

the

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

dart

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**A
WOMAN'S
work is never done**

Though social changes support women in workplace,
discrimination still hinders promotion, higher salaries
See pages 12-13

Keying into teen driving

Ford narrows in on teens, creates controversial MyKey system to eliminate distractions, enforce safety and allow parents to control teen driving behavior.



by SHAUGHNESSY MILLER
Staff Writer

In early October, Ford Motor Co. announced the new MyKey technology, a system developed to increase parental control over vehicles and encourage safer teen driving. “Ford not only offers industry-leading crash protection and crash avoidance systems, we also are committed to developing new technologies such as MyKey that encourage safer driving behavior,” Susan Cischke, Ford group vice president of Sustainability, Environment and Safety Engineering, said in an article by the Agence France-Presse (AFP). “MyKey can help promote safer driving, particularly among teens, by encouraging seat belt use, limiting speed and reducing distractions.”

MyKey will be used in the Ford Focus 2009 and several other Ford vehicles in the future.

Several features are included in the system with safety being the ultimate goal. These features include: a speed cap of 80 miles per hour, Beltminder (if seatbelts are unbuckled, a chime will sound every five minutes and the audio system will be muted) and an audio volume capable of being limited to 44 percent of the maximum. There are many statistics to back up MyKey's purpose. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 63 percent of fatalities involving motor vehicles are due to lack of seatbelt use. Fifty percent of these could have been saved had they been wearing a seatbelt. With MyKey, the ideal of everyone wearing a seatbelt would be a reality.

In the past year, Ford has emphasized safety. Though MyKey is its latest creation, Sync, a voice-activated music and phone system, was also released early this year. Sync allows drivers to talk on the phone hands-free or command their iPod to play a song without having to look down.

These developments are not only modern and convenient, they are also safer. MyKey and Sync enforce seat belt buckling and under the limit driving, as well as allow you to talk on the phone or select music without looking down or using your hands.

Although these safety regulations could apply to all ages, Ford is targeting teens. According to Jeffrey Runge of the NHTSA, 36 percent of teenage fatalities are due to car accidents. Drivers, 15 to 20 years old, suffer 1400 injuries and 15 deaths a day in the U.S. alone.

With the localization of MyKey into Ford dealerships in our community, parental control over teen cars is becoming an issue to STA students.

“When Ford comes out with that technology, we will sell it,” said Mr. Paul Richards, New Car Sales Manager of Dick Smith Ford in Raytown. “We would obviously make the consumer aware that it's an option, but it's not a standard thing. Ford is using it to allow parents to put constraints on their kids, but we won't spend extensive marketing on that.”

Many parents endorse MyKey. According to a Harris Interactive survey for Ford: 75 percent of parents are in favor of the speed-limiting feature, 72 percent approve of Beltminder, and 63 percent support the audio limiting feature.

Ms. Michelle Bowers, mother of junior Lindsay Bowers, said that the system may be good for new drivers, but maybe not for everyone.

“I think it would be a good idea if your child had a problem or was not able to control their speed,” Bowers said. “I would consider it for a new driver, but probably not for Lindsay now because she's had experience.”

Cost is also a factor to Bowers. “Depends upon how expensive it was as to

whether I would get it because I might spend more on driver's education,” Bowers said.

Lindsay, however, completely opposes the system, even for new drivers.

“Short and simple:

I don't think anyone should put it on their car,” Lindsay said. “When I was a new driver, I was really timid and would stay under the speed limit so I wouldn't get in wrecks.”

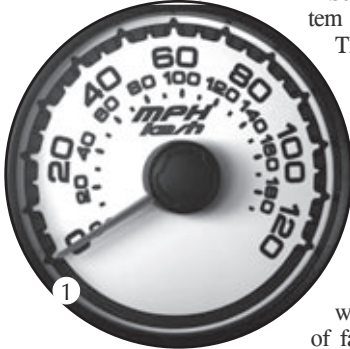
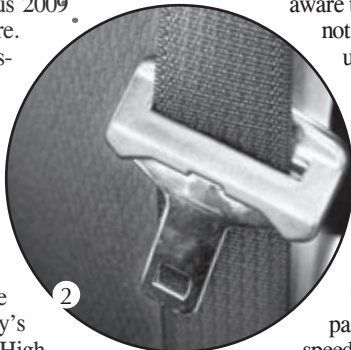
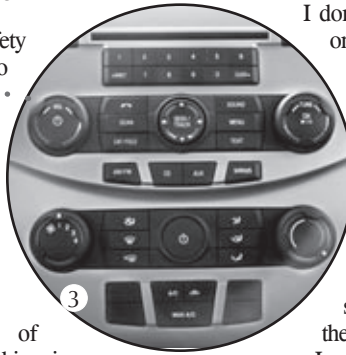
Junior Elle Hart agrees with Lindsay.

“I did a persuasive essay about MyKey and I said I didn't think it would ever be a good idea because people are going to speed on side streets and if you're speeding on the highway it's probably to avoid things,” said Hart.

Hart was concerned that the system may have its dangers as well.

“What if you're on the highway and have to speed up [above 80 mph] to avoid being hit by a car?” Hart said.

Both Lindsay and Hart say that trust should be more important to parents rather than placing regu-



PHOTOS BY ALLISON POINTER

Automobile Accident Statistics

DISTRACTIONS

10.5 percent of car accidents which were serious enough so that at least one car had to be towed away from the scene was due to a distracted driver. Distractions include the radio, cell phones or uncontrolled distractions, such as peers.

SPEEDING

Speeding almost triples the odds of being in a car accident. High speed plays a role in almost 30 percent of all fatal collisions that occur each year.

SEATBELTS

63 percent of fatalities involving motor vehicles are due to lack of seatbelt use. Fifty percent of these could have been saved had they been wearing a seatbelt.

Compiled from information according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

1 Speed Capping ★ With the new Ford MyKey technology, parents can now set speed caps on the Ford Focus at 80 mph. In addition, chimes sound to warn the driver when speeds of 45, 55 and 65 mph are reached.

2 Buckling up ★ The new Ford MyKey technology mutes the audio system and sounds a chime for six seconds every five minutes when seat belts are not buckled.

3 Quiet driving ★ Ford's new MyKey technology in the 2009 Focus allows parents to set the maximum volume to only 44 percent of the total volume capacity. In addition, the system will mute if seatbelts are not buckled.

4 Restricting teens ★ The 2009 Ford Focus can be equipped with MyKey technology, which allows the audio system, speed, seat belts and tire traction to be predetermined by parents for their teen drivers for safety reasons.

inside out



Academics:
Senior MaryLee Ptacek competes in rigorous scholarship program QuestBridge
See Page 8



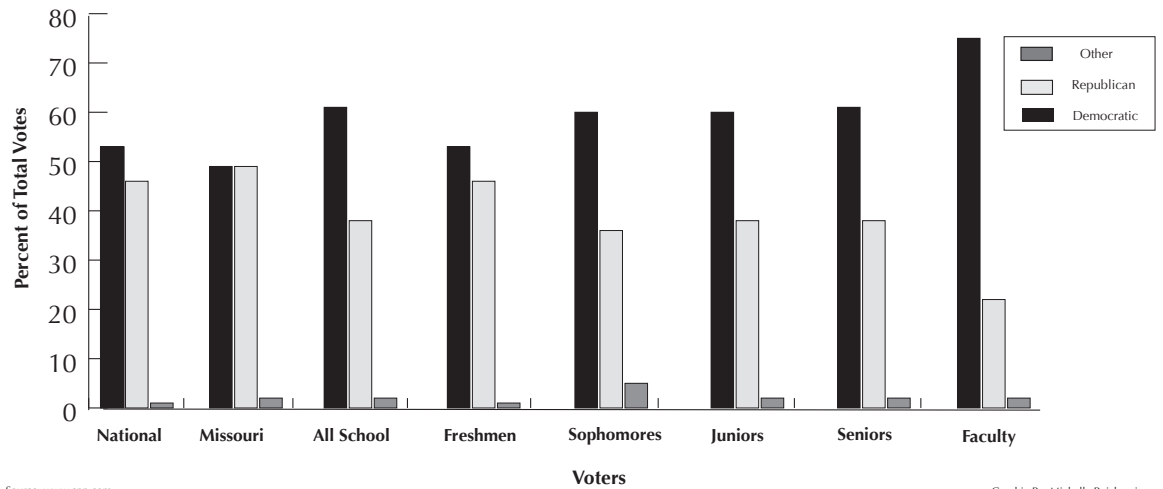
Features:
Freshman Paige Wendland is not only known for extraordinary height and academic genius, but also her confidence
See Pages 21-22



News:
Students participate in mock presidential election, choose Obama as president
See Page 4

STA student, faculty polls mirror national election, encourage school-wide campaign involvement

School community votes in mock election for Senator Barack Obama, reflects results of United States Presidential Election



Obama wins STA mock election, presidential election



Student-run election brings school-wide involvement, lets girls voice their opinions

by MEGAN SCHAFF
Staff Writer

New US President-elect Democrat Barack Obama won STA's mock-election Monday. Obama won 62 percent of the popular vote while his opponent Republican John McCain won 38 percent in the mock election. STA students, faculty and administration participated in the event.

The election was a class project that involved social studies teachers Mr. Pat Sirridge's and Mr. Richard Shrock's government classes as well as Mr. Craig Whitney's Current Events class. Students registered voters, publicized the election with signs and announcements, made ballots, manned polling places on campus and counted votes as they came in.

Senior Nicolette Anderson, a student in Sirridge's government class, thought the election was a success. According to Anderson, almost everyone in the school participated and there was only one senior who didn't register to vote.

"[The mock-election] was a huge success," Anderson said. "Whenever I was in the caf-

eteria, I saw a ton of people registering. I think everyone really got the chance to speak their voice and show who they really wanted to vote for."

According to senior Erin McDonald, a student in Shrock's government class, having a mock-election teaches students the importance of voting and gives younger students, ineligible to vote, a chance to voice their political opinions.

"It's important to vote," McDonald said. "There are a lot of people left out of the presidential election and this gives them a chance to express their views. It's important for our school to teach that we should vote."

Sirridge agrees that the mock-election was a good idea.

"It gives people the idea they have a certain responsibility to vote, a civic duty to vote," Sirridge said. "I know other high schools are having elections. I think it would be interesting to compare our results with those of other schools."

Sirridge believes that although there was a mock-election in 2004 as well, the 2008 election brought more student involvement and interest.

"I think [the increased interest] is mainly due to the excitement in the Obama campaign," Sirridge said. "His candidacy appeals to many young people."

Anderson also feels Obama has had a huge affect on STA students through his appeal to a

younger audience.

"I've noticed throughout the whole campaign process people that a lot from our school are really liberal," Anderson said. "I think he's just kind of won people over. Obama's really different and I think people are realizing how good he would be for our country. I think he just really got across to our school community."

According to Sirridge, the classes made many changes from the 2004 mock-election, like having students and faculty register to vote.

"We want it to be more like the real world," Sirridge said. "In the real world people don't just show up on election day. They have to register."

Sirridge thinks it is important to teach students that the election can affect them, even if they aren't old enough to vote.

"[STA students] are affected by the people who are given the power to govern," Sirridge said. "Decisions and policies formulated by elected officials can have a real impact on people's lives."

According to McDonald, the mock-election was an essential event because of the values students are taught at STA.

"In an all-girls school we are taught to be outspoken and strong in our beliefs," McDonald said. "It's important to know we can be comfortable telling people our political beliefs." ★

Before election, STA students, faculty predict presidential candidate to win demographics

Members of school community speculate whether groups will lean toward supporting Barack Obama or John McCain

	Sophomore Sam Cusumano	Junior Shelby Nace	Senior Margaret Schneider	President Ms. Nan Bone	Mr. Matthew Bertalott	Mr. Stephen Himes
Women	Obama: "Barack will win because women today seem as if they are more liberal than ever before and want a candidate who will continue to bring change to the US."	Obama: "I think many Hillary supporters will stick with the Democratic party and support Obama."	Obama: "Women tend to care more about social issues and vote more for Democrats. The margin of victory won't be overwhelming, but it will be enough."	Split: "McCain's inclusion of Palin on his ticket and Senator Clinton's strong showing in the Democratic primary gathered the attention of more women voters than ever before."	Obama: "[The Iraq] war has been very unpopular with women more so than with men."	Obama: "McCain's gambit that disenchanted Hillary voters would swing Republicans with the choice of Palin, well, that has completely crapped out."
Under 25	Obama: "I think Barack will win because our generation is looking for a change that will allow us to grow up, be successful, and live our lives as we like."	Obama: "I think the younger voters feel like they can relate to Obama more than McCain because he is younger and more in tune with today's world. He has the charisma to win over young voters."	Obama: "The under 25 demographic is easily the most liberal of all demographics and will therefore vote for Obama."	Obama: "They, as a whole will lean towards the Obama/Biden ticket-better relating to a younger presidential candidate and excited for the prospect of change."	Obama: "Every poll I've seen states that Obama enjoys huge support on college campuses across the country."	Obama: "Obama huge. Obama is cool; McCain is old."
Catholics	McCain: "McCain will win considering that the Catholic church is predominantly conservative and is against abortion and the death penalty."	Split: "A lot of the time conservative values are in line with Catholic morals, however Obama has a large Hispanic Catholic following."	Obama: "Because many Catholics are highly concerned with moral issues such as abortion, they will vote for McCain, but Obama will edge out a narrow win."	McCain: "The Catholic vote can no longer be considered a 'single group vote' that candidates can count on."	Split: "Many will vote against Obama because of his pro-choice position, while many will vote for him because of his positions on other social justice issues."	Obama: "I think Obama has done a masterful job defusing the abortion issue by talking about child care, adoption, and expanding early education."
Missouri	Obama: "I feel as if the people I am surrounded by are mostly liberal and want to make their own choices, not have choices made for them."	McCain: "As much as I hate to say it, I think Missouri will go to McCain because of the amount of rural towns that typically are more conservative."	Obama: "The economic crisis should help Obama get votes in the more rural areas that are typically Republican. The race will be incredibly close."	McCain: "My guess is that the vote in Missouri will be close, but the edge will go to McCain/Palin."	Obama: "Obama will carry the state only if there is a huge turnout of voters in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas."	Split: "We are the swingiest of the swing states. It will be within one point either way."

COMPILED BY HALEY VONDEKAMP

DARTBOARD

by TAYLOR IRWIN, MICAH WILKINS
AND JULIA STAPINSKI

Students collect canned goods

This past Halloween, many students partook in Community Service Club's "Food for Thought." Girls from all grades not only brought in canned goods to school for collection, but spent the beginning of their Friday night driving in nearby neighborhood to gather more food for the Bishop Sullivan Center.

"It was really fun," junior Shayla Sigler said. "It was my first year doing it, and I really liked it."

Students met at STA after school at 4 p.m. last Friday and trick-or-treated for canned goods until around 8 p.m.

"There was about half of a small U-Haul truck full when I left," junior Kerry Cummings said. "And I left early, around six."



Trick or Treat ★ Seniors Kate Bohnert (left), Maggie Burke and Megan Monsees wait at the door of a Brookside home collecting canned goods for Food for Thought. This food drive helped the Bishop Sullivan Center. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

SCO puts on pumpkin contest

STA's annual advisory pumpkin contest was held last Friday. The winners of the competition were Counselor Amanda James' advisory in the M&A Building and Social Studies teacher Craig Whitney's advisory in Donnelly Hall.

James' advisory painted their pumpkin with the Joker's face from "The Dark Knight" and Whitney's advisory made a boca burger meal pumpkin, complete with fries made from the insides of their pumpkin. The event, which Student Community Organization sponsors, promotes advisory bonding, says SCO moderator Stacie O'Rear.

"It's fun," O'Rear said. "SCO wants the kids to get together and do things as advisories and as classes."

Sophomore Anna Mincher of Whitney's advisory, was excited when her advisory won the competition.

"We haven't really won anything before," Mincher said. "So it's really exciting."

Mincher said the advisory was anxious for a win in the contest.

"I hoped we would win," she said.

Raffle ticket sales nears end

Currently the administration is promoting the ongoing auction raffle ticket sales. The auction will be held Saturday Nov. 22 in the Goppert Center, so sales will conclude Friday Nov. 21. Tickets are ten dollars a piece and will be placed in a drawing in which the winner can win their choice of ten thousand dollars cash, a year of tuition and fees at STA, or a two year lease on a sports car. Students who sell an allotted amount of tickets by a specific date win free lunches from local restaurants such as Planet Sub and Chipotle. Students who sell ten tickets can receive a pair of black sweat pants that may be worn to school until school resumes after Christmas break.

Seniors vote in national election



Clever photo kicker ★ Senior Jessica Bales (top) and Maura Lammers (right) were a few of many seniors who hit the polls and cast their first vote in the presidential election. This election was surrounded with much hype and anticipation. **PHOTOS BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE AND TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**



Missouri elects new state officeholders

by KYLIE HORNBECK
News Editor

On Tuesday Missouri voters passed Proposition A to eliminate the gambling loss limit to compete with neighboring state's casinos and benefit Missouri public schools. Missourians voted in support of Proposition C, which mandates usage of renewable energy sources through an increase in utility rates of up to one percent per year. Voters denied the revised light rail and also decided to add an amendment to the Missouri constitution making English the official language for all government proceedings. Missouri voters also chose the following:

Jay Nixon- Governor

Democrat Jay Nixon received 58 percent of the popular vote, defeating Republican Kenny Hulshof for the office of Missouri Governor. Birthplace: De Soto, Mo.

Current office: Attorney General since 1992

Plans to:

- make health care available for everyone
- extend property tax credits to seniors
- re-invest in the public school system
- provide a pathway for middle-class Missourians to earn a four-year degree at a state college or university – and graduate debt free

Information courtesy: www.jaynixon.com

Robin Carnahan- Secretary of State

Democrat Robin Carnahan received 62 percent of the popular vote, defeating Republican Mitchell Hubbard to be reelected for the office of Missouri Secretary of State.

Birthplace: Rolla, Mo.

Current office: Missouri Secretary of State

Plans to:

- protect consumers, especially seniors
- promote small business growth
- ensure fairness in election system
- encourage Missourians to partake in public service

Information courtesy: www.sos.mo.gov

Chris Koster- Attorney General

Democrat Chris Koster received 53 percent of the popular vote, defeating Republican Michael Gibbons for office of Missouri Attorney General.

Birthplace: St. Louis, Mo.

Current office: Missouri State Senator

Plans to:

- fight predatory lenders and prosecute internet criminals
- fight for workers' rights.
- enforce Missouri's environmental laws, to eliminate pollution and preserve natural resources for generations to come
- crack down on Missouri crime

Information courtesy: www.chriskoster.com

Peter Kinder- Lieutenant Governor

Republican Peter Kinder received 50.4 percent of the popular vote, defeating Democrat Sam Page to be reelected as the Missouri Lieutenant Governor.

Birthplace: Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Current office: Missouri Lieutenant Governor

Plans to:

- advocate for senior citizens and protect them from falling
- fight for veterans' rights
- protect elderly from abuse crimes
- promote service

Information courtesy: www.ltgov.mo.gov

Clint Zweifel- Treasurer

Democrat Clint Zweifel received 51 percent of the popular vote, defeating Republican Brad Lager for office of Missouri Treasurer.

Birthplace: N/A

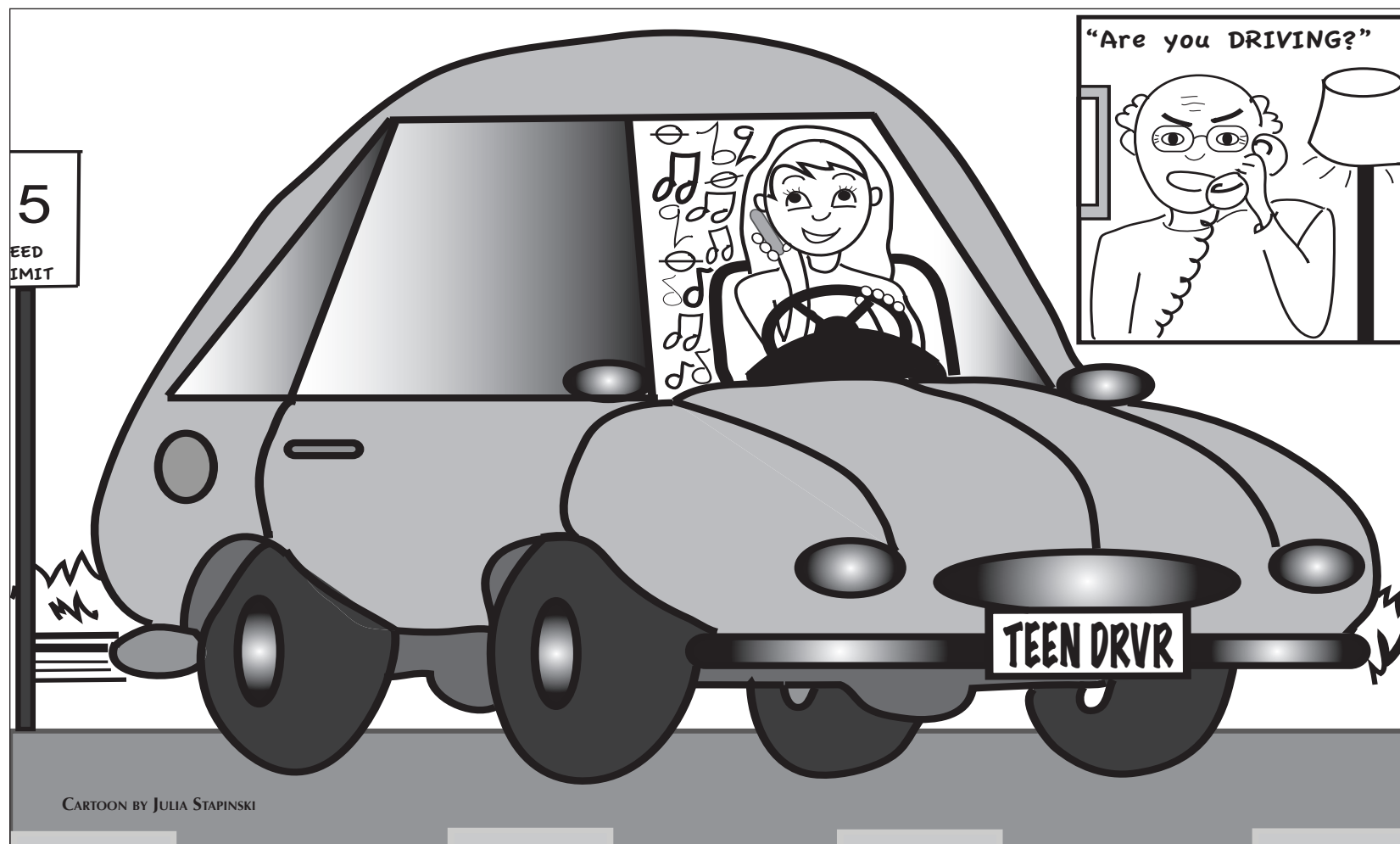
Current office: Member of Missouri House of Representatives

Plans to:

- preserve Missouri's credit rating
- increase efforts to invest tax dollars in Missouri institutions
- protect home buyers and to assist homeowners facing foreclosure
- make college more affordable for all

Information courtesy: www.clintfortreasurer.com

Parental Control



MyKey pushes restrictions overboard

Imagine waking up to just another dreary Monday morning and rolling out of bed to get ready for school. Shoving scattered binders and textbooks into your backpack, you grab your personal keys and are on your way out. Shouting to mom to have a good day, you hear her normal response of "Be safe!" With a roll of your eyes, you lock the front door and drive to school, with your favorite song blaring from the car's speakers.

That was a little a month ago. Now, after the accident, mom is more protective than before.

Last month, while driving to work, you came over a hill too quickly and slammed on your brakes as the car in front of you did the same. Due to the rainy weather, you ended up hydroplaning on the slick road and rear-ending the car in front of you.

After the initial shock, you step out of the car to see the damage you had done. Of course the Jaguar in front suffered hardly any harm, but your car looked awful.

With the deployed air bags, crushed front bumper, dented hood and shattered windshield, you knew you were in deep. It seems as if the only part of your car left unharmed was your keys, and even they were still jammed into the ignition. After calling the cops and exchanging information with the woman you hit – and, consequently, the woman she hit due to the collision – your mom showed up to the scene and you broke down, shrinking back to the curb and letting her take control of the situation.

After speaking with the police officer, accepting the court date, and driving home bawling in your mother's car, your now worthless keys shoved in her purse, everything finally sank in.

You had gotten in a crash. You had totaled your car. Someone could have been hurt.

Luckily, no one was injured. You had suffered the worst of it - only a few bruised ribs and a bruised ego. You no longer had a car of your own, and there was a possibility you wouldn't for a long time to come.

After a week of bumming rides with a friend to and from school and scrambling last minute for ways to work, mom sat you down one night at dinner for a "talk." You already knew what it was about, but it didn't make it any easier.

"We're going to get you a new car," mother said. "But things won't be the same. There are conditions."

The conditions were as follows: the new car you would be driving is a rarely heard of Ford MyKey car, with almost total parental control. Thanks

to a nifty computer chip embedded in the key to the new car, your parents would be able to set the speed the car will travel, as well as the volume of the music playing through your stereo. All that with an obnoxious alarm ringing once you hit 45 mph as a reminder of the higher speed, and the inability to deactivate safety features such as traction control and blind-spot detection, can seem like a bit much.

With the absolute maximum traveling speed to be set to 80 mph, and muting the car's stereo until everyone inside buckles up, it's obvious your parents mean business.

Well, this came as a bit of a shock. An accident isn't something to be taken lightly, but it happens to everyone, and surely it doesn't warrant this type of extreme measures, does it? I mean, haven't you already suffered enough?

Even though driving alone is a huge step toward independence, not only for you, but for your parents as well, there are lines that can be crossed. So, if you're lucky enough to get a car, parent controlled or not, be responsible. Give your parents a break if they seem a little antsy and overprotective while you're ready to jump behind the wheel and jet off to meet your friends.

But your parents giving you a car that they can control is almost insulting, not to mention out of line.

That's their baby driving off on their own. It's hard to accept, and it's something you understand as a

new driver. So even if you have to call when you get wherever you're going, and have a slightly earlier curfew because you're driving, you grit your teeth and bear it. After all, it is only temporary. They'll have to ease up eventually, just give your poor parents a break. While you're laughing and jamming with your friends, they're sitting at home, biting their fingernails and counting down the minutes for you to come home safe.

Still, creating a car that sets its limits for you is going way overboard. The point of getting your driver's license and driving off on your own is to prove to your parents that you can handle responsibility without their constant supervision and also to be able to leave at your leisure and not have to bug mom and dad for a ride.

Plus, everyone knows that accidents happen. Parents expect their kids to get in fender-benders and eventually wreck a car - just as they did when they were kids. By restricting their so-called freedom through a computer chip, they might as well have a monitor inside the car as well, to see exactly what's going on. It says that parents don't really trust their kids driving, no matter what they say to your face. ★

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

Is that your opinion or mine?

AN OPINION BY



ELIZABETH WILSON

With the political season well underway and teacher-initiated class discussions full the satire of Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live" and the obsession with "Joe the Plumber," I could not help but wonder if the classroom is the appropriate place for subliminal campaigning.

As I sat in class and heard one of my teachers say, "I think it's safe to say you're all for Obama, right?" my eyes rolled, my fists clenched, I shot a glare at my nearest comrade and began to block out the next few minutes of political bias.

According to president Nan Bone, teachers are not to share their political views in the classroom. She reminded them of this early in the fall through an email.

I strongly believe a teacher's job is to educate, not to influence.

In stating their opinions about politics, our teachers are unknowingly (or knowingly) formulating the opinions of many politically uninformed students with their bias. Organized efforts that seek to influence the decision-making process, also known as political campaigns, are key to every election. These efforts distribute the views of the candidates so people are educated when they go to vote. So, some would ask, why not incorporate this boon into class discussion so students may become more educated on the subject matter?

However, I would argue most of what teachers project about politics is strictly biased and this is inappropriate for the classroom. As one of my teachers said, "teachers have to be careful [of what they say] because they are in a position of power." Students look up to their teachers as sources of intelligence and wisdom and parrot what they hear.

As the mock election results showed, STA is predominantly liberal - 24 percent more liberal than conservative, actually. When teachers present the positives of the Democratic view and the negatives of the Republican view, their thoughts appeal to the majority of the student body. But, this one-sided projection is not fair to the minority. Regardless of party affiliation, it is our teachers' duty to educate students on the responsibility of voting and the difference of the candidates' national plans.

It is not their duty to campaign in the classroom, and I refuse to let a teacher's opinion become my own.

I would venture to say many high school students, like me, do not know enough about politics to have a well formed opinion. And, sadly enough, many of those who proclaim a political opinion, in reality, are proclaiming the opinion of someone whom they admire: someone like their teachers.

Monday I sent a link to a teacher featuring the kids from the Ron Clark Academy performing live "You Can Vote However You Like," a parody to rap singer T.I.'s "Whatever You Like." This clip portrays a student created work about both political parties. It is about the students - not the teachers. This is the way it should be.

Our choices should be based on our own values and should not be influenced by our teachers.

Teachers have the rare opportunity of having a captive audience. While I am busy learning about Benjamin Franklin's 13 virtues and agrarian economy, if it is important enough for my teachers to spend thirty minutes of class time discussing politics, then they should be educating me on the issues, not trying to influence me to support one candidate over the other.

I experienced quite a refreshing environment Wednesday: a student-directed class discussion regarding politics where the teacher presented both the Republican and Democratic stands on various key issues.

As I walked out of class and across the quad, I overheard one of my peers say, "I've gained more respect for him now." Just through a simple little bias free discussion. Congratulations. ★

Four women, a girl dog, and good ol' dad; I live in a girl's world and I love it

AN OPINION BY



MOLLIE POINTER

"Name her Daisy!" "No, I want Tulip!" "I like Blossom!" squealed three young girls after bringing home a 6-week-old puppy. "How about Maggie?" suggested the father. The poor father didn't realize this was one of the last moments he had to really make an enforcing, effective decisions against his three daughters.

I live in a house where women are the majority. There's Mom, my sisters Kathleen and Allison, me, Maggie the dog (yes, he did get his way) and good ol' Dad. I live in a world where finding us walking around in towels is completely normal dismissing my fathers plea, "Can you please put some clothes on?" When redoing my bathroom, my father personally added four outlets and three mirrors, barely sufficient for us three daughters. In our bathroom cabinets you will find a variety of lotions, perfumes, eyelash curlers, tweezers and an off to the side, one lonesome men's deodorant.

Friday nights around the Pointer household are quite the scene. Chaos everywhere. Typically you'll find a hot straightener in each bathroom, alongside a hair dryer. Makeup is scattered, leaving only bits of my dresser to be visible. Three teenage girls running around, cell phones ringing off the hook, and shouts, no more like screams, echo across the hall of, "Where is my shirt? You wore it last!" and "You better not have stolen my bronzer again!" while my mother tries to decide which shirt of mine she can pull off without looking like she's actually wearing her daughter's shirt. And then there is my father sitting in his chair in the living room, being the great sport that he is, and nodding to questions like, "Do these shoes go

with this outfit" and "What are you thoughts on this perfume?" In the words of my father, it's quite the "estrogen fest." A never-ending estrogen fest I might add. When my sisters and I arrive home from our nights out you'll find us sitting in a powwow discussing any drama, telling a funny story, or Kathleen just being weird as usual.

This summer, being ever so nice as we Pointer women are, we decided to give my father a little gift; Guinness, a boy puppy. This was possibly the worst idea ever but my father was thrilled to share some of his testosterone that had been belittled for the past 16 years or so. Guinness is the son he never had. Literally, he treats Guinness like his own child. Every night around 9:30 I hear my dad from the living room, "Guinness, it's time for bed!" He picks him up with a treat in hand and puts the monster to bed. I don't think I even had a bedtime past the age of five and here is my father putting the dog to bed. He jumps, he pees, eventually will be massive, he eats everything and not to mention his little boy hormonal tendencies. I cannot even manage a boy puppy. There is no way I would be able to live in a household of boys.

Boys have big smelly feet that come with big smelly shoes. They eat like dogs, worse than Guinness. They leave toilet seats up. Not to say that my house is the cleanest or most put together right now but it is a girl's world and that is all there is to it. My house is a woman's territory from the moment you enter. If you turn on the television you most likely will find it on channel 65, the "Soap Net." Instead of your typical family bonding night of renting a family friendly movie or playing a classic game of Monopoly, my sisters, mom, dad and I sit together in our family room to watch the newest episode of Gossip Girl. I enjoy the fact that when I get home from school and turn on the TV, the "OC" is on. I like the fact that I do not have to quickly scarf down my food just to claim a decent sized portion at dinner.

No matter how many boy dogs you can fit in my house, it is a woman's domain. Fifty years from now, I guarantee you will find bobby pins and dried nail polish forever imbedded in the hardwood floors. The Pointer household is and always will be a girl's world. ★

“Sometimes we get off on debates about candidates or issues and usually the teachers make a comment. I don't let it get to me... Students influence me more, not teachers.”
- Haley Doyle, senior



“If they're talking in class about their views, I realize it's just them exercising their right to express their opinion and it doesn't affect my opinion.”
- Maddy Fox, junior




Say WHAT?

How do your teachers influence your political standpoint?


For some students, the classroom is their only source for political information. While many teachers appear neutral in discussions, others do not hold back their bias.

Compiled by Rosie Hodes

“It kind of makes me mad when you know that a teacher is a democrat or a republican. Sometimes it upsets me if they say a certain thing because I know they say it because of their political standpoint.”
- Maddie Lueke, sophomore




“If they tell you their opinion and they try to persuade you, then they could change it, but you should stick with what you know because you don't know if your teachers know what they're talking about.”
- Taylor Twellman, freshman



30 seconds with ...

Ms. Mimi Harman

Compiled by Rosie Hodes



Q Who are the new additions to your family?
A Katherine Ann and Mary Agnes. They were born Sept. 25 at 3:48 and 3:49 p.m.

Q How is having twin babies different from having one baby?
A Oh my gosh so different. It is twice as much work and twice as much joy.

Q How does Christopher like being a big brother?
A Christopher do you like being a big brother? [Christopher: What?] Do you like being a big brother? [Christopher: Yeah] Yeah, he likes it. He thought I said 'Do you like being a peanut butter?' He's a little diaper runner. He sings to them when they are crying. He calls them his princesses, and me too. He calls me his princess. He says he's going to protect them.

Q What are you looking forward to the most about having twin girls?
A I'm excited that they will have each other. I'm really close to my sisters. My sister is one of my best friends.

Q Where will they attend high school?
A Hopefully St. Teresa's! Future stars!

You better start playing some memory games if you want to get an A

AN OPINION BY



MEGAN SCHAFF

Sometimes I feel like school is absolutely, utterly pointless. I know that all of us feel like this at one point or another, but I find my-

self feeling like this more often than not. It's not because I dislike my teachers or even what we're learning, but it's because everything is all about details and pure memorization. In some classes, it seems like critical thinking skills or original thoughts are completely useless, but a photographic memory is the key to passing.

In seventh and eighth grade I had a social studies teacher that believed everything was always about details and memorizing. She would pick apart the book and find the most random, off topic questions that no one in the class would ever

get right, but of course she thought it was still a good system. Aside from these random multiple choice questions, on every single test we would have three essay questions. Not only did she give us the questions to these essays, but she gave us the answers. Yes, you read right, she gave us the answers. She would write the answers to the essays on the board, everyone in the class would copy them down, and unless you had them perfectly memorized and written word for word the next day for the test, she took points off. A week after the test, I wouldn't be able to tell any-

one even one thing about the chapter we had just learned. And at the end of eighth grade year I hadn't learned anything about the presidents, the Industrial Revolution, or World War II. The only thing I learned was that I could remember the essays better if I crammed the morning before the test.

And yes, this was grade school and most of the teachers at STA are all about making us think and preparing us for the future. But some teachers still are obsessed with those tiny little details and extra "information boxes" in the book that I never read. Not all teachers are like that,

but I know I've had my fair share of them- even at STA. I keep wondering if this is how college is going to be, because I'm pretty sure that in college you actually need to use your brain to pass a class. But, as long as I'm here at STA, I want teachers to actually teach. I want to be prepared for the future and I want to stop having to worry about memorizing the entire book.

Either I need to start improving my memorization skills or this problem needs to be fixed before I continue getting Cs on tests for not studying the real life example box on the very top of page 47. ★



Gas price doubts ★ Freshman Katarina Waller submitted an editorial cartoon for an assignment in introduction to journalism class. She expresses her unease about gas prices dropping and predicts prices will soon rise again. **CARTOON BY KATARINA WALLER**

Letter to the editor

Respect for life

While I consider *The Dart* to be an outstanding high school newspaper, I must take issue with the headline on the front cover of the October 9th paper, specifically, "With elections around the corner, Catholic voters are torn between traditional Church morals and social justice values." Although this seems to be a recurring theme among church leaders and churchgoers alike, I maintain that traditional Church morals and social justice values are one in the same. If one upholds the moral teachings of the Church, social justice actions will follow.

With respect to abortion, I believe this is, in fact, a major social justice issue of our time. Frankly, I doubt the sincerity of one who claims concern for the poor and suffering but is unwilling to help (or even recognize) some of the most vulnerable and marginalized in our society, the unborn.

Somewhere along the line, a false notion that one must either be pro-life or pro-social justice developed, particularly among many in the Catholic church. This seems contradictory considering that "no other non-governmental institution provides more educational, charitable and social services—including relief services—than the Church." (*Conscience and the Catholic Voter*). There are many ways to address the problems of society and indeed, all leaders, pro-life or not, should be challenged to come to the aid of those in need. However, a lack of respect for all life threatens the life of everyone.

Karen Miller, school parent

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Senior strives for major QuestBridge scholarship

QuestBridge program picks senior MaryLee Ptacek, final decision will be Dec. 1

by CAROLINE QUINN
Editor-in-Chief

November brings long hours at the computer for most seniors. Most are busy updating their resume last-minute, finding a letter of recommendation and pouring their energy into the perfect college essay. For senior MaryLee Ptacek, her process involves finding teacher support, writing personal statements and seven spotless essays just to make heads turn.

On Oct. 24, Ptacek's effort paid off. She received an e-mail saying she had been approved through the first round of selection for the QuestBridge program. QuestBridge is a non-profit program that connects high-achieving, low-income students to four-year full-ride scholarships to one of 26 of the country's most prestigious colleges and universities. Schools range from Princeton University and Columbia University to Pomona College.

Ptacek heard of QuestBridge through email and letters in the mail. She became interested in the program and started sifting through the paperwork, she said.

"Money is a big factor in where I go," Ptacek said. "QuestBridge is an opportunity I just couldn't pass up."

The QuestBridge application process consists of two rounds of selection. The first one involves endorsement from the program itself. Ptacek wrote four essays for the application and had to send her grades and standardized test scores to the organization. QuestBridge approved her through the first round, and now she must scramble to write three more essays and send her financial information for

the individual schools to review them. Ptacek has chosen her top eight schools from the QuestBridge partners. Each school has the option of choosing her or not, and she will find out Dec. 1 if she is a QuestBridge scholar.

Making it through this second round of selection won't be easy, Ptacek knows. According to Ptacek, last year around 11 percent of applicants received offers from one of their designated schools. With this low admittance rate, Ptacek said she has had to make herself stand out through her essays.

"I want my essays to show that I know where I want to go," Ptacek said. "I'm different from other students because I've pursued my interests straight from the start. I've stuck with foreign language and literature, and I've always been interested in foreign relations."

According to Ptacek's mother, Ms. Joan Ptacek, MaryLee's commitment to her education makes her different from her peers. She has always shown dedication to school, Joan said. She enjoys reading and learning and has a passion to follow academics.

"[MaryLee] has the goods - she's bright and intelligent," Joan said. "She is extremely committed and through and challenged to do her best."

Senior Amanda Backer, one of MaryLee's close friends, has served as Ptacek's editor and revisor for the past few months. MaryLee sends Backer her essays and ideas, and they discuss her options together. Backer sees MaryLee as a "really random, funny person," but also recognizes her friend's desire to succeed.

"MaryLee works really hard," Backer said. "Even when she isn't great at something, she finds a way to figure it out. She tries in everything she does."

MaryLee hopes her hard work and determination can grab the attention of the University of Chicago, her top choice of the QuestBridge schools. MaryLee's dream would be to attend the University



Checking it off ★ Senior Mary Lee Ptacek checks off a to-do packet for her QuestBridge applications on Mon. Mary Lee had to complete the packet by midnight that day. PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

of Chicago or Georgetown University, where she will apply regular decision if she is not accepted by a QuestBridge school, and eventually have a career in foreign relations. According to MaryLee, Georgetown has been her top choice for several years.

MaryLee does not want to get ahead of herself, though. She said now all she can do is wait for December 1 and then weigh her options. MaryLee has bound herself to the QuestBridge program, so she must attend one of the schools if they accept

her. If she does not make it through the second round of application for QuestBridge, MaryLee said she will keep applying to other schools and most likely end up at the school which offers the most financial support. Regardless, MaryLee said she has gained insight from this experience.

"You have to make the most of every opportunity," MaryLee said. "You never know what's going to happen. You don't know if you don't try." ★

Seniors gain from one-on-one time

In advanced acting class, students get individual attention

by MADALYNE BIRD
Staff Writer

When the bell rings, teachers take attendance. They scan lists of 15 to 25 students, occasionally marking some absent or tardy. But for drama teacher Shana Prentiss, she only needs to check to make sure one student is present.

Once a week Prentiss meets with four students individually for what on their schedule is labeled "Advanced Acting," while Prentiss' schedule reads "Kate Time," or "Laura Time."

The four students who take the class are seniors Kate Bohnert, Laura Nendick, Rachel Flattery and Anna Gillcrisp.

"I mainly work with girls who plan on pursuing acting as a career," said Prentiss. "I help them practice monologues that they would normally perform when they audition for professional theaters or college."

During class [students] work on more detailed theater, learning how to develop the character they are portraying.

"Lately [Prentiss and I] have been working on these character worksheets where she gives us this scenario," senior Rachel Flattery said. "I remember mine being about this tour guide at Graceland (Elvis

Presley's estate) who is being constantly annoyed by these tourists. [Prentiss] then helps me come up with a name for the character and we work on things like how I think that person would walk and what kind of body language they would give off. [Prentiss] really gives me different ways to make sure I have good skills besides speaking."

Flattery has dreams of transforming her high school acting career to a college career, maybe even into adulthood.

"My ultimate dream would be to enroll in the theater department at DePaul University in Chicago, but I've already decided to go to K-State to study veterinarian medicine," said Flattery. "But I will definitely try out for any community theater projects. The life goal would obviously be Broadway, but I don't know..."

But not all of Prentiss' students practice monologues; senior Kate Bohnert works with lights, sound boards and setting up microphones.

"For me, [Prentiss] and I focus on the technical aspect of theater,"

Bohnert said. "Instead of doing monologues, like [Prentiss] does with the other students she teaches. The reason we practice technical theater is because I personally don't plan on pursuing acting as a career in college," said Bohnert.

Bohnert alone has participated in six productions including plays, musicals and student productions, both as part of the cast or part of the crew. Bohnert is working the sound board for the fall musical, "Little Women."

The students are given the opportunity to feel comfortable in a learning environment and a chance to bond with Prentiss.

"[Prentiss] and I have definitely bonded," Flattery said. "I feel comfortable coming to her with anything, because I trust her and I know she will always help me figure out things I'm having trouble with."

Prentiss thinks that the alone time with her students helps them really evolve their acting skill.

"I think the girls really benefit from having individual time because it's time that wouldn't normally get in a normal class room environment that I can give to them," Prentiss said. "I think they learn a lot when one period is just devoted to them." ★

"I think they learn a lot when one period is just devoted to them."

Shana Prentiss, Drama teacher



One on One ★ Senior Laura Nendick, left, and teacher Ms. Shana Prentiss discuss costumes for the upcoming musical during what is called "Laura Time" on Monday. Posted on the door is Prentiss's schedule which has four slots throughout the week designated for four individual students for Advanced Drama. PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

Freshman helps 'repair the world'

Hanna Katz is a Reform Jew; religion stresses community

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

Freshman Hanna Katz sat around a small fireplace last summer at camp in Zionsville, Indiana. All of the campers at Goldman Union Camp Institute, ranging from fourth graders to sophomores in high school, gathered around the fire and sang camp songs.

The songs they sang were in Hebrew.

Hanna is part of the Reform Judaism movement, the most liberal movement of Judaism. Her father Mark Katz was born into the Conservative Judaism movement, a stricter form than Reform Judaism.

He began practicing Reform Judaism 18 years ago. Her mother Jill Katz was born Catholic and attended STA. Jill started practicing Judaism after she and Mark had

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

Part 1: junior Kat Wiens, Mennonite

Part 2: junior Camellia Jahanshahi, Unitarianism

Part 3: freshman Hannah Katz, Judaism

their first daughter, STA alumna Roni Katz.

"I felt a spiritual home [in Judaism], a sense of just being home and belonging," Jill said.

Reform Judaism centers around the idea that there is an all-powerful God and emphasizes that humans are responsible for the preservation and protection of the world and other humans.

"A lot of Judaism is based on Tikkun Olam, which is English for 'repairing the world,' which is helping others and making sure life is good for everyone and not just people who are affluent," Hanna said.

This idea of repairing the world guides the Katz family in their everyday lives.

"Hanna is a good person and wants to do what's right and help others," Jill said. "She's always been a person who wants to resolve things. I think those are her own efforts at repairing the world."



Sacred Scrolls ★ Freshman Hanna Katz holds the breastplate that adorns the Torah behind her while explaining the importance of these scriptures, treated as royalty, in her Jewish Faith at the Temple B'nai Jehudah. Katz converted to Judaism in the third grade and currently takes classes with others her age to learn more about her Jewish tradition. **PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE**

The family works in their community to restore the world. They volunteer at Operation Breakthrough and Maddie Rhodes. At STA, Jill was president of Fine Arts Booster for four years.

"We make sure that we donate time and money for causes important to the family and working with the underprivileged," Jill said. "... Judaism really focuses my professional life. I'm a family law lawyer and I do a lot of work with families in conflict and it allows me to keep in my mind my job is to help people move along in a positive way and not be destructive. It's an important practice and I've been blessed with the ability to do it well."

The family also dedicates time to their temple, Temple B'nai Jehudah, as well. Hanna goes to classes at her temple every Wednesday and the family goes to services every Friday. Both Jill and Mark are very involved in the temple. Their

faith stresses the importance of community and acceptance.

"In Judaism we're supposed to create a holy community, Kehilah Kedoshah, and be accepting of everyone," Hanna said.

Followers of Reform Judaism strive for equality and to love God and each other.

"The most important part of Judaism to me is that in order to love God you have to love people and also teaching your children [is important]," Mark said.

According to Mark, being devoted to Judaism is not just saying prayers and going to temple. It is important to fulfill the principles of the religion in everyday situations, such as work and friends.

"Judaism is a very practical religion in the sense it does no good to take these ideas to only apply them outward without applying them inward in your relationships," Mark said.

According to Hanna, practicing

a different religion is easy for her at school. Her beliefs are accepted and acknowledged. She and her theology teacher plan for her rabbi to come talk to the class and she also has discussions about religious beliefs with her friends.

"STA is even more accepting than St. Peter's [School]," Hanna said of her elementary school. "Since people usually don't know that I'm Jewish, when they find out they usually say, 'Oh really that's so cool,' and that's kind of when it ends."

Hanna is always living her life in the vision of Judaism. She strives to help people make her community better. People even know she's Jewish by just looking at her, Hanna said.

"When I'm out, people we ask me if I'm Jewish," Hanna said. "It's because I wear my star [of David pin] everywhere. I've only taken it off once since eighth grade." ★

Hebrew Glossary

Here are a few common words in Hebrew:

Mikvah (mick-vah)
Signifies rebirth or cleansing

Shehenchianu (sheh-heh-he-awn-nu)
Blessing when something is special or new

challah (hall-ah)
A rich, sweet bread usually eaten on special occasions such as the Sabbath and holidays

shofar (show-far)
A ram's head blown as a 'call to worship'

at a glance in 300 words

Modeled after Brady Dennis's original 300 word series, this series captures people and moments in 300 words: no more, no less.

by **HALEY VONDEMKAMP**
Lifestyles Editor

Last dance

The DJ bellows muffled directions into his microphone and the buzzing mob of sweaty teenagers migrates toward the bleachers. The dance floor clears except for two, adrenaline fueled friends who don't typically follow crowds. The girls dance alone, barefoot on the sticky gymnasium floor. They are seniors at their last Teresian.

Meg Hart and Samantha Barker dance alone, donning dresses of the same bright pink hue. They wear iridescent fish hats instead of taking the traditional suit and tie clad dates. Together,

they spare each other the forced conversation and inevitable awkwardness that comes with taking the expected escort. This isn't the year to leave the night up to chance, so who better to spend it with than a best friend?

They dance alone, unaffected by the empty space around them. Keeping up with the DJ's pace, they let their make-up run, oblivious to the smudging of pinks, purples, and blues; remnants of what they had so meticulously applied hours before. The bold neon shades are just part of their ensembles anyway; only accents to the polka dots and frills. With no date to impress, why hold back?

They dance alone, enough to entertain each other until the end of the night. The two take turns showing off their moves, fighting for air between bursts of laughter on the bare dance floor. Accustomed to the other's quirks, inhibitions were checked at the door along with their purple and gold pumps.

They dance alone like no one is watching and in fact, no one actually is. Unmoved by the performance taking place in the back of the gym, they put on a show of their own, intended for no one but each other. On one last night in their last year together, it would be silly to ignore an open dance floor.

Seniors embrace civic activities

Government teacher Pat Sirridge assigns active homework

by ROSIE HODES
Opinion Editor

Spanish homework: page 81 activity "A." History homework: finish chapter nine. Government homework: visit a courtroom, interview a political figure, write a letter to the editor, attend a public meeting, participate in cancer fund raiser, go on police ride-along, donate blood, attend a public meeting or vote.

Differing from assignments that students can finish in a free before class, government teacher Pat Sirridge assigns his students tasks that go beyond the classroom.

"It's easy to go through a government course and never have experience with what government does," Sirridge said. "It's an attempt to see government in action so [students] are doing more than just living here."

Students must complete four outside activities over a semester, submit proof and write a reflective essay when finished. According to Sirridge, police ride-alongs are a class favorite. This year, seniors Charlie Campbell and Jessica Bales published letters in the *Kansas City Star*.

Devoting some free time and even missing a government class, seniors Mollie Caffey, Kate Bonhert and Molly Torrence attended the "Precious Doe" court case as a

civic activity. Caffey admitted she would not have gone to the case otherwise.

"I was afraid to move while I was in there," Caffey said. "It was really kind of bazaar. The man told the story and basically admitted to killing the little girl. It was creepy."

In addition to the "Precious Doe" case, a walk for ovarian cancer and registering to vote, Caffey volunteered for the Obama campaign as a civic duty.

According to Sirridge, students are more interested in political activities this year because of the campaign season. Many seniors vote or register to vote (Sirridge gives credit for one or the other), and some become actively involved in political campaigns.

Mr. Harold Phillips is a neighborhood team leader for the Obama campaign in Liberty. He interacts with many student volunteers, who campaign for the candidate of their choice for extra credit in their AP government class at Liberty High School.

"[Student volunteers] didn't go into a booth and mark a ballot, but they influenced something good to happen," Phillips said. "In that way, one student may have voted five times even if they're not old enough yet. That is power. Responsible power."

Sirridge also embraces the idea of civic responsibility.

"When you become 18, you are legally recognized and able to vote," Sirridge said. "You begin to recognize certain rights, but it's good to remember you have cer-

tain responsibilities, too."

According to Caffey, this recognition should start early. She disagrees with the fact that a teacher punished her seventh grade brother for imitating Sen. Sarah Palin.

"If people put a negative spin on the government, [kids] are not going to care anymore and by the time they can vote, they don't know what's going on," Caffey said. "If you are younger when you start learning about the government, then you'll have the inclination to do more later. Even if you're only 17, it's better now than never."

According to Sirridge, for those who are 18 and eligible, it is hard to take a government course and deny the importance of voting. Phillips similarly feels that citizens forfeit their right to complain if they refrain from voting. He hopes young students do not forfeit their right.

"They'll say 'I'm [voting] because I care about my country or candidate or policies,'" Phillips said. "My guess is students will carry on campaigning. I guess time will tell."

By voting, campaigning or by observing what a police officer's Friday night is like, government students learn outside of the classroom. According to Sirridge, students experience something new and better understand what they learn in class by witnessing government taking place in the community.

"People take time out of their busy lives and are willing to volunteer to make this a better community," Sirridge said. ★



Clever photo kicker ★ STA senior Sally Nulton, campaigns for the Republican party at a rally on Ward Parkway Road Monday. Nulton participated in this event to fulfill one of the required civic duties for her government class. **PHOTO** BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

Concerts help junior find the rhythm

Junior Tori Shaw follows own unique path through attending live shows

by TAYLOR IRWIN
Staff Writer

Q: How long have you been going to concerts?

A: My first one was in seventh grade; it was Relient K.

Q: So, since 7th grade with Relient K up until now, how many concerts have you been to, roughly?

A: Holy shnikes! Um let's see... [Laughs] there's so many. I would say roughly, give or take, I have around 30 ticket stubs in my room right now, and I don't keep them all. But if you talk about how many bands I've seen, then that's 100 plus, and that's not a lie. But um, I'd say at least 40, I think.

Q: Why do you have to see them live?

A: Wow. Um, basically because it's completely different; it makes them seem more real. And to feel the music you love pumping in your veins when you stand next to a bass or whatever is an amazing feeling.

Q: Is there a reason music is so important in your life?

A: Because, I don't know, when I was in eighth grade and seventh grade I just didn't fit in and I like hated my life so...then I started getting into music and it helped me through the tough times. [Laughs], that was cheesy.

Q: Is there a certain band that's been with you since the beginning?

A: Oh my god, Fall Out Boy, definitely. They're my favorite one.

Q: Have you seen any bands more than once?

A: Oh yeah, Fall Out Boy, of course, and Panic at the Disco, Dashboard [Confessional], The Maine and Forever the Sickest Kids. There's probably more, but I can't think of them now.

Q: Who turned you on to music?

A: Oh, that's easy - my brother. Well, I'll start at the beginning. I tried fitting in at first, you know I was like 'I love rap,' and meanwhile I was thinking 'oh no, I actually really don't like rap.' Then my brother started feeding me bands and just [he] is the main reason I started listening to the music I do. The rest is history.

Q: How do you get the money?

A: My mom usually pays for me to go, all because of when she was a kid her mom wouldn't let her see the Beatles...They were a huge deal to my mom, and she was totally torn up about it, so she doesn't want me to miss out on anything like that.

Q: Where's the farthest you've traveled to go to a concert?

A: Definitely Lincoln, Nebraska earlier this month.

Q: So, when everyone was at Teresian, you skipped it to go to a concert, why?

A: [Laughs] Yeah, right. It was Rock Band Live and it had Panic [at the Disco], Dashboard Confessional, Plain White T's, and The Cab. And yeah, [junior] Alle' Scott and I drove up to Lincoln, Nebraska and stayed the night up there with my brother and his girlfriend and my mom. Um, I skipped Teresian because

I went last year and I'm not going to lie, I had a blast but it kind of burnt out for me... I just think that [Scott] and I didn't want to go and we were like, 'well, let's just go to Panic at the Disco instead.' I would rather have Brendon Urie and Ryan Ross as my homecoming dates any day rather than some random Rockhurst hobo. [Laughs] I'm so weird.

Q: Do you regret it at all?

A: Actually I don't, cause like Monday [after the dance] everyone was like 'oh my god Teresian sucked; the music was horrible.' Okay, not everyone was like that, but still. Then I was like, 'dude, I danced all night.' I like couldn't even bend my legs. It was sick. Lincoln [Nebraska] knows how to throw a concert [laughs]. Oh my god, it was awesome.

Q: Is there one concert that sticks out to you the most?

A: I had a feeling you'd ask me this. Um, well, I would say Hannah Montana - that was pretty cool. [Juniors] Kelly Fitzpatrick, [Scott], Jessica Luber and I got up at like 5 a.m. and stood in like 7 degree weather and waited for tickets. We got floor seats.

Q: Is there anything you want to say to people who are like, 'Oh my god you skipped Teresian?'

A: I think that - oh my god this is going to sound so geeky - but I talked to my mom about it. I told her I was getting a lot of crap about not going, and basically the best advice she gave me was in high school everyone expects you to be in this box and be in the normality. I think that since me and [Scott] stepped out of the box, it was like suddenly we were

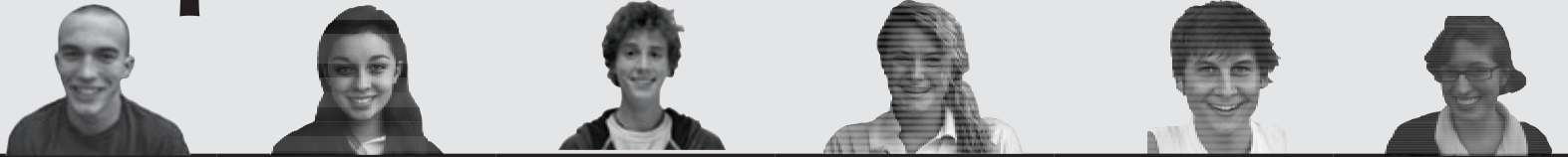


Girl at the Rock Show ★ Junior Tori Shaw thumbs through her CD collection. Shaw's love of music has drawn her to over 40 concerts. **PHOTO** BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

breaking the rules. I think that's how me and [Scott] are, we don't like to be normal. [Laughs]. I just think that's who I am and music is just a huge part of my life and I know people at STA accept me like that. ★

Gender Spenders: trends revealed

The Dart interviewed six teens on their spending habits. The following results suggest varied trends by gender and age.



	Jack Keller Sophomore Rockhurst High School	Angelique Short Junior St. Teresa's Academy	Jack Arensberg Junior Rockhurst High School	Emily Cox Sophomore St. Teresa's Academy	Jack Brown Senior Bishop Miege High School	Maura Lammers Senior St. Teresa's Academy
Where does your money come from?	mowing lawns	working at The Music Stand	working at Dixon's Chili in Lee's Summit	working at Bellezza and from parents	working at Carriage Club and from parents	working at Payless and from parents
About how much do you spend a month?	\$80	\$30	\$150	about \$100	\$200	about \$60
Where does most of your money go?	savings	savings	fast food/ gas	clothes/ eating out	food	Cds
About how much did you spend on Homecoming/Teresian?	about \$100	\$0	\$30	about \$600	\$125	\$88
What do you splurge on?	coffee	shoes	car parts	clothes	video games	books and Cds
What was the most expensive thing you bought in the last month?	\$40 tank of gas	\$30 jeans	\$250 speakers	\$60 sweater	\$90 football tickets	\$35 jeans

Studies conclude boys, from childhood into adult years, spend more than girls

by LAUREN PASZKIEWICZ
Staff Writer

When it comes to teenage girls, the normal stereotype is that they spend a large amount of money in a short amount of time. However, according to a survey done by The Times this characterization no longer exists.

Instead it is said that boys cost thousands of dollars more to bring up than girls because of their obsession with sports and electronic games. Raising sons can cost up to \$32,000 through their school years, \$7,000 more than daughters. Parents run up a bill of \$2,143.75 a year buying their sons gadgets, including computer game consoles, equipment for their hobbies and new clothes.

A survey done by The International Communications Research explains that teenage boys are prone to spending more money than girls because they have a higher income. Since 2001, teenage boys have earned 18% more

money than girls by doing odd jobs. More teenage boys have a regular full-or part-time job. The Magazine Publishers of America also clarify that boys spend most of their money at electronic stores, while girls shop for apparel. Boys this year have only been spending 41% of their income on apparel.

According to US News, this habit doesn't stop either. As boys grow into adulthood they still surpass woman in spending habits. Men in the 25-to-34 age group carry \$4,369 on average, compared with women's \$4,038. And while a survey conducted by The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that single men and women ages 25 to 34 exhibit similar spending patterns, men still spend about twice as much on alcohol and \$600 more on car purchases. The main difference is that single men spend more on transportation while single women spend more on apparel and services. The same is true about credit. In an article done by US News, a survey from Consumer Finances stated that men carry higher amounts of debt than woman.

As the statistics show, the stereotypes of girls being higher spenders than boys are incorrect. ★



Life on a price tag ★ Studies have shown that teenage girls spend most their money on apparel while boys spend more on general electronics. Although the common stereotype is that teen girls spend more money, trends prove the opposite. PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

What's in a name?

Most popular names at STA by class and throughout the school

HELLO my name is:
Megan
School-wide

- Freshmen
1. Sarah (5)
 2. Katie (5)
 3. Megan (5)

HELLO my name is:
Katie Sarah Megan

HELLO my name is:
Lauren

Juniors

1. Lauren (4)
2. Claire (3)
3. Kayla/Anna (3)

Seniors

1. Lauren (7)
2. Emily (4)
3. Elizabeth (4)

HELLO my name is:
Claire

Sophomores

1. Claire (6)
2. Sarah (5)
3. Emily/ Megan (4)

Sexism still Strong

Women move toward gender equality, barriers still block advances in pay

Women progress, workplace sexism perseveres

AN OPINION BY



SYDNEY DEATHERAGE

Let us work under the assumption that most Americans hold this view: that sexism in the workplace is a thing of the past. I'm no raging feminist and I also wouldn't go to the extreme in saying that I personally have been discriminated against in the workplace. But simply put, our society's assumption that sexism is extinct is not legitimate. Sex-based discrimination in the workplace is an issue that is rising and present -- and largely overlooked.

The U.S. Labor Department releases statistics each year that shows the amount of cents on the dollar women make compared to men for equal work. Currently, on average women make approximately 78 cents for each dollar earned by men. Guess what's worse? After a major pattern increase since the 1970's, over the past few years, this cent on the dollar is actually beginning a downward turn. Women's pay compared to men is down from 2005, when women made a little over 79 cents on the dollar.

In addition, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) reported almost 25,000 charges of sex-based discrimination in the workplace in 2007. The EEOC is the primary government agency that enforces federal employment discrimination laws.

The cents women earn on the dollar compared to men is an average statistic. With only 25,000 discrimination charges reported (charges not just based on unequal pay), it goes to follow that a huge number of women are not receiving equal pay for equal work, and either are not reporting it or are not recognizing it.

Though unequal pay is the most tangible evidence of sexism at work in our society, there are other statistics that shed light on it as well. According to Catalyst, a nonprofit research organization that specializes in research on working women, female attorneys make on average approximately 70 percent of what male attorneys make. In 2007, women held 14.8 percent of board seats in Fortune 500 companies. In addition, 74 Fortune 500 firms had no female officers in executive positions in 2007. The most shocking: Catalyst has approximated a 73-year struggle before

women reach equal representation at the executive level. The year 2081.

We all know about other forms of sexism: sexual abuse, the objectifying tendencies of the media, sexual exploitation and high standards of physical appearance for women. So why is it that inequality in the workplace is a fact that surprises us?

Americans have become disillusioned. In the seventies and eighties, women recognized their oppression, and simultaneously their right to equality. Thus feminism experienced an incredible surge: Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman sworn into the Supreme Court, Geraldine Ferraro made her way onto the vice-presidential ticket, and several Supreme Court rulings gave women unprecedented rights in the workplace. However, it seems that slowly such feminism has lost its zeal, and this is a travesty.

I wish today there were more of those incredible feminists of the past few decades, who not only acted as leaders for women in the workplace, but who also were change-agents that affected our society.

Back then, such leaders were widespread and feminism was ubiquitous.

Today, working leaders like Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, Nancy Pelosi, and Condoleezza Rice -- they are sparse and too much attention is focused on their womanhood, and not the qualities that prove them equal to men. The lack of female leaders and how much Americans focus on their sex is in fact a detriment to true progress for working women -- it takes our attention away from the real problem: so many working women are discreetly discriminated against in the workplace in ways that seem harmless -- hiring, firing, promoting, pay.

Maybe it's just a coincidence men far outnumber women in the business world. And on Wall Street. And in the media. And in Washington. And in corporations. Maybe it's just a coincidence, or maybe employers are actually giving advantages to men. With the unwavering evidence of statistics, the latter seems

more believable.

True, we've made progress. In 1979, women on average earned 58 percent of what men earned, and in 2007 they earned 77 percent. Women are no longer expected to only be secretaries or housewives, and with the EEOC, employers are forced to treat women with equality in all aspects of their careers (though, clearly, this often does not occur.)

So sexism -- well, it's gotten better. But do not be disillusioned, future-STA-girls-of-the-workplace: it hasn't disappeared. Know your rights. Know you have to work harder than men to prove yourself. And finally, know that you must work hard to prove yourself -- I know I don't want to wait until 2081 to truly reach equality to men. ★



Alumna reflects on past experiences with sexism

Maggie Shine reveals discrimination at work, suggests equality is near

by SYDNEY DEATHERAGE
MANAGING EDITOR OF NEWS

The seventies was a difficult time for women in the workplace. Women dealt with major roadblocks when it came to being hired, competing with men and earning equal pay for equal work. We've come a long ways since then, and STA alumna Maggie Shine, mother to freshman Caroline Mendus, has seen it happen.

Shine came from a relatively poor background. However, in the business she wanted to go into, brokering stocks, she needed family connections to bring in accounts and that only came with wealth. Shine was ambitious, though, and graduated from Rockhurst University with a degree in economics and a degree in finance, with a GPA of over 3.5. Out of college, she began her job search.

"Historically, the stock broker business has been a man's business," Shine said. "When I tried to get a job in 1978 right out of college, they just did not hire

women for those positions. At least that was my experience. I was offered jobs to type, and I didn't go to college to type."

Shine cited her job-search process as difficult, since she was primarily offered such low-skill positions as typing. However she did not truly feel discriminated against until she applied for a job at the Federal Reserve Bank. The bank chose a man from her class at Rockhurst over Shine, despite what she saw as his lesser qualifications and abilities.

[The man] had none of the work experience I had, which was banking," Shine said. "He didn't have the education I had, he didn't have the GPA, he didn't have the two degrees. And they hired him...that was blatant."

Shine approached the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) with her case. "The case was so good that [the EEOC] was actually going to fight it for me," Shine said. "They loved my case -- they loved it. Then my witness wasn't going to come through for me and that was it."

According to Shine, her witness had left the Federal Reserve to work at Burroughs, a major computer company at the time, and the Federal Reserve was now a client of Burroughs. Shine said that the witness wasn't going to testify or he was going to lie, and so the case fell through.

Though she said that the Federal Reserve incident was the worst, Shine has also been involved in a similar sex-based discrimination

situation at a bank where she worked in college.

"[They] hired a man into this trainee program and they didn't hire a woman who worked [at the bank], and she filed a lawsuit," Shine said. "The judge turned it into a class action lawsuit, meaning it was for every woman who worked there at the time. I'm not sure if she won that or not. I never got any money out of it and I don't know who did...it was bad back then. It was just awful."

Out of college, Shine was eventually offered an affirmative action position by the government as an auditor. According to Shine, she was the "token" because the agency needed a woman and Shine had strong qualifications. She was the first woman auditor for the agency since its 1938 founding.

Today, Shine is a brokerage world veteran who teaches new, prospective brokers how to work the trade, she feels things have improved for women in the brokerage business.

"[Brokering stocks] has always been a man's environment, but I'm sure that's changed with the equal employment laws," Shine said. "I think the environment is better. I do see some women come from my classes who are hired to be brokers. The federal laws and equal employment commission have certainly had an effect on the workplace...back in the 70's there was certainly sexism in the workplace. Today I just don't see it. It's probably there, but I personally don't experience it at all." ★

Fortune 500 Women CEOs

Despite the statistics against them, these women illustrate the progression of women in the workplace as they currently lead a Fortune 500 company. Whether it's in technology, food, health care or another field, women CEOs exemplify the requirements it takes to challenge the predominantly male business world.

Indra Nooyi

Company: PepsiCo

Since: 2006

Age: 52



Goals: Improve product without expanding customers' waistlines

Success: Increased revenue 12 percent to \$39.5 billion Nooyi's first full year as CEO

Extra info: PepsiCo recently bought Naked Juice

Andrea Jung

Company: Avon Products

Since: 1999

Age: 49



Goals: Renew and update products to attract young and old customers

Success: Increased revenue to nearly \$10 billion in 2007

Extra info: Avon is 121 years old

Irene Rosenfeld

Company: Kraft Foods

Since: 2006

Age: 54



Goals: Regain popularity for products by plan that calls for job cuts, innovating current products and unloading product lines

Success: Rosenfeld's three-year growth plan just began

Extra info: Rosenfeld faces pressure due to rising dairy prices

COMPILED BY: Taylor Brown

Fall sports teams wrap up seasons

Seniorless STA volleyball team raised the bar at Districts, lost momentum

by MORGAN SAID
Staff Writer

With a season record of 18-11, the STA varsity volleyball team played in Districts Oct. 29 and lost in their second match to Blue Springs High School, placing them second in the district.

"Overall, we were unfocused," freshman varsity player Taylor Migliazzo said. "And we were expecting to at least go to Sectionals."

Despite ending the season with a loss in the second round of Districts, coach Amy Carlson was happy with the team's performance this year.

"I feel that our team has grown a lot this season," Carlson said. "We had to deal with a really tough schedule, plus we had some key injuries. During a rebuilding year you are always going to have up and downs. We are returning everyone next year, which is really exciting."

According to Migliazzo, the team did well for being so young, and even though most of the players were new, they bonded easily.

"[Freshman] Kathleen Vogel has been very accurate as an outside hitter," Migliazzo said. "She's always trying her hardest and it helps the team a lot."

Carlson agreed Vogel's and junior Lindsay Bowers's accuracy greatly benefitted the team.

"Bowers and Vogel have been the most consistent this year," Carlson said. "Both play huge roles on our team. Bowers is our top blocker and has our highest kill percentage and Vogel carries the load on defense and number of attacks per game."

Even with a winning record, the team lacked a crucial characteristic, Carlson said.

"[We] have struggled with an identity this season," Carlson said. "Neither our defense nor offense has been dominant or consistent. Not being able to rely on certain aspects of our game has hurt us in close games against top teams."

Playing with little intensity also hurt the team, Whitley added.

"We had a devastating loss against [Notre Dame de] Sion [Oct. 23]," Whitley said. "Our lack of focus and intensity is becoming greater and it's frustrating to play when no one is focused. We definitely had to show more enthusiasm than most teams. On the court, it helped us build chemistry that many teams have had for four years."

The final loss was hard, according to Migliazzo, especially because the games were so close.

"The team was sad that it was over," Migliazzo said. "But we thought we had a good season. We'll be even better next year." ★



Performance disappoints tennis team at Sectionals, doubles places 7th at State

by JULIA STAPINSKI
Staff Writer

Oct. 17 marked the end of what players and coaches considered a successful season for the STA tennis team.

The varsity tennis team finished the season with a record of 13-3, and the JV team completed the season undefeated at 9-0. Varsity earned second place in the District tournament, won the regional match against Park Hill South High School and Sectional semi-finals vs. Liberty High School, but were defeated 5-2 in the Sectional finals.

Varsity tennis team



13-3

overall record

2nd

place in Guilfoil tournament

6th

place in Pembroke tournament

2nd

place overall at Districts

2nd

place doubles team senior JoEllen Redlingshafer and junior Kylie Hornbeck placed at Districts

3rd

place doubles team senior Jenny McLiney and sophomore Cassie Redlingshafer placed at Districts

4th

place junior Caroline Farchmin placed in singles at Districts

5th

place senior Sydney Ragsdale placed in singles at Districts

7th

place doubles team Redlingshafer and Hornbeck placed at State

Senior JoEllen Redlingshafer and junior Kylie Hornbeck, however, moved onto State where they finished seventh in the doubles competition.

"[Redlingshafer and Hornbeck] did pretty well," varsity player Caroline Farchmin said. "We could have done better at [Sectionals] but they did a really good job...at State."

According to Farchmin, Sectional finals were a tough time for the team, but she believes the hard work they did in practice throughout the season was helpful.

"We worked harder this season and we had harder practices," Farchmin said. "That really helped us at Districts."

JV junior Caitlin Sweeny was impressed by the varsity performance at the District tournament on Oct. 10, where the varsity team placed second.

"A lot of people improved throughout the season and did really well at districts," Sweeny said. "We played some really hard teams and defeated them."

Head tennis coach Meghan Parrot agreed.

"Districts were definitely a bold victory for us," Parrot said. "We came out feeling like winners, that's for sure. It's good to know when all the hard work pays off." ★

Golf team finishes eighth at State tournament, does not reach goal for a banner year

by MOLLIE POINTER
Staff Writer

The STA varsity golf team finished eighth out of ten qualifying teams in the Missouri State Tournament. There are about 75 girls high school golf teams in the state of Missouri.

The team set goals for the 2008 season and accomplished many, some unexpected, but at the same time did not finish out the season accomplishing their annual ambition.

"We reached several of our goals at the beginning of the season," head coach Jack Garvin said. "Not getting a banner at state was the only disappointment."

The team must place fourth in the state tournament to qualify for a banner.

Junior Holly Haywood expressed that the goal of receiving a banner was something Garvin strived for and stressed each season.

"He has a plan," Haywood said. "He really wants to get a banner."

This year the golf team lost a star player, junior Nina Salazar, to a wrist injury. Haywood said the team coped with the fact they might not do as well but were pleasantly surprised with their overall success by the end of the season.

The team was awarded a second place trophy in the District tournament and varsity player Casey O'Flaherty, with a winning score of 75, three over par, was the District champion. The STA golf team has not had a District champion since 2006.

According to Garvin, the team not only did well in Districts and state, but also throughout the season. The team had a winning record of 62-25.

Haywood said the team not only had a successful playing season but bonds were made throughout the season.

Haywood said Garvin was a lively and motivating coach for the girls.

"He's funny and he's kind of a character," Haywood said. "But he's very determined and motivated, too." ★

After losing first round in Districts, softball team looks forward to next season

by MEGAN SCHAFF
Staff Writer

The 7-1-15 STA softball team's season came to an end Oct. 8 after losing to St. Joseph Central High School 2-6 in the first round of the District tournament.

"It was a really good game and we played really hard," varsity senior Ashley Zondca said. "We just ended up losing."

Although the team lost in the first round of the tournament, head coach Don Lang thought the girls played a well-fought game.

"I felt like we should have won our first game," Lang said. "But we competed. We didn't lose on our own. We were beaten by a better ball club."

According to Lang, their district was tough, with schools like Blue Springs High School, Liberty High School and St. Joseph High School.

Zondca, Lang and JV sophomore Sarah Schulte all agree one of the biggest challenges this season was having a young team. They lost nine seniors, welcomed seven freshmen and had only three returning varsity starters.

According to Zondca, who was one of two seniors on varsity, having such a young team meant

"The future looks good."

Don Lang, head coach

she had to take on a larger leadership position.

"I knew I had to take that leadership role," Zondca said. "I look at that seriously because I didn't want to screw it up."

Lang also thought leadership was key during the season. He said many of the younger team members had to take on leadership roles because of the shortage of upperclassmen.

"It force[d] some of our younger kids to step up," Lang said. "I had to call many of the younger kids aside during the season and say, 'I know you're an underclassman, but you have to step up.' And they did."

Schulte said the most challenging part of the season was working with so many new players.

"It made it harder to adjust to because we didn't really know each other's abilities as well," Schulte said. "[The biggest challenge] was getting to know the freshmen and their abilities and how they play. We had to reassess the situation."

Zondca agreed this year was a building season.

"A lot of the girls were still on a learning curve," Zondca said. "Basically the whole team was new and we had to keep working every game."

Schulte said she has high hopes for next season because the team will be a lot closer.

"I think next year will be a lot more solid," Schulte said. "We will have known each other and we'll be practicing together. We should know what each other can do."

Lang said he is excited for next season.

"The future looks good," Lang said. "The skill level is going to be higher. The expectations are going to be higher."

Although the team did not win as many games as they would have liked, Zondca thought the team building was worth a few extra losses.

"I'm happy with the outcome of the season," Zondca said. "I wish we would have won more, but I would never trade the winning for the good moments." ★





Run down ★ Sophomore varsity cross country runner Addie Thompson rests in the STA tent after finishing 36th in the District race Oct. 25 at Lake Jacomo, Mo. "I was sort of disappointed with my District race," Thompson said. "When I was running, my legs were sore, but in my mind I knew I was trying my hardest. I would have liked to make it to Sectionals, though." PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN

Top runner shares secrets

Varsity member answers questions about cross country career and tips

by TAYLOR BROWN
Copy Editor

Seven STA runners participated in the varsity cross country's District race Oct. 25 at Lake Jacomo, Mo. Among these runners was sophomore Addie Thompson, who finished 36th out of 61 runners with a time of 21:50. According to cross country coach Karen Moran-Redlich, "Addie ran well." She finished as STA's fifth finisher that day, meaning she scored for the team.

Full name: Addie Thompson

Nickname: Tadpole

Birthdate / place: Aug. 27, 1992 / Kansas City

Best known for: 400-meter sprint ran at Mill Creek Park

Running career: Track in grade school, varsity cross country freshman and sophomore year

Major awards and honors: Ran as alternate in State freshman year, placed 36th in Districts sophomore year and holds a personal record of 21.36 in a 5-kilometer race

How it happened: "Before my freshman year and in the summer, I ran a lot with my cousin [junior Caroline Thompson], and during the season I obviously train everyday."

Experience at STA: "Cross country is my favorite thing I have done so far at STA, because all the girls are so nice, and it's helped me become friends with girls in all the grades."

Role model: Varsity cross country runner Caroline, Addie's cousin, because "she's good and she's nice"

Pre-race meal: Pasta the night before, half a bagel with peanut butter and pretzels for breakfast, water everyday and Gatorade after each practice

Practice location: STA for daily stretching, announcements and abs, Loose Park or Ward Parkway Hill on Tuesdays, Mill Creek Park on Thursdays and Brookside Trolley Trail on Fridays

Earliest cross country memory: "The St. Louis trip last year was the first time I really got to know the team."

Favorite cross country moment: "My favorite cross country moment was at State last year in Jefferson City. I did not have to run in the race, but I still got to be there and do everything with the team."

Advice for other runners: "Stick with it, because I hated it the first couple weeks of the season last year and this year, but it gets easier."

Other hobbies: Swimming, lacrosse and hanging out with friends

Secret to success: "I usually have a song stuck in my head that I sing the whole race. At Districts it was 'Escape' [by Enrique Iglesias]. Also, [Moran-Redlich] always says 'you have to push when it hurts,' so I try to live by that, too."

Pre-race routine: Take the bus to the course, set up the tent, go on a warm-up run around the course, stretch, get into spikes (running shoes), head to starting line, do pre-race warm-up (strides, lunges, high kicks etc.) pray and say "good luck" to other STA runners

Attitude: "I used to be really negative while I was running and ask 'Why do I even do this?' But now I just try not to think about it and sing in my head."

If not cross country: "I probably wouldn't play another sport instead, but I would be with my friends more."

Coach Moran-Redlich says: "Addie is one

of the best runners on our team. [She] is a very hard worker. She leads through example. She is willing to put in the hard work it takes in order to succeed in cross country." ★



Run, Addie, run ★ Sophomore and varsity cross country runner Addie Thompson nears the finish line at the District race Oct. 25 at Lake Jacomo, Mo. Thompson finished 36th out of 61 runners in the race. PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN

Varsity Tennis (13-3)		
Oct. 10	District tournament	2nd place
Oct. 14	Park Hill South	W
Oct. 18	Sectional semi-final	W
Oct. 18	Sectional final	L
Oct. 24	State tournament	7th place
Varsity Volleyball (18-11)		
Oct. 11	Visitation Academy	W
Oct. 14	Shawnee Mission Northwest	2W, 1L
Oct. 18	St. Thomas Aquinas	2W, 2L
Oct. 20	Sacred Heart	W
Oct. 23	Notre Dame de Sion	L
Oct. 29	Blue Springs South	W
Oct. 29	Blue Springs	L
Varsity Golf		
Oct. 20	State tournament	6th place
Oct. 21	State tournament	8th place
Cross Country		
Oct. 11	Clinton Invitational	1st place
Oct. 23	Richmond Invitational	6th place
JV Tennis (9-0)		
Aug. 25	Blue Springs	W
Aug. 26	Park Hill	W
Sept. 9	Pembroke Hill	W
Sept. 15	Blue Springs South	W
Sept. 18	Notre Dame de Sion	W
Sept. 22	Central High School	W
Sept. 24	St. James Academy	W
Sept. 26	Blue Valley West	W
Sept. 29	Bishop Miege	W
oct. 1	St. Thomas Aquinas	3rd place
JV Volleyball (13-1-5)		
Sept. 2	St. Thomas Aquinas	L
Sept. 3	Hayden High School	W
Sept. 10	St. Thomas Aquinas	L
Sept. 10	Notre Dame de Sion	W
Sept. 11	Notre Dame de Sion	W
Sept. 15	Mill Valley	W
Sept. 15	Free State High School	W
Sept. 17	O'Hara High School	W
Sept. 23	Oak Park	W
Sept. 26	Incarinate Word	L
Sept. 27	Bishop Miege	2W, 1T, 1L
Oct. 1	St. James Academy	1W, 1L
Oct. 11	Visitation Academy	W
Oct. 20	Sacred Heart	W
Oct. 23	Notre Dame de Sion	W
JV Softball (4-5)		
Aug. 25	Kearney	L
Aug. 25	Lee's Summit JV tournament	L
Aug. 26	Lee's Summit JV tournament	L
Aug. 27	Lee's Summit JV tournament	W
Sept. 25	Smithville High School	W
Oct. 1	Notre Dame de Sion	W
Oct. 2	Truman High School	L
Oct. 3	Rock Bridge High School	L

Teeing off at the First Tee

Junior participates in First Tee, a golf program for the skills of the game and of life

by CAROLINE THOMPSON
Staff Writer

For the past three years, junior Holly Haywood has attended First Tee, a youth golf program founded by professional golfer Tom Watson to learn the fundamentals of golf and make memories out on the course.

"First Tee isn't all about golf," Haywood said. "I became a better golfer, but I also learned how to meet people, how to give a proper handshake and about life in general."

While playing golf at STA, Haywood initially heard about First Tee from her teammate, junior Allie Lueke, who had been going to First Tee for almost 11 years. Lueke explained the history behind the program. Watson started First Tee as a charity so children who normally might not get the opportunity to participate could play the game of golf. For only \$30 a year, virtually any child from ages 6-17 could receive lessons and enjoy games.

"When I first heard about [First Tee], I joined right up because it sounded so fun," Haywood said. "Playing golf for the school team is hard core but [First Tee] helps you enjoy the game more than just the sport."

Now, First Tee is available in almost all 50 states, as well as Australia and Singapore. According to the First Tee Web site, the mission statement of the program is "to impact the lives of young people in the Greater Kansas City Area by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf."

To express her gratitude towards the donors and describe the impact of First Tee on her life, Haywood was asked, along with several other



Golfing Girl ★ For three years, junior Holly Haywood has been a part of First Tee, a charity founded by pro-golfer Tom Watson to help kids learn to have fun and play golf. Haywood has spoken to various country clubs about the charity and its impacts on her life. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

First Tee students, to present a speech to various country clubs that donated money to Watson's charity. This way, contributors could see the effects of their donations. So far she has spoken at Lionsgate in Overland Park and The National in Parkville.

"I usually talk about how [First Tee] has helped me," Haywood said. "At first I was a terrible golfer, but now I'm number six on the team."

First Tee coaches choose kids comfortable speaking in public. Like Haywood, Lueke enjoys delivering speeches in front of several people.

"[Presenting speeches] is a good way to give

back to the program," Lueke said. "I like sharing my experiences with people who help make them possible."

Haywood, along with Lueke, will only be able to present a few more speeches, this being her last year at First Tee. However, she hopes to receive a scholarship given to two graduates each year and eventually become a First Tee coach. She also looks forward to continuing her recreational golf career and using the lessons she has learned from First Tee in the future.

"First Tee has taught me lots of techniques," Haywood said. "But I've also learned about respect for your opponent, and yourself." ★

And you thought good grades got you into college

AN OPINION BY



TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

This summer while on a college tour of the East Coast, talking to coaches and academic advisors alike, I learned of a practice I thought dead to the college admissions process. Quite the contrary, the "slots system" for athletics is still alive and kicking.

For those unfamiliar with the slots system, colleges reserve spots in their incoming class for athletes talented enough to play at their school but who don't meet the school's academic requirements to be accepted on their own merits. Thus, if I wished to attend Amherst College with no athletic affiliations, I would need to get a 1420 on the SAT to even be considered for a spot in the freshman class. However, if I was an athlete that Amherst wished to have play at their school, (according to an article in *The New York Times*) I would only have to get a 1345 on the SAT to be admitted.

This broken system allows students who don't value academics as highly as athletics the opportunity to attend certain colleges over other applicants who actually meet the academic standards of the college.

During my time at STA, I have witnessed similar favoritism given to athletes. Athletes get into prestigious schools while students who had better grades, higher test scores and took more rigorous classes were pushed onto waiting lists, limbo for any applicant.

Now, not all schools have the slots system. For example at Davidson College, the coaches have no say or pull in who is accepted and who is not. Only after an athlete has been accepted into Davidson will coaches offer that athlete a spot on their roster. Their system promotes academics, but values athletics. They "work hard and play hard," Erin Lycan Davidson assistant women's soccer coach said.

Not all athletes need or use the slots system either. I have seen extraordinary STA student-athletes who have gone on to play at top-notch schools. Some athletes have the grades to get into the college where they are going to play. For others, if they are not a top athlete, the coach doesn't want to use a valuable slot on them, so the athlete must meet the academic requirements to play at the school.

So, as I stay up late (writing this column in fact), studying trigonometry identities until 2 a.m. and reading about the Puritan ideals of weaned affections, I wonder if it is all worth it. Or, should I just put down the books and go outside to kick the soccer ball around? ★

Cross country finishes season



For first time in three years, cross country team does not advance as a whole to state

by KYLIE HORNBECK
News Editor

Three STA girls competed in cross country Sectionals at Longview Community College after the team placed 6th in Districts Oct. 25. Of freshman Kelly O'Byrne, junior Grace Krause and junior Caroline Thompson, only Thompson, who placed 17th, will advance to the State Meet in Jefferson City tomorrow.

Head coach Karen Moran-Redlich was not surprised with the results and believes the girls performed well under the circumstances.

"[The season] turned out the way I thought it would," Moran-Redlich said. "I had hoped we would get farther in the post season, but with so many first year varsity runners, we did as well as we could."

There were no seniors on the varsity squad this year which brought some difficulties, according to Krause.

"We had a lot of people leave, a lot of people that graduated out last year so this year not everyone knew what to do all the time or how to pace themselves," Krause said. "[It was hard] having a completely new varsity and learning how to work together as a team."

According to Moran-Redlich, during the course of the three-month season, the team also experienced challenges in injuries.

"We did have three separate kids go to the emergency room for three separate reasons which created some difficulties for the team," Moran-

Redlich said.

Captains senior Nicolette Anderson, senior Jaime Henry-White and Thompson led the team and despite setbacks, the girls grew close, Anderson said.

"At practice, we'd all make jokes together and after practice, the people in the weight room would have music playing and we'd all have a dance party in the weight room together," Anderson said.

Krause believes the girls built strong connections in the course of the season through team get-togethers and meets.

"We have pasta parties before every meet and we always come to every meet even if we aren't running and we always support each other," Krause said. "Since we did have a lot of new people [on the team], we got to know each other and we became closer."

According to Moran-Redlich, the young team has even greater plans for the future.

"[Next year], I think they're going to be better than they were this year," Moran-Redlich said. "For a lot of our varsity kids it was their first year running and I think they built a good base to start from for next year."

Moran-Redlich has high hopes for next year's team.

"As far as advancing, it has been three years since the team has not advanced as a whole [to the state meet] but next year, we're returning our entire team and I wouldn't be surprised to find us back at the State Meet as a team."

Although she looks forward to next year, Moran-Redlich says the 2008 season is yet to conclude.

"[The season] is not over yet," Moran-Redlich said. "Caroline runs Saturday in Jefferson City. I wish her the best and her entire team is behind her." ★

Finish Line ★ Blue Springs South freshman Jennifer Kaberline, left, trails behind STA freshman Kelly O'Byrne in the 4A girls District meet at Lake Jacomo Oct. 25. O'Byrne finished 27, followed by Kaberline, and moved on sectionals. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

Winter sports



Swim Team
Tryouts Nov. 17

Varsity and junior varsity level teams
They will practice at The View
Community Center in Grandview, MO
Monday through Friday from 3:45-5:45
p.m. and some Saturday mornings

Basketball
Tryouts Monday
Varsity, junior varsity and freshmen A
and B level teams
They will practice at STA Monday
through Friday from 5:15-7:30 p.m.
and Saturday mornings



'Little Women,' big play

Compiled by **MOLLIE POINTER**
Staff Writer

Photos by **ALLISON POINTER**
Managing Editor of Design



Ellen Gude Beth March/Rodrigo 2

STA Junior

"I try to be like Beth in the sense that I try to put others first, but I feel that she does a much better job at it than I do. She's just so sweet. I wish I could be more like Beth except I don't want to die in the end because that would suck."

Rockhurst H.S. Junior

Role: Rodrigo/Laurie

Cary McRoberts

"Well, I feel like Laurie can be socially awkward sometimes. I think that Laurie and I give our hearts away too easily and much like Laurie I break into song and dance frequently."

Rockhurst H.S. Junior

Role: Rodrigo/Laurie

Cary McRoberts



Laura Nendick

Clarissa/Meg March

STA Senior

"[Meg March] is a very motherly figure and looks out for her younger sisters and I look out for my friends and I feel like we were alike in the way. She's a romantic and I feel that I am too."

Date:
Nov 5 - 8

Time:
7:30 p.m.

Where:
STA Auditorium

Directors:
Ms. Shana Prentiss &
Ms. Shauna Westall

Student Admission: \$5



Hope Stillwell Amy March/Troll

STA Senior

"[Amy March is very into materialistic items. She eventually falls in love really fast. It's difficult [to play the role of Amy] because I have to act like a child which is different for me."

Anna Gillcrist Jo March

STA Senior

"I guess that I feel similar [to Jo] in a way because she's outspoken and for her time and age she's different. I'm not as pompous and conceited and I hope I'm not that bratty."



Parents encourage daughter to **Rock On**

Student strengthens family bonds while developing talent



Family Trio ★ Mother Leslie Langtry, from left, daughter Shelby, and husband Mick practice "Crashing Cars" by Snow Patrol together in their basement Sunday. STA Junior Shelby sings harmony as a part of Recess, the family band, and plans on following a career in music. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

by MICHELLE REICHMEIER
Graphics Editor

As the crowd hushes and the University of Kansas fight song drolls in the background, a flock of familiar faces surrounds the stage as junior Shelby Langtry takes the microphone in front of about 4,000 people at the KU Kickoff pep rally at Johnny's Tavern in Corinth Square Aug. 22. Her support not only comes from family and friends in the audience, but also from the stage itself, as her parents' band Recess accompanies her.

The music starts. She breathes in deeply.

According to Shelby, having her parents in a band has helped her musical career and personal development as an artist.

"At first I was embarrassed when I had to tell people my parents were in a band," Shelby said. "Now, I'm used to it. It's like a routine thing now."

Nine years ago, Shelby's mother, Ms. Les-

lie Langtry, taught herself to play the guitar because she wanted her husband to sing more frequently. Her father, Mr. Mick Langtry, was clipping coupons in the kitchen one day and created an impromptu song. He simply titled it the "Coupon Song" At the Fall Fling, Corinth grade school's annual fundraiser, he introduced his new song a cappella. The couple then began composing little songs and "jamming" around the house.

Three years later, Langtry's parents decided to form a band with friends who shared similar interests and musical talents. The band officially formed when they tried to gather a group to perform at the Fall Fling the following year.

"I was surprised at first when people would come and watch our performances," Mick said. "It's funny."

According to Shelby, the band began as something to do for fun, out of pure love for music. They soon began practicing occasionally with friends in their basement and developed as

a group.

"One day, I watched them practice and was just like 'Hey they're actually really good,'" Shelby said.

The band's name, Recess, was the idea of former lead guitarist Chris Bihuniak's son Sam. When he was four, they asked him if he had any ideas for the band's name, and he simply thought they should call the band Recess. The name stuck immediately.

The Langtrys help Shelby develop her vocal skills both as parents and as fellow musicians.

"I want to be in music for my career," Shelby said. "Like a music teacher maybe. I think it's really important to do something you really love for a living."

Her mother strives to increase her daughter's involvement in various programs and voice lessons. She often has the opportunity to practice and perform with the band, which, according to Shelby, is a unique experience that aids her musical development and helps her family's re-

lationship flourish.

"[My family] is really close...surprisingly closer than I had realized," Shelby said.

Junior Stacy Hymer attended the KU Kickoff and watched Shelby perform with the band.

"Shelby's voice gave me the chills," Hymer said. "I thought her dad was really cool too. He really interacts with the audience, talks to the little kids and likes to shake his groove thing on stage."

Shelby said everyone, including all of her friends, thinks her dad is "the funniest ever" and notes that it is unsurprising he and his wife have matching tattoos and are in a band.

"I call [Shelby's parents] mom and dad," Hymer said. "They're like my favorite parents."

The band began by playing about one gig a month. The purpose was mostly for school and church fundraisers, or wherever they had connections. Throughout the years, that number has

See BAND, page 2

While others go against grain, new local Eden Alley Cafe sticks to its roots

AN OPINION BY



MICAH WILKINS

The hidden cafe, in the lower level of Unity Temple, is a well-kept secret. Its discrete entrance in an alleyway (hence the name) makes this restaurant well-hidden. Discovering this cafe is like finding

a diamond in the rough, amongst the fast-food and chain restaurants of the Plaza.

Eden Alley Cafe, conveniently located on the Plaza at 707 W 47th street, is a pleasant combination of food and atmosphere. Upon entering the cafe, one immediately notices the high ceilings, bright walls and artsy furniture, while the nose is met with the aroma of baking breads and frying falafel. From start to finish, the service, food and atmosphere, the whole experience was pleasant and the food healthy.

As the website states, the cafe buys only organic and local ingredients for its vegetarian and vegan dishes from farms such as the Bad Seed urban farm in the Crossroads

district. As one of the few vegetarian restaurants, this cafe is truly a unique find in mid-town Kansas City. While other restaurants serve only certain vegetarian dishes or options, with the rest of the menu containing meat, Eden Alley serves strictly vegetarian and vegan dishes.

When seated, one notices the attention to detail that the cafe maintains. All of the tables and chairs are different patterns, colors, and textures, yet all are uniquely beautiful. These small accents add to the overall artistic, eclectic mood and atmosphere of the restaurant.

With entrees anywhere from \$6 to \$14, this restaurant is within the price range of anyone on a budget

and anyone looking for a healthy meal. Today's teenagers are both too broke and too busy to take their health into consideration when eating out. However, Eden Alley Cafe is a nice alternative to the fast-food, synthetic ingredients that teens normally consume. The Veggie Burger, with mashed potatoes, which I had, is about \$8, plus tax.

The menu has a diverse selection of healthy entrees and starters, such as the gluten-free falafel platter, or the spinach and mushroom loaf. However, many dishes also appeal to picky-eating teens, such as the Veggie Burger, or the tacos, filled with fake meat.

Eden Alley Cafe is not only a restaurant, but also an art gallery.

Hung on the brightly colored walls of the cafe are large oil paintings which add to the ambiance of the restaurant. Also, attached to the cafe is a bookstore, the Good Book, which sells the art, music and literature of local artists. This bookstore adds to the sense of community and locale that the restaurant boasts. The cafe also includes a beautiful outdoor patio attached to the sidewalk of 47th street.

Dining out at the alternative, healthy Eden Alley Cafe is a new experience for open-minded food-lovers and health food nuts alike. The secret is out: this hidden restaurant is the perfect mixture of culture and food fit for everyone. Check it out!! ★

entertainment

Movie **WALL**

"Zack and Miri"

Zack and Miri...make a horrible movie. After 30 minutes of pointless background, economically destitute and mentally unstable friends resort to creating a "special film" for money. The only ray of hope I found was the demolition of their filming studio. But no, their deranged friends persevere and present the most disturbing pictures I've ever seen. Over half of the movie's dialogue is unnecessary to the plot and even unnecessary for people to hear in any circumstance. The movie overtly attempts to teach life lessons and fails miserably. I am embarrassed to admit I have seen this vulgar movie and I hope no one finds it even minutely humorous.



-Rosie Hodes

Song

"You're Not Sorry"

Confession: I'm obsessed with Taylor Swift. Her irresistibly cheesy collection of clichéd love/hate songs makes it impossible not to sing along. Swift's newest single, "You're Not Sorry," from the album "Fearless," does all but disappoint. Accompanied by a slow, smooth melody and ballad worthy instrumentals, Swift tells another story of teenage heartbreak in her signature subtle country twang. She evokes emotion while keeping the lyrics lighthearted. Even those typically repulsed by pop-infused country will have fun with this latest guilty pleasure.

-Haley Vondenkamp

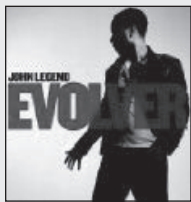


CD

"Evolver"

Numerous Grammy winner John Legend releases yet another hit album. The latest album, "Evolver" continues Legend's popular, pure voice while still creating a more upbeat mood. I am not normally a R&B or soul fan, however, Legend's catchy, unique vibe draws me in, making me not want to dance like some other musicians of the genre, but rather enjoy a relaxing, classy night.

-Taylor Brown



Television

"The Rachel Maddow Show"

Maybe I spend a little too much time surfing through the political shows on MSNBC, CNN and Fox, but I can't help but love MSNBC's latest program "The Rachel Maddow Show." Maddow is young, fresh and on the ball. Her arguments may be a little left of center, but she has such confidence and factual evidence that even the more conservative viewers could follow her. Maddow's style of organizing the show is not attack-like, though. She approaches the topics and her guests with poise and curiosity. Most of all, Maddow doesn't assume she knows everything, as her introductory segment "Talk Me Down" illustrates.

-Caroline Quinn

JV dance team banned

Administration bans JVDT from school sponsored events due to complaints

by MORGAN SAID
Staff Writer

Since the co-founders of the STA JV dance team began recruiting around senior Jenny McLiney's car after the second day of school, they have performed at numerous school events, including the fall sports pep rally and the Teresian dance. However, their dances can no longer be seen at STA and any school sponsored events. Despite new restrictions, the JVDT continues to find new ways to please the crowd.

"[The administration] emailed Ms. Katie Dolan and said we couldn't perform at school functions anymore," senior captain Sally Nulton said. "Basically, anywhere that the real STA dance team is performing, we can't."

According to Nulton, sophomore captain Kathleen Hough asked the varsity dance team captains if creating a JV dance team was okay and they were fine with it.

"Everyone thought it was funny," Nulton said. "We didn't want to make fun of the dance team. We wanted it to be our own thing."

Even though the JV dance team is not considered a school-sponsored team, they still have some upcoming events planned. As of right now, only captains have uniforms - sparkly pants and a headband - so they are trying to organize a uniform fundraiser to promote a classier and more uniformed look, according to Hough.

Also, JVDT is choreographing a half time performance for the STA vs. Notre Dame de Sion High School Powder Puff football game scheduled in November. Sion has also formed an amateur dance team, and there is going to be



Dance Pants ★ From left, juniors Ellen Gude, Megan Wilkerson, senior Sally Nulton, juniors Mary Warwick and Julia Barnett rehearse before the Teresian Dance Oct. 18. The team changed out of their dresses and performed in their "uniforms" during the middle of the dance. PHOTO BY ALLISON POINTER

a dance off, Nulton said.

Besides being banned from performing at STA events, another issue has risen, according to Nulton.

"It's becoming a challenge to come up with new dance moves because [JVDT] is in such high demand," Nulton said. "It's pleasing."

Should we expect the JVDT to return again next year?

"It won't be the same," Hough said. The other captains are seniors, so they're leaving.

I'll be the only captain left and I'm not sure if I'm [in the position] to elect new captains. We'll have to see."

Nulton hopes that the JVDT tradition continues on.

"It's something we'll discuss later in the year," Nulton said. "I want people to get the opportunity to join every year. This wasn't made to be exclusive; it's for people who want to get involved. It represents STA's goofiness and girls that just want to have fun." ★

American teens swayed by political funny business

AN OPINION BY



KAYLA LOOSEN

Election season is to comedy as the gold rush was to California.

Just ask "Saturday Night Live." Since the 2008 primaries, the late-night comedy show has been mocking Senators John McCain, Barack Obama, Hilary Clinton and occasionally President George W. Bush. However, "SNL's" more recent imitations of Governor Sarah Palin have sparked a 161 percent viewer increase in comparison to this time last year - "SNL's" highest ratings in more than 14 years according to "USA Today."

Some analysts are saying with ratings like that, "SNL's" spoofs could entirely swing the election. Although it seems unlikely that a majority of America could be this impressionable, I wouldn't deny that the show has further confirmed or inflated viewers' notions of the candidates' flaws.



Playing Palin ★ Alaskan governor and Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin speaks at The Pavilion at John Knox Village nursing home in Lee's Summit during a visit Monday, Sept. 8. PHOTO BY MCT CAMPUS

"I can see Russia from my house," said former "SNL" cast member Tina Fey as Palin last month, illustrating the governor's limited knowledge of foreign policy. It's a statement like this that can easily sway uninformed voters, especially teenagers. I know in discussing politics with many of my peers, people have come to think Fey is literally the candidate. Someone will mention something Palin "supposedly" said or did, then stand corrected because what he or she claimed occurred, actually only happened on "SNL," not in real life. Unfortunately, it seems that the

knowledge of the uninformed can be entirely limited to what they have seen on "SNL."

Though ultimately, the reason Fey's impression is so effective is not because she is cruel or demeaning, but because she repeats true statements Palin actually said. These are then exaggerated with Palin's seemingly cheerful charisma. If Fey's portrayal has impacted Palin's candidacy, it has only confirmed and cemented the conservative judgment placed on it.

Hopefully most Americans would have already formed some kind of an opinion of the can-

didates by the time the "SNL" imitations had begun. After all, these political figures had been prevalent in the media for months prior. If someone really had no pre-SNL impression of these candidates, maybe they deserve to have their opinion influenced solely by comedians playing exaggerated parodies.

Nevertheless, I by no means want to deride this new wave of political satire. It's a rare occurrence when "SNL" can actually make me laugh out loud or furious when someone in my family deletes an episode I haven't seen off the Tivo. I have to hand it to "SNL" that people, myself included, are enthused about politics.

"SNL's" 2008 political parodies will likely go down as a pop culture phenomenon. Despite the gravity of America's problems, all of this political satire has made Americans realize maybe the world doesn't have to always be so stressful. "SNL," and other satirical commentators like Stephen Colbert of the "Colbert Report" and Jon Stewart of the "The Daily Show," remind us that politics can be as much of a joke as anything else.

Unfortunately for SNL, this gold rush is set to end shortly. Let's hope they can keep us laughing as hard outside of the election season as they did in it. ★

Freshman works her way up in school to

Such Great Heights

Paige Wendland is known for her height, intelligence as well as her confidence

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

Paige Wendland sat in the back of her aunt's minivan. Her third grade cousin Maggie sat in the front seat and her sister Kelsey sat with her in the back. Maggie and her aunt were working on multiplication tables and when her aunt asked Maggie, "What's five times six," and Maggie answered "Eleven." Maggie's mom looked in her rearview mirror and saw Paige opening and closing her hand making six fives. She was also mouthing, "Thirty!"

Paige was four years old. When her shocked aunt asked how she knew the answer, Paige responded, "Doesn't everyone know that?"

Starting Young

Born on Oct. 4, 1994, Paige was 22 1/2 inches long, the longest baby ever born at Overland Park Medical Center. Now she's in high school, is 6'3 and just turned 14. She's the age of the average eighth grader.

In Kindergarten she showed the signs of being a gifted student. She knew how to read by the age of four and could also do some basic math, including a few multiplication tables.

"Paige was always doing things the other [kindergartners] weren't," her mother Molly Wendland said. "Her kindergarten teacher recognized that Paige was advanced so she made a special effort to enrich Paige's kindergarten experience."

These special efforts included having Paige work with a separate teacher to help her fundamental skills and her reading. Instead of reciting the alphabet and practicing writing numbers, tasks of the average four year old, Paige was doing flashcards and reading "Amelia Bedelia" books to her classmates.

"I skipped first grade but in kindergarten I had to do a bunch of extra stuff," Paige said. "I was the 'special' kid. I had to sit in the corner with this old guy. We did flashcards and had to read this book, 'Sarah Plain and Tall.' I absolutely hated it."

At her young age, Paige showed signs of being academically advanced, even at home. Sometimes when her sister Kelsey, who is now an STA junior, worked on homework, Paige would help get answers or would join in the learning process.

"One time when Kelsey was in third grade, she was working on her math homework with my dad," Paige said. "She was sitting at the table with him and I was behind him. He realized she kept looking behind his back. When he turned around he saw me mouthing her the answers."

Paige's abilities in school led her parents and teachers to discuss what the right class would be for her. The Wendlands were hesitant to allow Paige to skip first grade because of her young age.

"In January or February of kindergarten I asked Paige's teacher, 'Is there anything for my kid to learn in first grade?'," Molly said. "She told me 'I'm glad you asked.' That was relieving but also a bit stressful. On the good side, she was already a head taller than the other kids



1.

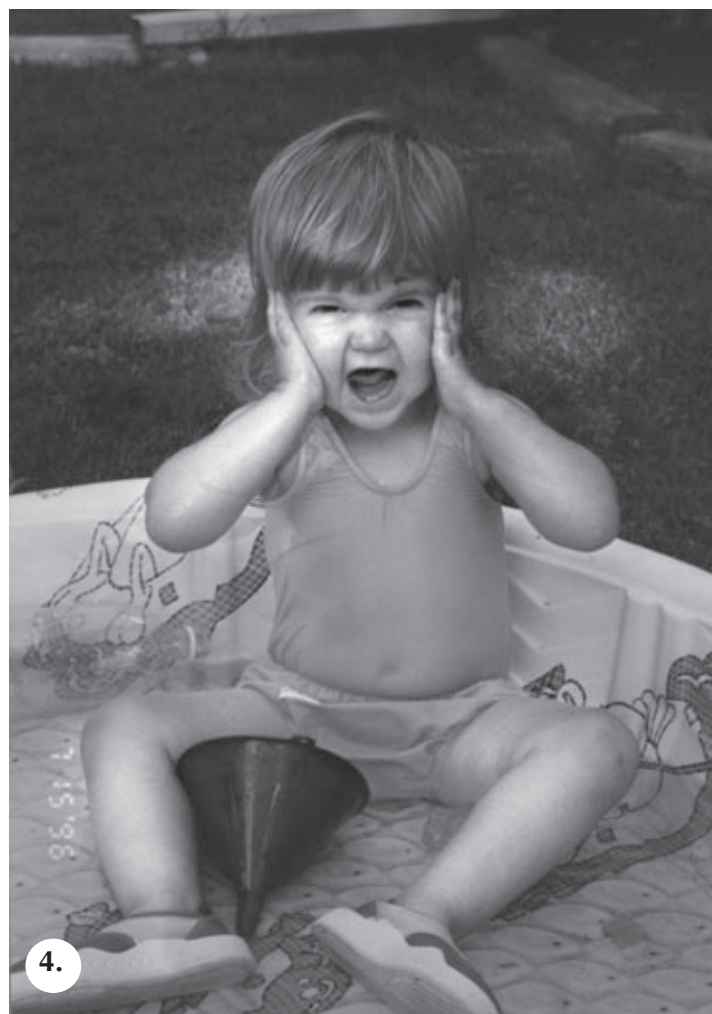
1. Crack a Smile ★ Freshman Paige Wendland laughs during Activity. **2. Gettin' Old** ★ (L to R) Paige and best friend Becca Bishop at their pre-kindergarten graduation. **3. Work Hard** ★ Paige in kindergarten. **4. Swim & Splash** ★ Paige, 2, in a swimming pool. **5. Helping Hand** ★ Paige tutors fellow freshman Rowan O'Brien-Williams in geometry. **6. Study Break** ★ Paige takes a break from her hectic schedule. **7. Fun in the Sun** ★ (L to R) Paige, 3, and sister Kelsey, 6, playing in the sprinkler. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

[in first grade]. Skipping a grade is always harder when your kid is really little or socially underdeveloped. She was kind of advanced in all areas.”

The Wendlands took Paige to a Shawnee Mission School District child psychologist to evaluate her abilities and see if she was academically prepared to skip first grade. They took IQ tests and Paige had to talk to the psychologist to see if she was academically, socially and emotionally ready to enter second grade.

“[When she was evaluated] Paige did so well that [the psychologist] told us that we should not only start saving for Paige to go to college but to get her Ph.D. as well,” her father Steve Wendland said.

Paige did not have trouble adjusting to second grade. She already looked as old as her older classmates and was beyond most of them academically.

“I’ve been the youngest [since first grade],” Paige said. “I don’t really act [younger than my classmates] but it kind of shows through the times when I’m kind of off-the-wall. Usually no one thinks I’m younger because I’m so tall so it kind of evens out.”

In sixth grade, Paige skipped the normal pre-algebra class of her classmates and began taking algebra I with the seventh graders. The next year she took a geometry class at Shawnee Mission East High School with other eighth graders as well as some high school students.

“I think for awhile Paige was insecure about how smart she was, especially in grade school in a class with older students who didn’t know her,” Kelsey said. “She got used to that environment. She got used to those changes that happened three or four years ago. She’s more self-accepting.”

No Lack of Confidence Now

Paige’s confidence is one of her qualities that stands out the strongest to the people she is around the most. Many of them believe her confidence enhances her other gifts, such as her intelligence.

“[Paige] is really comfortable in her own skin and being smart and accepting who she is and being proud of it,” Kelsey said. “The way she deals with [people judging her before they know her] is she puts her personality up front and says, ‘This is who I am.’ So you know who she is before you know her.”

Paige’s accelerated English I teacher Katie Dolan commented on how Paige’s self-assured manner makes her stand out and how Paige’s walk exudes confidence.

Paige’s father agrees with Dolan and believes Paige’s confidence has helped her both academically and socially.

“I can’t ever recall Paige saying, ‘I can’t do that, I don’t want to try that,’” Steve said. “She’s never been afraid to try to do something. Her height helps with confidence. Being tall can give you a sense of

confidence physically so that can transfer over mentally.”

Academic Whiz

Often because Paige is smart, people make assumptions about what she actually understands. Because she is advanced academically, some people get the impression that she always knows the answer to a question.

“Normally, I’m kind of the guinea pig,” Paige said. “I’m the person [the teacher] asks the question to and thinks I’ll know it even if I don’t. Usually I don’t mind though.”

Other students occasionally tease her about how smart she is, but she is always prepared to show them her wit.

“Sometimes just to be a pain, [my classmates will ask], ‘Paige, what’s 1234 times 848?’ and then I’ll actually find the answer,” Paige said. “It takes a while but it’s like a comeback.”

Stretched Thin

In addition to her classes, Paige also tutors geometry during activity and is starting to tutor algebra I during one of her four frees. She plans to play on STA’s basketball team this winter.

Paige gets her work done but has admitted to having some all-night study periods. She’s the self-proclaimed ‘queen of procrastination’ and sometimes has trouble managing her workload.

“If Paige has any faults it is that she’s a procrastinator but she manages to get things done,” Molly said. “The things that fall through the cracks are things like cleaning her room and she might be the kid that stays up late doing her homework. Assignments tend to take her longer than she expects. It’s not because her mind works slowly but because she’s very much a perfectionist.”

Lofty Ideals

Paige’s intelligence is unusual, but it is not her quality that gets noticed first. Paige is barely 14 but, 6’3. She is much taller than an average freshman.

“Paige being tall physically is going to be the first thing people notice,” Molly said. “Her intelligence stands out really quickly after and she’s also really fun to be around.”

Paige’s height only adds to her confidence. Dolan also noticed how tall Paige walks and how this is unusual because many tall girls slouch.

Kelsey agrees with this and believes that Paige’s height has helped her grow emotionally as well.

“There was a point when Paige was uncomfortable with her height especially when all of the boys were shorter than her,” Kelsey said. “Now I think she likes how tall she is, not because she gets attention for it but because it makes her different and it’s good to be dif-

ferent. Sometimes it can be a little bit of hindrance when she’s shopping for pants or something, but for the most part she really likes her height. Even if she could, I don’t think she would want to change her height. She’d want to stay just as tall as she is.”

Paige’s self assurance has helped her in her more advanced classes. She is in classes with sophomores and juniors and Kelsey is even her classmate in honors algebra II.

“It’s funny when you have two sisters in the same class,” Molly said. “[Mrs. Weller], at parent-teacher conference, told us Kelsey was the quieter one which really surprised me because Paige is the only freshman in the class. I guess Paige doesn’t talk that much more but

PAIGE STATS



Classes:

honors algebra II, journalism, accelerated biology, accelerated English I, P.E., computer, Latin I theology

Extracurricular Activities:

1. basketball for the club team Metro Stars and for STA this winter
2. piano for the past nine years
3. Girl Scouts which involves working toward the Silver Award, a task that includes 40 hours of community service

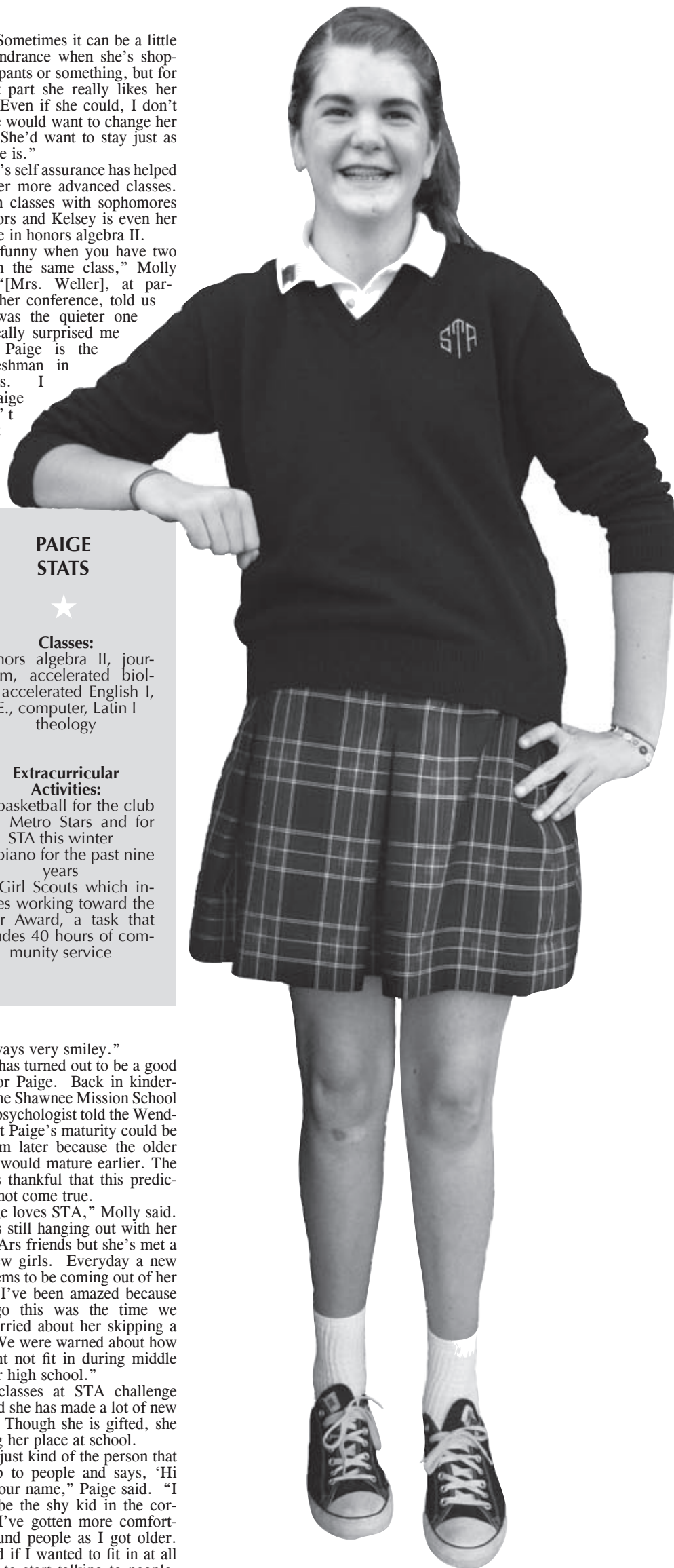
she’s always very smiley.”

STA has turned out to be a good choice for Paige. Back in kindergarten, the Shawnee Mission School District psychologist told the Wendlands that Paige’s maturity could be a problem later because the older students would mature earlier. The family is thankful that this prediction did not come true.

“Paige loves STA,” Molly said. “She’s still hanging out with her Cure of Ars friends but she’s met a lot of new girls. Everyday a new name seems to be coming out of her mouth. I’ve been amazed because years ago this was the time we were worried about her skipping a grade. We were warned about how she might not fit in during middle school or high school.”

The classes at STA challenge Paige and she has made a lot of new friends. Though she is gifted, she is finding her place at school.

“I’m just kind of the person that walks up to people and says, ‘Hi what’s your name,’” Paige said. “I used to be the shy kid in the corner but I’ve gotten more comfortable around people as I got older. I realized if I wanted to fit in at all I’d have to start talking to people. Sometimes people think I’m kind of creeper because they don’t know me, but it’s usually a positive outcome.” ★



Standing Tall ★ Paige Wendland poses outside the Music and Arts Building after school. Wendland stands at 6 feet 3 inches, takes rigorous courses, wants to play basketball for STA in the winter and is a pianist. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

One runner's nightmare, another's motivation

Sophomore copes with the obstacle of running cross country with diabetes

by **AVERY ADAMS**
Staff Writer

It was an ideal day for running at the Stockdale Park in Liberty: clear skies and minimal wind. The first cross country meet was going seemingly well for the Stars as sophomore Jessica Bullington finished out the last few yards of the Liberty Invitational race. But not as well as it seemed. Blood sugar levels spiked. Bullington blanked.

"It felt like I was running in slow motion," Bullington said. "All I could focus on was the green grass up ahead, and then everything went black."

This was the first cross country meet of the 2008 season and the first ever for Bullington, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes 3 years earlier.

Type 1 diabetes, or insulin-dependent diabetes, is a disorder of the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas, usually resulting in dependence on externally administered insulin. Insulin is a naturally occurring bodily acid that keeps blood sugar levels down, so when Bullington ran through the finishing gates with her blood sugar levels high and insulin levels low, she could not stop herself from passing out in the arms of a

friend's father.

Although this may sound like a complex, burdening disorder, Bullington has learned more about it throughout the season. In particular, she has learned that as her adrenaline rises during the races, so does her blood sugar.

Cross country coach Karen Moran-Redlich agrees that Bullington's adrenaline rising creates problems, but thinks that she deals with it admirably.

"[Bullington's] blood sugar levels were spiking in the first couple races of the season," Moran-Redlich said. "But she handles running and testing her blood sugar levels very well."

Bullington utilizes a "party pack" consisting of high-sugar snacks and her instruments for monitoring her insulin intake, checking her blood-sugar levels and administering the insulin to her blood stream for all activities she competes



No pain, no gain ★ Sophomore Jessica Bullington checks her blood sugar level during Advisory to make sure it is between 80-140. If not, Bullington must adjust her meter to give her more or less insulin.
PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

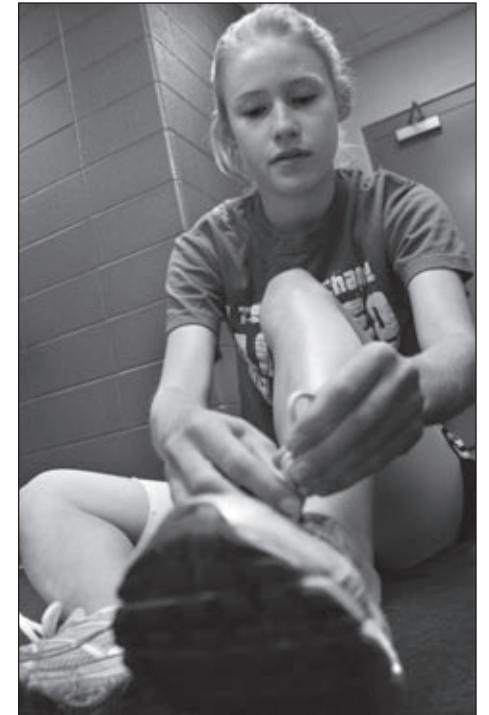
in, especially cross country. This "party pack" was carried by both assistant cross country coach Dave Hansen and Bullington's parents.

Hansen, like Moran-Redlich, has noticed a major growth in Bullington's awareness and cautiousness when it comes to her diabetes.

"It took [her] most of the season to get used to her diabetes and running," Hansen said. "[But] she'll really be able to excel next year, having learned so much."

Bullington says she takes the reassurance and support her coaches, peers and relatives give her but she only trusts herself when it comes to her body. She tries, however, to make the best of her situation and works harder to overcome it.

"It's really hard and unfair for me," Bullington said. "But it's something I have to deal with and overcome. What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger."★



Ready to go ★ Bullington ties her running shoes before varsity cross country practice. Even though Bullington has diabetes, she plays competitive sports, but keeps a close eye on her blood sugar level while competing.
PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

Band: Family grows closer through music, time together

Continued from page 18

increased to a few concerts a month.

"The people that come watch include kids our age that like to go out and party every once in awhile," Mick Langtry said with a laugh. "The best part of this experience is when people actually think we're good and show up to listen to us."

According to Shelby, one of her greatest accomplishments has been receiving a recording contract and teaming up with the band's former lead guitarist Mr. Chris Bihuniak. As a freshman at Shawnee Mission East High School, she helped produce a children's learning CD titled "Blankies" and later performed in their

production of "Cats." The songs help teach children various life lessons such as cleaning their room and being nice to other people. In addition, Shelby, along with senior Mackenzie Beisser, recently won 10 free voice lessons through UMKC after auditioning at STA.

With the band's motto "play hard, rock on," the Langtry family continues to develop musically and looks toward the future for more experiences and opportunities.

"My parents will keep [performing] until they eventually stop loving it," Shelby Langtry said. "Maybe when they're too old to carry the equipment they'll call it quits."

Issue 2 Corrections

Issue 2 Correction 1

On page 6 coverage under the headline "30 seconds with" contained an error. Sophomore Grace Whitley's last name was spelled incorrectly.

Issue 2 Correction 2

On page 17 a photo captioned "Flower power" was incorrectly credited. Kayla Loosen took the photo.

Issue 2 Correction 3

On page 24 photo captions under the headline "Unitown Unifies" contained an error. Junior Brady Essmann's last name was spelled incorrectly.

News Brief

★ KCYA classes underway

The Kansas City Young Audiences (KCYA) fall classes are now well underway for the 2008-2009 year. Classes and workshops that are currently available range from creative writing to drama, dance to music. KCYA has also added new programs to their long list of classes.

KCYA's Executive Director Harlan Brownlee thinks that the programs teach discipline.

"Our program teaches kids that they need to work hard and challenge themselves in order to build discipline," said Brownlee. "I also think that kids who participate in our programs find later that they have more self esteem and that they have really developed a personal identity," said Brownlee.

Open mic nights on Tuesdays and the Kansas City Juggling Club continue every week.

Compiled by Madalyne Bird

dancing stars



In the spotlight ★ STA sophomore Marissa Naggi, from left, junior Rebecca Oyler, and sophomore Lauren Laudan pose at the end of their performance during half time at Rockhurst High School's Homecoming game against Lee Summit North High School Oct. 25. PHOTO BY JAIME HENRY-WHITE

TALK TO YOU LATER



JAIME HENRY-WHITE

Fortune cookies: my mini-Yoda

My fingers tremble when I near it. Sweat beads from my forehead as my eyes dart anxiously across the room. An unnaturally large smile overtakes my face at the thought of holding its power in my hands. Finally, I will have my precious.

I have an addiction, an obsession, a compulsive problem. I have become hairless, scrawny Bilbo in my quest for ultimate power.

I don't know what to do about it anymore. Something has happened within in me. The evidence piles up more and more everyday on my bulletin board, notebooks and planner.

I'm hooked on the strips of skinny white paper tucked inside fortune cookies.

You must thoroughly think I'm crazy. *It's a cookie for goodness sake!* But these cookies have been too right, too many times.

Weird fortune cookie incident number one: So, it's come to the point I am in an emotional break down about the life that lies ahead of me. College is too complicated and confusing and I'm scared as ever about my future. I feel my failure prematurely and curl up in a heap of whimpers on my bed. I have a Bo Ling's fortune cookie in my hand from my recent travel to the kitchen and decide to break it open. "Welcome the change coming soon in your life." It was a very general statement, but ironically what I needed to calm down.

Number two: Actually a normal day this time and I ate another fortune cookie, telling me, "You will be soon receiving a letter from a loved one." Even though its verb placement needed some switching around, the next day I did. It was from a close family friend with cancer telling me that all was gone and she was smiling brightly with her new teeth. I couldn't tell you my happiness.

Simon and Garfunkel once sang that, "the words of the prophets are written on the subway walls." And I adore that idea. The thought that absolute strangers can tell you exactly what you're looking for through blurry graffiti on grimy, bleak walls you pass by everyday. The answer is right in front of your eyes.

That's my deal with fortune cookies. They tell me the obvious, but nothing seems more clear when right in front on me on a sheet of paper the size of my thumb. Why not have the words of the prophets written on paper in the middle of a delicious cookie? You get a treat and a revelation in one. You can't beat two for the price of one.

top

[[weird world records]]

Compiled by Avery Adams

5 World's Longest Little Person Toss - Jimmy Leonard tossed Lenny the Giant, a little person, 11 feet and 5 inches in 2002 at the British Dwarf Tossing Championship in Great Britain.

4 World's Largest Bagel - At 868 pounds, 6 feet in diameter and 20 inches thick, Bruegger's Bagel made the biggest bagel in the world in the 2004 New York State Fair.

3 World's Longest Mustache - Badamsinh Juwansinh Gurjar, from India, whose moustache measures 12.5 foot long.

2 World's Highest Jump by a Pig - Kotetsu the Pig jumped 2 feet and 3 inches at the Mokumoku Tedukuri Farm in Mie, Japan on August 22, 2004.

1 World's Largest Nose - Mehmet Ozyurek from Turkey with a 3 and a half inch long nose.

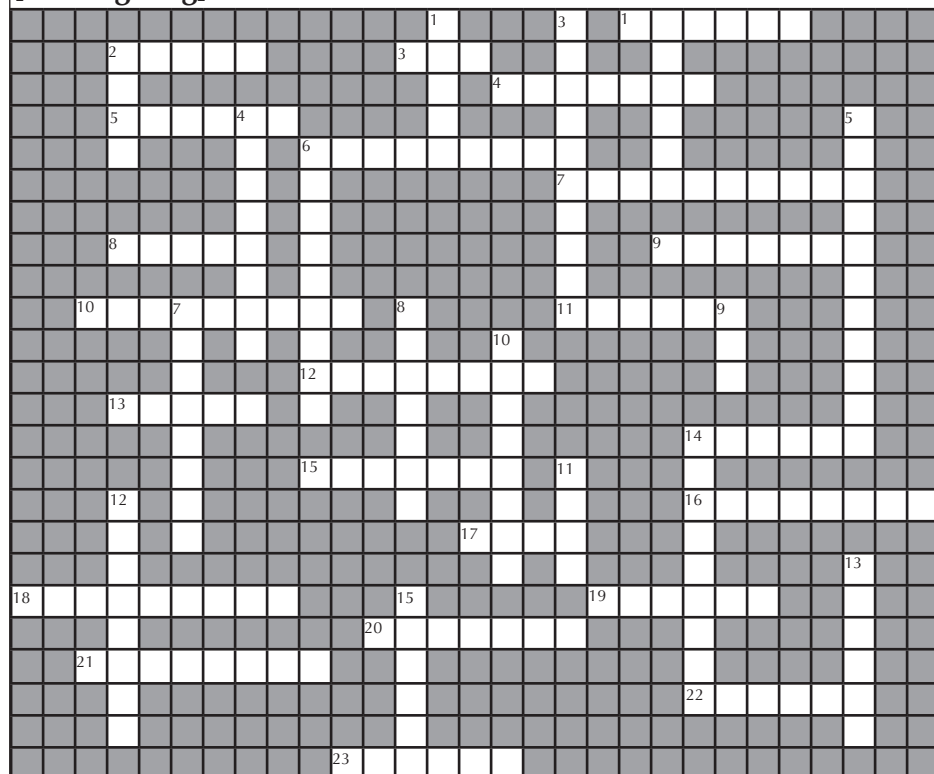
News Brief

Where Critter went...

Many STA scholars have noticed an inconsistent presence of Critter, the campus cat. In a recent turn of events, Mattie Davis, an eighth grader from Visitation Elementary School, shadowed earlier this year, and stumbled upon her family's cat during the day. When the school day had ended, Davis rightfully took Critter home with her and since then Critter has been much more mysterious than usual, coming and going as he pleases. Witnesses saw Critter frolicking through the Quad Halloween but he has been undetected ever since.

Compiled by Avery Adams

[thanksgiving]



across
 1- relations, 2-apples in liquid form, 3-Grandpa does this after dinner, 4- edible viscera of a fowl, 5- list of ingredients, 6- grandmas are famous for this dish, 7- cone-shaped abundance of vegetables, 8-large meal, 9- New World, 10- bitter fruit, 11- general term for Thanksgiving through New Year's, 12- day named for Norse god Thor, 13- rolls, loaves, slices, 14- these fall before snowflakes, 15- sweets after dinner, 16- pigskin sport, 17- verb done much on Thanksgiving, 18- mode of transport for first Thanksgiving vacation, 19- move from place to place, 20- October's gourd, 21- marrow of hopping, 22- you won't be here over break! 23- epic journey

down
 1- Grinch did this to the roast beast, 2- comes on a cob, 3- checked or plain, this is under your plate, 4- starchy and great mashed, 5- KC November tradition, 6- rejoice, 7- thirty days before December, 8- gather crops, 9- orange and served under marshmallows, 10- out of town, 11- done in an oven, 12- breadcrums inside the turkey, 13- you do this to food and it sounds like a bird, 14- November 28's lunch, 15- November's feathered friend

Compiled by Carlie Campbell

dr. quinn's spin with caroline quinn

Genuine, thoughtful guidance from someone skilled in the field of obscure-question answering.



Q We are two very distraught girls with a bad case of the love monkey. This monkey has been running rampant every time we go over to our best friend's house. We are madly, passionately in love with her older brother. This causes many problems, two in particular. We both feel strongly that we are the right candidate for this hunk. But we find ourselves constantly bickering over who is the rightful owner of this prize. The bickering is awful but what is worse is the idea of revealing our true feelings to our friend. We do honor the code of friendship but sometimes desires sneak their way into situations. How do we confront our friend who we both are positive would be against the whole idea? And how do we decide who gets the guy? Please help us!
Butch and Warewolf

A Dear B. and W.,

First off, thank you for being the first people to write in. And what a juicy way to start off this column!

In regards to your first problem, I feel you two should work this out on your own. Make it a competition, like a quiz bowl. Whoever knows most about this strapping young lad should take the gold. Or try one of those highly accurate online compatibility quizzes that ask for the name and birthday of you and your love interest. That usually does the trick.

As to how to confront your best friend for life, you need to remember she is just that. If you three are as close as I assume,

then she should understand. Now, she probably won't want her brother sweeping you two off your feet, but I doubt she'll be angry about your feelings. Try putting her in a neutral, non-threatening situation and breaking the news casually. Don't make a big event out of it. Make sure she knows you are serious, but don't let her think this is a life-changing confession.

Don't let your crush develop any further. Tell your friend before it gets out of control.

Beware, though: Friends last a lifetime, but boys are fads.

Stay healthy, STA.

DARTSMART

Are you a mammal or a reptile?

- After school, you like to...
 - crawl right into your cozy bed for a nap
 - relax and read your favorite magazine in front of the TV
 - head outside to walk your dog or chat with a neighbor
 - drive around jamming out to "Disturbia" with friends
- Your friends and family refer to you as:
 - the couch potato; your energy is better spent in one place
 - calm, cool and collected; your mood never wavers
 - the teddy bear; you love to cuddle and give the best hugs
 - positive polly; you're always vibrant and on the move with a positive attitude
- You couldn't go one day without:
 - a nap; every girl needs her beauty rest, right?
 - coffee; you need that zip to get you out of your shell
 - a sweet treat; that way you always have something to look forward to
 - talking on the phone or texting; you could never put your social life on the line!
- Your favorite thing about the fall and winter seasons are:
 - scarves and other accessories to keep bundled up and toasty
 - settling down with a cup of hot cocoa and Christmas music (yes, even if it's only November)
 - all the candy and food; there's nothing like Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners
 - making big piles of leaves to dive into or building a massive snowman
- One of your favorite hobbies is:
 - watching movies (preferably Disney) and relaxing
 - going to coffee shops, whether it is to work on homework, read a good book or to just get cozy with your favorite beverage
 - hanging outside or going to a park with some friends on a crisp, fall day
 - randomly making videos/taking pictures and surfing the Internet with your pals

if you answered...

Mostly A's & B's

You are a reptile at heart and cool as a cucumber. You are the one who is laid back out of your friends and family. Sleeping and lounging around the house is an essential to you. Although you don't mind going out and doing things, you'd much rather be laying low somewhere. Don't take this result as being "cold blooded" or boring; look at yourself as being a person who enjoys life's simple pleasures.

Mostly C's & D's

Lions and tigers and bears...oh my! You are always on-the-go, doing something to occupy your rambunctious spirit. Often times, you are the cheerful one in the bunch you hang around with. There is always some pressing need for something exciting or unexpected to happen in your life. Random events spark your interest. People see you as a warm and fun-loving person who brightens someone's day with a heartfelt hug.

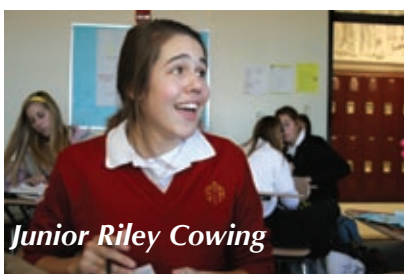
Compiled by Susie Ancona



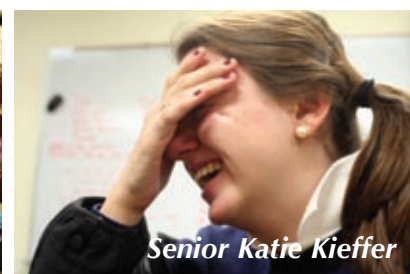
Sophomore Claire Cirocco



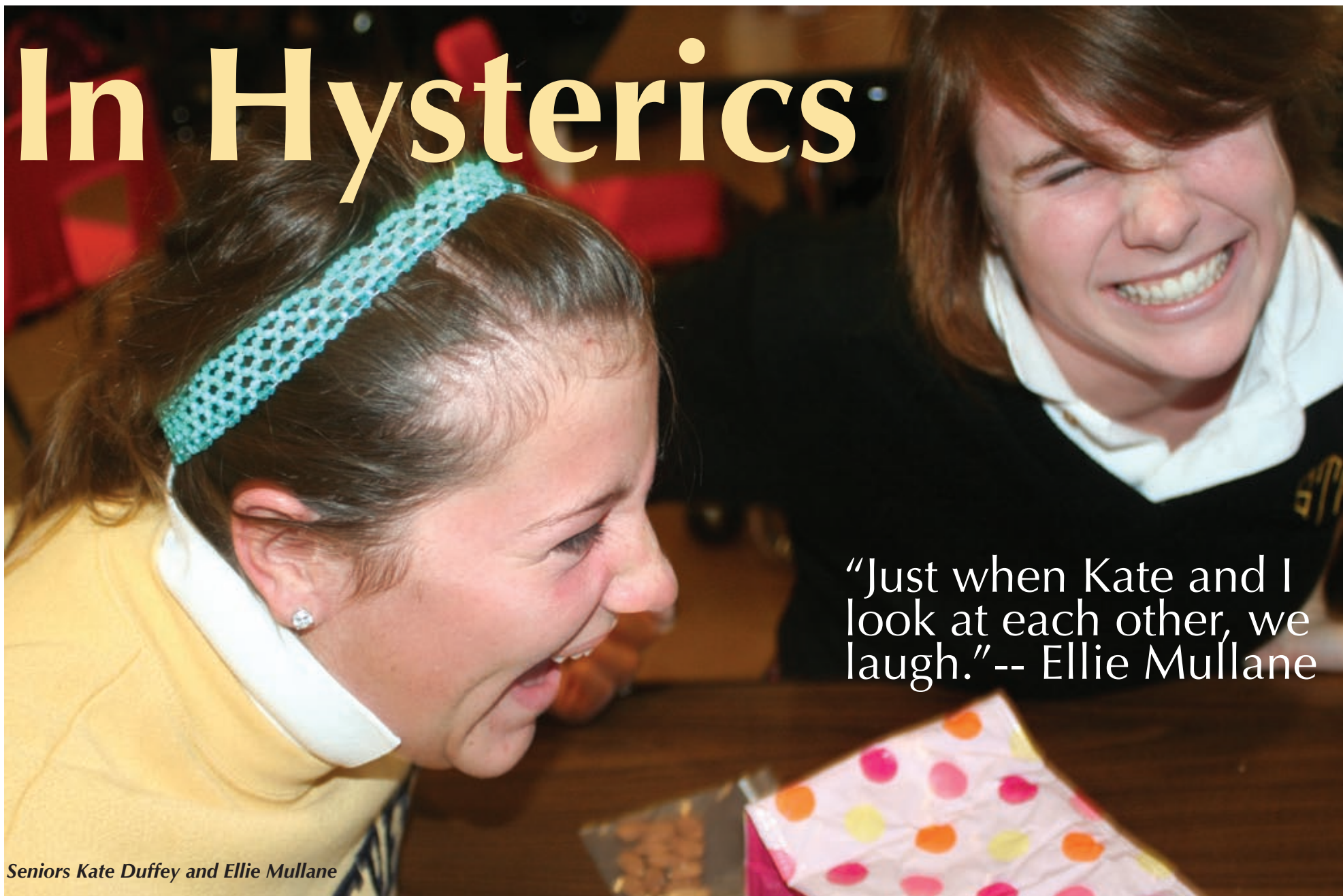
Sophomore Maura Porter



Junior Riley Cowing



Senior Katie Kieffer



In Hysterics

"Just when Kate and I look at each other, we laugh." -- Ellie Mullane

Seniors Kate Duffey and Ellie Mullane



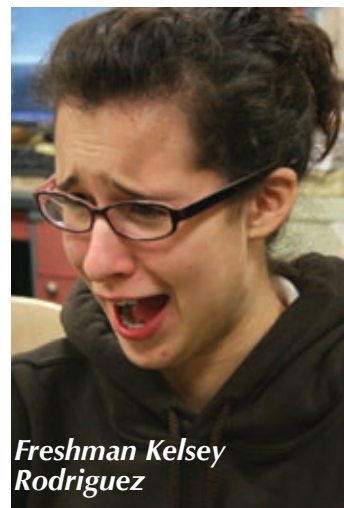
Senior Lindsey Jones



Sophomore Emy Gatapia



Senior Samantha Barker



Freshman Kelsey Rodriguez



Freshman Colleen McInerney