

the

ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

dart

volume 69★ issue 5★ december 10, 2009



BAFFLED by bills

As the economy continues to struggle, health costs leave more uninsured Americans in debt and without the help they need.
See pages 12-13

Parents monitor students' texts online

Cell phone companies say parents want more access to children's text messages

by TAYLOR IRWIN
In Focus Editor

In order to keep track of children in an environment that allows kids to be more independent, STA parents have taken more invasive measures such as reading text messages, installing GPS systems into cars and joining social networking sites such as Facebook and Myspace.

Senior Chloe Watters' parents read her text messages online, usually through the bill report they receive daily.

"I always sort of thought that they could do that," Watters said. "But it was not until [Thanksgiving break] that I found out for sure."

Watters' situation was an example of parents watching their children through text messages. According to Verizon Wireless, more and more parents have been asking for additional access to their children's cell phone activities.

Watters was recently grounded after her mother read her texts online. Watters left the house for the night to study with a friend, but then later decided to meet up with other friends as well. She traveled to a different house than the one she had told her parents she would be staying at, and when her mother checked their bill later that night, she found out through reading Watters' texts that her daughter wasn't where she had said she would be. She immediately drove to where Watters was and took her home.

"It was just a hunch," Ms. Jane Watters said. "I just had a feeling she was lying, so I checked. I have a right to know where my daughter is."

Verizon Wireless store manager Ronald Vasquez sells phones to parents and their children every day.

"Surprisingly, a lot of parents coming in ask about message reading," Vasquez said. "They already know they can monitor who their children talk to, but now they also want to know what exactly they're saying."

According to Vasquez, it has not been until recently that parents have expressed the desire to monitor their children's messages. Vasquez also predicts the trend will increase as time wears on and parents become more and more wary and their children become more technologically social.

Verizon Wireless customers can buy packages that include the ability to receive copies of text messages both sent and received. While it is not possible to review messages instantly online like with the AT&T plan the Watters family has, parents are able to acquire regular reports with every bill delivered, once a month, or more frequently upon request.

"It can be entertaining," Vasquez said. "The moms always make sure to ask [about reading texts] when their kids are out of earshot."

Chloe insists she didn't lie, and that it was all a misunderstanding.

"I told her where I was going, but I just didn't stay there," Chloe said. "I just don't think it's fair she read my texts. It's violating my privacy."

Chloe's sister, freshman Alexa Watters, agrees with her sister.

"I don't think it's fair for parents [to read their kid's text messages]," Alexa said. "It's your personal life and if it is something your parents should know, you can tell them yourself."

Alexa would be upset if her parents read her messages.

"I would be very unhappy," Alexa said. "I would feel almost betrayed; it's

not like I read their mail behind their back. It's basically the same thing."

Chloe believes her mother's ability to read her texts affects their relationship in a negative way.

"It makes me think she doesn't trust me," Chloe said. "And if she doesn't trust me, why should I trust her?"

Jane believes it is her right to read her daughter's text messages for many reasons. Jane feels as if it is her duty to watch over and guide Chloe, and know where she is at all times. To Jane, it's just part of being a mother.

"It's a simple matter, really," Jane said. "I'm her mother, I have a job to protect her and I can't do that if she's out jutting around Kansas City all the time without me knowing. Plus, I pay the bill, I can do whatever I want." ★



Oh no! My parents joined Facebook

Students share funny stories of parents having Facebooks

by ELIZABETH WILSON
Managing Editor of Copy

With over 350 million people around the world using Facebook, according to a letter by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, there's nothing quite like clicking the "I friend request" link on Facebook, only to find a friend request from your parent.

Do you confirm it or ignore it? If you're brave enough to press confirm, do you put them on limited profile? And if they're on limited profile, what do they really get to see? Will they write on your wall or request your friends to be their friends too?

This phenomenon is the subject of the site MyParentsJoinedFacebook.com. The site collects the weird things that can happen when parents invade your virtual space.

Here are some of our own stories from students at STA:

"Once, I quoted something a friend had said and it said 'hell.' My mom commented on it and said, 'Hattie, dear, I'm watching you. If you comment any more curse words on your Facebook, I might have to delete it.'"

-Hattie Svoboda-Stel, freshman
"One time, I commented on someone's status and cussed and my dad commented, 'Someone needs to wash their mouth out with soap.' It was embarrassing!"

-Lydia Thomsen, sophomore
"I had my dad added for three days because he kept commenting, 'I love you on my statuses. So, after that, I deleted him.'"

-Gina Franken, junior
"[My grandma] was looking at my Facebook and [senior] McKenzie Miller decided it would be funny to put a planned parenthood add on my wall and [my grandma] saw it and was like, 'Umm... is there something I should know?' And it was awkward!"

-Kristina Strader, senior ★



Do you think it's fair for parents to read their children's texts?

- Yes - 4 students (5 percent)
- No - 65 students (75 percent)
- It depends - 17 students (20 percent)

86 students polled

inside *out*

dart news *online*



Lifestyles:
Sophomore Mary O'Leary suffers from an extreme fear of spiders.
See Page 10



Sports:
Junior Maggy Roth spends quality time with her father, hunting animals.
See Page 19



Dart News Online:
Check the site for additional content.
See dartnews-online.com

KCTV5 has a "Cool Schools" program which showcases "cool" non-athletic achievements from Kansas City high schools. Viewer submissions are received via an entry form on KCTV5's web site. They highlight a different school on their Friday morning show from 5-8 am. Due to student nominations, the "More In The Morning" team will be broadcasting live from STA Jan. 8, showcasing STA as KCTV5's Cool School of the week. This means that Jan. 8, students and faculty will be asked to be at school and ready to show their spirit at 5 a.m. for the on-air feature.

STA IS A Cool School

by ELIZABETH WILSON
Managing Editor of Copy

Q and A with Liberty High School's Student Council sponsors Jennifer Holferty Gravina, Lindsay Plaster and Melanie Prince who recently put together Liberty's cool school event Nov. 13:

Excerpts from nominations

Sophomore Paige Wendland listed 15 reasons why STA is a cool school. Here are just a few of them:

- #1 - We're all girls, and it's awesome!
- #7 - Our campus is beautiful, from the landscape to the hundred-year-old M&A Building.
- #11 - We have inimitable school spirit - hundreds of girls dressed up as zombies to support our volleyball team recently!

Junior Emily Strickland said STA is cool because it is unique: "St. Teresa's is not only a historical site, but also the oldest campus in Kansas City. ... We are one of the only schools with modular scheduling, which means each day has a unique structure and students have free periods. We build a welcoming and friendly environment that not only fosters knowledge, but also individuality and leadership. I can say with confidence that STA is the most unique high school in Kansas City."

Senior Taylor Irwin asked how STA could not be a cool school: "... It's an all-girls catholic, private environment that allows girls to be who they are and not be ashamed of it. ... With activities like Frosh Fest, advisory parties and awesome school activities like our newspaper, The Dart, there's no way STA isn't a cool school."

Who? What? Why? How?

Who is organizing? The administration and the three girls who nominated STA with help from Spirit Club moderator Katie Dolan.

What Non-athletic achievements will be showcased? A dance team performance, drama teacher Shana Prentiss's Scotland trip, Spirit Club, a song by the choir and a portion of the play from the theatre group

What will students be wearing? T-shirts with the cool things about STA on the back and their uniform skirt.

What activities will keep the enthusiasm alive? We will have everyone bring in canned goods for Operation Breakthrough and spelling out the words "STA cool

school" on the gym floor and the coaches have volunteered to serve Chris Cakes. Maybe a faculty/staff vs. senior game of volleyball.

Why should students come in early? There will be an early dismissal, but we are relying on the students' pride to come through that morning. There will also be a "special gift" for the first students to arrive. Students that come to school early will get out early.

How administration decided which achievements to highlight: We asked the question, "What is St. Teresa's?" We are a Catholic school based on service to the dear neighbor. We want to showcase the service part of it too.

Liberty High School's advice to STA

1. Brainstorm a way to lure students into the gym when they arrive to school even if it's just for a few minutes before they head to class.
2. Have a large TV in the gym for the students to see themselves on air.
3. To promote the event: host competitions during the week prior to Jan. 8 and announce the winners at the Cool School broadcast, have drawings/door prizes for students who are in attendance during the broadcast (see

- if local companies will donate items for the drawings/prizes), honor the most spirited "early bird" and sell breakfast food and donate the proceeds to a charity.
4. Arrange for certain students to be interviewed for the break-outs so they are prepared with accurate information.
5. Have a sound system set up and some fun pump up music to play when your dance team and other groups are not performing.
6. Have fun!

Timeline of the morning's events:

Key

- LT** - Live Tease- Short snippet before commercials
- SRT** - Short Reporter Tease
- LS** - Live Segment- Two minute segment that features a non-athletic accomplishment
- LHT** - Live Headlines Tease
- RLT** - Live tease with the reporter
- TP** - Trophy Presentation with Wendy's and president Nan Bone

4 a.m.	5 a.m.	6 a.m.	7 a.m.
4:30 - Reporter and cameraman arrive	5:00 - LT 5:10 - SRT 5:15 - LS 5:30 - LHT 5:40 - RLT 5:45 - LS	6:00 - LT 6:10 - LS: TP 6:15 - LS 6:30 - LHT 6:37 - RLT 6:45 - LS	End 6 a.m. show with live look at STA. To continue watching from 7-8 a.m. switch channel to KSMO (channel 62, cable channel 10). 7:00 - LT 7:08 - LT 7:15 - LS 7:30 - LHT 7:37 - RLT 7:45 - LS

NOTE: There will be a poster making day at 11 a.m. on Dec. 29 in the McDonald Conference room of Donnelly Hall open to all students. The administration will provide a free lunch, posters and markers.

Graphic by Paige Wendland

Catholic youth gather in KC to celebrate faith



The body of Christ★ Crowds of Catholic Youth, above, many wearing goofy hats, wait to enter the Sprint Center on Nov. 20. Freshman Sarah Kostoryz, below, sings and does hand actions later in the day. **PHOTO BY SHAUGHNESSY MILLER**

Many STA students attended the National Catholic Youth Conference held downtown

by CARA McCLAIN
Staff Writer

Processing down 14th Street towards Bartle Hall in downtown Kansas City, 23,000 Catholic youth completely packed the road. After fifteen minutes of a constant flow of people coming out of the Sprint Center, the street cleared and all was quiet. On the outside at least. Inside the Kansas City Convention Center, however, the celebration of the 2009 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) was in full swing.

Nov. 19 through 21 Catholic teenagers from all over the country congregated in downtown Kansas City to celebrate their faith at this year's NCYC. NCYC, a Catholic event full of singing, dancing and praying, happens every two years. The events of the weekend, including mass and workshops, took place at the Sprint Center and the Kansas City Convention Center.

For the first time ever, those who were unable to attend NCYC could still experience it

through the live stream at mycatholicvoice.com. There are many videos up from the keynote speakers and some of the workshops at NCYC.

The keynote speakers discussed the theme, Christ Reigns, with all of the NCYC participants during the general sessions held in the Sprint Center. The convention center housed the Reign Forest, an area complete with tree houses and a market place where teens visited the booths of many speakers and sponsors.

Freshmen Sarah Kostoryz and sophomore Christina Barton attended NCYC with St. Peter's parish. Kostoryz loved the energy and ambiance of NCYC while Barton thought it was overdone.

"The energy [was] incredible," Kostoryz said. "Everyone was outgoing, energetic, and had really cool hats."

Many groups that attended NCYC wore matching hats, shirts and glow-in-the-dark bracelets to keep track of each other in the large crowds. One group wore sheep hats with red glowing eyes.

Along with the hats people wore, Kostoryz liked being surrounded by people with similar beliefs.

"[The people] weren't hard core Christian," Kostoryz said. "[NCYC] is a more realistic expression of Christianity."

However sophomore Christina Barton thought some of the speakers were over the top.

"The emcees would always take a break [from speaking] and act all reflective," Barton said. "It was very theatrical."

Both Barton and Kostoryz enjoyed the talk about chastity given by Mr. Jason Evert and his wife Ms. Crystalina Evert. The couple spoke about their experiences as teens dealing with the pressures from peers to have sex. Their main message was that sex is not sinful, but sacred and not casual.

Kostoryz thought all the speakers were funny and grounded. Barton, however, thought the speakers were very stereotypical.

"[The speakers usually] had done something bad then saw the light of God," Barton said.

The next NCYC will be in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2011.

"People probably think [NCYC] is genuinely lame," Kostoryz said. "It's definitely something that if you get the chance to you should go."★

Quick Facts

Over 20,000 teens attended NCYC downtown from Nov. 19-21. The next one will be held in Indianapolis.

Raffle Winners Discuss Prizes

by PAIGE WENDLAND
Staff Writer

Each year, STA hosts an auction of donated gifts to raise money for the school. Students sell \$10 tickets for the annual raffle and earn prizes such as STA sweat pants to wear instead of the uniform skirt and free lunches for selling a specified amount of tickets. The winner is chosen at the auction and selects from three prizes: \$10,000 cash, free tuition for a year at STA, or a three-year lease on a 2010 Toyota Corolla S. Winners from this year and 2008 explained what prizes they chose, why, and how winning the raffle has affected them. ★



The golden ticket★ Testing Center moderator Becky Flores mans the raffle tickets table at the auction on Nov. 21. PHOTO BY HANNA KATZ

Q & A with the winners

2009- Mary Ontiveros

Sophomore Elizabeth Daugherty's orthodontist's assistant

Interviewee: Mary Ontiveros

Q. What prize did you choose?

A. \$10,000

Q. Why?

A. I didn't need a car, and I don't know anyone who goes [to STA] that I am close to that would need tuition.

Q. How many tickets did you buy?

A. 2

Q. What was your reaction when you won?

A. I totally didn't expect that to happen! I mean, I didn't really process that I could actually win when I was buying the tickets.

Q. What are you going to spend the money on?

A. I'm not sure yet. For now, I'm saving it, but I just recently got it, so I'll take some time to think about what I could use it for.

2008- The Sellers Family

Interviewee: Erin Sellers (sophomore daughter)

Q. What prize did you choose?

A. Tuition for a year

Q. Why?

A. We chose tuition over the cash since the tax on tuition wasn't until the next year instead of right then, and we didn't really need a car.

Q. How many tickets did you buy?

A. 10

Q. What was your reaction when you heard you won?

A. My parents had actually left the auction before they announced the winner. Lauren [Barrett]'s dad called mine, and my dad was like, "Seriously? No. Seriously? Yes? Wow!" They didn't even think that they might win when they were leaving early.

If you won the auction raffle, which prize would you choose?

41% \$10,000
1% 3-year lease on a 2010 Toyota Corolla S
58% Free tuition for a year at

The Dart surveyed 273 students

Contributions drive campaign

Donations move ongoing campaign closer to goals

by BETSY TAMPKE
Web Staffer/Publicity

The Capital Campaign has decreased its original fund-raising goal of \$7 million to \$5- 5.5 million. The Campaign is still in its soliciting stage and currently about \$3 million have been raised. The money will go toward a renovation of the auditorium, increase in endowment, advancement in technology and construction of a campus chapel.

The fund-raising goal was decreased due to an over estimate of the funds needed to renovate the auditorium. Bone is aware of the recession and the effect it has on STA students, yet she has not seen it dramatically effect Capital Campaign funds. She is surprised by the generosity of donors.

"The nice thing about a Capital Campaign is that there are a lot of ways you can appeal to a donor," Bone said

In the Capital Campaign, donors decide to pledge a certain amount of money to STA. According to Bone, donors will rarely decide to pay their entire pledge at a single time with cash. More frequently, donors will break down the amount they have pledged into monthly payments they plan to fulfill in the next three to five years.

"Let's say you want to pay \$1,000 per year over the next five years," Bone said. "Well, you break that down monthly, that's about \$10 a month and suddenly it doesn't seem so bad."

The Alumni Leadership Team, made up of about 15 alumni, is responsible for contacting possible donors and encouraging them to donate, according to Annie Haden, an

'04 alumna and one of the youngest members of the Alumni Leadership Team.

"I decided to become involved because I want to do everything I can to help other girls love and appreciate their time at STA as much as I did," Haden said.

Along with alumni, the St. Teresa's faculty and staff have also made donations to the Capital Campaign. Bone said that she was surprised and pleased when she discovered that the faculty and staff contributed about \$87,000 to the Capital Campaign.

"When we saw how many [faculty and staff] gave it was amazing to us," Bone said.

According to Bone, donors will occasionally choose to contribute only to a certain aspect of the Capital Campaign.

"Donor's sometimes have a passion," Bone said. "Some donors just have a passion for St. Teresa's in general."

Endowment

According to Bone, several donors are passionate about endowment, or scholarship fund, portion of the Capital Campaign

"[Some donors] will say, 'Oh I love all your goals but really our families interest is in endowment,'" Bone said. "We just feel the need for more girls to go to a quality school like St. Teresa's"

According to Bone, the Capital Campaign has currently acquired over \$200,000 for the endowment fund out of a goal of \$500,000.

Auditorium

The auditorium has already utilized Capital Campaign funds with numerous renovations including new chairs, carpet, and a paint job.

"[The auditorium] will probably fall to the bottom of the pile," Bone said. "Because it's already had its first renovation and that renovation has really kind of given it a sparkle you know it's really made it a beautiful space."



Going once★ Auctioneer George Nigro, from left, journalism teacher Eric Thomas, drama teacher Shana Prentiss, auctioneer Larry Moore, and president Nan Bone ask auction attendees to donate money to the capital campaign. They raised a total of \$41,000 for technology. PHOTO BY HANNA KATZ

ful space."

Future plans for the auditorium include extending the stage and air conditioning the facility.

Technology

Haden is passionate about technology.

"I think each of the four aspects of the campaign are important," Haden said. "But upgraded technology is critical to helping these girls succeed in college and preparing them for careers."

According to Bone, technology is the top priority in the Capital Campaign for the Campaign Cabinet.

"We don't want to wait five years on technology or we're going to need who knows what," Bone said. "So you have to kind of keep moving on technology."

According to Bone the technology goals are not set in stone but they may include individual netbooks for students, distance learning, digital response pads and an increase in smart boards.

Chapel

The Capital Campaign goal that

will take the most time a realize is the chapel. The design of a chapel is pending, but Bone expressed that it will be complementary with the school. Originally the building was designed to be a chapel with four class rooms in it, but the administration is undecided on the purpose of the space intended for the four class rooms. Possibilities include four theology rooms, two larger class rooms, one big room that could serve as an overflow from the chapel or a multimedia center.

"We have a lot of time to think about it," Bone said. "It's not like we're going to dig next week."

Mrs. Mary Thompson, mother of senior Caroline Thompson, is a member of the campaign cabinet. The campaign cabinet is responsible for soliciting donations.

"It has been difficult to maintain a high level of enthusiasm for such a long process," Thompson said. "But each new donation brings us closer to breaking ground on a new era of STA's future, and that's exciting to me."★

IMSMRT: teachers choose Smart Cars

Marquis and McIntire drive cars to help environment, save gas money, have fun

by CHELSEA BIRCHMIER
Staff Writer

Latin teacher Sue Marquis was driving as usual one day when she heard shouting. Surprised, she looked around.

"Ma'am!" a man yelled. "Ma'am!"

"Yes?" Marquis asked.

"Where can I get one of those?" the man asked, pointing at her car.

With her white Smart Car and "I M SMRT" license plate, Marquis attracts attention wherever she goes. And when people comment, Marquis is prepared.

"[Aristocrat Motors] gave me some extra literature to tuck in my car," Marquis said. "They said, 'Not that we expect you to sell it, but if anybody asks, here you are.'"

Music teacher Michelle McIntire also has a Smart Car—a Smart Car convertible.

"I have the cool, cool, black, all black, black on black Smart Car," McIntire said. "Because, you know, I'm just cool like that."

McIntire is used to people constantly remarking on her car, from random students to garbage men. Once, an officer pulled her over for speeding and asked her about her car.

"I don't think the officer would have pulled me over if he didn't want to check out my car," McIntire said.

When Marquis went to buy her Smart Car in July, Aristocrat Motors had sold 42 Smart Cars that month alone.

"They're becoming more prevalent," Marquis said. "I was out driving the other day, and I saw three of them— a red, a yellow, and a white! They're gonna get there. I'm just ahead of the game as cars grow smaller."

While Marquis spends about five extra minutes a day avoiding the highway, McIntire believes driving a Smart Car has made her life easier.

"I park over by the tennis courts," McIntire said. "There is a little spot there at the end where no one else can park because it's a half-spot. So I always have a parking spot."

Marquis bought her Smart Car for fun.

"I don't care if they have a purpose," Marquis said. "I bought a Smart Car because I like Smart Cars. I've wanted one for like, 15 years, ever since I saw them over in Italy."

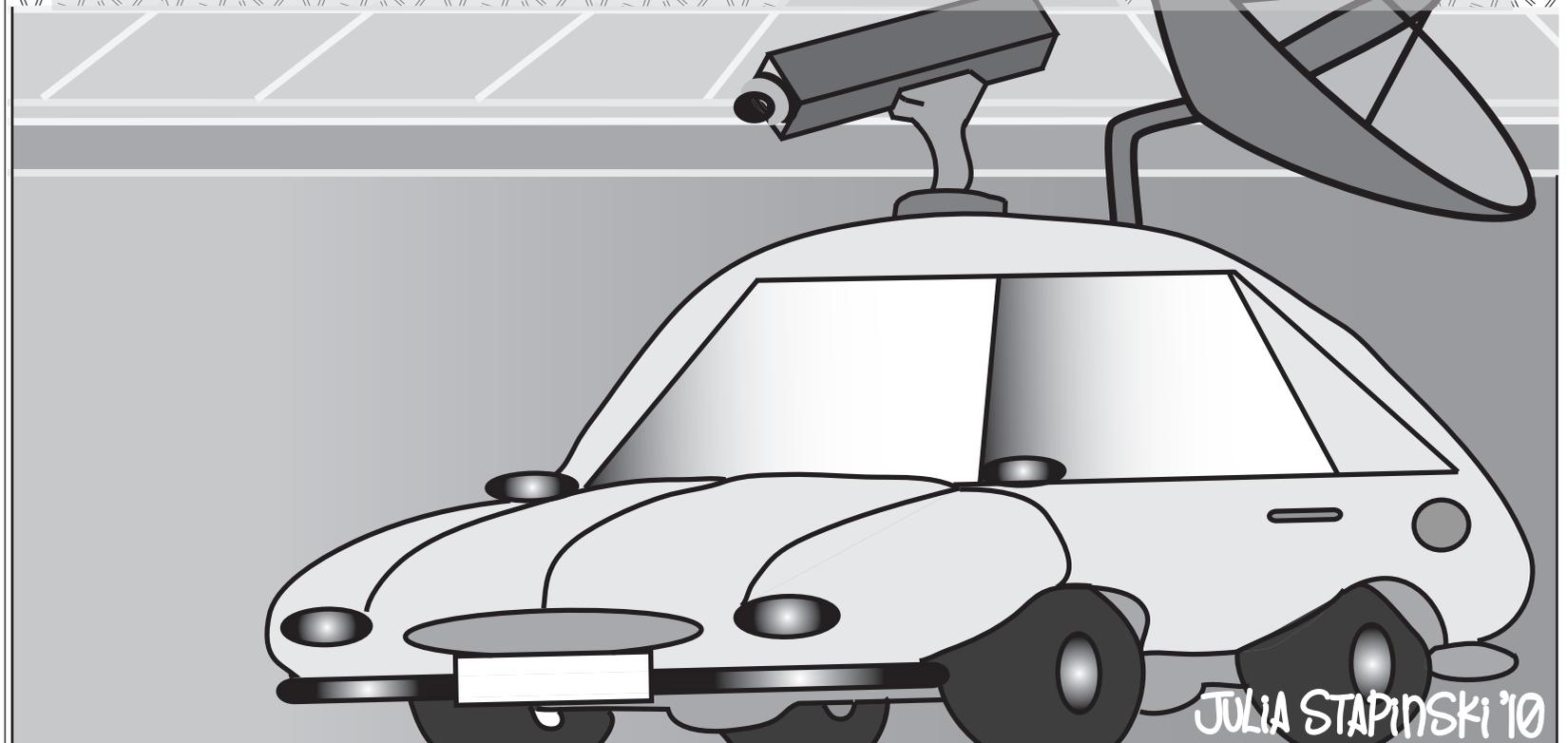
Now that Marquis finally has her own Smart Car, she is enjoying the benefits. Instead of paying over \$30 a week to give her "big car," her Toyota Highlander, gas, she pays \$10 a week for her Smart Car. Marquis also enjoys the immediate bond people in Smart Cars form, always waving and honking when they see each other.



Smart savings★ Latin teacher Sue Marquis stands next to her Smart Car. Marquis only pays \$10 a week on gas for her car. PHOTO BY HANNA KATZ

I Spy

After missing her curfew by 1.3 seconds, Susie's parents made a few minor changes to her car to keep a closer eye on their daughter's whereabouts.



The three S's of parenting: sneaking, spying, snooping

Today's parents use GPS systems, they track the location of cars and cell phones and they install video cameras in their teenagers' cars. They read text messages daily and follow phone calls online. They even Facebook stalk their own kids. As parents find more creative ways to bust kids, the kids find more creative ways to escape getting caught; it's a continuous battle of outsmarting the opponent. So who is going to give up first?

By reading texts or placing a GPS tracking device on a child's phone, parents are completely invading their teen's privacy. Although parents have a right to know what their child is doing, teenagers also have a right to privacy.

In a perfect world, teenagers would not lie and parents would have no reason not to trust their kids. But in reality, it is not uncommon for teens to sneak around their parents.

Once parents catch their teen in a lie, there is no way they can feel secure in trusting them the same way. As a result, parents try to learn every detail of their teen's life, sometimes by unreasonable means—even spying.

However, parents simply cannot know every detail. It does not matter how close of a relationship a teenager has with their parents or how much the parents think they know. The fact is, they are never going to know about every friend, every relationship or every Friday night.

Teens typically have four years of high school, which is their only time to prepare for life on their own. Once those four years are over, they must move out of their comfort zone and into a world where they do not have parents to protect them and make sure they stay safe. Parents must allow teens to make mistakes and learn the values and street smarts needed for safety, which cannot possibly be learned with parents tracking their every move. The process of dealing with the consequences and learning how to fix a prob-

lem are valuable lessons that can only be learned when parents give their kids freedom.

Parents have the right to know where their kids are, who they're with and what they are doing simply because they are parents. However, snooping and spying is never the best way to find information. Spying is only going to further damage the relationship between parents and children as well as limit future trust and communication. In order for both teenagers and parents to be happy, there needs to be a compromise between both parties.

Before invading their children's privacy, parents should work on building a solid relationship. Teenagers need to be more open with parents and tell them necessary information. In return, parents should give teenagers more responsibility and freedom to lead their own lives and make their own mistakes.

There seems to be a fine line between what parents need to know and what parents want to know. They need to accept that they need to give their kids space and avoid actions like reading texts or peeking at call logs.

The next time parents want to know something, they should try asking their teens instead of sneaking around. If parents act a little less overbearing and teenagers act a little less hormonal, families will form healthy relationships, eliminating the need for snooping, sneaking and even spying. ★

The staff editorial represents the views of *The Dart* editorial board

6 out of 6 editors voted in support of this editorial.

Oh No! My parents joined Facebook

See the entire story on page 2.

"My dad has a Facebook and fails to logout constantly and my sister and I enjoy putting funny statuses such as: 'I love to cuddle with my cat, Marbles, on the couch while watching the Notebook. :)' (He hates cats, let alone the Notebook)."

-Megan Bryde, senior

"My mom commented on a picture one time and kept going on about how beautiful it was. She also made a graffiti and it said 'I love you' and it was all animated and stuff."

-Aubree Hawkins, junior

"My dad's on Facebook, but the only funny thing I can say about it is that I ignored his friend request."

-Kelly Fitzpatrick, senior

The Final Say

Parents deserve to know what their kids are doing, but tracking cell phones and Facebook stalking only violates teens' privacy, prevents them from growing up on their own and damages family relationships.

Suburban myths: It's Kansas, not LA

AN OPINION BY



KATIE HYDE

As a Kansan attending a Missouri high school, I began my freshmen year not only afraid of a new beginning, but also baffled by foreign lingo such as “Waldo” and “Foo’s Fabulous Frozen Custard”. But although many questions floated through my mind, I was utterly consumed and haunted by one unknown during my first month at STA: Brookside. I was morbidly embarrassed that I seemed to be the only person in the entire school who didn’t know what Brookside was. But, one day in English, I finally popped the question. Of course, the class erupted into hysterics.

Aside from learning about Brookside’s charming houses, “Fabulous” ice cream and novelty shops, some Missourians learned a little bit about my neck of the woods: Johnson County. Initially, I was very surprised by the animosity STA exuded for suburbia. What is it about Johnson County that makes the voices of students and teachers alike drip with sarcasm when they pronounce “Johnson County”? Many girls asked me where I was from and snickered when they found out I come from the land of bleach blonde hair and soccer moms.

When I asked a fellow staffer from Brookside what her image of a Johnson County teen was, she said rich, blond sorority girls.

Please allow me to set the record straight: your preconceptions are false! There are likely just as many fake blonds at STA as there are at any Johnson County high school. I may live in suburbia, but I do not own a sports car, my mom has never had plastic surgery and I do not own anything Prada, Gucci or Chanel.

But, of all of the misconceptions about Johnson County I would like to dispel, the biggest criticism of Johnson County I hear at STA is its wealth. In response, I can only think it is hypocritical that students who attend STA for \$10,000 a year remark on how wealthy many Johnson County students are that attend Bishop Miege High School for almost \$4,000 less than that.

Although it’s clear that there is a lot of misunderstanding circulating between Johnson County and Brookside, I think one thing is clear: the prejudices are incorrect. So, please, next time you meet a girl from Johnson County (whether or not she is blonde) give her the benefit of the doubt and do not label her as a rich sorority girl. ★

Keep it cool with advice from a pro skier

AN OPINION BY



CAROLINE THOMPSON

For those venturing off to Vail, Colo., Salt Lake City, Utah, Harbor Springs, Mich. or any other ski resort this winter break, no matter if you are a beginner or a rookie, you’re going to want the ultimate skiing experience. While my first and only trip was last year, I consider myself practically an expert and have decided to unveil my secrets to skiing success:

1. Ski straight down the mountain. Skiing from each side of the mountain in a zig zag pattern not only slows you down, but basically screams to the world that you’re a beginner and have no idea what you’re doing. The experienced and ultimate skier, like myself, can reach speeds of 50 mph while descending a mountain and has a “peak to base” time of three minutes.

2. Make friends on the slopes. The best way to do this is to run into someone...literally. Let’s say you see a cute snow boarder. Take him out! What could be better than hitting an unsuspecting victim and proceeding to tumble down a mountain with a complete stranger? It’s a great conversation-starter and it definitely breaks the ice.

3. Embrace the snow. I don’t understand how people can drive hundreds of

miles and not spend at least half their time in the beautiful white stuff. Apparently, some people have this idea that they aren’t supposed to let their bodies hit the snow. But that’s the whole point! The ski parks even have these snow-portion devices that carry you up a mountain, then spill you out into a pile of snow. I’ve heard these contraptions referred to as “ski lifts”—undoubtedly getting their

Isolate yourself around 5 p.m., or whenever the last runs are coming in, so that the entire park can be focused on you. As you zoom down the slopes (in a direct line, as stated before), everyone will see you, in all your glory, entering the base of the mountain.

5. This brings me to my final secret: do not learn how to stop. First of all, it’s a complete waste of time, which could

be better used for mastering the art of texting while skiing, for example. As long as you scream, “I CAN’T STOP!” over and over, people will quickly move out of your way. Besides, there are plenty of things that can stop you instead of your skis: trees, mounds of snow, humans and that orange, plastic construction fencing. Take myself for example: after successfully losing my group and guaranteeing that the entire park was looking at me, I used the straight line technique directly into the orange fence. My momentum after hitting the fencing projected me into the air where I proceeded to do a 360 degree flip and landed on my back in the snow, snapping my skis off of my boots. Due to my superb timing, the entire park (including my skiing group and boyfriend) witnessed this amazing feat. I don’t mean to brag; I only say this to encourage you to become a legend like myself.

I speak from experience and promise all of these secrets are foolproof. Follow these simple tips and I can assure you that it will be a skiing experience you will never forget (no matter how much you may want to). ★

Ski Destinations

Last season’s top ten most popular North American ski resorts

- 1) Lake Tahoe, Nevada
- 2) Breckenridge, Colorado
- 3) Park City, Utah
- 4) Vail, Colorado
- 5) Aspen, Colorado
- 6) Keystone, Colorado
- 6) Winter Park, Colorado
- 8) Whistler, British Columbia
- 9) Banff, Canada
- 10) Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Source: orbitz.com

name from the attendant that must lift you out of the snow after you fall down or ski off.

4. Be the center of attention. When you are flying down the mountain, you want all eyes to be on you. I suggest separating yourself from the group, which is easily done by out-skiing your friends or taking a wrong turn.

The Final Say

Follow these five tips to learn how to fly down the mountain like a pro this ski season.

One-hundred days, five-thousand miles—is it in you?

AN OPINION BY



TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

Settled in my comfortable, new auditorium seat, complaining of hunger and rubbing the sleep out of my eyes, I waited for Faith-in-Action to begin on a late October day. Unaware this Faith-in-Action would be miles different from the previous ones I had attended, I came to listen to Fr. Matt Ruhl give his spiel about Cycling for Change.

As an intermittent attendee of St. Francis Xavier Church in Kansas City, I knew Ruhl’s incredible ability to use words to inspire those he was talking to. Ruhl created Cycling for Change after hearing Mike Halterman propose to cut poverty in half by 2020. How Ruhl’s program ties into this is a group of cyclists bike for 100 days, 5,000 miles in total, in hopes of decreasing homelessness with each mile. Each night on their journey from Washington to Florida, Ruhl will say mass to bring awareness to those in need. But back to cutting poverty in half before I’m 30. When Ruhl repeated this goal to the Faith-in-Action listeners, I was

astounded. Cut 39.8 million people in poverty (Source: U.S. Census Bureau) to 19.9 million? Seriously? In less than eleven years? But with Ruhl’s Cycling for Change, I could be an active agent in that change. A vessel in which to effect at least 20 million peoples’ lives. I’m in.

So you’re not an avid biker? Don’t sweat it, I’m not either. But, that’s not reason enough not to get pumped about this event. People can raise money, awareness, host an event (it would be a complete drag to have to look all cutesy and go to a party), join the Facebook group (this would be a real stretch to get done), volunteer, or ride with the team when they come into Missouri. Check out the website at cyclingforchange.org for registration deadlines and details.

Out of all the athletic and active girls and teachers on campus, it would be a shame for none of you to ride in this. The first leg coming into Missouri, starting in Atchison, is only 65 miles and will only take one day.

Come on STA. On a bike. Through the KATY trail. With your friends. Helping those in poverty. Wind blowing through your hair. Well, I can’t promise that one. What could be a better day?

For those who like to be challenged, the second leg is from KC to St. Louis and will take six days to cycle. Any takers?

Since I am holding myself to ride one of the legs of the Missouri portion, I have slowly begun my training. Wiping some of the cobwebs from between the spokes of my blue Schwinn, I’ve been building up my endurance and hopefully by July 17, I will be in shape for my grand

ride for Cycling for Change.

Ruhl remarked at the program that he needed “St. Teresa’s to wave their banner loud.”

Let’s not let him and 20 million helpless people down. At my time at STA, I have observed girls passionate for so many things: sports, theatre, lunch. So let’s put that fervor into something truly constructive. Something that can change the lives of millions. Even though it may come close, not even our best theme game while defeating Sion can have that kind of impact.

Here’s my challenge to you STA: in some way, get engaged in Cycling for Change. I would love to have some of my sisters riding beside me. If it’s any consolation, as Ruhl said, “you’ll be sore for Jesus.” ★

The Final Say

STA should get involved with Cycling for Change, which works to decrease homelessness, by cycling, volunteering or donating.

Change Links

Visit Cycling For Change’s website for more information:
www.cyclingforchange.org

Campus tennis courts need a little TLC

AN OPINION BY



TAYLOR BROWN

Ever driven down Wyandotte Avenue and seen the irregular slabs of black concrete fenced in by rusty, mangled fences?

Have you ever questioned whether this area was recovered from the prehistoric era or if it is actually a useful aspect to our campus? Well, believe it or not, this questionable site is

actually the remnants of STA's tennis courts; however, over my almost four years at STA, I have never seen the tennis team using these courts. STA should take it upon itself to either destroy and rid the campus of these useless, unattractive courts or repair them so they can be used for what they were intended for.

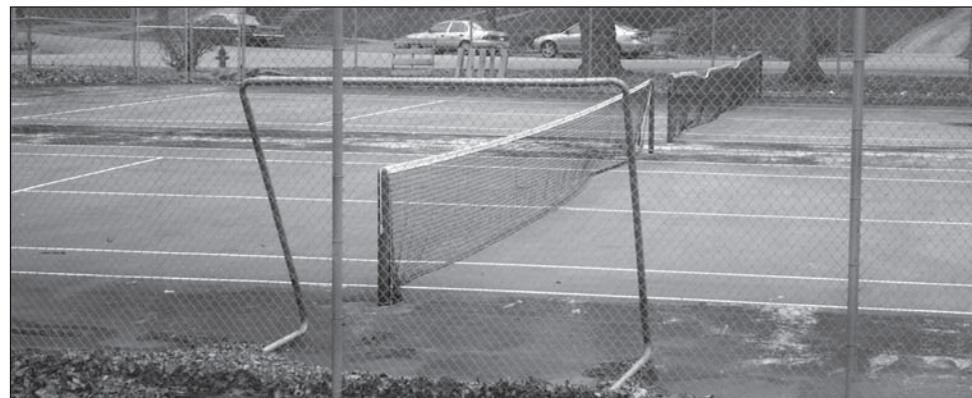
STA has a gym for basketball and volleyball, a field for soccer, and a field for softball. Almost every sport is cov-

ered within the territory of our campus. But what about tennis? Well, currently the STA tennis team travels to the tennis courts on the Plaza for practice and matches. Of course this requires a fee. Wouldn't it be much more resourceful for STA to repair the tennis courts already on campus for usage? This would save time and money for the school and players; plus it would just be more convenient. It would also encourage school spirit, because more STA students would attend tennis matches.

If repairing the courts isn't an option for STA then the courts at least need to be removed. They present an eerie side of our campus which makes us seem lazy and indifferent to our appearance. If the fences were simply taken down and the concrete painted, then at least the courts could be used for extra parking spaces behind the school. Apparently a reason the courts have not been updated or removed is because the softball team uses them for batting cages. If this is so, then what's the point of the dismantled semicircle on the west lawn of our campus? Can't the softball team use their own space for practice?

I may sound bitter, but I am truly interested in the betterment of STA. Repairing the tennis courts could only be beneficial to the tennis team. Destroying them would make the campus more attractive or increase parking space. The tennis court project should be among the top priorities of the STA Athletic Department, whether it's their update or removal. ★

The Final Say
The athletic department should either renovate or destroy the campus tennis courts to use the space more effectively.



Feeling no love★ The tennis courts that sit on the the Wyandotte side of STA's campus have not been in use for several years. The courts could be renovated or demolished to provide a more worthwhile use of the space. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

STA: the stealing training academy?

AN OPINION BY



KATHLEEN HOUGH

Sept. 29, mods 7/8, history class. I walk in, peel off my brand new North Face jacket and slip into a chair, preparing myself for what I expect to be a gruesome and boring history discussion before lunch. My stomach rumbles and all I can think about is stuffing my face with pretzel crisps and strawberry jello once I get to advisory in 40 long minutes. So, naturally, when the bell finally rings, I sprint out of Mr. Whitney's classroom and focus on the most important task of my day: lunch.

Same day, end of Activity II, lang lab. As I pack up my backpack and get ready to head across the quad to chemistry, I realize something is missing. Shoot! I left my brand new North Face in Mr. Whitney's room. I quickly run across the quad, skip down the stairs to the basement of Donnelly, enter Mr. Whitney's room and scan the surrounding area. Nothing.

My brand spankin' new North Face... gone in less than 60 minutes. And where did it go? Well, you tell me, STA.

For the past three years, I have watched black sweaters, water bottles and even granola bars disappear every time I turned my back. I used to think I was just capable of losing everything I touched, but that belief quickly changed when my black, puffy, Patagonia vest disappeared off the back table in my advisory one day last February. Although the vest was found wedged under an auditorium seat two weeks, three mid-day announcements and ten homemade "lost" signs later, I believed someone had snatched it off that back table.

My suspicion was confirmed later this fall. One morning, I put a Power Bar in my advisory cubby, saving it for an after-school snack. When 3 p.m. rolled around, I returned to my advisory, stomach grumbling, only to find that someone had stolen

my Power Bar.

And that is where I draw the line. A granola bar? Seriously? COME ON. We are students in a college-preparatory, private, Catholic, all-girls school. We are raised to know right from wrong, and last time I checked, "Thou shall not steal" is still up there on the list of Ten Commandments. If you really want a stupid granola bar, go buy one yourself.

And while we're on the topic, whoever swiped my 07-08 Peer Helpers half-zip from the cardboard box outside of Ms. Sinco's room, GIVE IT BACK. I had to pay \$24 for that sweatshirt and I never even got to wear it because when I went to pick it up after the order came in, someone had already claimed mine. News flash: that half-zip isn't yours. BUY YOUR OWN! And return mine to its rightful owner.

And, finally, as for those of you who swipe things off the lost-and-found table, CUT IT OUT. Just because you have never heard of Rhonda Lewis, the name written on that pink Nalgene bottle, doesn't mean you're allowed to take it. Yes, Rhonda Lewis actually exists. And yes, that indeed is her water bottle. So just put it back and walk away.

I am embarrassed that in a place where we are taught respect, integrity, compassion and justice, there are girls stealing things from one another. The fact that I can't leave my water bottle unattended for five seconds without one of my peers snatching it makes me sick. It's like I don't even know you people anymore; I'm living among a gang of thieves.

I know, I'm being dramatic. But I can't afford this madness anymore and neither can my parents. Times are tough, ladies. Coats, sweaters, jackets, scarves—even pens and pencils—are too expensive to be constantly replacing.

So please, if that North Face in Mr. Whitney's room, that Peer Helpers half-zip in the cardboard box or that water bottle in the lost-and-found isn't yours...don't take it. ★

The Final Say
STA girls should stop swiping and give their classmates the respect they deserve.

the dart staff

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Quick review

With finals just days away, seniors give freshmen advice on how to prepare for their first ever finals at the academy

by CAROLINE THOMPSON AND MOLLY MEAGHER
Lifestyles Editor and Staff Writer

48 hours before

"First things first, you need time to relax and organize your thoughts. Once you've had time to collect your thoughts, review the important thing but don't overload or wear yourself out. If you study too much, it leaves the brain."

Susie Ancona, senior

"Defiantly get a lot of sleep. Don't push yourself too hard and make sure your not cramming. Lay out what you are going to study."

Tess Distefano, senior

The day before

"Get a good night sleep and review notes. Know the main topics of each final you're taking but don't do a whole lot. Study for 20 minutes for each section and don't stress yourself out."

Maura Hinken, senior

"I only study for the finals I have the next day. I don't want to stress myself out by overloading my head. These nights are just to make sure I have everything I learned. I try to not leave anything for the last night to learn for the first time."

Becca Sommerhauser, senior

The morning of

"Definitely eat a good, hefty breakfast. I suggest a nice golden toasted whole wheat bagel with chilled cream cheese. Mmm, a huge glass of orange juice, some juicy grapes, a nice hard boiled egg. You need all that food to be burned up by serious thinking."

Jessica Lubber, senior

"Night before go to bed early. Get a good breakfast and give yourself time to wake up in the morning. Just try not to get too worked up."

Sarah Duff, senior

The final

"Frosh, finals may seem intimidating, especially your first time, but they are just a longer version of any other test you've had. Teachers don't change their test style or question wording just for finals. You know your material, and you know what to expect. Take it easy."

Kayla Kratofil, senior

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Finding the right path

Beginning in high school, students search for direction as they start to plan out their futures regarding possible majors and careers

by LAURA NEENAN
Staff Writer

A common question during one's youth is "what do you want to be when you grow up?" Kids dream of becoming veterinarians, firefighters and movie stars. In high school, students start seriously considering how, based on their abilities and interests, they can find the career that is right for them, according to Timothy McIntosh, the assistant director of business career services at the University of Missouri.

"While it is difficult for some to conceptualize exactly what they want to 'be when they grow up,' the earlier you know, the more developed and advanced your skill-set can become for that arena," McIntosh said.

As a college preparatory school, STA gives students knowledge and resources to help prepare for life after high school. Whether a student is

interested in science, English or the arts, choosing courses in a particular area can help mold one's future.

"Some students choose [classes focusing on their potential major in college], but there is not a lot of flexibility in the scheduling," academic and college advisor Debi Hudson said. "However, those who go into the arts or health field might choose more classes or electives based on that subject."

According to Hudson, the most common major STA graduates declare is health related. STA alumna Shannon VanBuskirk, a junior at the University of Kansas, is in the pre-medical program. VanBuskirk focused on science during her studies at STA because she knew she wanted to become a doctor.

Junior Molly Kenney also hopes to have a career in the medical field. Like VanBuskirk, Kenney has taken challenging math and science courses

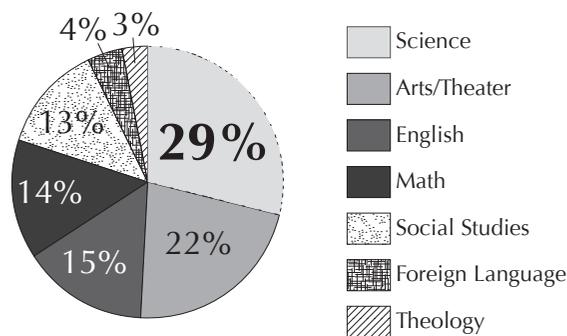
to prepare for college level classes. "Some [students] enter college with a clear idea of what they want to study and never vary from their selected path," director of career services at Rockhurst University Mike Theobald said. "Others are interested in exploring a variety of areas."

Theobald suggests students talk to individuals currently working in an area they are interested in about job shadowing for a day to gain exposure and experience in the field. Both McIntosh and Theobald agree each person takes a unique path path to choosing a career.

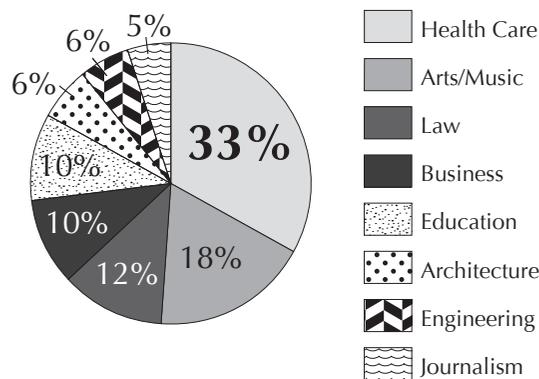
"The career development process is life-long," Theobald said. "Many factors will impact that as one leaves high school, enters college and transitions into the real world. One of the best things to do is explore your own unique skills and talents, find your passion in life and the career path will follow." ★

The Dart polled 100 students about their favorite subjects and ideas for future college degrees and careers. This poll is meant to represent where the majority of students at STA currently stand.

To date, what subject in school is most appealing to you?



What college degree/career area currently interests you the most?



Do you plan to determine your college degree and/or career based on the class you are most interested in right now in high school?

No: **55%**
Yes: **45%**

Junior plans for career in medicine

The Dart interviewed STA junior Molly Kenney, who currently interested in studying biology when she goes on to college in two years.

DART: What do you hope to major in?

Molly Kenney: I am thinking about studying biology in college. It's something that is flexible and allows me to later decide what I want to do, which is something in the medical field."



Kenney

D: What is your hopeful career path?

MK: I enjoy working with kids and would want to be a pediatric nurse or an outpatient patient physical therapist.

D: Have you taken any specific classes in high school that relate to your potential career?

MK: I tested out of physical science freshman year because it was information I had already learned in grade school. This has enabled me to take harder courses now including AP Biology. This way, I can get as many science credits now so I know what to expect in college.

D: When did you decide you wanted to study biology?

MK: I knew sometime between eight grade and freshman year I wanted to [work in health care] because I volunteered at Saint Luke's Hospital in the physical therapy program. Also, last summer I attended the Pathways to Nursing Camp at UMKC and was gained exposure to multiple aspects of nursing. The more I was exposed [to these careers], the more I enjoyed them.

Alumna pursues high school dream

The Dart interviewed '07 alumna Shannon VanBuskirk. VanBuskirk, who is majoring in pre-med at the University of Kansas. She speaks out about her career choice.



DART: Why did you choose pre-med?

Shannon VanBuskirk: I chose pre-med because of my interest in the medical field and my desire to help others.

D: How long did you know you wanted to be a doctor?

SV: I have wanted to be a doctor for as long as I can remember. I have always been fascinated by the human body and knew that my calling was in the medical field.

D: In high school, did you take any classes that helped form your interest in the medical field?

SV: Instead of filling my schedule with fun electives, I took extra science classes. Enrolling in the honors sections, I hoped to get a jump-start on the college, pre-medical curriculum.

D: Do you have any advice for high school students choosing college degrees?

SV: Follow your passion. In college you have to get serious about your career and academics. If you don't enjoy what you are studying, you will never make it. By following your passion, you ensure that you will remain motivated and interested.

at a glance in 300 words

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

by MORGAN SAID
Web Managing Editor

Lost in a crowd

Now that the baby is born, the total count is nine. Nine family members, nine personalities, nine seats at the dinner table.

Baby William resides in the corner of his parents' room in the baby crib that has been passed down from child to child. Allie and Maddie – the big girls – share a room downstairs, while the little boys double up upstairs.

And in middle of the house

rests Eleanor and Becca's room – the middle children. The sage green bunk beds, matching dressers and mismatched comforters with their



Lueke

shared clothes thrown around the floor display their roles in the family perfectly.

Sometimes Becca is accidentally called Nathaniel by her family members, or even has her name combined with Maddie's to make "Mecca". Although these daily mishaps can at times cause for some hurt feelings, they quickly pass.

Although sometimes being in the middle means being overshadowed by their older or younger siblings, Becca and Eleanor both hold their ground.

Becca still isn't old enough to run siblings around to soccer or basketball practices, but old enough to take care of herself around the house. She isn't old enough to drive herself to school, but she's old enough to change diapers. And she isn't always old enough to have the social freedom that her sisters have, but she's always old enough to have the responsibility of washing dishes after dinner.

Some days, not everything in the Lueke family is fair. Some days, one person gets more attention or has to do more chores. Some days, Becca feels excluded. However, every day, Becca is appreciated. Every day, she has someone to shoot hoops with in the driveway. Every day, Becca is loved by her crazy family of nine.

Bottom line: no matter how many place mats there are around the dinner table, there will always be a special seat reserved for the one and only Rebecca Lueke. ★



FAMILY MATTERS
"Family Matters" is a three part series, exploring parents' relationships with their teens.
Part 1: Single mother and daughter
Part 2: Divorced parents
Part 3: Separated from parents

Miss Independent ★ Junior Clare Magers stands outside the home she shares with her brother and guardian George, Dec. 3. Magers has attended STA since freshman year even though her parents live in Iowa. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

Long-distance relationship strains family

Junior Clare Magers moves in with her brother while her parents remain in rural Iowa

by ROSIE HODES
Editor-in-Chief

Seemingly embarrassed, junior Clare Magers leaves the room as her mother starts to cry. Thinking about leaving her daughter 2-and-a-half hours away from home brings Ms. Rose Magers to tears. Maybe Clare is used to her mom's quick emotions and they don't phase her. Or, maybe she is so used to being away from her mother that these few hours with her don't seem special. But then Clare returns with a paper towel for Rose to wipe her sad eyes, and it is clear that she takes to heart her mother's struggles.

Before her freshman year, Clare moved from her parents and their home in Iowa to Kansas City so she could attend STA. She has lived with her older brother and without her parents for over 2 years, and the distance has taken an emotional toll on the family.

"I try really hard not to let her see that I'm sad, because I am," Rose said. "It's hard. But you know what? It's for her. It's her life. It's a sacrifice for [my husband and I] because these are the formative years for you girls, and I feel bad that we're not here for her every day. When she comes home from school, she comes home by herself. When you talk on the phone, you just...you can't hug her."

Rose and Dr.

Mike Magers moved from Gladstone to Kellerton, Iowa 7 years ago with Clare soon after Mike finished medical school, a significant career change from previously being a small business owner. According to Rose, the family had bargained with God, and He sent them to rural Iowa. Clare struggled with her new

classmates and small-town life, and the public high school did not have a college-bound rate high enough to show promise for Clare's future. So, the Magers decided Clare should try something more challenging.

"The first thing was to get Clare accepted into STA and we figured everything else would fall into place," Rose said. "And it did."

Instead of selling Mike's mother's house in Red Bridge (as they had originally planned after she passed away), the Magers thought the house would be Clare's home away from home. They asked their 28-year-old son George if he would leave his "trendy Westport neighborhood" and live as his sister's guardian. George agreed and said that besides getting used to Clare's messy habits, moving in with his sister has not been much of an adjustment.

"I'm just a little more conscious of what I do," George said. "It's kind of just like having another roommate."

According to Clare, George has not taken on a parenting role and the two have pretty separate schedules and lives.

Although Clare keeps some things from her brother, she tells her parents almost everything.

Between regular weekend visits to Iowa, she talks to them on the phone at least twice a day. Clare keeps her parents updated on what's going on with school, and they help her over the phone if she's upset.

According to Clare, she does not feel tempted to break the rules she has had to set for herself. Clare does not have a curfew, but she said she knows when it is

time to go home.

According to Rose, she and Mike have no way of knowing when Clare breaks a rule, except for when she tells them. Clare said she usually tells her parents what she does wrong before there's time to feel guilty about it. For example, Clare told her parents when she and a friend drove to Manhattan, Kan. on their own without permission. She didn't get in trouble because she was honest with them.

Along with staying out of trouble, Clare



has also had to become self-motivated to do her schoolwork, according to George. Clare said it wasn't hard to grasp that responsibility because it was essential when living without parents to keep her on track. Rose said she is very proud of all of the work Clare does for school, but that she wishes Clare didn't have so much to do.

"I've noticed that with her homework load, it seems like coming home is quite a diversion for her," Rose said. "And when she comes home she wants to be babied and coddled. She just wants to sit down and be with [us]."

"It's a sacrifice for [my husband and I] because these are the formative years for you girl, and I feel bad that we're not here for her every day."

Rose Magers, mother

Facing her fears

Sophomore Mary O'Leary's intense spider, snake phobia causes her constant anxiety

by KATHLEEN HOUGH
Staff Writer

She had mindlessly prepared for bed in the same way for as long as she could remember. She never even wondered what could be living inside her pillowcases or under her large, white comforter. That is until one night she picked up her pillow to fluff, and a large, black spider ran out. Blood pumping and heart racing, she jumped off the bed with a shrill shriek and crashed into her night stand.

It's instances like these that fuel sophomore Mary O'Leary's intense fear of spiders, insects, and snakes.

"The worst thing in the world is to see a little black monster running fiercely around the carpet," O'Leary said. "And then they hide and you can't find them, and your heart is racing and you just want someone to kill them for you."

Although comical to many onlookers and close friends, O'Leary believes her fear of what she calls "creepy crawlies" is very serious and truly affects her daily life. Not only is she constantly worried that she will encounter one of these pests, but when she does, there is nothing she can do but throw a temper tantrum.

"This fear is just annoying, because spiders like to show up when I'm alone and there's no one to kill them for me," O'Leary said. "So then I just sit up high somewhere until someone comes to kill the spider, which sometimes takes a long time."

Even the thought of these spiders and snakes makes O'Leary's body shake. When she discovers one, she cries, jumps and runs away, doing anything to escape the "monsters" coming to bite her. She once slapped her cousin on the back after finding a microscopic spider crawling on her hand. Her nervous acts of hitting someone nearby or frantically swatting the air have stuck over the years, as O'Leary continues to do whatever she can to make the tiny insects leave her alone.

According to O'Leary's friend, soph-

omore Katie McCombs, when a spider has been spotted O'Leary dramatically jumps onto the nearest "off-land" object until all is clear. And if a friend is nearby, O'Leary either jumps and hangs onto that friend for safety or accidentally slaps and scratches the friend out of fear for her life.

"[O'Leary's phobia] is not just that she's afraid of spiders," McCombs said. "It's also the blood curdling screaming, running, weird hyperness, wetting of pants and crying that comes along with it."

Although she does not take medication or meet with a psychiatrist to relieve the stress of her phobia, O'Leary has found solace by "spider-proofing" her bedroom. She has equipped her walls with outlet plug-ins that make small, clicking sounds every four seconds.

"[The plug-in] is supposed to scare spiders out of the walls and prevents them from entering my room," O'Leary said. "I think it actually works because since I got the plug-ins, I have only found one spider."

For the most part, O'Leary has been successful in avoiding having to kill these spiders. However, one night O'Leary found herself alone with one of these pesky insects.

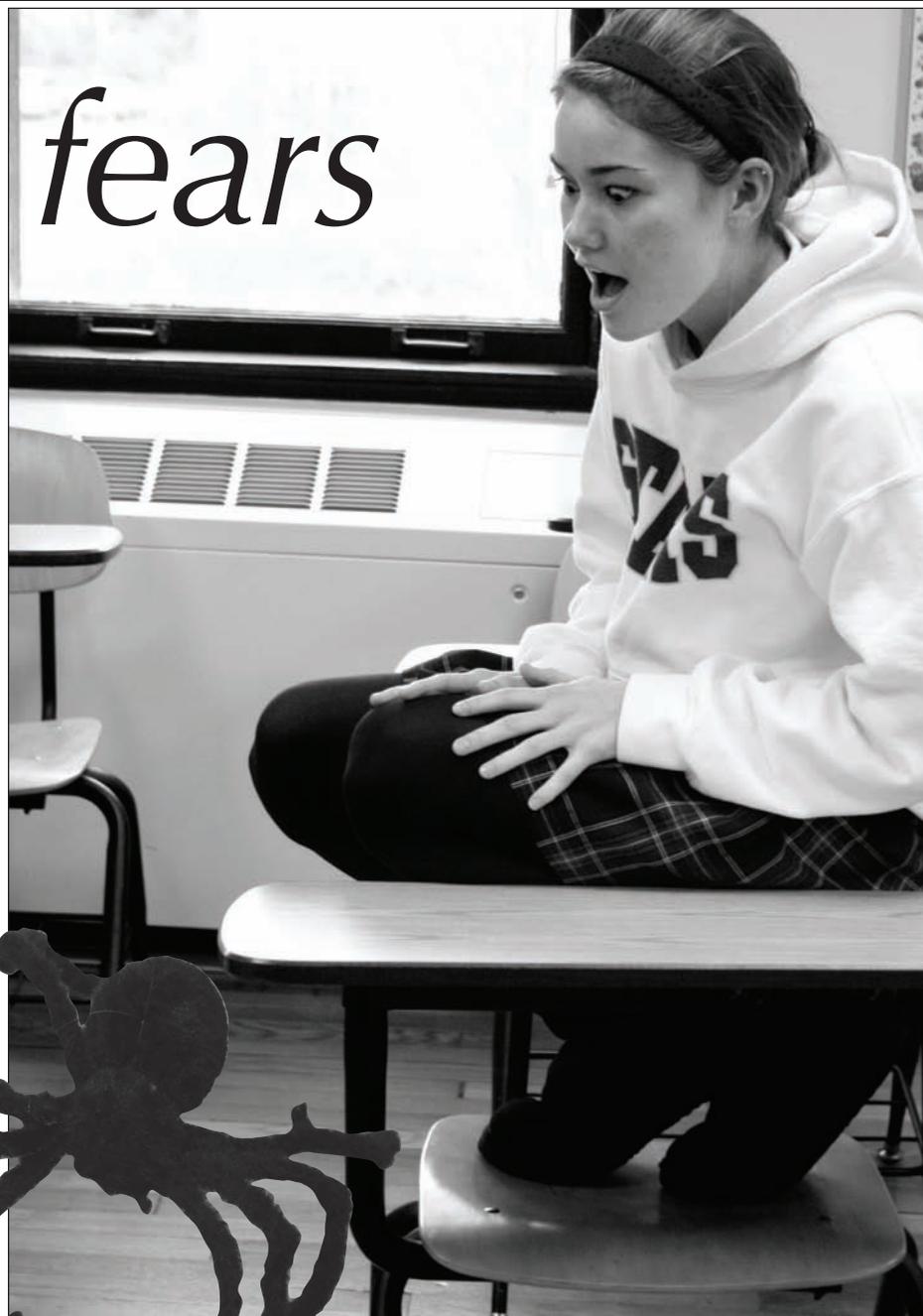
"I had to attack [the spider] with a metal bar that I broke out of my sister's closet," O'Leary said. "Then, just to make sure it was dead, I squirted about 100 sprays of perfume on it. It was one of the scariest things I've ever had to do in my life."

O'Leary's extreme fear has been following her for as long as she can recall. She remembers playing dolls in her mother's high heels, so a spider could not crawl on her foot without her noticing.

"It seems like Mary has always had issues about little buggies and creepy crawlies," O'Leary's father, Terry O'Leary said.

According to Terry, spider and snake phobias run in the family, as Mary's mother, Lynn O'Leary, and sister, Amy O'Leary, have a similar fear of crawling things.

The O'Leary family believes Mary's fear may have even developed before she was born. When Lynn was expecting Mary, she



Scared silly ★ For sophomore Mary O'Leary, arachnophobia, or fear of spiders, is a real disorder-- one that affects her daily life. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AVERY ADAMS

Top Tremors
Phobias can be anything that someone fears. Here are the most common phobias:

1. Heights
2. Enclosed spaces
3. The dark
4. Snakes
5. Spiders
6. Medical needles
7. Thunder, lightning
8. Having a disease
9. Germs
10. The number 13

Source:
www.phobias.about.com

lost control of her bicycle shortly after she noticed a bug flying in front of her. As she screamed in fear of the insect, she flipped over the bicycle and fell head-first into the neighbors' yard.

"We think Mary heard [Lynn's] screaming and is now forever impacted by bugs," Terry said. "They all of the sudden show up at [Mary's] feet or in her face and she thinks they're going to attack at any moment and it just freaks her out."

McCombs believes there is truly nothing anyone can do to help Mary. She believes

Mary's fear will stay with her forever. "I think [Mary's fear] is just a part of who she is," McCombs said. "Outside of her fear, she is a jumpy and hyper sort of person, so her phobia fits in perfectly with her personality. And even though episodes are terrifying [for Mary], they're quite memorable for the rest of us."

For now, Mary continues to fight her constant fear of creepy crawlies, with the help and assurance of her mother. "Despite my fear of spiders, I will always come to my daughter's rescue to protect her from any spider!" Lynn said. ★

"The worst thing in the world is to see a little black monster running fiercely around the carpet."

Mary O'Leary, sophomore

Scaredy Cats

Other STA students share their extreme fears and phobias

"I'm afraid of talking on the phone. I'm not sure why. I avoid it at all costs and even won't answer my house phone. I still make my mom call everyone for me, even though it makes me seem like a nine year old."

-Anne Marie Whitehead, senior



Whitehead

"I am terrified of sleeping. If I go to college by myself I don't know what I will do! The thought of someone I don't know watching me while I'm in my most vulnerable and serene state (sleeping) is enough to make me cry."

-Lane Livers, senior



Livers

"I have a major foot phobia. I am afraid of all feet, including my own, which is why I always wear socks or shoes even at home."

-Katarina Waller, sophomore



Waller

Dropping drugs

GHB, other drugs behind date rapes

by MADALYNE BIRD
Features Editor

She was just going to a couple of fraternity parties with some friends. It was supposed to be a fun night out, but it quickly escalated into something much more dangerous. She only had one drink that night, not enough to be intoxicated. As she approached the open bar at the fraternity house, the guy behind the counter asked her what she would like to drink. Placing her order she turned her back on the bar to talk to her friends.

After she retrieved her drink she returned to the party, but soon after something didn't feel right. She was beginning to feel too intoxicated for the amount of drinks she had consumed.

That was when things became fuzzy. Now all she can recall from the remainder of the night is a boy taking her upstairs. Fortunately a friend found her before anything happened, but this is not always the case.

"I believe I was drugged," said an STA alumna who

wishes to remain anonymous. "I hadn't had enough to drink to be drunk and I was belligerent after I was handed that drink at the bar."

Generally known drugs used to facilitate sexual assaults are Rohypnol, Ketamine and GHB, but any kind of narcotic, muscle relaxant, or sleeping aid can be used, according to Community liaison Lisa Martin from the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA).

"Regardless of other date rape drugs, alcohol is by far the leading and most common date rape drug," said Prevention Specialist Karen Schalker from National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Greater KC. "Alcohol is more commonly used because it is easily accessible and most people drink."

Drugs and alcohol are used to subdue a victim, causing them to be unable to recall events, and lessen their ability to struggle against sexual assault.

However, detecting these drugs can be difficult.

"Someone can suspect that they have been drugged, but they don't really know and medical professionals are not able to test for it," Martin said. "Drugs can have an effect for three to six hours and [doctors] can only detect it for four hours after the person has been drugged. By this time the drugs are already beginning to move out of the blood stream at the time it is detected."

According to an article in the *Kansas City Star*, one of the drugs

that has been gaining national attention is gamma hydroxybutyrate. Commonly known as GHB, it is mostly recognized as a "date rape" drug, but it is also becoming more popular in the partying scene because it mimics the effects of intoxication. GHB looks similar to water and because it is odorless and colorless it can be nearly impossible to detect.

According to Project GHB, an online source that offers information about GHB addiction and abuse, GHB is a chemical that has become a main reason for drug-related comas in the United States.

"GHB categorizes as a central nervous depressant," said Schalker. "It slows down the brain and body."

Before November of 1990, it was being sold as a treatment for sleeping disorders. But as overdoses of GHB grew it was taken off store shelves. GHB is now illegal in the US.

"Sometimes people use GHB in conjunction with other drugs," Martin said. "It causes an out of body experience for those who have ingested it."

STA guidance counselor Amanda James says GHB is a very dangerous drug.

"According to the article in the *Kansas*

See DRUGS, page 22

GRAPHIC BY JULIA STAPINSKI

Prevention Pointers

Avoid drug-facilitated sexual assault by these simple tips.

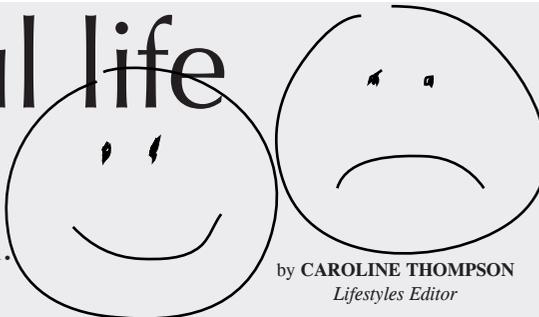
- Never set a drink down or leave it unattended at a party.
- Never accept an open container from anyone.
- Stay in groups and have a friend know your location.

Sources:

Community liaison Lisa Martin (MOCSA), guidance counselor Amanda James

It's a wonderful life

Whether a stroke of luck, strange coincidence or small miracle, students recall experiences that help to make their lives simply wonderful.

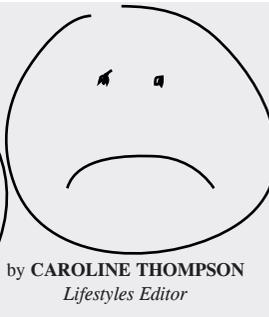


O'Neill

"The other day I was running on an elliptical machine at the YMCA. I was so into my workout, because I'm in such good shape, that I didn't even check out my surroundings. When I was finished I stepped off the ma-

chine, wiped off the glistening sweat from my forehead, and took a look to my right. There was a nun in her habit doing her 'thang' two machines away. It's definitely a wonderful life."

- Claire O'Neill, senior



Kratofil

My life sucks

From tripping down stairs to walking into the men's bathroom, STA students recall unfortunate moments in their everyday lives.

"Last year, before Junior Ring [Dance], I was at my friend's house for our pre-party. We ate dinner, took pictures, and were killing time before we left for the dance. We started talking about music we hoped they'd play, and I mentioned the Stanky Legg, one of my favorite songs. My friend said she didn't know how to do it and asked me to

teach her. I played the song on my phone and started gettin' it. Next thing I know, I hit the ground and feel my leg turn really hot. I look down to see my knee cap on the outside of my leg. About 30 minutes before Junior Ring started, I dislocated my knee doing 'da Stanky Legg.' MLS."

- Kayla Kratofil, senior



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 17 percent of Americans, almost 50 million people, were uninsured in 2008. This is a 5 percent increase from 2005.

According to Ms. Alice Kitchen, the director of social work and community services at Children's Mercy Hospital, the number of uninsured people in the United States has become a large problem. Many people who are unable to afford coverage are suffering without necessary treatment.

"Coverage is not universal, so some of the sickest people are not covered and do not get the care they need when they need it," Kitchen said.

The uninsured tend to be made up of certain demographics, according to Kitchen, like minorities, young people and people with lower incomes. Therefore, she thinks that the health care reform may provide equal treatment, made available to everyone.

"Universal coverage would standardize what everyone has and that will eliminate the disparities in care; disparities between rich and poor, unemployed and employed, and racial care patterns," Kitchen said.

However, some lawmakers, businesses and organizations oppose a government-sponsored insurance plan. The American Medical Association, the largest physician organization, opposes the "public plan," stating that "the introduction of a new public plan threatens to restrict patient choice by driving out private insurers, which currently provide coverage for nearly 70 percent of Americans."

While this heated debate among individuals and organizations continues, and while the Senate debates on its current Health Care Reform bill, the number of Americans living without health insurance continues to grow.

Who are the uninsured?

Many factors contribute to this recent increase in the number of uninsured Americans. The economic downturn that began in 2007 and the increasing unemployment rates

the direct relationship between employment and insurance is an extremely sensitive one.

"Because employment and health insurance are tightly linked, job disruptions such as layoffs or firings, starting one's own business, or taking time off to care for small children or elderly parents can lead to the loss of health coverage," the book states.

Bills in progress

With House's bill complete, Senate continues to debate

HOUSE HEALTH BILL

- The 10-year estimate for the cost of the House's plan would be about \$1.052 trillion.
It is expected to reduce deficits by \$139 billion.
Thirty-six million people would gain coverage.

SENATE HEALTH BILL

- The cost of the Senate's plan is \$849.
It is expected to reduce deficits by \$130 billion.
Thirty-one million people would gain coverage.

Source: Congressional Budget Office

issue of the American Journal of Medicine. Most of the people who filed for bankruptcy were middle-class, educated homeowners, and three-fourths of those who declared bankruptcy were insured. The families with insurance still had on average \$17,749 to pay themselves in medical bills.

So why is health care so expensive?

"Some say it is because the insurance companies are seeking large profits, some say it is because of the fear of a lawsuit so doctors and hospitals give every test they can to avoid a mal-practice claim and yet others say that technology has advanced to such a level that every person feels the need to get the most advanced tests and medications in order to be healthy," Hinken said.

Covering all the bases

According to a survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the age group that has the most uninsured individuals are people 19 to 24 years old. In 2007, 30 percent of people in this age group did not have insurance. Second to this age group are individuals aged 25 to 34 years old, with 26 percent uninsured.

Kitchen says that this is because both young adults and senior citizens are either unemployed students or retired persons, and while people over the age of 65 are covered with Medicare, a third of young people must live without health insurance, and without government aid.

"Health insurance coverage is often employer-based and the old and the young don't usually work," Kitchen said.

Despite the fact that young people tend to be more healthy than older people, both the House and Senate bills require that the majority of Americans have a minimum amount of

health care. The Senate is currently debating whether to fine those who do not have at least the minimum amount of health insurance. These financial penalties, however, are exempted from those who "can show financial hardship," and therefore be unable to pay the cost of government coverage, according to both bills.

Time is money

The Senate continues their health care reform floor debate, which began Nov. 30. Democratic leaders hope to gain the 60 voted necessary for the bill to pass.

The subsidies, or financial aid given to those in need, would cost the government almost \$450 billion in the next 10 years, and would cover nearly two-thirds of premiums for those who receive them, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Under the bill, insurers would have to cover some services that they do not currently cover.

The administration hopes that the bill will lower the country's deficit, decrease premium costs and expand coverage. However, many Republican Senators fear that there would be an increase in unsubsidized premiums among those with individual insurance, and the bill, if passed, would provide little relief to those who are now struggling with high premiums.

"At the beginning of the health care debate, we were told that this trillion-dollar experiment would lower premiums for American families," Senate Minority leader Mitch McConnell said. "And yet the independent Congressional Budget Office provided an analysis showing that the Democrat bill will actually increase premiums for American families. So a bill that's being sold as a way to reduce costs actually drives them up."

The Debate continues

While the debate in Washington continues, it is important to address ways that we may become healthier and happier particularly for the long-term, according to Kitchen, who hopes that "the focus will gravitate to prevention, early intervention and treatment when needed, [with] less attention going to high dollar exotic procedures."

While our country continues its economic struggle, says Hinken, it should be up to the family unit to maintain their health, and to ensure their financial stability in case of emergency.

"As a country we are burdening our future generations with massive debt while operating with the worst unemployment statistics since the Great Depression," Hinken said. "It all starts with the family. Families should take the responsibility for the adequate preservation of income in the event of a pre-mature death of the primary income earner, medical coverage to cover any unforeseen medical emergencies, and utilizing all available resources to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle." ★

Chili Dinner Fundraiser & Auction. To benefit Megan. Saturday, October 24th. 6:00-10:00 p.m. Benefit Auction at 7:00 p.m. Ticket: \$15 (per person). Uninsured with brain cancer, a local girl finds medical care with assistance from family, friends, doctors and Medicaid. See Pages 20-21

INSURANCE INDEX

Below are a list of terms associated with health insurance and medical coverage defined by Merriam-Webster.

- U.S. Census Bureau: is a government agency that is responsible for the United States Census and gathering other national demographic and economic data.
premium: something given free or at a reduced price with the purchase of a product or service
subsidy: a grant by a government to a private person or company to assist an enterprise deemed advantageous to the public
mal-practice claim: a lawsuit as a result of a physician, rendering professional services which cause in injury, loss, or damage
coverage: inclusion within the scope of an insurance policy or protective plan
reform: to put or change into an improved form or condition
inflation: a continuing rise in the general price level usually attributed to an increase in the volume of money and credit relative to available goods and services
demographic: relating to the dynamic balance of a population especially with regard to density and capacity for expansion or decline

Information compiled by MICAH WILKINS

SURVIVAL of the UNINSURED

STA student and her family made it through three years without health insurance

by TAYLOR BROWN, Centerspread Editor



Steady gaze ★ Senior Louisa Blevins lived without health insurance for three years. PHOTO BY TAYLOR BROWN.

When Mr. Tim Blevins, father of senior Louisa Blevins, stopped teaching at St. Elizabeth School in 2003, it did not just mean the loss of an income for the Blevins family. It meant the loss of their health insurance.

Since the Blevins' no longer had coverage through Tim's job, they sought to get a health care plan on their own. However, with Louisa's pre-existing condition of asthma and her mother Ms. Jackie Blevins' prior bladder cancer, health insurance was just not affordable for the family. Therefore, Louisa, then 12 years old, and her family spent 3 years without health insurance.

"[Not having health insurance] affected [my family] in the terms that we all tried to be really careful," Louisa said. "If I was riding a bike, I had to be cautious so that I wouldn't fall off and break my wrist or something. We had to be extra safe so that we didn't have to go to the doctor or at least to the emergency room."

Despite the Blevins' precautions, one incident during their uninsured 3 years left them with significant medical bills.

During a vacation in San Diego in 2005, Louisa and Tim both got hypothermia, a condition in which

a person's temperature drops below that required for normal metabolism and body functions. Tim nearly drowned while swimming and had to go to the emergency room for treatment. Since the Blevins had no medical coverage, they had to pay these bills by themselves.

"[The medical bills] caused my parents a lot of stress," Louisa said. "They were paying off the bills for a few years and constantly negotiating with the hospital what we could and couldn't afford."

However, the Blevins' overcame these bills and the burdens of being uninsured. In 2006, Jackie got a job that provided health care for the family.

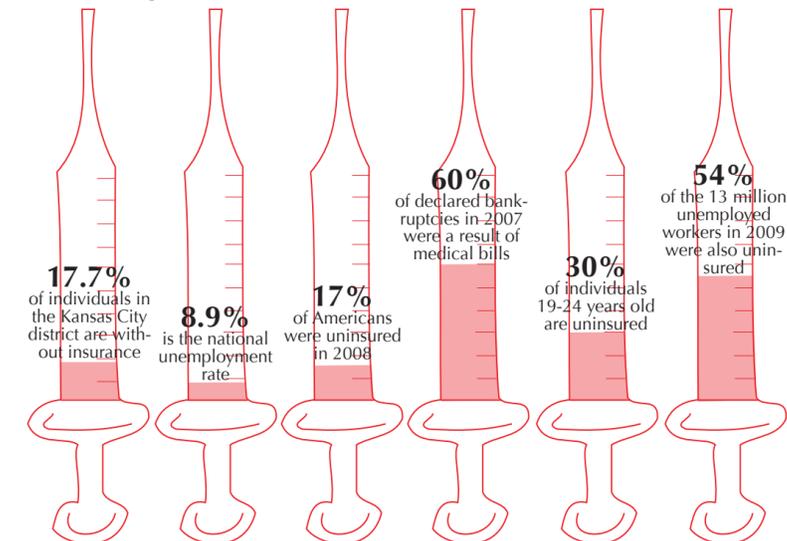
After experiencing what it was like to live without health insurance, Louisa has particular opinions on the current health care debate in Congress.

"I think the government needs to find a way so that people can have health insurance, but won't be punished if they can't afford it," Louisa said. "People shouldn't be fined if they can't afford to have health insurance. I also think there should be universal health care for people who really can't afford it rather than those choosing to spend it on something else, like a flat screen TV." ★

Doses of the uninsured

As the economy continues to struggle, the number of uninsured American's continues to increase.

Information according to the U.S. Census Bureau and Families USA



Information compiled by MICAH WILKINS, Graphic by TAYLOR BROWN

OUT of REACH

Since the start of the economic downturn in 2007, the number of uninsured Americans has increased, a problem that Congress has yet to directly address

by MICAH WILKINS, Arts & Entertainment Editor

that accompanied the downturn result in an increasing number of uninsured people who find themselves no longer able to afford health coverage. Because employers provide most, if not all, of their employee's health insurance, when people find themselves jobless, they also find themselves without a way to pay for their health care. According to Families USA, a health care consumer advocacy group, from January to August, the national unemployment rate was 8.9 percent. Among those 13 million unemployed workers, 54 percent were also uninsured.

According to "Uninsured in America," a book by anthropologist Susan Sered and physician Rushika Farnandopulle,

Basketball program shoots for change

Head coach Doug Nelson uses donation as a way to reform this year's season

by SHAUGHNESY MILLER
News Editor

The clock on the gym wall shows 5 p.m. and a group of girls dressed in new, mesh and reversible practice jerseys form a circle. Each girl takes her designated place around the circle, the place she will stand in every practice until she leaves the program. To start off practice, new head coach Doug Nelson offers an inspirational quote: "sometimes you just have to follow your coach. It's kind of like a blind person with a guide dog. You're not sure where it will take you, but it will take you somewhere you wouldn't have gone on your own."

After a moment of silence to let the quote sink in, the girls begin their warm-up. After two hours of hard work, the team gathers once again and point guard, junior Caroline Gray cracks a joke: "Knock-knock. 'Who's there?' 'Gorilla.' 'Gorilla who?' 'Gorilla me a sandwich.'"

These jokes and quotes are part of the new team tradition: each day Nelson presents a new quote and a different player must bring in a joke.

"My hope is that the next round of jokes will be funnier," Nelson said. "Like anything, it just takes practice."

This new tradition is just one in a long list of changes for the basketball team this season, including a new coach, workouts, and jerseys, courtesy of a \$10,000 donation.

Nelson has brought one more new thing to the team: the desire to revive a once very successful program through hard work and commitment.

"Change needed to be made to maintain the status quo," Nelson said. "I didn't come in with the idea of changing things, I just came in with an idea of how we should run a program."

Athletic director Mark Hough said that he hired Nelson for his commitment to each player and to improving the program.

"With it being our first year at St. Teresa's Academy, Coach Nelson and I were able to approach this with a clean slate and based decisions going forward on what is best for all of the stakeholders in the program," Hough said.

Even at tryouts, Nelson made it clear he wanted to impact the team. Nelson required players to show up for both early morning conditioning and after school practice.

"I felt that [two-a-days] really made sure that the players we had show up at 6 a.m. were really serious about playing basketball," Nelson said.

The tryouts focused on more fundamentals, whereas last year the team mainly scrimmaged. Gray feels this helped to ease the freshman into it, although she thinks scrimmaging is a better way to see who performs well in a game situation. She also felt the tryouts were more fair this year.

"Everyone was equal and coach Nelson started from scratch... where before [coach Jamie Collins] already had in her mind who she wanted to pick," Gray said.

In addition, Nelson has added several new workouts and a weight training program to practices.

Although Gray finds it is a struggle for the team to adjust to the new coaching

style, she is happy with the direction the team is moving.

"It's really stressful learning basically a whole new style of play, and we're all not used to it and don't always agree, but it's all positive and going forward," Gray said.

Nelson agrees that the team is improving and handling the situation well.

"I'm impressed by the effort that's going in to all of our practices," Nelson said.

Ultimately, the team is not looking to win State, according to Gray and Nelson, but to take it step by step.

"My goal is that every day we step off the court a little better," Nelson said. ★

Following the money

Head basketball coach Doug Nelson uses \$10,000 donation for the reforming program by purchasing:

- Practice jerseys
- Game jerseys
- Warm-up outfits
- Goals



She shoots, she scores! ★ Freshman Becca Lueke takes a shot during a varsity practice Nov. 28. The Stars have started this season fresh with a new coach, new practice and game jerseys and drills. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

WINTER SPORTS *predictions*

Compiled by Molly Meagher

Winter sports have started up at STA and every team seems to have at least one thing in common: young, underdeveloped programs. But with the addition of new coaches in all three sports, the development and record of these teams could improve greatly.

Basketball

New head coach Doug Nelson's goals for the season include improving at practice everyday, winning the Irish Cup, which is a trophy that is played for between STA and Notre Dame de Sion, and getting a banner. The team, according to Nelson, will do much better in February and March because the team will have developed more by then.

With about 5 freshman and sophomores on varsity, Nelson said one of the team's weaknesses is how inexperienced and young it is.

"[We are] playing programs with tradition and we say we have tradition but all I see are banners from [1995]," Nelson said.

Overall, basketball is predicted to have a rough start with more success towards the end of the season.

This year our coach has high expectations," Franken said. "But there is lots of room for improvement."

SWIM

New head swim coach Andy Wilcox said the swimmers are going to see great improvements from last year but the team is young. According to Wilcox, the swimmers are willing to sacrifice for the team.

"[A strength of the team is their] ability to work and the willingness to get along and be there for each other," Wilcox said.

Sophomore varsity swimmer Lucy Edmonds said she knows the team will do well this year because they have an experienced coach. Edmonds said it was easy to tell that last year's team was bad for several reasons, including no motivation or team unity. Although Wilcox is focused on bringing the team closer, he said the main goal is breaking records.

"[The] number one goal is to swim on day two [at meets] because it means you're scoring points," Wilcox said. "[Our second goal is] breaking team records. There are going to be a lot of surprises."

Overall, the swim team is predicted to perform better at meets and have a solid handful of girls go to State.

DIVE

Coach Katherine Mingle, the new dive coach, said that going to State this year is ambitious. The team currently consists of two freshman and two juniors, one of which is the only returning diver. Mingle said the divers are catching on quickly to the new dives, but, overall, the team lacks focus.

"[The team's weakness is] focus, which can be good and bad," Mingle said. "It's fun being able to joke a lot, but it prevents us from getting stuff done."

Despite the lack of focus, Mingle said having four divers is great for one-on-one coaching. Mingle also said she likes being able to start off fresh with the team.

Mingle's goals for this season include staying focused, working hard and not getting discouraged if divers smack.

The dive team is underdeveloped but they are expected to bring home a few wins.

Swim practices twice a day



Push it ★ Juniors Dominique Brawner, from left, Mary Kate Duffy and Sarah Wirtz strengthen their arms with push ups at their early morning practice Nov. 20 in the Goppert Center. Swim team meets four days a week for morning practices. **PHOTO BY KATIE HYDE**

Swimmers meet four days a week for early morning practices

by **KATIE HYDE**
Staff Writer

STA's swim team initiated two-a-day practices to boost endurance, strength and unity at the beginning of their season and plans to continue holding these early morning practices all season.

The team has optional 45 minute practices Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings in the Goppert Center in addition to mandatory two hour and 15 minute practices every week day at Longview Community College. According to swim and dive head coach Andy Wilcox, this schedule is part of a plan to elevate the team's level of competition.

"I was hired to bring the swim and dive teams up to the competitive level of the other sports," Wilcox said. "Many swimming and diving programs in the state are able to practice twice daily in the

water. Using the gym in the morning is one way that we can bring up the level of the girls' competition."

Sophomore Christina Barton, who has been on the swim team for two years, sees a distinct change in the team's level of competition now that Wilcox is head coach.

"Although last year's coaches had coached for a really long time, Wilcox is very committed to us improving and being the best athletes we can," Barton said. "The early morning practices help us improve and become more competitive. Last year we did not have the same level of competition."

Sophomore Erin Twaddle agrees that Wilcox has increased the competition on the team.

"The team is a lot more serious than we were last year," said Twaddle "Last year we hardly did any conditioning, and practices were really easy. This year practices are hard, conditioning is important and the coaches are a lot more serious."

At the early morning practices, the team focuses on shoulder and core body strength along with working antagonistic muscles, muscles that work opposite those used in swimming. For example, the

team does bicep curls because biceps work antagonistically to triceps, the primary swimming muscles. Aside from balancing the musculature of the swimmers, these workouts prevent injury.

Although the morning practices are dedicated to improving strength, Wilcox said they are also an opportunity for bonding that the team would not get at their afternoon practice.

"It is very hard to talk to someone when you're face down in the pool for two hours," Wilcox said.

According to Barton, the practices are effective but tiring.

"The early morning practices are a good opportunity for the really dedicated swimmers to improve," Barton said. "But on the other hand, after I go, I am always tired later that day."

Wilcox agrees that the early practices are tiring for the players but hopes the players will eventually see the benefits.

"I doubt [the players] like getting up before school and staying late at Longview [Community College]," Wilcox said. "However, if you ask them again at the end of the season, I wager they answer 'it was worth it.'" ★

Words to live by

Head coach Andy Wilcox motivates his team with inspirational quotes: "Ability will get you to the top, character will keep you there."

powerplayers Caitlin Nelson sophomore

"When I'm in the pool, all my worries are gone," Nelson said.

Nelson is a first year swimmer for STA and met varsity level times.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1st place in 200m backstroke in division championships
- 2nd place in 400m freestyle in division championships
- Achieved level one championship times

FUTURE

- Hopes to go to State for STA
- Hopes to swim in college

SCOREBOARD

varsity swimming

- 12/11 Blue Spring Relays
- 12/18 Independence Invitational
- 12/19 Independence Invitational
- 1/8 Park Hill Invitational
- 1/9 Park Hill Invitational

The swim team has their first meet tomorrow at the Henley Aquatic Center at 4 p.m. "It's tough starting out with so many practices without meets interrupting them," varsity swimmer, junior Rachel Edmonds said. "The practices just get a little long, especially with the morning conditioning."

varsity basketball

- 11/30 Blue Springs 66
STA 61
- 12/2 Lee's Summit West 45
STA 46
- 12/4 Lee's Summit Tournament
Sion 57
STA 30
- 12/8 Blue Springs Tournament
Blue Valley North 51
STA 47

Manager sophomore Megan Helt said STA lost to Sion because the team missed most of their shots. According to Helt, varsity coach Doug Nelson was upset but understanding of the girls after the loss. "[Nelson] understood that it was the team's first game against Sion, but he's really happy that we get another chance to play them later in the season."



Chit-chatting ★ Varsity basketball coach Doug Nelson talks to junior Caroline Gray, far left, and senior Avery Adams Nov. 28. Nelson aspires to bring a positive change this season. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

varsity dance team

- 11/21 Ft. Osage Classic
STA 1st place (jazz)
2nd place (hip-hop)
- 12/4 Yvonne Cole Lindbergh
STA 1st place (jazz)
2nd place (hip-hop)
- 1/22 Kansas Spectacular
TBA (jazz)
TBA (hip-hop)

At the Yvonne Cole competition in St. Louis last weekend, the team placed second in hop-hop (falling only a half a point short from first place), placed third in jazz (one point away from second place) and received the judges' award for most memorable performance in hip-hop. The girls danced in the 1A dance and hip hop categories against 11 teams.



Just dance! ★ Senior Rebeca Oyler demonstrates facial expressions to the rest of the team during rehearsal Nov. 20. The team competed the next day. **PHOTO BY MOLLIE POINTER**

Junior locks in on unique sport

Maggy Roth expands on her hunting experiences; Roth finds hunting as both a sport and a way of finding peace

by KYLIE HORNBECK
Academics Editor



Maggy vs. Wild ★ Junior Maggy Roth, who began hunting when she was 8, holds her hunting gun in her backyard. Roth hunts on land in Cameron, MO on her own. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

While some girls spend their weekends lounging or sleeping in, junior Maggy Roth wakes up at the crack of dawn, bundled in layers of clothing and camouflage, to hunt in the woods until dark.

Roth began hunting around the age of eight on her family's 30 acres of land as well as on the 60 acres her dad cares for and another 160 acres to which her family has hunting rights across the street. Roth's eagerness to hunt comes from the simultaneous excitement of shooting and peacefulness of nature she experiences while hunting.

DART: Why do you enjoy hunting?

Maggy Roth: I like to be outside. I enjoy being out in the woods, and it's exciting when you get to shoot something.

D: What do you do while waiting to shoot an animal?

MR: Sit there quiet. I pay attention to what's going on. You can hear everything when you're sitting out there being quiet. I just pay attention and stay awake. Sometimes it's boring, but it's really quiet and it's peaceful and it's like I don't know you can just hear everything you wouldn't normally hear. It's like your hearing is magnified.

D: Are you ever afraid when you're hunting?

MR: No. I guess walking out to the woods can be scary sometimes, but its something you get over if you love it.

D: How many animals do you kill in a hunt?

MR: For deer I normally just take one deer per hunting trip because I normally don't have the opportunity to shoot more than one. If I do have the opportunity to shoot more than one, then it's two because that's all I have bought tags for. You can shoot as many deer as you want, but you have to have tags for them, and I think you can only shoot

Kill list

Deer
Turkey
Goose
Rabbit
Quail
Squirrel

two in a day.

D: What is one of your favorite hunting memories?

MR: The first time I went turkey hunting in the blind with my dad. It was just exciting because it was the first time I got to shoot one.

D: What do you do with the animals you kill?

MR: Most of them we either process ourselves or have processed, and we eat most of it ourselves or give it away to people in need.

D: When do you go hunting?

MR: As much as I can. It depends on the hunting season. I go almost every weekend in November, a few weekends in December, any time I can in January when its deer season. In spring I go whenever I can. In March, April, May I hunt in turkey season.

D: What weapons do you use?

MR: For turkey hunting I use a shot gun. I use a 20 gauge. For deer hunting I started out with an AR 13, but my dad gave me a 308, which I use now. For pheasant hunting, a 12 gauge, and that's what I use for turkey now. For rabbit hunting I use a 22 gauge.

D: Is there any animal you want to hunt?

MR: I really would love to go elk hunting in Colorado or Alaska. I think my dad might take me for graduation. My dad has gone a couple times and he said it was just amazing to be out in the mountains and see how big the elk actually are up close. He said it was just one of the most awesome things you could hunt.

D: Do you think you will continue to hunt?

MR: I think I'm going to keep up with the sport and hopefully pass it on to my kids. I think the sport is dying, so I want to continue it on to my kids because I think it's just a great thing. I don't see anything wrong with it. It makes you appreciate nature more. ★

Who knew the showers worked?

AN OPINION BY



KYLIE HORNBECK

It's 6:53 a.m. I enter the dark and gloomy dungeon surrounded by slimy stone walls. I cringe at rusty cobweb-covered faucets and grimy drains overflowing with roaches. Plugging my nose to avoid the musty stench of the abandoned quarters, I walk in. I clench my teeth, take a deep breath and prepare myself for the terror of what I am to face. Creaking doors close behind me. Soon, the lights will blink out and I'll be alone in the dark to fend for myself against whatever creatures, from bats crammed in a decaying hole in the ceiling or tarantulas crawling on mossy walls. Lonely and afraid, I enter the showers of the STA locker room. Maybe I am exaggerating...

After going to morning swim conditioning workouts in the gym four days a week for two weeks, I entered the STA locker room Nov. 24 with low expectations. I had not showered once at school, arriving at school a little smelly each day. This particular morning I was drenched in sweat and could not resist.

STA's showers in the gym locker rooms are not popular, simply because they are not inviting. After gym class, girls reeking of sweat head off to the rest of their classes. After volleyball and basketball games, each player heads home sticky with perspiration. No one wants to shower at school because it is not encouraged, no one else is doing it and, honestly, upon first glance, the showers appear especially old, creepy and deserted.

My fate rested in the hands of the locker room that morning. Trembling, I prepared for my shower, only to be pleasantly surprised.

The curtain was a bit sticky, there was some graffiti on the wall with the words "Boys are stupid" in sharpie and the lights were flickering, but overall, the shower itself was, to my surprise, extraordinarily clean.

Maybe my fear of showering at school came from the fact I would be cleansing my body at school, "the home of the teachers," before teachers even arrived. Maybe it was because when I was younger, my first-ever shower at home had been a disaster (I was rushed to the hospital for stitches after I slipped and split my chin open on the side of the tub). Or, maybe my fear of showering was a fear of the unknown, a fear of the "what-ifs." What if I was not the only one in the locker room? What if the power went out and I was trapped in the dark? What if some freak accident happened and I slipped (again) and no one heard me?

I was scared out of my mind walking into that shower, expecting cobwebs, roaches and rats. However, I found none. In fact, there was nothing gross about it and no dingy smell. After showering, I learned that the basketball team had them cleaned about a week before for their own morning practices. I wasn't the first to shower at school this year. A number of girls showered before me, all of whom survived the experience...as far as I know.

What a relief to find hot water and cleanliness in the locker rooms of STA. I don't think I will be going to school with the sticky sweat of my morning workout lingering on my skin again. With my fears of showering at school disappeared, I may be showing up to class a little cleaner and getting to know the showers a little better. Although unfamiliar to the majority of the student body and a little old, STA's showers are safe and clean. If you find yourself sweaty and at school, head to the showers to freshen up. You won't be disappointed, trust me.

I was brave enough. Are you? ★

Dance team kicks off competitive season

Dance team finishes in the top three in first two meets; team performs two routines

by MOLLIE POINTER
Sports Editor



Split it ★ Senior dance team captain Rebecca Oyler practices a split exercise down the floor at rehearsal for the Ft. Osage Classic Dance Team Competition Nov. 21. PHOTO BY MOLLIE POINTER

After 7 months of games and pep rallies, the STA dance team kicks off their competitive season with back to back success in their first two competitions. The team placed first in jazz, second in hip hop at the Ft. Osage Classic Dance Team Competition Nov. 21 and then placed third in jazz, second in hip hop at The Yvonne Cole Lindbergh Invitational in St. Louis Saturday.

After hiring a choreographer, the team prepared their two routines for their upcoming season. Senior captain Anna Gigliotti and head coach Sanvannah Vose said the season is off to a good start.

"They still have room to improve as far as needing to be cleaner and sharper with their motions," Vose said. "They need to stay focused on their goals and continue working hard, together as a team."

Starting with a smaller competition, the Ft. Osage Classic, both Gigliotti and Vose felt it provided a small taste of what was later to come. The team only competed against six teams while in St. Louis, a more challenging competition, the team danced against a total of eleven teams.

"Small competitions are perfect to start the season off," Vose said. "We also need to test

out our routines and costumes to see what does and doesn't work. This competition was just as important as any of the others as it was a building block for our season."

According to senior Riley Cowing, the practices and hard work are aimed at a goal that will symbolically hang in the Goppert Center for years to come, a State banner. The team has high hopes for their State competition wanting to place in the top three.

Gigliotti hopes to win a banner too but knows there is still a lot of work to do before that dream can become reality.

"We really need to hit our turns," Gigliotti said. "Majority of the team has them but there

are still some that aren't quite hitting them. I really think it's holding us back."

At the competition in St. Louis, Gigliotti felt the turns were part of why they placed lower in their jazz routine.

According to Cowing and Gigliotti, the team has a great chemistry and really works to their advantage. Vose agreed that the girls all work really well together and continuing to do so will further their success.

"I would hate to be on a team with girls I had a conflict with," Gigliotti said. "We work so hard together and I love every single one of the girls on my team. I don't tell them enough how much I appreciate them." ★

faces of first Fridays



Kaden Myers, ceramics



Anthony Pack, "Urban Folk Art"



Joshua Best, welder



Michael Baxley, mixed media art



Thom Richart, Finger-painted portraits



John Davis Carroll, Painter

On the evenings of the first Friday of the month, the streets of the otherwise deserted downtown and crossroads area are crowded with artists and art lovers alike. Last Friday, approximately 44 galleries, shops and studios opened their doors to perspective customers. Artists hope to sell their work, but, in recent months, this has been a rare occurrence. "There are no red dots on my [pieces]," artist Apryl McAnerney said. This, in art gallery terminology, indicates that a piece has been sold. Despite the time and talent invested in their pieces, artists often come home after first Fridays with empty pockets. But their creative juices keep them going said Craig Mussman, below. "If I weren't painting I don't know what I'd be doing."

PHOTOS BY MICAH WILKINS



Dick Daniels, graphic designs



Frankie Von Dell, custom pinstriping



Marci Aylward, oil on canvas



Craig Mussman, Visual Artist



Nora Othic, oil pastel on paper

Ending the year on a good note

by CAROLINE THOMPSON
Lifestyles Editor

Last Thursday evening, the Music & Arts Auditorium looked different than usual. The stage was adorned with Christmas decorations, such as lights and holly. The STA choirs usually dressed in plaid skirts, but now wearing long, shiny skirts, laughed and talked anxiously in a huddle. A few minutes past 7 p.m., the combined choirs gathered onto the risers, the lights were dimmed and the audience was silenced. The next moment, harmonious voices of about 40 girls singing "Carol of the Bells" in unison flooded the auditorium. The STA Department of Music's "Hearthsongs: A Christmas Concert" had begun.

The performance featured A Capella choir, Concert choir, STA Singers, STA String Ensemble, and other instrumentalists. The songs varied from holiday classics such as "The Christmas Song" and "Merry Christmas, Darling" to "12 Days After Christmas," which was a fun, silly melody complete with actions and solos that described a breakup after Christmas.

STA singer and senior Kara Sharp had a difficult time choosing one song from the concert as her favorite. Before the program, Sharp anticipated the audience enjoying the choirs' songs and new way of presenting their music.

"I think the students who attend the concert will be surprised to find how different it is this year," Sharp said. "We are really trying to make it into more of a stimulating and entertaining show than just a recital for each group. I think they will be impressed with all the new ideas that are happening."

The program also featured instrumentalists, such as senior McKenzie Miller, sophomore Mackenzie Jones and freshman Hannah McCausland on violins and sophomore Megan Schilling on piano.

"I really liked the songs the choirs sang and the songs [the instrumentalists] played," said senior Jordan Miller, who attended the Christmas program. "The decorations were awesome, too. They've never had decorations at the choir concerts and I liked how [music director Michelle Allen McIntire] made it look more Christmas-y."

Along with decorations, the program included a slideshow presentation accompanied by violins. The slideshow projected holiday images with student and teacher responses to what they love most about Christmas.

"The slide show was really cool!" Miller said. "I loved the overall atmosphere...I could tell people were getting into the songs and into the Christmas mood."

At the end of the concert, the combined choirs each took a candle and positioned themselves throughout the auditorium. They turned off the lights and invited the audience to join in the singing of Christmas carols. They sang classic tunes such as "Joy to the World," "Silent Night," and "The First Noel." After the final song, the participants and audience continued to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" as they descended to The Commons for refreshments and treats provided by Fine Arts Boosters.

"I think [this concert] was a lot better than some of the past ones," STA Singer and senior Shay Bell said. "I really enjoyed singing Christmas carols with the audience at the end and just singing with my friends in my last Christmas concert at STA." ★

Freshman Maddie Stimac, Concert Choir

Q: Why did you decide to join choir?

A: I love to sing. [I've] been singing since I was 3. My grandma and grandpa always liked to hear me sing, and they have both passed on now, but I just know inside that they would want me to continue singing.

Q: How do you prepare yourself for a performance?

A: I just prepare myself by calming down and tell my self "give it your all." I usually take deep breaths.

Q: Funny, short choir stories/memories?

A: When concert choir played Pterodactyl. Mrs. McIntire's faces were classic. . . Pterodactyl is basically a game where you suck your lips in and you say pterodactyl, but the object of the game is to not show your teeth but to make someone else next to you laugh. That whole 40 minute class was awesome. . .

Q: Favorite part about being in choir?

A: I just love singing. . . My entire family just sings. My [favorite] part of choir is that we aren't harsh or exclusive. We let everyone in who wants to join.



Junior Kelly Clay, A Cappella Choir, STA singer

Q: Why did you decide to join choir?

A: Freshmen year I was in instrumental, and it just wasn't big enough and we weren't doing that much. My family is really musical and I love to sing, so I just tried choir and I loved it.

Q: How do you prepare yourself for a performance?

A: I make sure I know my part, and I just go for it.

Q: Funny, short choir stories/memories?

A: I remember we messed up really badly one day during a class, and [Mr. Lee, who plays piano], who is really quiet, out of nowhere yelled 'Fail!'

Q: What is your favorite part about being in choir and being an STA singer?

A: I love singing and I get to know all the girls in choir

Q: Which is your favorite song?

A: I think my favorite song is 'Merry Christmas Darling.' It's really pretty.



Senior Kara Sharp, A Cappella Choir, STA Singer

Q: Which is your favorite song to sing?

A: For the year overall the common favorite of all the girls and the one we are most proud of would have to be "Nada Te Turbe." We sang it for the school at the first prayer service. The words of the song are a prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila herself, and the song was composed by a sister of Saint Joseph, so the song really has a special meaning for us

Q: Why did you decide to join choir?

A: I've been in choir since the fourth grade on and off. I've always loved singing and performing, so in high school it seemed the obvious choice for my fine arts credits.

Q: Funny, short choir stories/memories?

A: This year, Mrs. McIntire was kind enough to let STA Singers have a lock-in and all-night practice at the school. We practiced, went out for pizza, came back and had some bonding time in the auditorium.

Q: Favorite part about being in choir?

A: All the laughter and learning.



Winter trend

How to wear your favorite scarf

Scarves are worn for fashion, not warmth. The three most popular styles are traditional, handkerchief, and choker. The shape of your face should be considered when decided what kind of scarf to wear.

-Ms. Marsha Quinn, whowhatwear.com, silkartfrombrazil.com

by CASSIE REDLINGSHAFFER
Staff Writer

Scarves have become a must have at STA. And you may ask, how can I compete with this array of vibrant colors and intricate patterns that adorn the necks of STA students? Well, all you fashion misfits, it's not what you wear, but how you wear it. According to Halls salesperson Ms. Marsha Quinn, scarves are not only the "most versatile accessories right now," but can be worn in an "unimaginable" amount of ways.

1. The handkerchief style

is used with a square scarf. For this style, fold the opposite corners of the scarf together to make a triangle. Then, place the scarf on your neck with the point facing the floor in front of you and cross the two ends behind your neck and lay them down in front of you.



2. The choker style

like the traditional style, is used with a long, rectangular scarf. For this look, place the scarf behind your neck, with each end hanging in front of you. Then, take one end and circle it completely around your neck. Finally, even the scarf out so that each end in front of you is the same length.



3. The traditional style

is used with a long, rectangular scarf. To achieve this look, fold the scarf in half, place it around your neck and then pull the side with the loose ends through the loop.



According to silkartfrombrazil.com, the shape of your face should also be taken into consideration when deciding how to wear your scarf.

People with **round** or **square** faces should stick with the traditional and choker styles of scarf to elongate and soften the face. People with **long** faces should wear the handkerchief style to make the face appear more full.

"Scarves of today are meant to frame your face," Halls salesperson Ms. Marsha Quinn said. "It's not about functionality. It's an accessory now." ★

entertainment WALL



John Mayer captivated audiences once again with the release of his fourth album, **"Battle Studies"** Nov. 17. The balance between mellow and upbeat songs makes the album appropriate for almost any listening occasion. The album title expresses the theme portrayed in almost every song—that love is a battlefield. Listening to the CD in order, one can notice a pattern. The first few songs deal with broken hearts, the middle set illustrates a heart split in half and the last set conveys the concept of independence. With his signature guitar and unique voice, John Mayer has successfully delivered one of his best albums yet.

-Michelle Reichmeier ★★★★★



R. Kelly's new single **"Echo"** from his oh-so-cleverly titled album **"Untitled,"** is just that: an echo. Of the same verses. All about sex. In fact, the whole album should be called Echo, because each and every song is about promiscuous sex. Really great message, Mr. Kelly. And nice try adding a song titled "Religious." It too is about sex. But should I have expected anything better? He's a notorious creep. Remind me again why he's still popular...?

-Micah Wilkins ★★★★★



From the chaos of war-torn Africa, **Uwem Akpan**, a Nigerian priest, offers a profound glimpse into the lives of destitute children in five short stories in **Say You're One of Them**. Although Akpan's plot is disheartening, he masterfully evokes a sense of humanity and reality in each of his characters that is rarely captured in short stories such as these. While the news may give statistics of African poverty, Akpan paints the realities of desperation with provocative drama. **Say You're One of Them** is a rare and compelling book.

-Katie Hyde ★★★★★



When I first saw previews for **The Blind Side**, I expected it to be just another depressing story about a kid from the streets and some sport saving his or her life. I was pleasantly surprised to find it was a nice balance of humor and drama - I found myself laughing out loud at times and almost crying at others. All of the actors did a fabulous job of telling a story I had been convinced I could not see without going through at least eight boxes of Kleenex. I found **The Blind Side's** mix of humor and drama to be extremely entertaining, and it was a perfect holiday movie to see with my family.

-Paige Wendland ★★★★★

Trying to play over 'male soundtrack'

Women find themselves more often behind the mic, not behind the music

by MICAH WILKINS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Coldplay. The Jonas Brothers. Green Day. The Killers. U2. Nickelback. Owl City.

The list goes on and on. And on. There are way more all male bands than all female bands. On iTunes' alternative genre currently, the top bands are Kings of Leon, Boys Like Girls, Cobra Starship, Muse, Phoenix and Cage the Elephant, all of which are bands made up of only men.

But why is this? According to Professor of Sociology at Ruskin College in Oxford, England Mavis Bayton, young men like demonstrating their masculinity, and in doing so, they need girls out of the picture.

"Research shows that a major preoccupation of young men is establishing their 'masculinity,'" Ms. Bayton said. "The very 'masculinity' of activities can only be maintained by the exclusion of girls."

This trend has largely determined the roles of both men and women in music, said Bayton.

"Traditionally, women have been positioned as consumers and fans, and in supportive roles (wife, mother, girlfriend) rather than as active producers of music: musicians," she said in her book, **"Women Performing Popular Music."**

Junior Maura Porter has been familiar with these roles for women in music, and attempted to go against them when she and junior Hannah Longstreet formed their own band, the Tenants.

"For a while we were thinking [of forming] an all-girls band because you don't see too many girl bands," Porter said. "We were kind of trying to find a female drummer, but it was nearly impossible."

After finding the perfect lead guitarist, Marie Mader, bassist Porter and singer Longstreet decided to ask two of their guy friends to play rhythm guitar and drums. However, the band started having problems with their rhythm guitarist.

"He'd rail saying that he should be the lead guitarist," Porter said. "He was an okay player, but he just refused to admit that he didn't know what he was doing. I think he was the type of guy who had a problem with [Mader] being a

girl and her being the lead guitarist." The rhythm guitarist's quarrels with the band resulted in his dismissal from the band.

Porter thinks that her band had issues with past male rhythm guitarists because young men tend to be more assertive and aggressive, especially when it comes to music, whereas young women are insecure about their abilities.

"Hypothetically, if a guy and a girl pick up a guitar, the guy would be like 'I can't fail at this.' The girl would say 'It's not coming that easy, I'm not even going to try, I'm just going to make a fool of myself.'" Porter said. "A lot of girls are content just being affected by [music] and just listening to it. But a lot of the guys aren't content with just watching it, they need to be a part of it. . . Guys are just more stubborn, that's what I've seen."

Ms. Kristen May, singer of the local alternative band Vedera, has experienced similar attitudes with

her band-mates. Being the only girl in the band, she finds it more difficult to relate to her band-mates at times.

"I think there [were] times in the past when they haven't understood something I was going through or I would freak them out with my emotional side," May said. "I think as a female I

can tend to get caught up in the little things, whereas the guys in my band are less emotional and just think of things as black and white. Like, 'don't worry that you're having a bad hair day, Kristen, we are still going to play a great show and most likely no one will notice.'"

The few times that women are included in the image of music, it is as the lead singer (like in Vedera) with rarely any other roles or abilities, according to Professor Bayton.

"When [women] have been on stage, on TV, on record, it has nearly always been as singers," Bayton said. "They have sometimes written their own lyrics,

rarely their own music, and there are very few women playing instruments."

Indeed, in many of today's popular bands, women are frequently just the singer. Case in point: Paramore, No Doubt, Evanescence, Black Eyed Peas, Blondie, Lady Antebellum.

According to Porter, most of these female singers are for sex appeal, so that the band may gain more success and popularity.

"If you put an ugly chick in a mediocre band, they're not going anywhere," Porter said.

In order to establish a respectable place in the music world, Porter said, women should start becoming more involved, and go further than just being the attractive image of the band, says Porter. "More girl bands should get started and should strive to be genuinely good." ★

Check out Vedera at the Beaumont Club in Westport Dec. 19. Tickets are \$10.

GirlsRock
Some talented girl bands you should check out

Yeah Yeah Yeahs
Regina Spektor
Tegan & Sara
Cat Power
Vedera
Feist



Thrashin' ★ Junior Maura Porter practices her bass guitar in her room last Friday. "People put a pretty face to mediocre bands to sell some records," Porter said. PHOTO BY MICAH WILKINS

artist of the issue

Michaela Knittel
Junior

Q: What do you like to create?

A: "I love figure drawing, because I love charcoal. I love painting."

Q: How long have you been taking art classes?

A: "I took classes in kindergarten and ever since then. Now I'm in painting... I took a portrait oil class at the [Kansas City] Art Institute, which was a good experience, but kind of awkward because I was the only 16 year-old. I also did a summer intensive art program at [Savannah College of Art & Design]. It was a really good experience."

Q: What do you draw inspiration from?

A: "I'm inspired by things around me, in the moment. I've always been

sort of quiet. I'm known to just watching. I think that's an advantage when you're an artist because you notice things when other people don't."

Q: What artists do you like?

A: "I like Jackson Pollock and all those modern artists. Also Andy Goldsworthy, I'm so impressed with what he does. He makes sculptures in nature and then he'll just leave them there."

Q: Do you hope to influence people with your work?

A: "I think art should always be influential and moving. It's kind of hard though for me because I don't know what I want to do, because there are so many options... I'd like to attend an art college where you don't declare your major until your sophomore year." ★



State of the Art ★ Junior Michaela Knittel paints in her Painting class Nov. 24. "I think art has a lot to do with emotions. They come out even when you don't plan it to." PHOTO BY MICAH WILKINS

HANGING by a



Megan's Timeline

Since June, Megan has been through countless diagnoses, doctors visits, and medical procedures relating to her cancer.

June

- Megan begins suffering from headaches
- Megan qualifies for Medicaid to help pay for health care
- Megan's headaches are dismissed as sinus headaches by Medicaid doctor

July- August

- Megan's headaches get worse; she begins to get dizzy and pass out
- Medicaid doctor dismisses it as dehydrated

September

- Megan's symptoms continue; Medicaid doctors send her to a Medicaid vision doctor who recognizes her brain is swelling
- Children's Mercy South won't perform CAT scan
- Optometrist calls Children's Mercy downtown to get a CAT scan for Megan
- CAT scan finds a brain tumor
- Neurosurgeon performs surgery to remove tumor at St. Joseph's; finds cancerous tumor
- Megan contracts meningitis after surgery

October

- Megan contracts another infection; body rejects spinal fluid
- Surgery is performed to place a shunt in Megan's head to drain spinal fluid
- Shunt becomes blocked; another surgery is performed to place a new one

November

- Megan is moved to the home of her grandparents; van picks her up for radiation and physical therapy daily
- After three days of radiation Megan is moved back to hospital
- The cancer an ensuing radiation has greatly impaired Megan's eyesight and hearing

December

- Megan will be fed from a feeding tube

Graphic by KATIE HYDE

Girl with brain cancer finds medical care with assistance from family, friends, doctors

by SYDNEY DEATHERAGE
Web-Editor-in-Chief

Editor's Note: Due to the sensitivity of the piece, the Gambrill family was not interviewed; only close family friends were interviewed.

Any mother's worst nightmare is watching the child die before the mother. Melissa Gambrill is living with the possibility of this nightmare.

Since Sept. 17 when her 15-year-old daughter Megan Gambrill was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a highly malignant and fast traveling form of brain cancer, Melissa has watched her daughter quickly deteriorate toward a nearly vegetative state. Medulloblastoma is a highly aggressive cancer, which means it needs a fast discovery and diagnosis with high-quality treatment for any hope of survival. At this point, there is little to no hope of Megan's recovery and she is fading fast.

But Melissa and Megan are uninsured.

Melissa worked minimum wage jobs in order to home school Megan. These jobs did not offer health insurance plans as a benefit. And now, as a single mother, Melissa has quit her job to be by Megan's side at all times.

The dozens of bills over the past two months from Megan's four surgeries, countless CAT scans and MRIs, chemotherapy, radiation treatment, hospital stays, and other medical needs are projected to amount to over \$1 million. These are bills Melissa can not pay.

However, despite being uninsured, broke and without her own home, Melissa has managed to garner medical care and support for her daughter.

Megan's story is the story of the support that can be found when an individual has no medical insurance, yet great medical need.

Help Comes From the Government--Conditionally

Melissa Gambrill is a single mother. She has worked minimum wage and low paying jobs most of her adult life, sometimes multiple at once, just to make enough to support her and Megan. No job has offered her insurance coverage. According to Melissa's closest friend Cheryl Seperek, since Melissa made \$6 to \$7.50 an hour when working, she could not afford an approximately \$700 bill every month for medical insurance.

Though her mother has always been uninsured, when Megan first began suffering from medical problems Melissa was able to qualify her for Medicaid, a government-run health insurance program for low-income individuals that helps cover health care costs.

According to the Missouri Department of Social Services, Megan qualifies for Medicaid as an uninsured child "with gross family in-

come up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. 'Uninsured Children' are persons under 19 years of age who have not had employer-subsidized health care insurance or other health care coverage for six months prior to application."

Medicaid will pay some of the bills, like any insurance program, but it won't pay all of them. For Medicaid patients, hospitals will either negotiate the remaining balance or bill it all to the patient. Melissa has no money to pay for any medical costs not covered by Medicaid that may be billed to her. She had to borrow money from a nurse just to buy coffee.

"I told Melissa, 'What are they going to do if you can't get it done?'" Cheryl said. "You have no choice but to get medical treatment. What are they going to do? You don't have a house; they can't take a house from you. You got a 20-year-old car; if they want your car they can have it. You don't have a job; they can't garnish your wages. This is your child. This is your child's life. So that's something we're not going to worry about."

Cheryl, who is insured, took her daughter Shelby to St. Joseph's Hospital several years ago when she was suffering from headaches. According to Cheryl, the very first thing the hospital did was perform a CAT scan to rule out the possibility of a brain tumor.

"That makes me think that [Megan's] quality of care [wasn't] the best it could be as it could with an insured, paying patient," Cheryl said.

Since many doctors do not accept Medicaid patients, Megan's care could have been affected by her inability to see a quality doctor.

According to Cheryl, Melissa also attributes the very delayed discovery of her daughter's cancer to Medicaid. She feels there was a lack of quality care from Medicaid doctors she took Megan to in the months before her diagnosis.

"And Melissa has asked this herself: 'I wonder if I had good insurance, if I had taken her to another doctor if they would have found it sooner,'" Cheryl said. "And this is a very fast growing, aggressive cancer. Back in May and June she first took [Megan] to the doctor. I'm not a doctor. But it seems to me if it was small enough then maybe it could have been controllable."

Help Comes From Doctors

Doctors simply don't get much money from Medicaid patients, and get no money from uninsured patients who can't pay for medical care. Yet some doctors have gone out of their way to help Megan.

When Melissa took Megan to the optometrist, the optometrist immediately recognized

that Megan's brain was swelling and sent her and Melissa to the emergency room at Children's Mercy South who wouldn't perform a CAT scan.

Melissa called the optometrist back.

"The optometrist had said 'Call me when you get to the hospital,'" Cheryl said. "This optometrist was evidently very caring about [Megan's situation]. [Melissa] called her on the way back from Children's Mercy [South] saying Children's Mercy wouldn't do a CAT scan on [Megan]. The optometrist said 'Oh no, you take her downtown. I'm calling them and telling them you're bringing her in.'"

It was after this CAT scan at Children's Mercy that the tumor was found. However this optometrist was not the only helping hand for Megan.

Many doctors do not accept Medicaid patients. If a person is on a Medicaid insurance plan they likely will not be able to foot the rest of the bill not covered by the insurance. And doctors expect to be paid.

However, one doctor did take a Medicaid patient, a Dr. John A. Clough. He took Megan. And Clough just happens to be one of the

best neurosurgeons in Kansas City, according to Cheryl. Healthgrades.com gives him four out of five stars.

The night the CAT scan found the tumor, Melissa called Clough at home.

"[Clough] said he wanted [Melissa] to call him the next day because he wanted to see this girl," Cheryl said. "They explained to him that she was a Medicaid patient, because he doesn't take Medicaid. He said I'll see her anyway."

Clough operated on Megan five days later.

Help Comes From Friends

At a website called CaringBridge.org, terminally or seriously ill patients can create a personalized web page with photos, a personal story, a journal where a family member can post health updates, and a guest book where friends and relatives can leave messages for their loved one.

Shelby, Cheryl's daughter and Megan's best friend, writes notes to Megan and Melissa daily.

One note reads, "We love you and Megan with all our hearts! We hope she gets better and makes it thru this! We are praying every day for you and Meg. We are Still hoping that she will make it. You just have to believe in yourself and God. We are keeping you and Meg in our Thoughts and Prayers. I wish me and you could talk on the phone again Megan. ~Love Shelby."

Though Megan may no longer be able to comprehend things, Melissa shares the notes with Megan.

Cheryl and Shelby have not only been the

"I'm not a doctor. But it seems to me if [the tumor] was small enough then, maybe it could have been controllable."

Cheryl Seperek, friend

LIFELINE



Visiting Day ★ Megan Gambrell, left, visits with her friend Shelby Seperek in her hospital room. Gambrell was diagnosed with malignant brain cancer Sept. 17. **PHOTO SUBMITTED**

Chili Dinner Fundraiser & Auction



To benefit Megan

Saturday, October 24th
5:00—8:00 p.m.

Benefit Auction at 7:00 p.m.
Ticket—\$5.00 per person

Megan is 15, at the end of September she was diagnosed with brain cancer. On September 22nd she underwent surgery to remove part of the tumor. She is currently receiving treatment to shrink the remaining tumor.

Megan's family does not have health insurance.
Please help in any way you can.

Helping Strangers ★ Freshman Amanda Sloan hung posters for Megan in STA hallways earlier this school year. A fundraiser for Megan was held on Oct. 24 at Elks Lodge. **PHOTO SUBMITTED**

primary emotional support system for the Gambrells, but have also attempted to assist them monetarily.

Shelby contacted the Grandview Elks Lodge, a service organization, and through them almost single-handedly organized a fundraiser for Megan. The fundraiser was a \$5 all-you-can-eat chili dinner with an auction, and they raised over \$6,000. Freshman Amanda Sloan, whose stepfather Al Wholf works at the Elks Lodge, helped rally the STA community around the cause.

According to Cheryl, the money was not intended for medical costs. The money was to help Melissa get an apartment or extended stay hotel room near the cancer center, but was never used for this purpose because Megan nor Melissa have practically never left the hospital since the diagnosis.

"The only thing I'm worried about now is that money will be used for funeral costs," Cheryl said. "I have a feeling that's probably what the money is going to be used for. But then again, she's got the money to give Megan a nice funeral, where before she didn't."

Help Comes From Strangers

In churches across many denominations and across the nation, congregations include Megan in their daily prayers and masses. Beginning with Cheryl's congregation, and then spreading by means of friends and family to more remote congregations and people, something called a "prayer chain" has been trickling across the country for Megan.

"Everyone is told in their nightly prayers to say a prayer for Megan," Cheryl said. "They tell another person and another person and pretty soon you have 50 people including Megan in her prayer that have never even met her or know anything about her."

Most of the people that attended the fundraiser held by Cheryl and Shelby don't know Megan. Most of the people who have donated items or funds don't know Megan. Freshman Amanda Sloan has only met Megan a few times through Shelby, and yet she hung up posters all over the school and helped organize her fundraiser at the Elks Lodge.

"People have been very giving in this—extremely giving," Cheryl said. "It's amazing to me how many people have rallied around this and I don't know if it's because it's every parent's worst nightmare—because for the grace of God there goes my child or what—but people have really identified with this and have done whatever they can to help with the situation." ★

Centerspread:

Since the start of the economic downturn in 2007, the number of uninsured Americans has increased.

See Pages 12-13



Hanging on ★ The Children's Mercy Hospital sign shines brightly in front of the ambulance entrance. This is where Megan received her CAT scan. **PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM**

The holidays: an entire Neenan affair

AN OPINION BY



LAURA NEENAN

Who doesn't love Thanksgiving and Christmas? A holiday full of stuffing your face with so much turkey drenched in gravy and any type of pie imaginable. And then an entire day dedicated to receiving presents. Food and presents? I'm in. But ever since all of my siblings pretty much abandoned me in a house with solely my mother and father, I look forward to these holidays for more than just those reasons. This year I am thankful that my older siblings will finally be coming home to save me from the quiet dinner table. At last, the ongoing game of "lets put all of our attention on Laura" my parents love to play so much can temporarily come to an end.

Life before the holidays is pretty much a silent night. But things begin to change when the Neenan children begin to trickle in the door. Arriving by plane, sometimes even train, and automobile, each Neenan, Matthew, Benjamin, Kathryn, Rosie, Bob, Marie, and Casey, arrive safe and sound. Two brothers, two sisters, two parents, and the dog; NOW the Neenan family holiday vacation can begin.

I wake up early in the morning to the sound of the pots and pans banging back and forth and smell of bacon slowly making its way to my room. Trust me, when my dog Casey and I are the only people at home, we never

get bacon. I have come to the conclusion that when my siblings are home, my mom likes to spend a lot more time in the kitchen.

Then comes the afternoons. We enjoy laying around, taking naps here and there, but hey, at least we're watching TV together. Ahh, family bonding. This could be anything from watching the entire sixth season of Seinfeld, a DVD musical tribute to Bruce Springsteen or the Talking Heads, or whatever sporting event the men in the house can find slightly intriguing that day.

After an entire day dedicated to watching an electronic box, we all settle down for dinner, and the actual conversations begin. We all catch up with each other and for once, I am not the one who has to lead the conversation to entertain my parents with how interesting my life is as a sixteen year old girl.

Next we have post-dinner competitions, the real entertainment for the night. It is what the Neenan family truly does best. Pool tournaments are for the mellow nights, but if we're feeling pretty crazy, we'll go for the Wii. Watching father and son aggressively compete over virtual ski jumps, grunting noises and all, adds a little humor to my night. As the youngest child, I have the responsibility to keep everyone in the family amused. I choose to end the night with a synchronized step class on the Wii Fit but make sure to add a little flair with dance moves of my own.

I lay in bed after the day is done, and forget that I am not the only person awake in the family. Well, so much for a silent night because two seconds later I abruptly wake up to my 25-year-old brother body slamming me. It may be a little uncomfortable at that point, but I would pick being squashed by 180 pounds over living the life as an only child any day.

I am thankful for my family this holiday season, no matter how weird they can be. For just a few nights, I get to fall asleep to a full house. This holiday season I say Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night. ★

Drugs: GHB rates on the rise, commonly used for date rape

Continued from page 11

City Star I read, GHB is very addictive and people easily develop a tolerance for it," James said. "People die from this addiction."

According to Project GHB, after the drug is taken it forces the brain to suppress feelings of self-consciousness and creates a "high" feeling. Other effects of the drug are increased energy, muscle relaxation, desire to socialize, nausea, and loss of gag reflex.

"The morning after I woke up I felt really sore and had a horrible headache," said the anonymous source. "It felt like I was really hungover."

The dangerous side effects of this drug are largely attributed to the method in which it is often manufactured, at home using basic household cleaners.

"[GHB] is dangerous because it is not legal in the US and it is being manufactured by someone who does not know the dosage amount," Martin said. "It could be too strong because of

the lack of dosage amount and it could be made wrong or it could be toxic. Different people react differently because they do not know what they are ingesting and if they are allergic to it, it can be fatal."

James also says that being unknowingly drugged can have serious damage to a person's mental state.

"Girls who have been violated would experience symptoms similar to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," James said. "They would have flashbacks of what happened, difficulty concentrating during the day and in every day activities. They would also have a loss of trust in others, self-esteem issues and feelings of guilt, shame and embarrassment."

As for the anonymous former STA student, she is much more careful when attending college parties and encourages other girls to do the same to avoid threatening situations such as this one. ★

Magers: Junior balances life in KC while parents live in Iowa

Continued from page 9

Clare said she would love to live with her parents, but that she could never move back to Iowa. Rose, a "city gal," wants to move back to Kansas City to be with Clare and she often visits, but she will stay in Kellerton with her husband.

While Clare thinks living with her brother has helped her realize that growing up can be

fun, she also knows she will be prepared for college because she has learned to live on her own.

"I feel like I had to grow up and take care of myself and become really independent," Clare said. "I'm kind of jealous of other teenagers. You guys can go home and see your parents, and I don't have that." ★

Pearls of Wisdom

Seminar on Jan. 14 to advise seniors on financial issues, help create goals for future

by SHAUGHNESSY MILLER
News Editor

On Jan. 14, twin sisters and financial advisors Katheigh Degen and Raleigh Lang, founders of Twin Financial, will discuss financial issues with seniors and their parents during lunch/activity in a presentation, called "Pearls of Wisdom." There will be a Powerpoint presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session. The seminar will discuss defining financial goals during college and creating a savings plan starting now or with a student's first job.

Typically, the sisters present to groups of adult women, but President Nan Bone wanted to bring them to STA.

"[Bone] thought it would be good for the girls to empower themselves to take an interest in financial issues," said Ms. Pat Zidar, mother of graduates Kaitlin and Mary, who works for Twin Financial and is coordinating the presentation. "She wants the girls to take responsibility now."

The seminar may be open to everyone, but there is a chance that space will be limited and students will have to register. Details and invitations to the event will be sent out after Winter break. ★

By the numbers

Women's financial statistics:

Nine of 10 women will be solely responsible for handling their finances at some point during their lives.

Women can expect to live an average of seven years longer than men, which means they'll need to plan to have more money for their retirement years.

On average, a woman will forfeit \$550,000 worth of salary and retirement benefits (including Social Security) by taking time off from work to care for family

Women are expected to control 60% of the wealth in the United States by 2010

Today, there are 1/3 more women graduating from college than men, with 60% of women with business degrees out-earning their husbands

More than 50% of women wish they had learned more about finances in school

Source: *Mass Mutual website*

First Snow



Let It Snow★ The first snow of the season fell on STA's campus Tuesday night. Students hoped for a snow day because STA did not miss one day of school due to inclement weather last year. PHOTO BY TRACY BURNS-YOCUM

NICE TO MEET YOU



ROSIE HODES

Memorable date smells like fishflies

It's weird how memories stick with you. Sometimes it's something scary that you'll never forget. Sometimes it's your favorite birthday party. Sometimes it's fishflies.

When I asked junior Jade Hernandez to tell me about living in Michigan when she was growing up, she told me about fishflies - dead bugs in her yard that made the house smell like rotten sandwiches when she left the window open. Of all the things she could remember about living in Arizona, Michigan, then Kansas City (her dad's a retired Marine, hence the moving), fishflies are what stuck out the most.

What stuck out the most to me about my fourth get-to-know-a-stranger experiment was how many things I found in common between the two of us.



She has a 26-year-old sister with kids and shares my intense love for being an aunt and all the kisses that come with it.

Jade has moved many times due to her dad's role in the Military, and is moving once again over Christmas break. Same here! Well, my dad's not in the military and I've always lived in Kansas City, but I have moved quite a few times.

Also, Jade was on dance team last year. Just wondering...have any of you seen me dance? It's definitely dance team worthy. In fact, after my date with Jade we choreographed an entire dance routine that you all can see/be jealous of at the Christmas dance.

Kidding.

But I can dream to me more like Jade, right?

I actually did play lacrosse sophomore year, and Jade is a seasoned LAX player herself. She understands the joy of finally capturing the ball and not feeling like an idiot anymore. But, she did tell me something I'm missing out on now that I've kissed lacrosse goodbye:

"Holly [the assistant coach] shares her water with her dog and lets it lick from the bottle. I would never want a relationship that close with my dog."

Me neither, Jade. Me neither.

Jade loves the atmosphere of STA, and I found that Jade is one of the girls here that helps make the atmosphere so lovable.

Jade Hernandez, it was nice to meet you. ★

top

[[Weirdest Christmas Presents]]

Compiled by Taylor Irwin

5 Handerpants: Underpants for your hand! These fingerless gloves are made of the same material as "tidy whitey" men's underwear. The comfortable accessories are used to prevent chafing from full gloves.

The Tiddy Bear: The Tiddy Bear is a bear that attaches to seat belts in cars for the people who find that their shoulders and neck become irritated. Designed by a breast cancer survivor, the Tiddy Bear has seen much success.

3 Pup To Go: Need to run errands and don't want to leave your precious puppy at home? The pup to go straps your canine companion right to your chest and abdomen, leaving your hands free to shop for whatever it is you need.

Winkers: While the company WINK doesn't actually create pants for you, they do decorate them! Anything from jeans, to cargos, to sweats is fair game. Want your favorite khakis bedazzled? Winkers are the gift for you!

1 Snuggies for dogs: The popular 'snuggie,' known as the blanket with sleeves, now comes in a size for your dog! Ideal to keep man's best friend warm in the night.

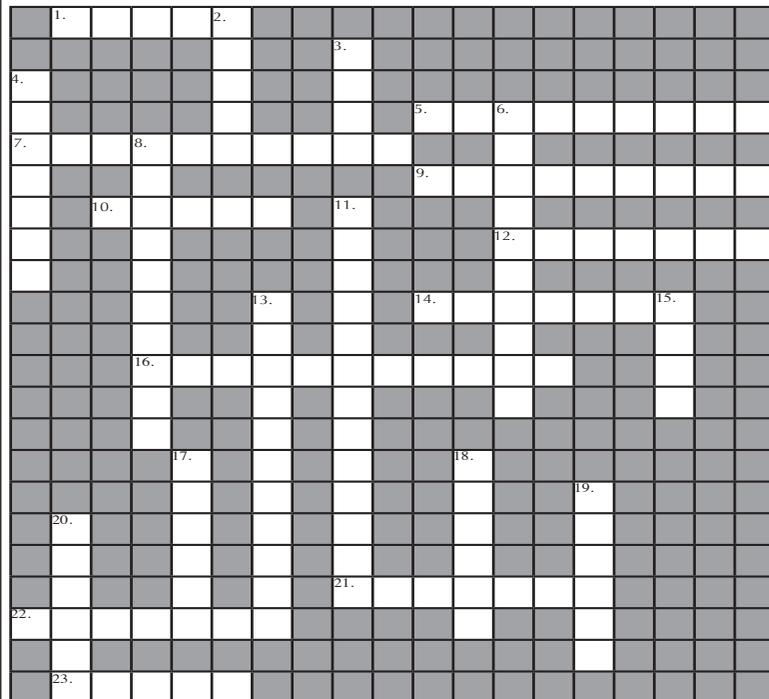
A WINTER WONDERLAND

To some of you, it's the most wonderful time of the year. To our beloved campus kitty, Critter, all this white mess falling from the sky only means cold paws, wet fur and slamming doors. They don't make kitty versions of the sweater vests or the auction pants to keep this vivacious kitty snug in frigid weather such as this, oh no no no. Nor do they have tall chocolate Uggs boots for kitty paws, no way jose. And students and faculty like surely don't want to wait in the freezing cold just so that this slow poke can trot up the Donnelly ramp and sneak in through the main door, in your dreams kitty. There is one place and one place only, a haven if you will, that keeps this kitty coming back for more: his fleece-lined cat bed located in the front Donnelly Office. So ladies, have a heart, open the door for Mr. Popsicle Kitty and show him to his haven. ★

Compiled by Avery Adams

[deck the halls]

created by Shaughnessy Miller



down- 2. He's coming to sleigh you 3. Where you look for your presents on Christmas morning 4. Hang from branches in many shapes and sizes 6. Shake em and watch the snow fall (2 wds) 8. A sweet treat shaped like a staff 11. Keeps presents a secret (2 wds) 13. Red, Mexican shrubs 15. Guided the wise men 17. Wrap it around your tree 18. The finishing touch on your gift 19. Plaza's Christmas attire 20. Hangs on the front door
across- 1. Salvation army ringers hold these 5. "I saw mama kissing Santa Clause underneath the..." 7. A suite ballet 9. Found near the fire and on your feet 10. Beautiful, winged creature 12. Trims the mantle 14. Santa's late night snack 16. All the characters of the manger scene (2 wds) 21. Nose glows 22. Flicker in windows 23. Boughs of this deck the halls

answers-down: 2. santa 3. tree 4. stockings 6. snow globes 8. candy canes 11. wrapping paper 13. poinsettias 15. star 17. tinsel 18. ribbon 19. lights 20. wreath **across-** 1. bells 5. mistletoe 7. nutcracker 9. stockings 10. angel 12. garland 14. cookies 16. nativity set 21. rudolph 22. candles 23. holly

Days of our lives

The Dart created a countdown to some of the most anticipated days of the school year.

Exactly **4** days until first semester finals.

Approximately **54** days until the Father-Daughter dance.

2 days until the "Tropi-Christmas" dance.

There are **48** days until the next late start.

And only **168** days until summer.

DARTSMART

Are you a Scardey Cat?

1. When you see a spider crawling on the floor, what do you do?
 - a. Scream, jump and then run to find someone to kill it for you.
 - b. Find the best hiding place where the tiny insect cannot find you.
 - c. Smash it with your bare fingers.
 - d. Pick it up and give it your favorite pet name.
2. What do you say when you have to get a shot at the doctor's office?
 - a. "Mom, please stay in the room, I need someone to hold my hand."
 - b. "Get away with that needle!"
 - c. "Poke me whenever you're ready, don't I get a lollipop?"
 - d. "Woah, did you already finish? That didn't even hurt."
3. In the middle of the night, during a thunderstorm, how do you react?

Quickly go to your parent's room and hop in their bed. They keep you comforted in these troubled times.

 - a. Stay awake for hours in a panic, tossing and turning because you can't go back to sleep.
 - b. Hear the thunder and laugh to yourself; it's just God dropping a bar of soap in the shower.
 - c. Wake up the next morning, completely oblivious.
 - d. When playing a game of "hide and seek" what is your favorite hiding spot?
 - a. Behind the curtain in your living room, that way you're still in the light.
 - b. Under the table, next to the dog. Someone is there to protect you.
 - c. In the attic, there is no way anyone will find you up there.
 - d. In the closet for the duration of the game, the entire three hours is no big deal.

if you answered...

Mostly As and Bs

You're a scardey cat. You're scared of anything from spiders, needles, thunderstorms, and enclosed spaces. Don't worry, however, these fears will eventually go away someday. At least, we hope so.

Mostly Cs and Ds

You aren't scared of anything. You laugh in the face of danger. There is no way it is going to keep you from doing your everyday thing, and accomplishing your goals in life.

WHERE in the WORLD



Guess where these places are on the STA campus! Check your answers online at www.dartnewsonline.com!

