with a young girl dying of cancer. He grows tired of everyone asserting her bravery. He feels that not all cancer patients are brave; some must be cowards. He attributes her courage to a brain tumor.

As the episode progresses, he discovers that she is, in fact, courageous. It was obvious from House's face and lack of sarcasm conveyed his admiration for this girl. He never broke down and cried or said he was impressed by this girl. This performance was impressive, especially coming from a Fox TV drama.

House is also delightfully sarcastic and each episode overflows with smart-alecky remarks and dry humor. Part of the humor also comes from House's lack of inhibitions when it comes to the things he says to other people. House even browbeats his patients. In one episode, House asks a patient's parents about their medical histories. They ask him, "How can you treat someone without meeting them?" House retorts, "It's easy if you don't get crap about it." This kind of mind-blowing, frank behavior is the calling card of the show. The writers try to pack as much humor and impolite behavior into each episode as they possibly can.

I love that House cuts through the BS and speaks his mind, especially when so many people are touchy feely. Most people can relate to wanting to rip into someone, or antagonize them for being an idiot. In this way, I idolize House. ★

## Student shows interest in 'indie' films

Junior Ellen Jantsch forms new club for movie lovers

by ELIZABETH NELSON  
Section Editor

With all the clubs STA has to offer, from art to drama, dance to cooking, one student still feels something is missing. Junior Ellen Jantsch is starting the Indie Film Organization and support is coming from many areas of the school.

"I was excited to learn about a student interest [in independent films]," said principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker. "I think it's great, because there are a lot of great independent films out there."

Jantsch, along with co-founder junior Hailey Caywood, is hoping that other students will learn what independent films have to offer.

"I want people to see new movies that

aren't as popular," said Jantsch. "It gives you a new perspective."

Jantsch credits her interest in independent films to several aspects of her home life.

"My parents are really into indie films and they would always take me to the Tivoli," said Jantsch, referring to the theater in Westport that shows independent films. "I've always had an interest in movies. I don't have cable, so I'm kind of forced to. Instead of turning on MTV and watching that for two hours, I go down to Blockbuster."

Jantsch expects a good turnout for the first meeting, which will be on Oct. 4, and hopes word of mouth will spur more involvement. Jantsch feels the first movie to be shown, "Spellbound," will attract many students.

"Every time I've mentioned [the club], people were interested," said Jantsch. "That's why I pursued it. I've only really talked to people in [the junior class] and a few in the sophomore class. We're going to make announcements the week of [the first meeting], so hopefully people will spread the word."



Ellen Jantsch

## 'Continuum' furthers artistic development

by NICOLE FARLEY  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

John Mayer's latest release finds the 28-year-old musician at his artistic height. His third full-length studio album, "Continuum," drifts slowly and steadily through an effort that is thematically more mature than his previous endeavors.

Mayer's first studio album, 2001's upbeat and fresh-sounding "Room For Squares" contained clever lyrics that centered mainly on searching for love, while many of the songs sounded different from one another.

2003's deeper "Heavier Things" had more electronic elements in the music, along with lyrics that expressed a searching need to find a place in life. Now, "Continuum" is Mayer's search for the meaning in life.

The album begins with the jazzy, laidback "Waiting On the World To Change." Mayer, in his signature husky, raspy voice, describes his disillusioned thoughts on the current state of the world in the aptly titled song. Later, on "Belief," Mayer continues the thought. "Is there anyone who ever remembers changing their mind from the paint on a sign?"

On tracks like "Stop This Train," Mayer hits more relatable emotions in his listeners, as he sings about the fear of growing old. "Don't know how else to say it," sings Mayer plainly. "I don't want to see my parents go. One generation's length away from fighting life out on my own." The cohesive song comes full-circle by the end, as the listener also hears from Mayer's father ("I tried my hand. John, honestly, we'll never stop this train"). Simple, yet full of very basically complex thoughts, this is typical Mayer - and it is here that he is best.

Though the album feels similar from song to song, the individual tracks are different. In "The Heart of Life," the listener realizes that Mayer must have been meant all along to be a lo-fi indie star, while the delicate, fragile and empty "Dreaming With A Broken Heart" floats with soft pianos. "Bold As Love" is full of intricate guitar work, particularly toward the close of the track, when the tones of improv in the guitars make the song sounds live. On songs such as this, Mayer often comes close to dragging it out too long, but ultimately, he always sounds like a professional doing so. For a young artist, Mayer shows an understanding of true musicianship, something generally lost in music today.

For a young artist, Mayer shows an understanding of true musicianship.

Overall, "Continuum" is some of Mayer's best work. Lyrically, the words are much simpler this time around, but the thoughts and constant searching still make their presence known. While his music continues to evolve, it doesn't necessarily get better or worse - just different.

Fans of "Room For Squares" may not appreciate the slow, mellow feel of "Continuum," but it's still more than worth checking out. Audiences will enjoy hearing the matured Mayer, as he begins to find himself and where he should be. As he sings during the track "In Repair," "I'm not together, but I'm getting there." ★

Lee captures

# BIG EASY



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

His post-Katrina documentary depicts life after destruction

by MARY KATE BIRD  
Managing Editor

Mr. Spike Lee's marathon effort "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts" is a passionate, eloquent attempt at capturing the confusion, anger, despair and grief caused by arguably the worst natural disaster in US history - Hurricane Katrina.

Lee opens "Requiem" with a montage of photos pre and post Katrina in New Orleans, emphasizing President George W. Bush and FEMA director Michael Brown's inabilities to realize the potential for devastation. Lee's expert method to compile a diverse amount of information into argument, while maintaining absolute absence from the film allows him to triumph over contemporaries to the likes of Mr. Michael Moore.

What is impressive about this film is how Lee managed to capture the local opinion without the use of "real" New Orleans celebrities like Mr. Harry Connick Jr. or Mr. Emeril Lagasse doing telethons to capture attention. The majority of the film is narrated by Ms. Phyllis Montana LeBlanc, a housewife living in the Lower Ninth Ward. LeBlanc's account is as unwittingly funny as it is bone-chilling. LeBlanc offers un-inhibited, humorous commentary to former First Lady Barbara Bush, who was publicly criticized for remarks made insinuating that the citizens of New Orleans living in FEMA-provided trailer homes were "better off" than they had been living in some of the poorer districts of New Orleans.

LeBlanc tells the stories of families still finding bodies in homes six months post-Hurricane Katrina. Lee and LeBlanc illustrate the disease still remaining within the city of New Orleans, how residents six months later still lack water and electricity. They talk of families suffering more because their insurance companies are bankrupt.

The title of the film is inappropriate. "Requiem" suggests that the city of New Orleans died on Aug. 29, 2005. But Lee shows a city that is very much alive and very much in pain in his depiction of the havoc caused by Hurricane Katrina. Through Lee, the feelings of New Orleans are made public. There are protests, slogans worn across T-shirts, volunteers combing the streets of the Lower Ninth Ward cleaning homes and a Mardi Gras parade defiant against the onslaught received by Hurricane Katrina. LeBlanc testifies that the people of New Orleans will fight and return stronger than ever. The people of New Orleans are not about to let their city die. ★

## 'Zephyr' blows through Kansas City museum

Kemper houses Asian-American fusion artist

by KATIE MEYERS  
Section Editor

Bold images, bright colors and a fascinating blend of traditional Japanese imagery with graffiti art is what you are sure to find in the exhibition of paintings by Gajin Fujita, entitled "Zephyr."

Fujita, a Los Angeles native, uses his artwork to combine his Japanese

roots with his modern Californian life. Expect to see samurai in front of the Los Angeles skyline and graffiti-style writing that covers gold leafed panels.

All of the pieces are beautiful at first glance; the contrast between the precise, clean figures and the illegible spray-painted characters keeps your eye on one painting for minutes at a time. But the exhibit only becomes more intoxicating as you uncover the symbolism.

The warriors are meant to represent modern-day conflicts between gangs and sports teams, opposing sides are marked with team logos or matching tattoos.

The panel-styled pieces and the gold leaf that is used in the majority of Fujita's paintings are reminiscent of traditional Japanese artwork. And the water, also present in much of his work, represents the Pacific Ocean that ties together California and Japan.

Fujita is clearly a very talented artist, one who leaves his audience thoroughly satisfied. Anyone even remotely interested in art is highly recommended to make a trip to the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. "Zephyr" opened on Sept. 8 and will be on display at the Kemper through Nov. 5. ★

28 september 2006

★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

### ★in brief

**Radio Oprah**  
As if Oprah wasn't busy enough, she now has her own satellite radio channel. "Oprah & Friends" is now available around the clock to paying subscribers on XM satellite radio channel 156. Monday's launch had Oprah, herself, in dialogue with her best friend of 30 years' standing, Gayle King.

# Stranger in a strange land

Student travels to Shijiazung, China for year as part of foreign exchange program, readjusts to life in US

by RACHEL SCHWARTZ  
Staff Writer

Sophomore Lauren Bly had never flown on an airplane alone before. Now, she was about to board a plane flying to China, where she would stay for almost a year.

"I couldn't get my carry-on in the overhead space and no one was helping me," said Lauren. "The flight attendant kept ignoring me. Finally the guy next to me said, 'Just put it under your seat.' The flight attendant came back and was like, 'That's not stowed properly.' And she said she wasn't going to lift it because it was heavy. She said I had to get it under my seat before we took off, or else they wouldn't take off. And I was just thinking, 'I wish my mom was here.'"

Bly went from living life in Missouri to living in Shijiazung, China as a foreign exchange student for almost a year. Upon arrival, Bly had to adjust to life without her friends and family and, as soon as she got back, she had to readjust to life back in Missouri. However, Bly said that the experience was worth it because of the lessons she learned overseas.

## Inspiration

Two years ago in Spanish class, Ms. Heather Macintosh was telling the class about two different exchange programs: Amigos de Las Americas and American Field Service (AFS). This sparked an interest in Bly who asked for an AFS brochure and ended up writing to them for an application.

"The reason I went was because the opportunity just presented itself," said Bly. "I was looking at the brochure and all the different countries and I've always had an interest in Asian cultures. I thought that going to China or some other Asian country was really a good thing because it's a culture completely different from ours... something I'd never experienced before, and that's what I really wanted."

Blue Valley High senior Abby Ramos is a friend of Lauren's who said that none of Lauren's friends really thought she would go.

"I remember a while ago she told us that she really wanted to go to China and she was going to try to become an ex-

change student," said Ramos. "We kind of thought she would try but she would never go through with it. So it was kind of a reality shock when she was like, 'yeah, you guys, I'm going to China.'"

Lauren and her parents then attended an AFS meeting in November 2004 and, according to her father, Mr. Dan Bly, that is when she decided she was going.

"I just basically explained to her that it would be a great opportunity for her," said Dan. "And that the only way for her to go was that if God provided the funds because it was going to be over \$10,000."

The money ended up coming from a variety of sources. Lauren applied for some scholarships through AFS and ended up receiving a \$500 scholarship and received some money for writing an essay. In addition, her church supplied her with \$1,000 to show their support of her short-term missionary work she wanted to independently do.

## Heading for China

It was the end of August 2005, the night came before Lauren had to leave. She said that she did not feel anything.

"I just didn't care," Lauren said. "And when I said goodbye to my mom and dad it was just like I was going to see them at the end of the day, because it didn't register. I really regret the way I said goodbye...because if I would have known everything I was going to go through, I would have hugged them a lot longer."

However, the reality did hit Dan. "It wasn't easy; she's my only daughter," said Dan. "Just seeing her leave and knowing that we wouldn't have at least any physical contact for a year was hard."

## Becoming acquainted

When Lauren arrived at the airport, the school administration met her and the six other foreign exchange students. The group then took a bus to the school where all the families were waiting to pick up their students.

Lauren's family was waiting for her with a bouquet of flowers. She said that this, as well as just being let into their house to stay, was an honor.

"Culturally, for Chinese, it's a very rare thing to accept people into their homes," said Lauren. "They don't have



**Lost in translation** ★ Sophomore Lauren Bly, pictured sitting on the steps of the Great Wall of China in June 2006, said that once she was able to see the Great Wall it was not as great as she expected. "After a while it seemed a lot smaller than I thought it would be and it was exhausting climbing all the stairs," she said. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

sleepovers. They don't really have dinner parties like we do here. And so outsiders aren't really welcomed. And even family members, they don't really invite them to stay at their house. So, as the year went by, I realized how it was a big deal."

Lauren lived with two different families while she was away. She lived with the first family for four months, but because they had two other daughters and therefore could not provide her with the proper attention, Lauren had to leave. Lauren's first Chinese family consisted of a mom, dad, and two sisters: Salena, 13, and Jasmine, 12. Lauren called Salena "Bei Bei" and Jasmine "Dan Dan," their nicknames.

Lauren's Chinese mother was an English teacher at a university. Lauren said that her mother was nice, but also pushy and controlling. Lauren's father spoke no English and said little.

Jasmine was very suspicious of Lauren. She said that when things started getting rough between Jasmine's mother and Lauren, Jasmine did not like her.

The second family lived on the fifth floor of an apartment, which is a typical Chinese home. It had two bedrooms, a living room, dining room, kitchen, two bathrooms and

an office, where Lauren slept.

In her new family, Lauren had a mother, father and brother, Bruce. None of them spoke any English. Because of this, it was hard for them to pronounce Lauren's name so they called her Lulu because it was easier.

The language barrier was at first a problem for Lauren but she soon learned to deal with it.

"I knew very little [Chinese]," said Lauren. "Basically the phonetic sound (similar to American alphabet) was all I knew. And that helped me with pronunciation. We had to use body motions at first to make ourselves understood and after that I kind of caught on to what they were trying to say."

## A day in the life

Every morning, Lauren would wake up at 6:30 a.m. to get ready for school. She would then eat a homemade breakfast prepared by her mom. It did not matter whether it was breakfast or dinner, the typical meal consisted of bread, rice or noodles, stir fried vegetables and, occasionally, fruit.

She would be out the door by 7 a.m.,

28 september 2006

★

The Dart

★

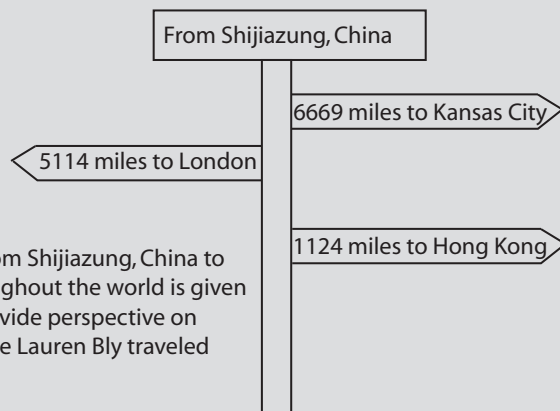
St. Teresa's Academy

## ★in brief

### Foreign Exchange

Every year, 11,000 students in more than 50 countries study abroad with American Field Service. The program has participated in international exchange since 1919. To participate, students must have a 2.8 GPA and complete an application. Overseas, the participants must agree to no driving, no hitchhiking and no illegal drugs. To find out more, visit [www.afs.org](http://www.afs.org).

## Journey Around the World



Mileage from Shijiazung, China to cities throughout the world is given to help provide perspective on the distance Lauren Bly traveled last year.

GRAPHIC BY BREANNE SIGLER

pedaling to school on her bike and arrive there around 7:20 each morning. Lauren said the school had two main buildings, the high school and middle school. They were white, but were always covered in dust.

"It wasn't primitive," said Lauren. "But it also wasn't what I am used to. The classroom floors were concrete. There was not really any pretty architecture or anything. The school was made for purpose, not for looks."

After a full morning of school, she would pedal back home for a lunch break and then return to school until 6 p.m. She didn't go to any special school; she went to school with the other Chinese students at Number 42 International School.

"I just sat through the day and read a book or listened to music," said Lauren. "That was my entire year. However, one class out of everyday, I would have Chinese class with all the foreign exchange students to learn Chinese."

In this class with the exchange students, they eventually took a test, HSK, to see whether or not they could get into a Chinese university.

"I just took this test to see how I would do," said Lauren. "I wanted to see if I could pass, and I did. But I would never go to a Chinese university because they aren't very good."

When school ended, Lauren would come home and study Chinese. Later she would watch television or go hang out with foreign friends or foreign exchange teachers. Then she would eat dinner and help with small chores around the house.

Lauren said that was her normal routine, but sometimes she was able to do other things, too. She saw the Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Warriors and went on a ten-day trip to a small province in southern China.

"There were fields and fields of these yellow flowers," said Lauren. "There were peasants farming and I could just see them with their hats and I was just riding my bike there and I was going up through this one village through the Chinese cemetery up to a temple at the top. And I talked to some Buddhist priests, and I don't think I'd ever be able to do that here."

## Spreading the faith abroad

Along with this, Lauren, who has been raised a Baptist, also did some independent missionary work. She attends Kansas City Baptist Temple and regularly attends services on Sundays and Bible Study on Thursday. She said that her religion is important to her and she wanted to share it with others. She focused on the people closest to her, her exchange family and people in her class and tried to tell them about God.

"The Chinese were interested in the different holidays we had, like Easter and Christmas," said Lauren. "And I would just use those celebrations and explain what they meant and why you do that. That would just lead to more questions about Jesus."

Besides talking to Chinese, Lauren also told other exchange students

about God.

"There was a guy from Germany who was an atheist," said Lauren. "Throughout the year I talked to him and explained the Bible to him. And at the end of the year he said to me, 'Lauren, I don't quite know what I believe in now, but I know there is a God.' If anything I made him think. That is the biggest victory for God."

## Homeward Bound

After almost a year of being away, Lauren came home on June 28.

"It felt really strange," said Lauren. "My family felt like strangers. They had all done things together that I didn't know about. I had to get used to my mom and dad again. I had to get used to American culture again."

Lauren's father was glad to have her home and noticed a change in her and noted that it took her a while to adjust.

"I could tell she matured more," said Dan. "It just seemed like she had a different character. I could see that the experience had really changed her. I knew she was glad to be home. It took a couple weeks for her to really feel like it was back to normal."

Besides it just being strange for her, she saw some things in America that made her angry.

"It kind of upset me when I first came back and I walked into a drug store," said Lauren. "I remember when I was sick in China, I had been sent some cold medicine, and I walked into that drug store and there were cold medicines in all these different flavors and forms," said Lauren. "It kind of made me angry just because we have so much excess. Because I was looking at chips and we have all these different flavors...They don't have all that."

Ramos also agrees that Lauren came back changed.

"I guess she came back a little bit more experienced with different cultures and you could tell she has more understanding about people being unique," said Ramos. "She has more stories to tell us. She has changed in the way that she is older and smarter and more understanding."

## Embracing America

Lauren said that when she arrived home, some things about her had changed. She now rides a bike differently because of the way the Chinese ride their bikes. Lauren said that the Chinese stand on the left pedal with one foot and kick off with the right foot every now and then; so they just ride it kind of like a scooter.

She also said that she bathes a lot more because, in China, the people only bathed about once a week. Along



**Foreign friends** ★ Sophomore Lauren Bly and the other foreign exchange students with the American Field Service pose for a group picture outside the entrance to the Terracotta Warriors in a small province south of China. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

with these things, she also eats healthier.

"My eating habits are different now," said Lauren. "Because over there they stir fried everything in peanut oil and everything was really greasy, I eat a lot healthier now. And I don't eat a lot of meat anymore because I saw how they butchered their meat over there."

Besides just picking up new eating habits and riding a bike differently, Lauren also said that she learned a lot from this experience and now appreciates things that she has in the US more than she did before.

Her father also noticed a change in Lauren.

"I think she's more appreciative of her home," said Dan. "Taking just one day at a time and she really sees how school over in China was different than here... and how she really enjoys St. Teresa's because it's better here, of course. Everybody was busy doing their own thing in China and she enjoys doing things here with her family. She really enjoys being able to take a shower everyday and all the things we take for granted she didn't have over there."

One thing that she likes better here is the sense of privacy.

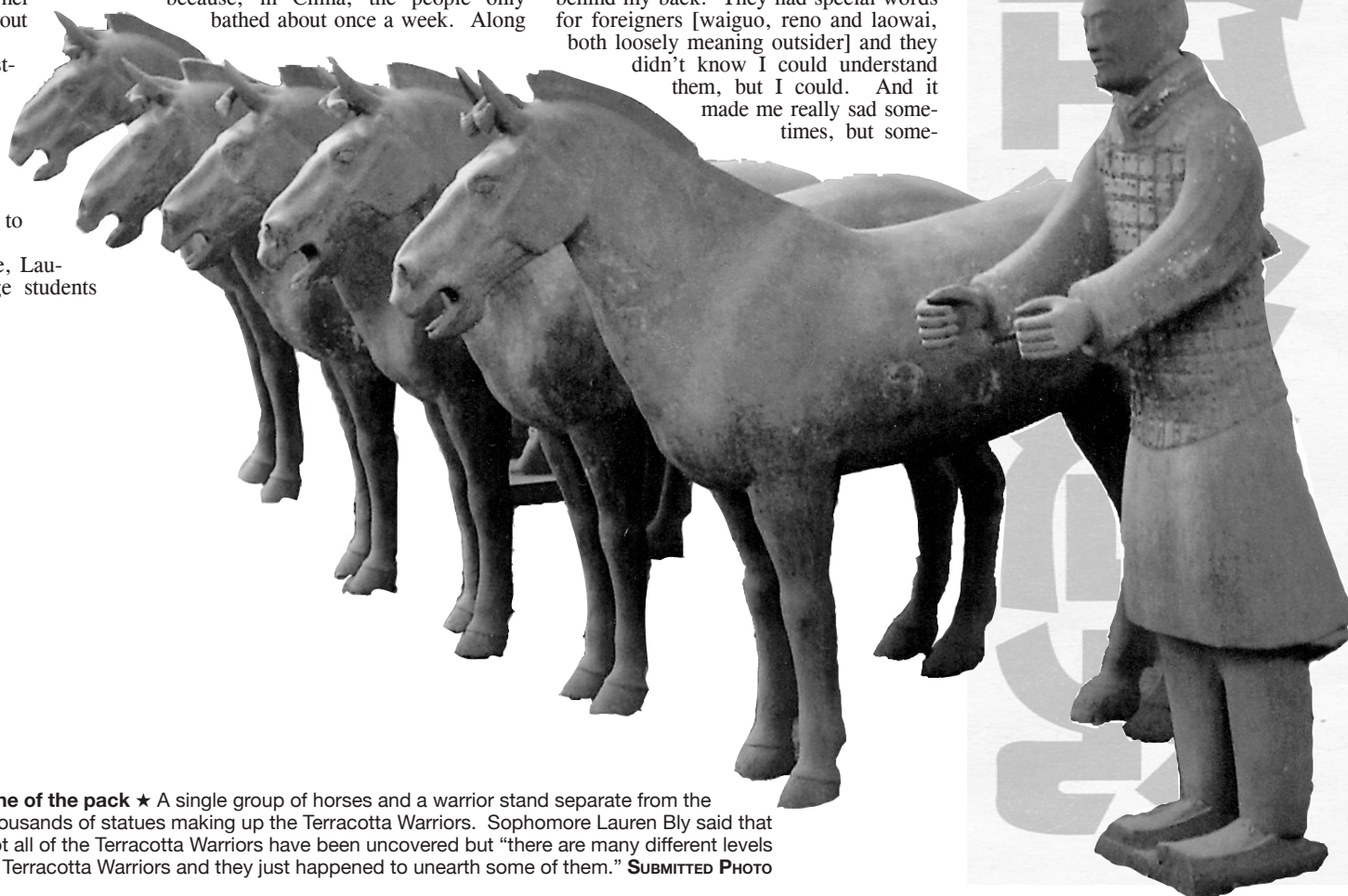
"I had no privacy over there," said Lauren. "There were just too many people. They're not used to foreigners, or white people or black people or any other kind of people that don't look like them. They would stop on the street and they would look at me. They would talk about me behind my back. They had special words for foreigners [waiguo, reno and laowai, both loosely meaning outsider] and they didn't know I could understand them, but I could. And it made me really sad sometimes, but some-

times it made me really angry. Because they seemed so ignorant about the rest of the world and I knew it wasn't their fault because they never learn anything about other parts of the world besides China."

She also said that one thing she likes about the United States is how people have a sense of identity. She said that in China it was not about single people, but it was about what you could do for your country.

The final thing that Lauren said she learned was that you need to treat people kindly because you do not know what is happening with everyone.

"Human nature doesn't change wherever you are in the world," said Lauren. "Despite the culture, despite the roots, it's constant. People have the same hopes and dreams. You never know where a person is going in life. I just thought that was neat, because just going back to the plane ride there, the flight attendant didn't know where I was going or what I would be doing for a year and how I was feeling at that time. So what I took away was, treat people nicely, you never know what people are going through. Someone's always going through something." ★



**One of the pack** ★ A single group of horses and a warrior stand separate from the thousands of statues making up the Terracotta Warriors. Sophomore Lauren Bly said that not all of the Terracotta Warriors have been uncovered but "there are many different levels of Terracotta Warriors and they just happened to unearth some of them." **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

## ★in brief

**Chinese Curriculum**  
According to afs.org, the average exchange school in China will teach specially arranged intensive Chinese culture and language classes and usually will require school uniforms and lecture classes, including Mandarin, math and science. Typically, the student lives with a host family sharing meals with them and being immersed in Chinese culture.

★in brief

**Respect Life**  
Respect Life Week will kick off Oct. 8 and conclude Oct. 13. The goal of the Respect Life committee is to raise awareness in the student body about all life issues. Announcements will be made concerning war, abortion, capital punishment, drinking and driving and poverty. The week will conclude with a "baby shower." Students may either donate a baby item or buy a piece of cake for \$1. All proceeds will go to Lighthouse, a battered women's shelter.

ALISON RAYBOULD



UNDERCOVER

## Babysitting enriches life, wallet, ego

In crafting my college resume, I realized that I don't have any typical work experience. I have never been employed by a restaurant, clothing store, ice cream shop or even my dad's office.

Yet that section of my resume is plenty full.

What's my secret?

I am a babysitter. And perhaps the most dedicated babysitter in the metropolitan area.

The benefits of being a babysitter, as opposed to a Wal-Mart clerk or a hostess at, say, Applebee's, extend well beyond the absence of taxes.

I find babysitting to be the most glorious job in the world. In my walk to my place of employment—rather, my neighbor's house—I burn a solid 30 calories.

Upon arrival, I gain those calories and more back by consuming the most delicious take-out, varying from Chipotle chicken burritos to just-delivered pepperoni pizza. And on occasion, I take my clients—the two girls I baby-sit—out for an evening of business and pleasure to such fine cuisine as Winsted's. All these meals are, of course, paid for by my employers.

*So start searching your neighborhood for the desperate parents; they'll pay anything for a night out.*

My job is simple: I pop in a movie, usually a cheesy yet loveable chic flick like "What a Girl Wants" or "The Lizzie McGuire Movie," and sit the two girls in front of the screen. We play, we talk; we talk, we play.

Sometimes, the girls will give me gifts in the form of homemade cards and candy mints. But on my birthday or around Christmas, they actually go out and buy me something special. To date, I am the proud owner of a gorgeous GAP tote, monogrammed stationary and personalized beaded bracelets.

In fact, when one of the girls went to camp, I received two letters from her; one stated that I was the "nicest, most beautiful inside-and-out" person she had ever met. I don't know about you, but that didn't bruise the ego too badly.

Bedtime rolls around at 8:00 and by 8:30 I am either watching a rerun of "Laguna Beach" or catching up on some Western Civ reading.

The parents come home a little later and I find myself with three crisp \$20-bills in hand. This weekend alone I made over \$160 and for only 14 hours of work.

I believe that it is well worth giving up one Friday night a month to ensure that you have a delicious and free meal, a boost to the ego and a lot of spending money.

So start searching your neighborhood for the desperate parents; they'll pay anything for one night of relaxation and freedom. ★

## Coach: new vision motivates volleyball team toward State



**High five** ★ Varsity head volleyball coach Lori Hanaway, left, commends sophomore Linny Kaufman as assistant coach Mimi Harmon and manager Brandon Lingle look on during the Stars' first game in their match against Bishop Miege in the Mo-Kan Challenge Sept. 9 at Lee's Summit West. The Stars won the match and went on to win the tournament, defeating St. Thomas Aquinas in two games in the final. PHOTO BY SARAH COOPER

Continued from page 16

spect as Carlson, age doesn't matter. She's had some people playing different positions, but she's basically kept the structure of the team the same."

This year the volleyball team entered the season with the mentality to work toward a state championship. Hanaway often reminds her team of this ultimate goal and knows from experience how to prepare her players for post-season competition.

The STA volleyball team has never

won a state championship. The best the team has finished was third place in 1998 when Ms. Ann Bode-Rodriguez was the coach. The team entered the 2006 season with the mentality to work toward a state championship and Hanaway often reminds them of this goal. She believes that success in the post-season comes from mental toughness.

"A good way to develop mental toughness is to practice and have consequences for mistakes," said Hanaway. "That's what separates teams that go to state and teams who don't make it all the way." ★

## SAT: Females outscore males on test for first time in 35 years

Continued from page 9

that the integration of writing in the curriculum goes across all academic principles and across all grade levels.

"The National Commission on Writing has suggested a writing agenda for the nation, but we tackled the 'neglected R' [writing] with North Central before the Commission ever announced these goals," said Hart. "Other schools are now reacting to the national demand, but we have already been integrating writing across the curriculum and grade."

Hart said that the North Central testing directly prepares students for the writing section of the SAT or the ACT.

"The best way to prepare for the writing portion of either the SAT or ACT is to practice, practice, practice," said Hart. "North Central testing and curriculum teach the writing process: brainstorming, drafting, revising and editing. If you implement that

*"Timed writings force us to write in the spur of the moment."*

Amanda Wilson, senior

process under untimed circumstances, then it will become a habit. Then, when you are inside the parameters of a standardized test, you will be able to produce a better piece of writing even with only 20 or 30 minutes."

Wilson agreed that the more exposure students have to timed writings, the better they will perform on standardized tests.

"[T i m e d writings] force us to write in the spur of moment," said Wilson. "You are given a topic and just have to run with it."

Olson said that colleges are hesitant to use the writing section as part of the admission decision because it is new.

Nevertheless, Olson believes that women have achieved great success by outscoring men for the first time in 35 years.

"I think that over time [higher female scores] will result in women being more competitive as applicants in college admissions process," said Olson. "I hope to see them better represented on the college campus." ★

## North Central: school maintains accreditation

Continued from page 3

Mary Montag, Mr. Pat Sirridge, Ms. Jessie Thompson and Ms. Jackie Hersheve.

"These teachers put in a tremendous amount of time," said Hand. "It is like a whole other course preparation, maybe two whole courses. They do this only because of their love of the school."

But those on board still aren't the only ones helping out. Each teacher participates in having lesson plans that have these goals as well as reading the timed writing, and help writing questions for the test. STA has shown that they are achieving the goals in reading and writing, to an extent where the teachers are pleased with the progress.

"So far everything looks great," said Weller.

On the web site for NCA, journalists write entries and one entry was dedicated to STA. The director informed Hand that they believe STA stands out and alone. But according to Weller, that doesn't mean STA should stop there.

"However great you are, there is always room for improvement," she said. ★

## Mass: Diocese brings local teens together

Continued from page 3

knowledge your part, seemed so right." Good agreed, saying that the coming together of so many students was powerful.

"I wasn't expecting the church to be so full and I was so touched by the large number of schools present," she said. "It really was a wonderful opportunity for all of us blessed enough to go."

In addition to the morning mass, Archbishop Robert J. Finn celebrated an afternoon mass in St. Joseph at St. Joseph's Cathedral with students from one high school and six grade schools. Another mass the morning of Aug. 31 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was held for twenty-seven area diocesan grade schools. According to Summers there are 99 parishes in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph as well as eight Catholic high schools, 33 elementary schools and 11 early childhood centers.

The 50th anniversary celebration will come to a close with a mass open for all held at the downtown cathedral on the evening of Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Following the mass, Kansas City Southern Industries will host a reception. The golden jubilee began with a mass in St. Joseph for the city's patron saint's feast day on March 19.

"The Mass on the Immaculate Conception is to honor Kansas City becoming a part of the KC-St. Joe tradition," said Summers. "We took the feast days of both the former dioceses and make them the bookends for the year's events." ★

a look at next issue...

26 oct. 2006

★ Read about the search for the future president of STA, as Dr. Faith Wilson ends her thirty year tenure.



**Dance party** ★ Seniors Kathleen Medina, left, Mary Nulton and Carolyn Wiedeman join their classmates in an impromptu dance party in the STA parking lot Sept. 22. The dance party was preceded by a breakfast at Loose Park organized by class officers Colleen Owens, Jessie Kramer, Mary Garcia and Emily Ingraham. **PHOTO BY ERIC THOMAS**

28 september 2006

★  
The Dart  
★

St. Teresa's Academy

## Journey up Longs Peak teaches life lessons

MIKHALA LANTZ-SIMMONS



CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two years ago, on a trip to Colorado, several people I was with climbed Mt. Lady Washington. While everyone was hauling themselves up rocks and gasping for breath, my friend Lindsey and I sunbathed on a gravel road outside of the YMCA. Sure, the others were exhilarated by reaching the top of the mountain, tasting the success of a day culminating in the triumph of getting to the summit, but I got the best tan of my life.

This year, I was determined to actually do some hiking. Monday started with an easy trek to Ouzel Falls, four miles roundtrip, a workout despite the fairly flat terrain. Tuesday, ten of us went to Sky Pond. On the way back, we took a wrong turn and accidentally did an additional two miles. I had hiked 12 miles all together. On Wednesday's rock climbing adventure, I got my foot stuck between two rocks and was straddling a 10 foot fall for twenty minutes. I did get to the top, but was covered in drool and tears.

Despite these minor mishaps, I was congratulating myself on my hiking prowess. Now, these trips to Colorado typically end with a big hike on Friday. Everyone talks about Longs Peak; they say it with reverence. Longs Peak is the tallest mountain in the Rocky Mountain

National Park, 14,255 feet of elevation, 16 miles round trip. I reasoned that I had hiked 12 not so easy miles to Sky Pond, what's the difference of four miles among friends? I decided to go.

Friday I awoke at 2:30 a.m., stuffed my food and three water bottles into my backpack, donned three layers of clothing and headed downstairs to the lobby. I blasted my I-pod and danced around, trying to get my adrenaline pumping. Kyle and I were the first ones down, then came Alex Boney with his headset on, ready to rumble. Alex Jaros and Jonathan Thatch stumbled in sleepily. The Varner siblings, Becca, Katie and Zach came last. All of us piled into two cars and were off.

We reached the trailhead at 3:10 a.m. It was dark but luckily the moon was out. Goblins Forest was quite eerie at night. Jonathan and I walked side by side, his headlamp guiding the way. Hindered by my 15 pound backpack, I stumbled over roots and rocks. After 30 minutes, I was gasping for air. We took a water break. Alex Jaros came up to me. He kindly offered to switch backpacks since his was lighter. Really? That would be incredible. I handed him my yellow bag and without a word he put it around his front and took off. Wait, what are you doing? I called after him. Don't worry about it, he yelled, already far ahead of me. His silhouette looked strange with a big bulge in front and one in the back. With no weight and my now loose muscles, I was doing fine. Jonathan at my side, I headed for the tree line, breathing much easier.

After one and a half hours, our group of eight broke tree line, making incredible time. We sat and watched the sunrise. The color of the sun crept up, splashing bright reds, purples, and yellows across

the clouds. It was the most beautiful thing I've witnessed. Alex returned my backpack and all too soon we were off again.

We reached the boulder field, a steeply inclined expanse of oversized rocks with no path through. I took in a sharp breath of air - no more switchbacks, we were going up. Why had I ever thought this was a good idea? Once out of the boulder field, we reached the Keyhole. Sweat dripped down my face, my muscles contracting painfully. Our little group stayed together and we moved slowly, following the red and yellow circles that marked the safest route. Jonathan stayed between me and the edge and slowly my fear dissipated.

The Trough was next and I was gasping for breath, something virtually unattainable at this altitude. Each inhale pierced my chest and my eyes were going in and out of focus. Zach, I don't feel so good, I whimpered. Three quarters of the way up the trough, we stopped and watched as hikers, miniscule in the distance climbed up the rocks. You've got to go back down, Zach told me. But you should be proud of how far you've come. Kyle offered to go with me; he'd already been to the top once. I turned away and started to cry. I hadn't made it this far to go back. I took a breath and turned to them. No! I put my backpack on and

looked them in the face. I feel better now, I said defiantly. We set off again, this time I had three escorts.

A daunting path awaited us: the Narrows. Two feet of trail and sometimes less were all that prevented you from falling to your death. I tried to shut my mind off and put one foot in front of the other. Faster than I'd anticipated, the 200 yard long homestretch sat in front

of me, leading my eyes toward the precipice of Longs Peak. With a lot of encouragement from Jonathan, I pulled my exhausted body to the top. I'd made it. The peak was flat and the size of a football field. People were milling around, looking over the edges. Nestled between

two rocks, I took out my sack lunch and devoured it. The PB&J, previously inedible, was now delicious and satisfying. Becca handed me the registry to sign, proof that I made it. I wrote in the square: Mikhala Mae Lantz-Simmons, Kansas City, MO, August 2006 (and prompted by Zach)... I am a badass. Seemingly shallow words but at 14,225 feet after six grueling hours, badass perfectly described how I felt.

Six hours later we drove out of the park and past the Mountain. We rolled down the windows, opened the sunroof and with a glance back at Longs Peak, triumphantly raised our middle fingers. ★

*We rolled down  
the windows,  
opened the sunroof  
and with a glance  
back at Longs Peak,  
triumphantly raised  
our middle fingers.*

### ★in brief

#### Headline Kicker

On Oct. 18, juniors and sophomores will take the PSAT. The PSAT serves two purpose. It acts as a practice test for the SAT. It also decides who will qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Junior year scores determine who receives the recognition of National Merit Semi-Finalist. Sophomores take the test as practice for their junior year PSAT.

Seniors will have the day off. Freshmen have a class retreat.



**Traveling to see the stars**★ Junior Maddy Hickey, left, and senior Allie Fiss visit “Mount Freshmore,” from left, freshmen Susanne Ancona, Sarah Kindscher, Maggie Fitzgerald and sophomore Joellen Redlingshafer at Frosh Fest Sept. 7. The costume competition concluded this year’s events. **PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER**



**All aboard!**★ Senior Claire Cullen leads fellow Big and Little Sisters, from left, junior Sara Lawrence, freshman Kristina Strader, junior Sarah Cooper, sophomore Sally Nulton and freshman Taylor Irwin, in her advisory on the “Thomas Train.” The Thomas advisory was the second place finisher in the M & A building. **PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER**

Frosh Fest invades with advisory performances and sidewalk chalk



28 september 2006  
★  
The Dart  
★  
St. Teresa's Academy

★in brief

**Frosh Fest!**

**Day 1:**

Big and Little sisters ate lunch on the quad together during Activity 1 and 2.

**Day 2:**

Sidewalk Chalk Contest: Hansbrough won for the Music & Arts Building, while Schroer won for the Donnelly building.

**Day 3:**

Advisory costume performances: Acton won for the Donnelly building; Prentiss won for the Music & Arts Building.

**Day 4:**

Big and Little sisters ate pizza in the cafeteria together.



**Strike!**★ The freshmen of Dibble’s advisory strike out with the help of Big Sister, senior Michelle McGill. Dibble’s advisory took second place for the Donnelly Building. **PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER**



**Four servings daily**★ From left, freshmen Chloe Waters, Courtney Watkins, Stacy Hymer and Sydney Deatherage, of the Rietbrock advisory, sing the “Veggie Tales” theme song. This year’s Frosh Fest week, which included sidewalk art and costumes, did not include door decorating. **PHOTO BY KATHLEEN POINTER**