

Hrep



News

"If nothing else, value the truth"

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ISSUE 14

I-64 reconstruction to shuffle student routes

Jim Santel
News Editor

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) unveiled on Nov. 17 a detailed three-year plan for the reconstruction of Interstate 64 (Highway 40) between Spoeede Road in the west and Kingshighway to the east. The plan won't be as troublesome to St. Louis U. High as was feared when MoDOT first proposed a three-year shutdown of the entire segment last October (see vol. 70, issue 10). However, the revamping will still force roughly 300 students to find new routes to SLUH, causing the school to consider a variety of different ways to adapt.

Unlike the old plan, construction under the new proposal will directly affect SLUH for only two of the projected three years.

The first phase, slated to begin this spring, involves the overhaul of I-64's interchange with Interstate 170, a major source of back-ups. The phase doesn't involve any lane closures.

The problems for SLUH drivers begin in 2008, when construction begins on the western half of I-64, from just west of Spoeede to I-170 in the east. All lanes will be closed completely in both directions, which will force Jr. Bills from West County to seek alternate routes to school. Possible options include Interstate 44, Olive Boulevard, and Clayton and Manchester Roads, all of which will undoubtedly experience much heavier volume because of the 40 reconstruction.

MoDOT is promising that this second phase will be finished by May 31, 2009. However, the completion of I-64's western half doesn't mean an end to stressful com-

mutes, for construction then moves to the highway's eastern half, from I-170 to east of Kingshighway, which will place even more Jr. Bills onto alternative roads until the project's completion sometime before the end of 2009.

Director of Admissions Craig Hannick said he hasn't seen any indication that the 40 construction will significantly affect applications to SLUH. Hannick said that there has been a slight decrease in applicants as well as in numbers at area high school night presentations and Open House, but he said that this is representative of a recent Archdiocesan trend of smaller class sizes.

Hannick said that at some point the construction will affect (SLUH) in terms of applicants, but "it won't be substantial."

"People have expressed a willingness to
see FORTY, 6

Snow day skews schedule Fine Arts Assembly

Peter Mackowiak
Core Staff

An estimated 2.3 inches of ice and snow pummeled St. Louis U. High last Thursday, gluing students' eyes to television screens in anticipation of receiving a snow day on Friday. To the delight of many, "St. Louis University HS" scrolled across the bottom of KMOV at about 9 p.m. The blizzard, however, left both the condition of the school and the status of the weekend's events much in doubt.

The storm that prompted parents to keep 17 students home absent and pluck 58 from school Thursday before the 2 p.m. dismissal wreaked havoc on metropolitan St. Louis, leaving 260,000 homes without power. It also affected the SLUH campus. Although the school did not lose power, the surrounding parking lots and walkways were covered with a layer of ice, giving Grounds Director

Al Teske and crew a tough task.

The grounds crew arrived at 5 a.m. Friday morning to thaw the icicled roads, parking lots, sidewalks, and steps surrounding the school. "The temperature would fluctuate from 22 to 33, so we had to be constantly blading all of the sidewalks and steps," said Teske. The crew also used about 1,120 pounds of snowmelt mixture, three times the amount used for a normal snowstorm. The only area left unsalted was the Drury Plaza, because the new concrete could not handle the chemical mixture.

"It was a touchy situation, but I think everything worked out well," said Teske.

The whiteout also affected SLUH's Lawn Place residents. A large tree limb fell onto the roof of the house of James Knapp, S. J., and Ralph Houlihan, S.J., at approximately 3 a.m. Friday, narrowly missing Knapp's bedroom.

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Fine Arts Assembly brings Xmas cheer

Kingsley Uwalaka
Reporter

To celebrate the holiday season and further entice the school with thoughts of Christmas break, the St. Louis U. High Fine Arts classes and clubs will perform their annual show today. The spectacle will include the angelic voices of the chorus, the jaw-dropping gyrations of the dance classes, and the toe-tapping beats of the St. Louis U. High band.

The band will play a number of songs including "On this Day Earth Shall Ring" by Gustav Holst and "Toboggan Ride" by Stan Applebaum. The dance class will then tap dance to the sounds of "Step into Christmas" by Elton John. The assembly will conclude with *Silent Night* led by chorus director

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Vietnam plaque hung in rec room

Ray Kreienkamp
Reporter

A significant plaque of honor, the SLUH Vietnam War Memorial, was hung amid the shadows of the Rec Room with no grand dedication or ceremony this fall. It was hung as a sign to remember those former students of SLUH who gave their lives during the Vietnam War.

The names of the nine Jr. Bills who died during Vietnam appear on the plaque along with a quote from Carl Sandburg.

The idea for a Vietnam War Memorial plaque came from Athletic Director Dick Wehner. Wehner originally became engrossed in the idea in 1998 when the story of Michael J. Blassie, '66, developed. Blassie died in Vietnam in 1972. Blassie's remains, however, could not be identified when he was found. Consequently, his remains were interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1998, however, Blassie's family requested DNA testing to see if it was Blassie. After the testing, the remains were identified as Blassie's, and consequently, his remains were taken from the Tomb of the Unknowns to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery,

Tender Land author Finneran visits English classes

Tim Nesmith
Reporter

Kathleen Finneran, author of *The Tender Land*, treated seniors in Bill George's and Frank Kovarik's Alienated Hero classes to a special visit last Tuesday. The book, which the class just finished reading, is a memoir about Finneran's family. Finneran read requested sections of her book aloud to the classes and answered questions about her book and about being a writer.

Finneran was born and raised in Florissant, Mo., before moving to Gramercy Park in New York City, and then again back to St. Louis where she currently resides. She graduated from Washington University and teaches writing

where he was entombed.

"I really followed the Blassie story because he was a graduate of (SLUH)," said Wehner. "I had seen the plaque to honor WWII and was caught up in the Michael Blassie story and I wanted to do something."

Besides the Blassie story, Wehner specifically picked Vietnam to memorialize because, "It is the war that (most of the faculty) lived through. It hurt a lot of people and left an indelible mark." Wehner wanted something tangible to remember those who had died because, he said, "Those guys died in (our) place."

Wehner came up with the idea for a plaque. About a year and a half ago, Wehner put a small notice in the Alumni News searching for SLUH students who died during the Vietnam War. The response was more than Wehner could have expected. In the end, he ended up with over 30 e-mails full of stories and memories.

at various universities around town.

The memoir, published in 2000, has been a favorite of several members of the English Department, and Kovarik introduced it into his Alienated Hero class last year. This year, George followed suit.



Author Kathleen Finneran holds a copy of her book *The Tender Land*, which she spoke about to senior Alienated Hero classes on Tuesday.

Finneran also complimented the English department and the quality of SLUH students, saying that she

Wehner was particularly interested in the stories because "these were guys just like (our students today)."

Wehner also looked in old yearbooks to find more information on those who had died in Vietnam. SLUH Jesuit Martin Hagan actually wrote in the yearbooks "R.I.P." under each of the students who had died, and then added the date of death along with the obituary notice. This too served as a place for Wehner to do research to find the



The new Vietnam plaque that hangs in the Rec Room as a memorial to alumni who died in the Vietnam War.

students' names.

When Wehner came up with a final list, however, he faced some complications. First, he had two names on the list of students of SLUH who never graduated. Also, he had Richard Ossenfort, '53, on the list, who actually died from a stomach ailment in December 1975, after the war had ended and he was back in the States. So, Wehner was forced to decide whom to include and exclude on the plaque.

see **PLAQUE, 10**

was impressed by the level of the questions for her as well as students' understanding of the book.

Students were very pleased with Finneran and impressed by her presentation. Senior Tom Tandler, a student in George's fifth period class, noted that he liked how laid back Finneran was. He cited an instance in which Finneran replied to a student's question regarding connections and patterns in the book by joking, "Wow, I didn't notice that. Either I'm a really amateur writer, or I'm so good that I'm just above all that stuff."

The one thing students seemed to want more of was question time.

Overall the visit was a good one, pleasing everyone. "I would definitely like to come back," Finneran said.

Yuletide Quote of the Week

"Heap on more wood!—the wind is chill;
Bet let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas merry still."
—Sir Walter Scott

EDITORIAL

Students, Reps, STUCO should work to overcome apathy

At the most recent STUCO forum, Mr. Wehner addressed the audience about a very important issue—lack of sportsmanship by SLUH students. Unfortunately, only 25 students attended the forum and heard what he had to say, the vast majority of whom were required to attend because they are homeroom reps.

Why did only 25 hear what should have been a widely publicized and important speech by Mr. Wehner? It appears that student apathy has once again crept into the school. We believe that the student body's lack of care is partially a result of a lack of publicity. Since the homeroom reps and STUCO did not do enough to publicize the forum, students cared less about coming.

It is the job of homeroom reps to promote forum participation; clearly they have not done this—more than one half of the 60 homeroom reps didn't even show up themselves. If homeroom representatives do not attend the forums they are required to attend, then how can students be expected to show up or care about these forums? Homeroom reps should take their jobs more seriously and promote forum attendance.

Homeroom reps aren't elected to win intramural events and design t-shirts, they are chosen by their peers to be a student liaison to the STUCO officers. Just as some homeroom reps avidly promote Intramural events, they should also push forum attendance. It is disappointing that more students show up to IM music trivia than a STUCO forum.

However, if homeroom reps knew the agenda for the forum, they could promote it more effectively. What the STUCO officers could have done (and can do for future forums) is have a planned agenda set in place and posted or announced in homerooms for the homeroom reps to promote at least a week in advance. This gives students and especially homeroom reps a chance to view the upcoming forum so they can make the most of the discussion. Flyers posted throughout the school or an announcement in the Prep News could also help to increase student awareness of the forums. If students know and care about what will be discussed, they will feel more inclined to come.

But the fault does not lie entirely with the homeroom reps and

the STUCO officers. It is also the responsibility of the student body itself to care about the events going on in their school. While STUCO officers and homeroom reps can do more, they cannot do it all; it is still the job of students to make the effort to get to the theatre for the forum. Perhaps students do not realize that Dr. Schenkenberg is always present at the forums, and that students are free at forums to take up any issue that concerns them. Forums are ways for students to voice their opinion on any topic concerning the school.

Another reason students are apathetic about attending forums is that the topics discussed are often not relevant to them. A way to remedy this would be for students to suggest topics themselves. However, at the House of Governors meetings, STUCO asked the club heads for suggestions and got no response. Students should suggest any topic in advance to their homeroom reps or STUCO officers for the forums. For example, forums could discuss things like the plans for the Student Life Center or the lack of student input for the design of the building. Since most students feel disconnected from the Student Life Center, a forum discussion about what students would like to have in the new building would be very effective in sparking student interest and input. Do we want another gym? Why not an indoor track or a pool? What about commons space? And what should we do with the old cafeteria? If students discuss their questions at forums, their opinions will more likely be considered and represented.

Other topics that students seem to be concerned about are the lack of a fountain in the Drury Plaza and the lack of a covered walkway from the new parking lot. Also, why have neither students nor STUCO brought up the blatant lack of school spirit at athletic events? Why have students not brought up these issues?

To make forums a success, students, homeroom reps and STUCO officers need to come up with an agenda they care about. Homeroom reps also should better publicize the forum because, as Mr. Wehner showed us, important things are discussed at these forums. With more publicity and a clearer, more interesting, and more relevant agenda, students can make the forum a well-attended and worthwhile event.

Heffernan, '07, questions early dismissal

To the Editors:

Last Thursday, the City of St. Louis was hit by a tremendous winter storm which produced large amounts of rain, sleet, and snow. Thursday morning there was an announcement that the decision was made to make it an early dismissal schedule, so students could leave at 2:00. As the day progressed and the "Nature Situation" got worse, the students began to realize that the 2:00 dismissal wouldn't really do them any good, since the storm had already begun and they would be driving in some of the worst conditions.

I believe that it was imprudent of the administration to keep us here until 2:00. They let us out at possibly the worst part of the storm, when it was sleeting heavily, and all of the rain that had fallen earlier had frozen on our cars and the road. It is possible that the administration did not know of the timing of the storm's arrival when they first made the decision to have an early dismissal instead

of a half day.

Maybe if the administration had not thought that FEMA-certified, level 2 storm spotter, Kirkwood police explorer, and weatherman Mark J. Zinn was just being facetious about the forecast, we could have avoided this debacle.

It was not hard to see the worsening conditions outside, and I believe that the administration truly cares about the welfare of the student body, but it was apparent that they chose to "stay on schedule" rather than cutting classes after lunch to allow students to drive home in safe driving conditions. Numerous other high schools were released around 12 (St. Joe, DeSmet, Cor Jesu, Chaminade, ... etc.). I know that SLUH is "countercultural," but I don't think it would have been a bad idea to go with the flow this time.

Paul Heffernan, '07

Band plays Christmas music at Litzinger

Dan Everson
Core Staff

Band Director Bryan Mueller led the St. Louis U. High Symphonic Band on its annual field trip to the Litzinger School on Tuesday, Nov. 28. The afternoon excursion provided band members with a chance to reach out to the community by performing for the handicapped students of Litzinger, as well as an opportunity to rehearse their Christmas concert in front of a live audience.

The band left school during fifth period, just after freshman-sophomore lunch. Unfortunately, the van carrying the band's equipment broke down en route to Litzinger. The van's driver was able to call a friend for help, and remarkably, the concert began on time.



The SLUH symphonic band performs at the Litzinger School.

The Sforzandobills played "Convergence," "Operatica," and three holiday pieces—"On This Day Earth Shall Ring," a movement from Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, "Toboggan Ride," an interpretation of Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," and the annual

Litzinger favorite "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Mueller noted that the band will perform "On This Day, Earth Shall Ring" and "Toboggan Ride" at the Fine Arts Assembly today (see article, p.1).

"I think (the performance) went well," Mueller said. "It went better than in years past. Things went smoother, I thought, (though) we never do poorly."

Mueller commented on why he frequently takes his bands to Litzinger School: "I think it's a good place to play," he said. "It's a very appreciative crowd. It's the spe-

cial school district, and they don't get many schools to come in (and perform). ... I think more schools should go there."

"It's such a neat experience to play in front of all those kids," said first-chair trumpet Will Hartzler, "because music is really the one and only thing that (everyone) can (understand)—it's universal."

"I feel that the band field trip (to Litzinger) is not only the most rewarding but (also) one of the most appropriate ones," said first-chair trombone Brett DeLaria. "Just to be there and see the excitement on all the kids' faces when the music is playing and when the music is over is rewarding for us. It's good practice, also, for us, for the concert. But it's a great experience for the kids as well."

All students will have a chance to see the Symphonic Band perform at the Fine Arts Assembly today. All are also welcome to the Winter Concert this Sunday, featuring the Symphonic Band, along with several other SLUH bands, choruses, and dance classes.

Portnoy plays in Baltimore table tennis tourney

Sean Kickham
Features Editor

Senior Dan Portnoy participated in the 2006 Stiga North American Teams table tennis tournament from Nov. 24 to 26. Portnoy arrived in Baltimore, Md., for the tournament with his teammates Kerry Xiao, 11, and Kam Chan, 45, and coach Sheri Xu.

The over 1000 participants ranged from somewhat recreational players to professionals. However, "No one that plays there would be what you call basement players. They just play for fun," said Portnoy.

Each team had three to five players and paid \$600 to enter. First place prize was \$16,000.

"I paid for the tournament, and my parents paid for everything else like the airfare and hotel and everything," Portnoy said. "But it's worth it." Overall, Portnoy won 21 matches and lost six.

The first team to win five out of nine singles matches won their division of the tournament. A player had to win three out of five games to win the match.

Xu's husband, Jonathan Yao, said, "(Portnoy) has a lot of talent. ... He beat several players rating 300 or 400 points higher than himself. He's very serious (about table tennis). ... Danny says he doesn't have any time to get a girlfriend, just school, work, and table tennis."

Portnoy's team won its division. "In our division, there were only seven teams," said Portnoy. "So we won six and lost one." Portnoy's team, however, had to default the crossovers (the next level of matches, between division champs) because Xiao had to catch his flight.

The tournament in Baltimore was just one weekend tournament of many other tournaments, events, and practices for Portnoy. For example, on Wednesdays Portnoy goes to the Creve Coeur Civic Center to play with other table tennis players in the area. At the Creve Coeur Civic Center there are eight tables set up in the gym with players of all

different skill levels playing table tennis.

Portnoy's teammate Xiao often attends these nights as well. Sometimes they play actual games and keep score, but sometimes they just practice.

The style of table tennis these two, and many others at the Civic Center, play is very different than that of other players. The serves begin with a high-ball toss and then the paddle, held like one would hold a plate of food, pushing the ball forward. The two players remain in as close to the same form as possible as



Senior Dan Portnoy (right) after a table tennis tournament last year.

they return the ball, only breaking form to hit the most extreme shots. As play progresses the two players will both back away from the table; it is very common for good players to be a good seven to ten feet from the table.

Some players will then hit the ball high in hopes of making it to the other player's side, while others will continue to return the

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No. 4 Busiebills go 1-1 last week

Matt Beezely
Reporter

The No. 4 ranked Jr. Bills faced off against the Parkway South Patriots last Friday, playing without their full roster. The Busiebills once again went into the game thinking they had already won, and their misjudgment cost them a goal early in the first period. The Stickandpuckbills couldn't seem to find their rhythm in the first fifteen minutes, and they headed into the second period down 1-0.

After an all too familiar "get your heads in the game speech," the Jr. Bills turned their level of play up more than a notch, striking back at South with a vengeance. The Blue-andwhitebills scored all four of their goals within the first five minutes of the second period, with scores coming from Chris Place and Scott Chesnek, junior Nick Helfrich, and sophomore Kevin Corby.

After the brief but effective rapid-fire, the Jr. Bills slowed down their pace, once again playing down to the level of their

competition, allowing South to score two quick goals at the end of the period to pull them within one.

Entering the third period, the Icebills cracked down on defense, refusing to allow the Patriots any chances at tying the game. SLUH squeaked by with a 4-3 win.

The next night, however, the Jr. Bills weren't so lucky. Heading into the game against Clayton, SLUH dressed with a short roster, with five players either injured or out of town. The lack of players, however, was no excuse for how the team played.

SLUH characteristically started the game with a lack of hustle and aggressiveness, allowing Clayton to jump to an early lead and forcing the BrettHullbills to once again play catch-up hockey. The Jr. Bills couldn't find the net until after Clayton popped another goal, this time in the second period.

With three seconds remaining in the middle period, SLUH's Dan Steck tipped

a high slap shot from the point, pulling the Jr. Bills to within one heading into the last fifteen minutes. But by that time, they had dug themselves into too deep of a hole, and Clayton scored again to go ahead, 3-1.

In the final minutes of the game, SLUH pulled their goalie in an attempt to score a couple of quick goals and tie the game, but only managed to score one before time expired, and the Jr. Bills were dealt their second loss of the season.

"(Clayton) deserved to win. They played harder, plain and simple," said assistant coach Ray Knapp.

"(We) let our No. 4 ranking get into (our) heads. We just didn't play like a team," commented assistant captain Chesnek after the game.

The 5-2 Icebills hope to compensate for their sluggish play with a strong performance against rival CBC this weekend. The puck drops tomorrow night at 8:00 at Affton Ice Rink.

Racquetball squeaks by Kirkwood, 4-3

Drew Burkemper
Reporter

Tuesday's racquetball match was one that the St. Louis U. High squad hopes never to repeat, even though they squeaked out a 4-3 victory over Kirkwood.

Junior No. 6 seed Paul Marsek, playing through illness, took to the court first for the Jr. Bills. After trading points early in the first game, Marsek went on an 8-7 run, winning 15-8. Marsek (3-0) looked sluggish in the second game as his poor health hurt his endurance. He ground it out, though, for a gutsy 15-10 win.

The Snackpackbills' No. 4 junior Joe Hoffman finished his match soon after Marsek's concluded. Hoffman had his most challenging match of the year against a tough opponent. After going down 13-3 in the first game, Hoffman broke out his drive serve and battled back but still lost 15-11.

Hoffman dominated the second game, winning handily 15-4, but the tiebreaker was not a continuation of the second game, as Hoffman would have hoped. Down 10-5 and facing game point, Hoffman (3-0) called a timeout, pulled himself together, and busted

out an astounding 11-10 win.

The dynamic doubles team of Todd Swift and Dean Hunter added to the wins with their third victory of the season. The first game was a battle, with the score knotted at 9-9. That was the end of the scoring for Kirkwood, though, as the pair ran off six straight points to win the game 15-9.

Swift and Hunter never let their opponents in the second game, running off four straight points to start off. The pinches and passes were sharp, and the communication reminiscent of a happily married couple, as Swift and Hunter (3-0) won 15-5.

The trouble began with No. 5 seed Steve Baer. Baer stayed close in the first game but could not finish off his opponent, losing 15-13. The second game was worse, with Baer (1-2) losing 15-7. Missed opportunities were the story of this match. Baer hit too many defensive shots instead of seizing the offensive shots that presented themselves to him. He looks to be more aggressive in future matches.

The problems continued for the Puddin'isgoodbills in junior No. 3 Ray Godefroid's match. Godefroid hung tough

in the first game, but lost 15-13. He found a new strategy and higher percentages in the second game, dominating 15-4. Sadly, the magic of game two did not continue in the tiebreaker for the joyless junior. After having match point at 10-9, Godefroid (1-2) lost the serve and gave up two points, costing him the match.

Top seed Ben Brooks played next in a tough match against a very good Pioneer. Brooks played well in the first game, hitting his shots and executing his game plan, and won 15-10. The second game did not go as well for Brooks. It was close, but this time it was his opponent making the shots needed to win and taking the game 15-11.

The tiebreaker will hopefully not stay in Brooks' memory for long. Brooks found himself caught up in the frontcourt and leaving passing lanes wide open to his adversary. He lost 11-3.

"I got in my own head after the first game," said Brooks (1-2). "I lost concentration and lost the game."

With the match tied 3-3, the outcome hinged on No. 2 seed Drew Burkemper's

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FORTY

(from 1)

come (to SLUH) no matter what,” Hannick said. “People will be creative and find ways to make this all work.”

Hannick cited Ascension parish in Chesterfield as an example of this type of willingness to come to SLUH despite inconveniences. Students from the parish attending SLUH will be perhaps the most inconvenienced by highway construction, as their commute involves taking 40 essentially from one end to the other. SLUH fielded 11 applications from Ascension students this year.

President David Laughlin echoed Hannick’s belief that “prospective students will come for the program” despite construction. Laughlin said that while the reconstruction will certainly be an inconvenience, “the project needs to be done” and that SLUH will be “a positive part” of the process. Laughlin added that once construction is complete, SLUH will be “a much easier place to get to.”

“There’s only so much we can control, so let’s be part of the solution,” said Consultant to the President Robert Bannister, who has represented SLUH at MoDOT meetings in

SNO

(from 1)

“(The limb) hit with a huge pop that woke the ASC guys three houses down, rebounded to the left of the house, and took out the fences in the backyard,” recounted Tom Cummings, S.J.

Michael Marchlewski, S.J. described the near-miss as “miraculous,” adding that, “We were fortunate that the limb missed both our power lines and our air conditioning.”

Because of the bad conditions, only a few SLUH athletic events took place over the weekend. Thursday’s scheduled varsity wrestling contest was called off, as was the JV Parkway South meet. The varsity Parkway South meet did not take place until Saturday morning. Friday’s varsity basketball game was also cancelled due to the slick freeways. All lower-level athletic practices were cancelled, as per the school’s policy for inclement weather.

Athletic Director Dick Wehner said he had “a list of 20-25 referees, concession workers, and security guards to call and tell not to come (to the games).” He also con-

the past.

Part of this solution, said Laughlin, is helping to make the construction period as easy as possible for SLUH families. While the school doesn’t have any specific plans in place yet—Laughlin said it would be “premature” to announce a plan without knowing the impact—the school is considering several options. According to a handout given to prospective families at the open house, these options include “implementing new ride-share plans, offering student travel passes, and analyzing school hours and activities.”

The Instructional Council, composed of the academic department chairs, met on Tuesday, Nov. 28 to discuss these options. According to English chair Terry Quinn, Principal Mary Schenkenberg “encouraged the council to consider no proposal too absurd.” Quinn said that among the options discussed were beginning classes earlier or later, shifting from five normal school days in a week to four long ones, weekend classes, a charter bus from West County, and a shuttle bus running from the Central West End Metrolink station to SLUH, which Laughlin also cited as a potentially viable option.

tacted opposing schools’ athletic directors to confirm the cancellation of the various scheduled contests.

The varsity hockey team was slated to play late Friday night at Affton. The rink remained open, and since its policy states that all events should take place unless the complex closes, the Jr. Bills played the game. Coach Charlie Busenhardt did cancel Thursday and Friday’s practices.

The much-anticipated Holiday Circus Show also had to be postponed for a week. The troupe made this decision based on both the bad weather conditions and their shaky practice schedule during the week.

“Mr. Schulte didn’t come to school a couple days last week, and since he’s the person who plans the show, we were unsure of the weekend’s schedule and chose to push it back a week,” said senior Andy Geels.

The Short Attention Span Circus was originally rescheduled for Saturday morning and night. However, this conflicted with set up for Sunday’s Winter Concert, so the Circus’s only performance will be at 11:15

Theology chair Jim Linhares submitted a proposal to move activity period to the beginning of the day, with attendance being taken at the end of the period. This plan would allow time for students who wish to meet with teachers or attend club activities while simultaneously giving other students more time to get to school.

Freshman Alex Whalen, who has a 25-minute commute from St. Charles, said he would oppose having activity period in the beginning of the day because he likes having it in the middle of the schedule. Whalen said he would favor starting and ending school later.

Freshman Tom Bobak, who lives in West County, said he would favor a 15-minute late start during construction.

Freshman Sam McCabe said that he thought his commute during the 40 construction will be “not too bad. I have alternate routes.” Like Bobak, McCabe said he would like additional time to get to school.

Laughlin said that while altering the schedule is a possibility, the school won’t sacrifice academics in order to do so.

a.m. on Saturday. Admission is free.

The CSP retreat was also put on hold until May 6-7. CSP Director Colleen Rockers started the retreat with the junior leadership group at the Manresa Center Saturday morning. A loud noise disturbed the group an hour and a half into the retreat.

“All of a sudden, we saw sparks, and a transformer blew up, and two power lines fell to the ground,” said Rockers.

The group proceeded to Rockers’ house, where after some deliberation, they decided to postpone the retreat.

The counseling office had some issues resulting from the storm. December 1 marked one of the college application deadlines. On Thursday, counselors busily shuffled papers under the threat of a three-day weekend. “We managed to send out everything but the teacher recommendations, which we sent as soon as we got hold of them,” said counselor David Mouldon.

“It was crazy in here,” said Becky Berger, unintentionally summarizing the SLUH snow-day experiences.

Wrestlers pinned at Parkway South, CBC

**Patrick Tracy, Dan Zdrodowski
Reports**

The St. Louis U. High wrestling team overcame snowy roads Saturday, Dec. 2, to compete in the Patriot Classic tournament at Parkway South. The team was glad to wrestle, considering that their meet scheduled for Thursday against Windsor, as well as the first day of the Patriot Classic on Friday were cancelled due to the snow.

Tuesday night the St. Louis U. High varsity wrestlers narrowly lost to the CBC Cadets 44-30. Although the team lost, it was a huge success in some individual matches for the Jr. Bills.

On Friday, the Valley Forge Bills wrestled in a round robin team tournament with four pools of three teams that wrestled in the morning to determine their bracket for the afternoon competition. In the afternoon, the teams wrestled three other opponents in their new brackets.

In their first match of the morning the Jr. Bills faced a very tough Francis Howell North. The Junior Bills were not able to eke

out a single individual victory against Francis Howell, except byes won in the 171 and 189 pound classes.

Sophomore Anthony Fadel (125) wrestled the most exciting match of the round. He wrestled a very tough match that lasted the whole 6 minutes. Fadel worked his opponent while on top and always looked for a breakdown opportunity to remain in control. His weak point in the match was that he failed to keep his feet back and was reversed and rolled several times.

The match came down to the final 30 seconds. Fadel was winning 9-6, but was fatally reversed and had three back points scored on him to seal his loss 11-9. SLUH lost the opening match 51-12. In the second round SLUH faced Mehlville, with some very good matches to show. Captain Andrew Mueth (130) wrestled the most memorable match of the round as he reversed from a fireman takedown. In the rolling motion of his reverse, Mueth managed to work his hands and legs into his infamous cross-face cradle and pin his opponent, all within ten incredible seconds.

Junior Matt Self also wrestled a good match by pinning his opponent. He fought very hard in the neutral position to avoid being taken down; once he even escaped a single-leg takedown in which the Mehlville wrestler put Self's heel on his shoulder while both were standing. His pin came in the third period when he strangled his man sufficiently in a head-and-arm.

The sophomores also gained some valuable experience. Mike Donovan, Kevin Staed, and Fadel managed to make their matches last, but the Bills fell 59-24 to Mehlville.

For the first round of the afternoon, the Jr. Bills faced Parkway South. Junior Nick Frigillana (112) won his first varsity match and "came out of the match with all the confidence in the world," commented captain Andrew Austermann. Mueth followed with a first-period pin by cradle. Austermann (171) came out strong for his first of three pins on the afternoon to pin his opponent at the start of period two (he went 3-0 on the day).

Overall, however, SLUH lost to the
see GOLD STANDARD, 8

Riflebills look for a big win over Quincy

**Rob Perkins
Reporter**

The sound of rifle fire you hear as you walk through the school basement can only mean one thing: the 2006-07 SLUH rifle season has begun.

This year's powerhouse Precisionbills consist of co-captains Zach Brooks and Rob Perkins, Anthony Sigillito and Joel Schmidt, juniors Sam Gall and Anthony Vicini, and sophomores Jason Nienhaus and Adam Twist.

With four experienced seniors and an overall highly talented team, the Bullseyebills are confident about this season. Perkins said, "Everybody's scores are much higher than last year's, and they keep increasing every week."

Coach William Bresnahan believes the team's slightly smaller size this year is not an issue considering the skill levels of each member. "This year we have a smaller team, but a little more depth. I'd look for the lineup of the varsity team to change frequently de-

pending on who's on a hot streak," Bresnahan said.

This weekend, the Sharpshooterbills face their rivals, the Quincy Blue Devils, in Quincy, Ill. for the team's first away match of the season. After a series of losses to Quincy last season, including a defeat at the National Junior Olympic 3-Position Air Rifle Championship this past summer, this weekend's match will certainly be a challenge.

"Quincy will be very tough this year after finishing second in the country and only losing one shooter to graduation," said Bresnahan. The Quincy varsity team, much like the Marksmanbills, will be made up mostly of experienced seniors, posing a threat for this year's varsity team.

Despite facing the confident and skilled Blue Devils, the BeatQuincyBills are not intimidated. Co-captain Zach Brooks is confident of a win. "Quincy's good, but I think we're better. They're our biggest rivals, so we need to make a good showing, especially

at their home range."

Junior Sam Gall also expects a victory. "Losing is not an option, so we have to win," he said. A win this weekend could hopefully be the first of many victories this season and lead, possibly, to a national championship.

The Riflebills shoot both precision .22 caliber smallbore rifles and .177 caliber air rifles. As a winter sport, rifle matches are held from November through the end of February, half of which are smallbore matches, while the other half are air rifle matches.

A match consists of a total of 60 shots. 20 shots are fired in each of three positions: prone, standing, and kneeling. Each shot is scored from 0 to 10 points, for a total match score out of 600. Teams of four are chosen before each match, and the team members' scores are added to find a team aggregate out of 2400.

Any freshmen interested in trying out the sport of riflery are invited to come to the rifle range on any Tuesday or Thursday.

GOLD STANDARD

(from 7)

hosting Patriots 53-15.

The IgetknockedownbutIgetupagain-bills “wrestled their best match of the afternoon against Marquette,” commented JV coach John Ott. Fadel and Mueth picked up early pins, Mueth’s by yet another bye-bye-baby cradle. Self beat his Marquette Mustang by points.

Captain Rich Darragh (152) suffered his fourth pin of the day against Marquette but made up for his loss with a dominant victory against Vianney the next round.

Junior Ken Homan (189) beat his Marquette opponent by points to end the wrestling, but SLUH lost again on points.

The final round was against Vianney, in which the Jr. Bills lost again, to end all their team matches of the day with losses.

Austermann saw “a lot of flat wrestling on our part ... and being intimidated by our opponents” as the reasons for the “poor performance, no matter how you try to sugarcoat it.”

Mueth gave the simple philosophy that “we now have room to improve” as the Jr. Billikens look ahead toward their upcoming tournament this Saturday at Ritenour at 10 a.m.

Going into Tuesday’s meet against the Cadets, the Wranglebills knew that they would face a huge impediment from their plethora of open weight classes. To ensure a full roster and to provide an opportunity for the underclassman wrestlers to compete in a varsity match, many promising freshmen and sophomores were brought up from the C and JV teams to bolster the ranks of the varsity team.

The night started well as Austermann (189) dominated CBC’s Ben Simon. Before his match, Austermann appeared apprehensive. His concern may have been caused by the fact that he normally wrestles 171 pounds and his opponent, at 189, had a significant advantage of bulk. However, Austermann carried his match in the second round and pinned his opponent, overcoming his less-than-ideal circumstances.

Next, Homan (215) wrestled CBC’s Nick Hildebrand in another unevenly weighted match. Homan normally wrestles at 189 but rose up to the challenge of wrestling a heavier weight class for the good of the team. Although he was outweighed, he pinned his

opponent in the second round and scored another six points for the team. At this time in the meet the score was 12-0.

Then freshman Tim O’Brien (285) was pinned in the first round by his CBC opponent Mark Taylor. However, O’Brien had never wrestled varsity before and his match was quite impressive because he lasted a full 1:04 against a more experienced and seasoned opponent.

Many of the sophomores wrestling for varsity for the first time such as Baron Ross, Anthony Fadel, Kevin Staed, and Mike Shaw lost their matches but gained valuable experience. Several varsity members, including Mueth, Darragh, and juniors Frigillana and Matt Self, also lost their matches.

Freshman Tony Born won his match by a forfeit, and junior JV wrestler James Barton won his match because his opponent was disqualified. Sophomore Mike Donovan pinned CBC’s Mike Gross in the first round, scoring another six points for the Jr. Bills.

Overall, the night was a success for the Jr. Bills. Although they lost, many positives came from the night. Many underclassmen had their first real taste of wrestling varsity, and SLUH primarily dominated the matches that they did win.

Finally, the Wranglebills gave the Cadets a real run for their money with only a 14-point loss. Considering that most of the team was wrestling either a weight class up or one of their first varsity matches, the night was truly a success.

Tim Wiethop contributed reporting to this article.

SNACK PACK

(from 5)

match. Burkemper, off to his usual slow start, lost the first game 15-9. He took control of the second game early on and never gave up the lead, winning 15-10. The tiebreaker started well, with Burkemper going up 7-2. His opponent fought back, though, and brought the score to 7-6. After a timeout, Burkemper bore down and regained the serve. He then rattled off four straight points, including a rally for the tenth point that displayed several dives by both players, and won on a slight controversy regarding a ball hitting his opponent in the foot. The correct call was made, though, and Burkemper (3-0) won 11-6.

Afterwards, coach Joe Koestner was

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News

www.sluh.org
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Volume LXXI, Issue 10
“Favorite Christmas
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Moderator: Mr. Steve “Winter Wonderland” Missey

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not happy. “This was not good racquetball today. If you are going to win, you have to play percentage racquetball. Most of you did not do this today, and it was not fun to watch. This will not happen again.” He also stressed the importance of knowing where the opponent is in the court and the ability to end a rally when given a shot in the frontcourt.

After the match, the team shared Snack Pack pudding as the first of what will hopefully become a new racquetball tradition: team snacks after matches. The Racquetbills (3-0) are back in action next Thursday against Chaminade (2-2) at the Jewish Community Center at 3:30 p.m.

Spitz, '08, publishes *The Endeavor's Compass*

**Kevin Michniok
Reporter**

One of SLUH's aspiring young writers, junior David Spitz, has put forth his first literary work for publication, a historical novel entitled *The Endeavor's Compass*. This book is one of five he has written. Spitz has been writing stories for a long time and he said, "This is something I believe I have to do as a writer. It is my personal calling. Writing is something I do best, and it involves tremendous dedication."

Set in 1850s London, Spitz's book is historical fiction about a young boy and his family's shipping business. Although his family does not own slaves, he believes his ancestors' wealth, which was acquired sinfully through slavery, will directly influence his fate. The narrator wonders whether he will be able to break this pattern and save his fate, or consequently be doomed to repeat his forefathers' sins.

Spitz finished the 125-page book late last summer. "I began formulating the idea for the book during my sophomore year around Christmas. I wrote several chapters early this year but most of the book was written over the summer break, making it my 'summer job,'" said Spitz.

After the holidays, Spitz sketched out

the basic outline for 18 chapters and the general themes that would appear throughout the book. Spitz recalled writing each and every day over the summer.

"It's really hard work. Some days I had to force myself to write, but writing every day was something that had to be done," Spitz said. The first chapter of his book appeared in last year's spring edition of *Sisyphus*. Spitz has since rewritten the first chapter.

Spitz's father was the driving influence behind the book's creation. "My dad helped me out a lot with the historical research. He's a big historical buff," he said.

Spitz edited his manuscript in several stages. After completing each chapter, he would check for errors and pass his written work to his father to determine its historical accuracy. After completing the novel, his mother did a final check for errors and continuity throughout the book.

Spitz sought an investor to underwrite

his publication and then approached Madco Printing in St. Louis to publish his book. He plans to initially market the novel on

PHOTO BY JAMES THOMAS SANTEL



Junior David Spitz recently published a book entitled *The Endeavor's Compass*.

his own before approaching local bookstores to determine their interest in carrying his book. Spitz is unsure when the book will be available, but he hopes it will arrive soon. Spitz plans on continuing to write in the series, making *The*

Endeavor's Compass the first of three.

Spitz said, "One of the keys to writing is having ambition, the willingness to want to make what you're saying into great works. Talent won't do it alone. You must want to set high goals for yourself."

Spitz believes his teachers helped him develop the ideas he explores in the book. He plans to continue developing his writing in college.

Anyone interested in the book should contact Spitz in homeroom 218c.

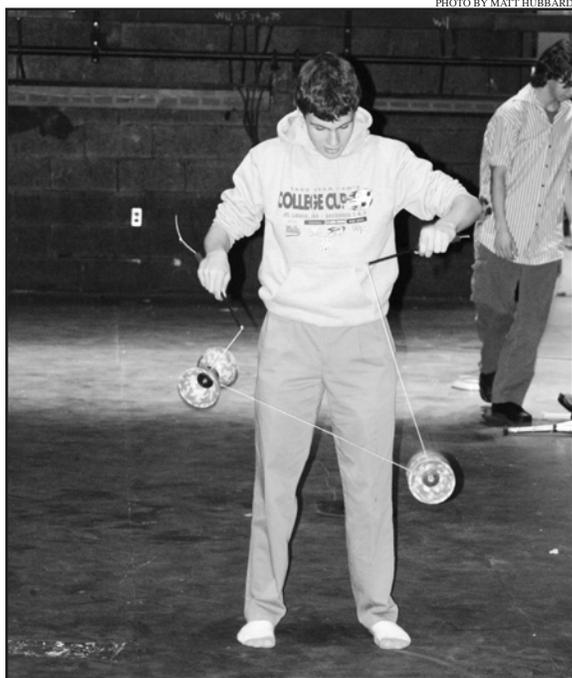


PHOTO BY MATT HUBBARD

Short Attention Span Circus Preview

Junior Pat McDermott previews one of his tricks that he will perform this Saturday for the Short Attention Span Circus. The Circus Club will perform only one show this weekend, after last week's snow storm cancelled all of last weekend's performances. The show will be this Saturday at 11:15 a.m. Admission is free.

This Week in Prep News History

The following appeared in *Prep News* Volume 13, Issue 5 on December 16, 1949:

It's Here: In honor of Frank (the Vest) Farrelly, '49, the annual "Senior Vest Week" will begin next Monday, while the entire school will inaugurate "Hobo Day" next Tuesday.

Editor's note: We thought this would be appropriate in light of Charlie Landis' "Winter Sweater Showcase."

ASSEMBLY

(from 1)

Joseph Koestner.

The messy schedule for last year's Fine Arts Assembly gave students more than ample time to do as they pleased. In an attempt at better organization, this year the administration has come up with a new schedule that aims to please faculty and students alike.

This year students will attend their first four periods, each 35 minutes long. Then all students will be split into three groups according to their respective homerooms.

PLAQUE

(from 2)

In the end, Wehner decided that both names should be included. In Ossenfort's case, the doctors accredited his death to the war because they believed that the stomach illness was a direct result of the war. Consequently, Wehner thought it was fitting to include him in the memorial. As for the other two, Wehner made a clear decision to include them also.

"The overwhelming response from alumni was that they should be included. Even though they did not graduate, they were still Jr. Bills. They were still our boys," said Wehner.

After Wehner had compiled all of the names, he looked for a quote or title to add to the plaque. He eventually found a quote by Carl Sandburg while reading a book about the valor of marines who had recently died in Iraq. After reading the quote, Wehner knew that "that was it."

After discussing it with the school, Wehner decided to make the plaque bronze because the plaque "was something special."

When the plaque came back to Wehner, as he saw how well it turned out, he was "blown away."

However, the plaque was now too heavy for him to hang on the walls of the Fitness Center, where it was originally intended to hang. So, Wehner took to plaque to consultant to the president Robert Bannister to decide where to place the plaque. After much thought, Bannister decided to place the plaque in the Rec Room, near the World War II memorial.

"If we put it anywhere else, the question would be (whether we would want to be

A third of the school will eat lunch, a third will have activity period, and the other third will watch the assembly. There will be a 15-minute passing period between each of the three half-hour performances. A schedule of the day's festivities will be available in the main office (see back page).

As it did last year, the Fine Arts Assembly will take place in the theater.

In theater teacher Kathryn Whitaker's opinion, "The performance in the gym feels more like a pep rally, whereas the theater brings so much more of a quiet elegance to

separating memorials all over the place," said Bannister. "(If) we ever build anything over in the new addition, we may be moving some of (the plaques) anyway. It was important that (the Vietnam plaque) was in proximity to the (WWII memorial). The question was where will more and more students see it ... and we thought more students would see it (in the Rec Room)."

Bannister did say that the school was thinking about adding lights around the Vietnam plaque and new lights around the WWII memorial because "the lights are in sad repair."

In addition, Wehner placed a picture next to the plaque. Depicting soldiers looking out of the Vietnam War memorial in Washington D.C. as mourners gaze at the wall, he thought that the picture would add a nice touch.

Thus, Wehner completed the project, and the plaque was installed this fall. Although in the end the process became very work-involved, Wehner said it turned into a "labor of love."

"I was really, really happy when I saw how it turned out," said Wehner. "(And over the course of the whole project), I corresponded with a lot of people. It is a journey I am glad I have been on."

Wehner hoped that when anyone walks by the plaque, they will "look back on the wonderful tradition of SLUH" and will see that those men "were truly Men for Others." Wehner said, "I hope the guys look at it and see men that are part of this great tradition (and see) heroes."

Wisdom o' the Week

"Pure and complete sorrow is as impossible as pure and complete joy."

—Leo Tolstoy

the atmosphere that is fine arts."

With music, singing, and dancing, the Fine Arts Assembly is bound to be the sight of the winter season. Koestner believes that the assembly "is not only a diversion from our everyday, stressful lives but a Christmas card to the community."

Reminder

All are encouraged to show their solidarity with senior Charlie Landis as he completes his third annual Winter Sweater Showcase. Wear your favorite sweater on Friday, December 15 and help the cheery Tom Broekelman look-alike kick off Christmas break.

NHS math problem of the week

Using a standard two-pan balance, what is the minimum number of cast weights needed to weigh an item that could weigh up to 10 pounds (integral weights only)? What about an item that is up to 120 pounds? 350 pounds? Write the formula if you can find it! Submit your answers to the folder on the NHS bulletin board.

INTERNATIONAL XMAS DRIVE

The International Christmas Drive started Nov. 27 and will run until Dec. 15. Each homeroom has been assigned a poor family to collect money, food, and gifts for the Christmas season. Students should talk to their homeroom reps, Kyle McCollom or Mr. Kesterson for more details.

VOLUME 71 PLATFORM

As the student-run newspaper of St. Louis University High School, the *Prep News* is a weekly publication that strives to inform the SLUH community about events and people, with its focus on those pertaining to the school, primarily through the written word.

The *Prep News* is neither the voice of the administration nor the students. Rather, the newspaper serves to gather and distribute information for the entire school. The *Prep News* editors and staff members make every effort to be objective in their news coverage and editing.

The organizational structure of the *Prep News* differs slightly from that of recent years. This year the *Prep News* has two news editors, one photography editor, one sports editor, and two features editors. The members of the editorial staff are co-workers and share equally the duties of writing, copy-editing,

layout, and staff management. All of the editors share responsibility and leadership of the paper. The editors are supported by a core staff of regular reporters, who are frequently underclassmen.

It is the role of the editors to seek out and facilitate the reporting of all significant news at SLUH. While any faculty member or student is welcome to submit suggestions for potential articles, the *Prep News* is never obligated to publish any article idea; the editors reserve the right to deem any potential article un-newsworthy and retain it from publication for this or any other reason.

Our primary emphasis as editors of the *Prep News* is upon clear and accurate writing and careful editing. But we do attempt to include some visual expression—photography, drawing, technical aids, etc.—in every issue. Despite our desire to make the paper visually appealing, we commit ourselves not to allow

form to supersede substance.

The *Prep News* strongly encourages underclassman involvement, and our office on the second floor of the Jesuit Wing, room J220, is always open for involvement, criticism, praise, or suggestions. Without student reaction and feedback, the *Prep News* could not function.

If the *Prep News* is inaccurate, we will try to correct any significant error in the following issue.

Furthermore, the editors assume sole responsibility for the text of news and sports articles, features, and editorials. We encourage faculty or students who take issue with the manner in which the news was reported or find an error to bring it to the attention of the editors, not the individual reporters.

This is the platform of the editors of Volume LXXI of the *Prep News*.

VOLUME 71 EDITORIAL POLICY

The Volume LXXI *Prep News* editorial policy serves the purpose of being the vehicle of the personal opinion, whether from students, faculty, or others wishing to voice an opinion. All topics discussed in the section will be related to St. Louis University High School.

Nothing published either as an editorial or as a letter to the editor should be considered the opinion of the school, the administration, or anyone other than its author or authors.

A *Prep News* editorial is the opinion of all six editors on a particular topic. In their writing, the editors will make a strong attempt to express their views in a clear and accurate fashion.

A commentary is defined as an opinion of one member of the *Prep News* staff, not of the *Prep News* itself.

Every member of the SLUH community is welcomed and encouraged to submit a letter to the editors. Every letter received by the

editors will be read and given consideration. All letters must be signed, but the author's name may be withheld from publication by request and at the discretion of the editors.

The *Prep News* editors reserve the right to edit any submissions for publication in order to meet grammatical standards, but they will not skew the author's original intent. Also, the editors reserve the right to withhold from publication any submission if it is deemed vulgar, tasteless, or otherwise inappropriate.

All authors wishing to have letters published must submit them by 4:00 p.m. the Wednesday before the letter is to be published.

Letters can be given to any *Prep News* editor or moderator. In addition, letters can be mailed to the *Prep News* courtesy of St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland, St. Louis, MO 63110, or e-mailed to prepnews@sluh.org

Dauphin Players in the News

KMOX featured a review by Harry Hamm on SLUH's Dauphin Players' *Amadeus* on November 18. "I thought the show was extremely well done and a true testament to the talent, hard work, and dedication of the students and staff at SLUH, who put so much effort at all levels into making it a memorable production," he said.

—Compiled by Jerry T. Lakin

PN Pic o' the Week

PHOTO BY MATT HUBBARD



Ice and snow blanket the new pick-up and drop-off driveway behind the gymnasium last Thursday. Jack Frost's mischief earned students a 2 p.m. dismissal, a treacherous trip home, and a day off school (see article, p.1).

CHESS UPDATE

The Chessbills fell to Belleville West last night, bringing their record to 1-1. Freshman phenom Peter Harris brightened the loss by winning his second straight match at first board, and junior Stephen Schumacher battled to his second straight draw. Last week, powered by Harris, Schumacher, and third-board-winner junior Josh Dripps, as well as junior Dan Geisman's draw at board five, the team defeated Clayton 19.5 to 10.5.

Next week's match will pit SLUH against another set of Belleveillains, when the squad hosts Belleville East in the Ignatian Conference Room at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

—Compiled from sources

by Kevin Casey

Calendar

Dec. 7 - Dec. 15

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Schedule S
 Fine Arts Assembly
 XC Banquet
 Jr. Round Table 215c, 3-6:30 p.m.
 C White BB vs. CBC @ 5:30 p.m.
 Papa John's

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 No Classes
 Faculty/Staff Christmas Party
 V Hockey vs. CBC @ Affton, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

ACT Exam
 Loyola Christmas Party
Short Attention Span Circus Christmas
 Performance, 11:15 a.m.
 V WR Ritenour Tourney @ Ritenour, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Alumni Board Mass & Brunch
 Fine Arts Winter Concert
 JV Hockey vs. DeSmet (Maroon) @ Affton, 7:45 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Orange Shirt Monday
 Schedule R
 IM Bombardment
 SAC Meeting
 C Blue BB vs. Vianney, 4pm
 V Hockey vs. Marquette @ Queeny, 6:30 p.m.
 Pretzels, Tony's Pizza/Lil Charlies

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Schedule R
 IM Basketball-Sr.
 Young Republicans
 Diversity Film Series 215c, 4-7pm
 V/B BB vs. Vianney, 4:30pm/ 6pm
 V/JV/C WR vs. Vianney @ Vianney, 6 p.m.
 Tator Tots, Brunch (Biscuits, Gravy, French Toast)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Schedule R
 English Tutorial
 IM Basketball-Sr.
 Chinese Eggroll Sale
 Rosary

Fr./So. WR Pattonville Quad @ Pattonville, 4 p.m.

JV WR Windsor JV Tourney @ Windsor, 4:30 p.m.
 Cookies, Mostaccioli/Breadsticks

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Schedule R
 Shakespeare Contest
 IM Basketball-Sr.
 Bosco, Meatball Sandwich

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Schedule R
 Fr. Class Liturgy
 IM Basketball-Sr.
 International Awareness Drive Items Due
 V/B BB vs. Chaminade @ Chaminade, 5:30 p.m./ 7 p.m.
 C Blue BB vs. Chaminade @ Chaminade, 4 p.m.
 C White BB vs. Fox @ Fox, 4pm
 V Hockey vs. Lindbergh @ Affton, 9:45 p.m.
 Strudel Sticks, Hot Wings/ Hot Strips
 Charlie Landis "Winter Sweater Showcase" Finale

PORTNOY

(from 4)

ball at very high velocities.

Most of the players at the Civic Center are not as good as Portnoy. In fact, Portnoy does not plan on attending these meetings on Wednesday for much longer because the competition is not as tough and can lead to a dulling of his skills. However, all the players there love the sport. They all want to be there; there is no mandatory practice for these table tennis players. They all choose to go because they love the game.

Portnoy has been training for table tennis for almost two years now. His father bought him three lessons for Christmas, and he continued with it.

He practices Monday through Thursday for two or three hours and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over the summer, practice is even more intense. "I play five days a week for seven hours," said Portnoy.

Portnoy is a two-winged looper, "which is an all-out offensive player," he said. Port-

noy practices "with what is called multi-ball training, which is when you fill up a bucket with, say, 150 balls or something like that and your coach just serves to you," he said, to improve his skills and prepare him for matches. Twice a week he plays matches.

Yao said, "Danny is very, very straightforward. ... He is a hard worker and 100 percent obeys instructions (from his coach)."

When asked what he thinks is the most satisfying thing about table tennis, Portnoy said, "I guess the improvement. It gets more fun as you get better because you can do more stuff. You hit the ball faster. You can stand back ten feet from the table and play with longer rallies. ... And also the hard work and discipline. It keeps me active."

Portnoy is competing in the Killer Spin Holiday Open tournament in Chicago on Dec. 29 and 30.

"I hope to be in (the championship division of table tennis) in four years," said Portnoy.

**Special Schedule for
 Fine Arts Assembly
 Thursday, December 7, 2006**

7:00-7:45	Zero Hour
7:20	Mass in Chapel
7:45	Warning Tone
7:50-8:01	Prayer Service/Home-room
8:05-8:40	Period 1
8:44-9:19	Period 2
9:23-9:58	Period 3
10:08-10:43	Period 4
10:53-11:23	Lunch A/Performance B/Activity Period C
11:23-11:38	Passing
11:38-12:08	Lunch B/Performance C/Activity Period A
12:08-12:23	Passing
12:23-12:53	Lunch C/Performance A/Activity Period B
1:03-1:38	Period 5
1:42-1:44	Examen
1:44-2:19	Period 6
2:23-2:58	Period 7

Homeroom Teacher has group assignment