

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL Prep News

"If nothing else, value the truth"

VOLUME LXIX, ISSUE 1



FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2004

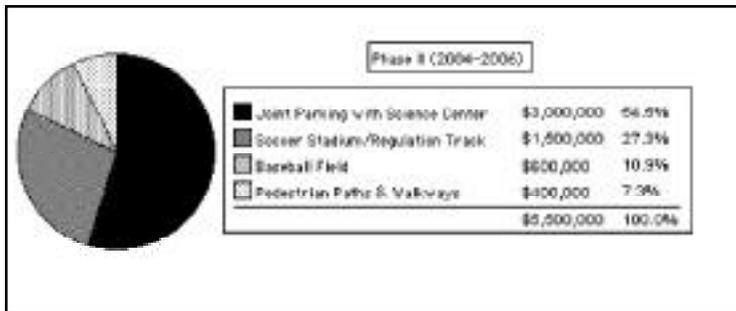
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Summer Vision 2000 projects upgrade campus

Greg Fox
Editor in Chief

St. Louis U. High's expansive Vision 2000 plan, first outlined in 1998, proceeded over the summer break with the installation of new technology and a synthetic turf surface on the stadium field. In addition to these upgrades to the campus, the administration sent a letter to current parents which included a general outline of the \$32 million plan, which is set to conclude in 2011.



is added to SLUH every year. This summer's additions included interactive boards and video/sound systems in seven classrooms—which brings the total number of interactive classrooms to 12—and

laptop carts of 20 laptops each for use by students (for additional information, see page 4). SLUH also installed a second language lab over the summer.

"What we're trying to do here is to make sure that the application of technology is suitable for the learning process that we have in our school," explained President Paul Sheridan, S.J., who added that SLUH is committed to spending approximately \$300,000 per year on new technology.

According to Principal Mary Schenkenberg, the total

This summer's first improvement came via the addition of technology. Under the Vision 2000 plan, new technology

projectors and video/sound systems in 19 classrooms. In addition to updates to specific classrooms, SLUH purchased 21 additional laptops for faculty and two

cost for the interactive classrooms was \$40,000 and the cost for the projector-equipped classrooms was \$60,000.

see 20/15, 3

Sportexe turf installed in stadium

Tim Huether
Sports Editor

Over the summer, as St. Louis U. High students enjoyed an unseasonably cool summer, construction crews installed new Sportexe turf in the stadium. Minor tasks must still be completed, but as of press time all signs suggested the field would be ready to play on in time for the varsity soccer game against Gibault next Tuesday. Hopefully, the varsity football and soccer teams will be able to have a light practice on the turf over the weekend.

May, Tarlton Construction Co., the contractor that oversaw the whole project, began preliminary work; actual construction began immediately after exams finished. First, they removed nine inches of topsoil and installed the new drainage system.

Trucks moved the excavated topsoil to the vacant lots south of the cafeteria. This quality soil will be used in the infield of the new baseball stadium when it is built.

During the construction of the storm drainpipes, SLUH made sure Tarlton removed the remnants of the old storm drainpipe that had caused the sinkhole last year. The removal was necessary, however, in order to achieve a sub-base that

see ORIENTAL, 10

Overall, the turf, maintenance equipment, sporting equipment and installation came to nearly \$500,000.

Beginning the week of exams last

Mixer policy changed; limit set

Brian Krebs
Core Staff

St. Louis U. High will close out the first week tonight with the always outrageously popular Back to School Mixer.

This year's STUCO may have a tough time topping last year's successful \$17,000 gross. Because of the last year's large crowd, the doors were closed after the 3,000 occupancy mark, leaving 2,500 people out in the cold, some without a ride home for another three hours.

This year, STUCO and the administration have made a few changes to the mixers for better crowd control and safety. see SIR MIX-A-LOT, 13

Committee revises SLUH's mission statement

Timo Kim
Core Staff

On Sept. 5, Principal Dr. Mary Schenkenberg will present a revised version of St. Louis U. High's mission statement to the Board of Directors for approval. If the board approves, the new mission statement will be implemented into the Parent-Student handbook as a new framing of SLUH's educational goals.

Most notable among the numerous changes is the restructuring of the body of the statement. Although it retains the three-paragraph focus of the former statement, the revised statement elaborates on the triplicate identity of SLUH. The first paragraph begins with "As a Catholic school committed to its presence in the city of St. Louis, we seek...", the second begins with "As a Jesuit school dedicated to developing our gifts for the generous service of

other, we challenge..." and the last paragraph begins with "As a college preparatory school, with a historic commitment to a rigorous program of academic excellence, we strive..." These new assertions explain precisely the ideals held within each facet of SLUH's identity, portraying them with new clarity and confidence.

The new statement also refines the ideals concerning the development of the student of the former statement. The addition of "life-affirming virtues, (and) lively imaginations" to the list of ideal student developments, for instance, furthers the idea of cultivating the whole person to include ethical and creative pursuits.

Similarly, the new statement stresses the school's focus on the integration of each student's personal life with prayer, reflection, and a deep relationship with Christ's vision.

In mid-September of last year, SLUH once again began a program of self-study

for accreditation through the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. As part of this process, the Foundational Documents committee was formed.

"Our hope was to get a mission statement that really invited the community to give input and make it their own," said theology teacher Matt Sciuto, chairman of the committee.

In early December, a subcommittee composed of facilitator Rich Moran and committee members Tom Cummings, S.J., and Thom Digman, convened to discuss and the debate the older mission statement and proposed to "rewrite the statement...to change not its substance, but its tone and force."

Between December and early May, the subcommittee continuously revised the mission statement with input from faculty, students, and a committee of the board, before the committee finalized the

see NORCO, 11

Sweeney has quintuple bypass

Alex Sciuto
Assistant Editor

On Aug. 10, Vice President of Administration Brian Sweeney had quintuple bypass surgery at St. John's Mercy Hospital. The surgery went smoothly with no damage to his heart, and Sweeney is now at home recovering. No date has yet been set for his return to SLUH.

Early on Monday morning, Aug. 9, Sweeney woke up, walked into his kitchen, and began making a cup of coffee—his usual routine. But something was different.

"My face got a little flushed and I just didn't feel quite right. I couldn't put my finger on it. There wasn't any one particular symptom," Sweeney said.

Sweeney told his wife he didn't feel right, and then he broke into a sweat. "When I broke into a cold sweat, I knew that something wasn't quite right so I asked my wife to make the 911 call," Sweeney said.

After the 911 call, Sweeney was

rushed to St. John's Mercy, where a cardiologist in the emergency room interviewed him.

"Based on my family history—my father (and) my sister both had heart problems—they decided to do a cardiac catheterization to check it out."

A cardiac catheterization involves inserting a small camera into a vein in the groin and threading the camera up to see the state of the heart. The camera showed that five of Sweeney's main arteries were completely blocked, and another two were mostly blocked.

The next day, Sweeney had quintuple bypass surgery. Bypass surgery involves taking a vein from another part of the body, typically the leg, and grafting the vein onto the clogged vein to create a detour for the blood to flow around the clogged artery.

The surgery went well, and Sweeney left the hospital on Saturday, Aug. 14. It was a "a fairly standard operation," in Sweeney's words, with no complications. Only five of seven clogged arteries were

see CINCO, 14

A/C installed in Jesuit Wing

Sean Powers
Core Staff

New air conditioning and heating units were installed in the Jesuit wing this summer after it was determined that the air conditioner cooling the first floor needed repair and the projected costs of repairs repeatedly increased. The new system connects the basement and first floor to the second and third floor system; previously, the two sets of floors used separate systems. The third floor staff had to work in the heat for four weeks while a new cooling system, which included a 70-ton chiller, was installed.

Along with the cooling system, a new heating system was added for the Jesuit wing. The approximately 40-year-old boilers will soon be removed and replaced with more efficient boilers to heat the building during the winter.

Facilities Director Patrick Zarrick said, "It's a work in progress right now.

see A/C-O, 14

EDITORIAL

Opening thoughts on this year's issues

This is an important year not only for America but for St. Louis U. High as well. While America gears up to elect a president, SLUH prepares to move into a new era as Vision 2000's upgrades become more physically evident.

Many of the issues that will affect the outcome of this year's election will most likely affect SLUH's students now or in the immediate future. As young men either eligible for the draft or soon to be eligible for the draft, it is conceivable that the man elected to lead this country could figuratively hold our lives in his hands some day. America's economy is not as robust as it once was, and the next president's economic agenda could have huge effects on our post-high school and post-college career options. Homosexual marriages and civil unions are in direct opposition with the doctrines held by the religious organization at the center of SLUH, and it is conceivable that sometime soon, many of the Catholic Church's major doctrines and the laws of this land will be in opposition to one another, pulling our loyalties in two directions.

In addition to issues in the country at large that affect students, there are many SLUH-specific issues that certainly ought to be discussed this year. Vision 2000 is entering its construction phase now, and some students are wondering how building a new Student Life Center is essential to building "Christ's Kingdom of justice, love and peace" mentioned in SLUH's mission statement. Others know how the new course offerings and smaller class sizes created by Vision 2000 help them do so. Each issue that affects students has two sides.

SLUH students certainly have opinions on these many issues, and we hope the *Prep News* is the most consistent forum in which they can express them. For sixty-eight years and into its sixty-ninth, the *Prep News* opinion section has been a place

where students can make their voices heard on issues ranging from the impending election to the healthfulness of food in the cafeteria. The *Prep News* is not the voice of the student body, but the opinion section is the megaphone that makes individual voices heard. By no means does this exclude parents or faculty from writing opinions; rather, these opinions are as important and vital in what we hope is the running public discourse among members of the SLUH community.

While most people do not take the time to read our Platform and Policy, we print it at the beginning of each year to publicly remind ourselves and our readers of our mission: to be a weekly newspaper written by ordinary students to "inform the SLUH community about events and people...primarily through the written word." By reporting the news, the *Prep News* helps to foster community among the SLUH family by providing knowledge about the people surrounding us. We hope to do this through our news stories and especially through our features, which will hopefully provide information about the lesser-known members of our community, thus enlarging the community and tightening the ties that bind us together.

It is in testing our beliefs and listening to intelligent arguments from others that we can strengthen our beliefs, and we hope that the opinion section will facilitate formal discussion of important issues at SLUH, however controversial they may be. The opinion section's focus is to discuss issues and events that affect the people of this school. As such, letters to the editor on any topic that affects SLUH students in any way, even on a national and international level, are accepted.

We wish the students and faculty of SLUH a great year, and remind them that their opinions are important and always welcome in the opinion section of the *Prep News*.

20/15

(from 1)

Schenkenberg said that both cost figures were contained within SLUH's yearly investment in technology.

Outside the classroom, Sportex plans to complete the installation of a synthetic turf surface in SLUH's stadium early next week. SLUH's new surface is, according to Sheridan, "less costly to maintain" than a traditional grass field. "That's one of the reasons we went artificial," said Sheridan.

SLUH spent about \$500,000 on installation of the new surface, which included preparation, the turf itself, and costs of installing the turf (for additional information, see page 1).

The facet of Vision 2000 that will have the greatest effect on the most students, however, is the Student Life Center, which according to Digman is slated to be constructed in two phases. Phase I, scheduled for completion between 2007 and 2008, will include a cafeteria, commons area and reception hall. Phase II will include a new gymnasium and most likely will not be completed until 2010.

Sheridan said that a new cafeteria was "the reason (that) we're building" the Student Life center. In addition, Sheridan claimed that the reception hall is needed because "we're using our lobby as a restaurant."

Because of SLUH's commitment to equate money spent on construction and money put in the endowment, it would be impractical for SLUH to build the Student Life Center all at once, since that would necessitate having full funding before beginning the project. Because the project is split into two phases, SLUH has enabled itself to finish the aspects that are deemed imperative as soon as possible while putting off other aspects until finances have been secured.

"The second phase of it kicks in when those dollars are available," explained Digman.

see FORESIGHT, 9

Classroom technology added

Kyle Kloster
Core Staff

Joining the 1000 some-odd students attending SLUH this year are seven brand new smart boards with accompanying projectors and an array of other cutting-edge technology. Over the summer, SLUH spent \$175,000 to accommodate the students and teachers with useful new hardware and software.

Computer teacher Tim Rittenhouse spent much of his summer overseeing the installation of the smart boards and the DVD players, VCRs, and sound systems that go with each board. In addition to smart boards, Rittenhouse oversaw 19 projector installations inside 19 classrooms.

SLUH has also acquired a variety of other devices. A digital mobile media lab equipped with two new digital cameras and multiple laptops provides students and faculty with the ability to create, edit, and view iMovies. Two new laptop carts outfitted with twenty laptops, a printer, and a wireless hub each supply entire classes with internet and software capa-

bilities. Lastly, SLUH has purchased 21 new Macintosh laptops for its faculty.

Besides all the hardware that SLUH has purchased for its faculty and students, computer teacher Tim Rittenhouse and new computer technician Jon Dickmann have begun the long-term project of upgrading the school's computers. Rittenhouse has been installing Macintosh's newest operating system, OS 10.3, on all of the school's computers, including all the old and new laptops.

Rittenhouse is also working on providing students and teachers access to two newly-purchased servers over the internet. With the servers, Rittenhouse explains, "you could save something on (a computer) at school, then access that from anywhere in the world."

Dickmann has been configuring the school's network with wireless Airports in order to make the entire campus wireless, and has already installed six of the 15 wireless Airports SLUH purchased.

SLUH bought its collection of gadgets under the request of SLUH's tech--
see **TECHIE**, 8

V2K promotional video shot

Andrew Mueth
Core Staff

As part of Vision 2000, the school finished filming a promotional video for the school to be given out to alumni in the next few months.

The video was filmed in three segments, the last of which was taped this past Monday. Editing will begin next week. Coordinator Robert Boedeker mentioned that an informational brochure will accompany the video, on a DVD, as "a strategy to get the word out (to alumni)" about Vision 2000.

The video features alumni, faculty, parents, and students, and also includes members of the class of '04. The film hopes not only to show the great tradition and memories that the school holds, but also the new, lively present and future of SLUH. The footage includes interviews with students and teachers, shots of the school building, and clips of classes in progress.

SLUH worked with the Rogers and Townsend ad agency, "one of the best in the city," according to Boedeker, to produce the video. Tim Rogers, '71, currently has a son, Tim, attending SLUH. In addition to the production aspect, Pat Barlow, '87, of Barlow Productions, was in charge of the film crew and the shooting of material for the video.

"The school has to raise \$3.2 million per year just to make up for the tuition gap and keep the school running. This video campaign is to raise money in addition to that (for Vision 2000)," Boedeker said. The gap has always existed and has always been paid for through the school's sizeable endowment and donations to the school, according to Boedeker. The school hopes that the video "will present new hope for the future to alumni."

In addition to giving the video to alumni, Craig Hannick is also investigating the possibility of making another video, with the existing footage, to show to

see **FILM**, 12

Preparations for Issues Day proceed apace

Alex Sciuto
Assistant Features Editor

Before election Tuesday in November, the eyes of the nation will focus on St. Louis U. High on Sept. 29 for its Issues Day and mock election.

Before every presidential election, SLUH dedicates a day to learning about the major issues in the upcoming election. Next week, students will fill out surveys in homeroom to choose which issues they want to learn about.

The surveys will present students with 15 issues and have them prioritize their top ten selections. Students will then be assigned three of the selections and attend a talk given by an outside speaker for each of those three assigned issues.

An initial survey given to students last May winnowed the number of issues down to the current 15.

This year, Issues Day, which is organized by history teacher Jeff Harrison, S.J., ceramics teacher Mary Whealon, and librarian Libby Moore, will be divided into four parts covering the entire school day. In the morning, the entire school will come together to hear Douglas Marcouillier, S.J., professor of economics at SLU and an expert in Latin American economics. Then students and faculty will attend the three lectures concerning the issues they were assigned. After the lectures, each homeroom will meet and vote for president. Finally, the school will reconvene in the gym and count the votes. There will be both an electoral vote and a popular vote; each homeroom will be considered as a state.

Four years ago in the mock election, George W. Bush defeated Al Gore both in the electoral college (252-127) and in the popular vote (369-305). Ralph Nader came up a strong third place, garnering 96 electoral college votes and 276 popular votes.

Statechampbills hope to repeat in '04

Tim Malecek
Reporter

The 2004 St. Louis U. High I can't believe it's not grassbills will be challenged to meet last year's stellar state championship performance.

Last year's varsity team graduated 18 seniors, including five starters. The Martelbills will be hard-pressed to replace last year's powerful offense, led by Joe Germanese and W. David Mueller, but they are well prepared regardless.

The Jr. Bills conditioned as usual over the summer. Some players voluntarily attended conditioning camp and met with players from other teams to train.

Returning senior Paul Eschen, captain Brent Zang, and junior Malcolm DeBaun lead the skilled backline. Fresh-

man Tommy Meier joins the already stacked backfield and should see considerable playing time.

DeBaun said, "The defense is stronger than last year, with plenty of experience."

Captain Tim Weir will manage the midfield with junior Zach Weiss and senior Connor Finnegan on his flanks. Weir is optimistic: "We should be pretty good in the midfield this year."

Scott Brown brings his 13 goals and 5 assists and joins with juniors Billy Ferris and Tom Irvin on the front line. Ferris posted 14 goals last year and Irvin dominated defenders on the B-team. The relatively young trio must compensate for the loss of last year's explosive offense.

Wyatt Woods will start the first game as goalkeeper. As usual, the heavily-con-

tested goalie position will be decided on a game to game basis.

The inexperienced squad should be interesting to watch as they seek another great year. Said head coach Charlie Martel, "We lost 18 seniors. We're rebuilding a bit this year, but I'm optimistic in my players and hope to finish in the top 4 again this year."

The St. Louis area again holds many tough opponents, including the always dangerous CBC Cadets, who are presently ranked No. 1 nationally.

The Jr. Bills play their first game this Tuesday against a potentially threatening St. Mary's team. Martel says the team will have to be ready to play. Come support your FIFAbills Tuesday in the stadium at 6:00 as they seek back to back state championships.

Football shows promise with No. 8 ranking

Bryan Glaenger
Reporter

Ms. Kathy Robtoy manning her station at the cafeteria cash register, Mr. Clark pacing the halls looking for the unwary student who lazily left his shirt tail untucked, the football team returning to the stadium: all signal the start of the new year.

This year's captains, Matt Behr, Dave Klug, Matthew Herzberg, and William Holleman, are looking forward to improving last year's record of 6-4.

SLUH was ranked No. 8 in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* preseason poll.

The Footbills enter the season prepared, as 12 team members traveled to the University of Illinois this summer to participate in the 7-7 football camp.

The Pigskinbills return 12 starters, six offensive and six defensive.

The football team's main weapon this year will be its offense, led by the quarterback expertise of Behr, an experienced corps of receivers led by the 6'4" duo of John Warner and Curtis Hoette,

and the jaw-dropping speed of record-holding Stephen Simmons.

However, the offense may yet have one weakness, as Behr is taking snaps from an untested line. Not a single mem-

started on the defensive line his junior year. Junior Mark Sharp will give Caldwell relief from his double starting position by stepping up at defensive tackle when Caldwell needs a break.

The defense will be supplemented by Paul Chaney, who may be the fastest athlete in St. Louis, with a blazing 40-yard sprint time of 4.3 seconds.

Other new additions this year include the sophomore giant and starting right tackle, Niko Mafuli (6'2", 270 lbs.), and the promising sophomore starting defensive back, Willie Shipp.

In addition to new players, the team is adding a new defensive scheme, building upon the defense that they used last year. The new defense is constructed in order to confuse the opposing offense.

Although it is early in the season and the team needs to come together, head coach Gary Kornfeld is "pleased with their work habits" and the team looks primed for a promising start.

SLUH's first game will be held Friday at 7:00 pm when they host No. 6 Parkway South.



Junior wide receiver Brennan DuVall (88) is brought down by a host of tacklers during yesterday's scrimmage.

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New faces: new veteran teachers

**Paul Michaelson:
Social Studies**

**Drew Deubner
Reporter**

Along with the inevitable coming of the new school year comes a new group of teachers to help us along. One of the educators that SLUH has been blessed with is Dr. Paul Michaelson.

Michaelson grew up in the suburbs of Detroit and earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan, majoring in history and German.

Following his graduation, he departed and completed more graduate work in the subjects of Modern Language and Literature at Wayne State University, which is located in his home state of Michigan.



PHOTO BY ALEX SCUTTO

Michaelson has been teaching both social studies and German for fifteen years. The last nine have been spent at Lutheran High in St. Charles.

Since coming to SLUH, Michaelson has been assigned AP U.S. Politics, Economics, and Global History I. "I really strive to prepare students to grow and learn not only on an educational basis, but on a personal basis, too," Michaelson said. "I really want the students to have a sense of ethical responsibilities, too."

Michaelson looks forward to the upcoming school year, and he has high expectations for his students, his colleagues, and himself.

Quote of the Week

"Education is a weapon, whose effect depends on who holds it in his hands and at whom it is aimed."

—Joseph Stalin

Michael

Marchlewski,

S. J. : Theology

**Scott Mueller
Reporter**

In an effort to equalize the Jesuit presence at high schools in the St. Louis area, Michael Marchlewski, S.J. came to St. Louis U. High from DeSmet this year. He will teach two freshmen theology classes and two sophomore Latin classes.

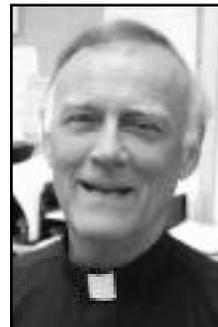


PHOTO BY ALEX SCUTTO

Marchlewski grew up in North City and graduated from SLUH in 1954. He decided to become a Jesuit because he wanted to be like

his Jesuit teachers here at SLUH, and he has now been a Jesuit for 50 years.

Marchlewski had a long teaching career before coming to SLUH. He first taught at Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, where he taught Latin, French, Greek, and English from 1961 to 1964.

Following Rockhurst, Marchlewski went to study theology for four years in Nouvain, Belgium, before returning to Rockhurst in 1969, where he taught until 1983.

The next year Marchlewski went on sabbatical for an almost year-long retreat. When he finished his retreat, he went to Denver to teach at Regis High School, another Jesuit school. He taught there until 1991, when he went to Madrid, Spain to work in administration for St. Louis University. He stayed for one year, then returned home to teach at DeSmet, where he taught senior theology for 12 years.

Now, back at SLUH, Marchlewski says, "bad pennies always return."

**Barbara Osburg:
English**

**Eric Durban
Reporter**

After 22 years of teaching in the Parkway school district, Dr. Barbara Osburg brings her experience to the St. Louis U. High English department.

Osburg brings a total of 32 years of teaching experience to SLUH. She retired from Parkway North last year.



COURTESY: JEFFREY BECKWITH

Along with instructing three sections of freshman English, Osburg will also teach in her area of expertise, American Literature, a subject she completed her doctorate in at St. Louis University.

Osburg looks forward to working with her SLUH students in part because her own son has gone off to college in Iowa this fall.

The transition to SLUH this year has been somewhat challenging for Osburg because of her unfamiliarity with the students. "I was at Parkway North for so long that everyone knew me," Osburg said. "I could walk down the hallways and kids would say 'hi.' I have to build that here."

THIS WEEK IN PREP

NEWS HISTORY

By Darryl Lee, August 29, 1980

"As many students have noticed, this year there has been a slight change in the appearance of the demerit cards. While the changes won't affect most students, for those of you rowdies who value your personal demerit collection, read on. There will be only thirty demerits on the card as opposed to forty last year. The first two jugs can be attained by getting ten demerits as last year. The next five jugs can be yours for the price of only four demerits."

They keep coming: new teachers

Colleen Rockers: CSP Director / Theology

Eric Jefferson: Chemistry

Sean Powers Core Staff

Theology teacher Colleen Rockers has descended 8,000 feet from her previous home outside of Denver to join the faculty of St. Louis U. High in her office inside the campus ministry office. In Colorado, Rockers taught theology and ran the campus ministry at J.K. Mullen High School, a co-ed school run by the Christian Brothers. She earned an English degree from South Dakota State University and her master's degree in theology from St. Thomas Aquinas Institute in Denver. This will be her 12th year teaching at both private and public schools. Along with her teaching career she has four children.

Rockers will assume the role of CSP moderator and teach three sophomore theology courses. On coming from being campus minister in Denver to CSP mod-

QUARTERS

(from 6)

against eventual state runner-up CBC the next day, on May 24th. SLUH came in knowing the contest would be difficult, as CBC had defeated SLUH 10-6 earlier in the year.

Coming off a first round bye, the well-rested Cadets prevailed, winning 9-3. After tying the game at one, things went downhill for the Jr. Bills.

SLUH ended the season with a 9-12 record, including tournaments that challenged the team with tough competition. Goalie Ben Zaegel posted an 8-8 record with 237 saves and a 69.5% save percent. Junior Joe Hof led the team with 40 goals and 55 points, while Tyler Orf posted 17 assists.

erator here, Rockers said, "They are still part of the same package. I can do a little more in-depth piece of the work, instead of being one person in charge of all of it."

About coming from a co-ed school to an all male school, Rockers commented, "The boys have been amazingly respectful, and there are very special young men that are here, so I'm fine with all boys."

Rockers looks to continue the strong presence that CSP has had in the school and, along with STUCO, looks forward to a high percentage of participation from all the students.

Rockers said, "There are some new sites, and certainly many returning sites, I think you will find that there are as many if not more programs this year."

TECHIE

(from 4)
nology committee, headed by Peggy Pride, who is also the faculty technology coordinator. The committee surveyed the faculty for interest in various classroom tools, and found a substantial demand for the smart boards and projectors.

Despite the complex and accident-prone qualities associated with most new technologies—especially computers—Rittenhouse, who focuses on helping the faculty learn how to utilize their new machines, commented that he has received fewer requests for help with the technology than he anticipated. Rittenhouse explains that he expected a lot of need for help among faculty at first because, "There's a learning curve for everything."

Theology teacher Matt Sciuto, one recipient of a new projector, expressed his appreciation for the tools and excitement for the new possibilities in teaching. Sciuto said the faculty "are willing to go through the learning process so they can enhance



PHOTO BY ALEX SCIUTO

Eric Durban Reporter

After Facilities Director Patrick Zarrick left the science department, Bill Anderson took his AP Environmental Science class, vacating some of his chemistry sections. As a result, Eric Jefferson has joined the science department this year.

After graduating from the University of Missouri-Rolla with a degree in chemical engineering, Jefferson spent the past year teaching chemistry at Normandy High School.

Jefferson is excited to come to a school where many students exhibit a high level of "respect for education and school." His classes include two sections of qualitative chemistry as well as two sections of chemistry.

"I would like to create an avenue of learning for students where they can also have fun," expressed Jefferson. Jefferson also coaches the offensive and defensive lines for the C-football team.

teaching. You don't have to just use writing any more—there are visuals."

Although Sciuto is very happy with the new devices and their teaching uses, he voices the importance of avoiding too much of a good thing saying, "We're very aware of too much technology. Reading and writing—we can't replace that."

Pride agreed, saying, "We'll keep an eye out for new technology and see if it's applicable, but we don't want technology to drive our curriculum—we want our curriculum to use technology."



PHOTO BY ALEX SCIUTO

FORESIGHT

(from 3)

The administration has not determined the usage of space in the Student Life Center yet, but has sought input from STUCO. It has been determined, however, that the Student Life Center will feature a commons housing student activities rooms such as STUCO, yearbook, and *Prep News* offices, the pastoral office, and a reception hall. Sheridan also pledged to seek input from students following his presentations to the school next week.

As of press time, SLUH had raised an estimated \$27 million of the \$32 million total budget for Vision 2000. Digman said that \$12 million of the \$27 million has already been paid and an additional \$15 million has been committed. SLUH still has \$5 million to raise for the completion of the project. Because SLUH's current Vision 2000 money is

invested in the short-term, SLUH will have to raise the additional \$5 million rather than receiving it in interest on the invested money. "The interest that's accruing from (the investments) is minimal at best," Digman said.

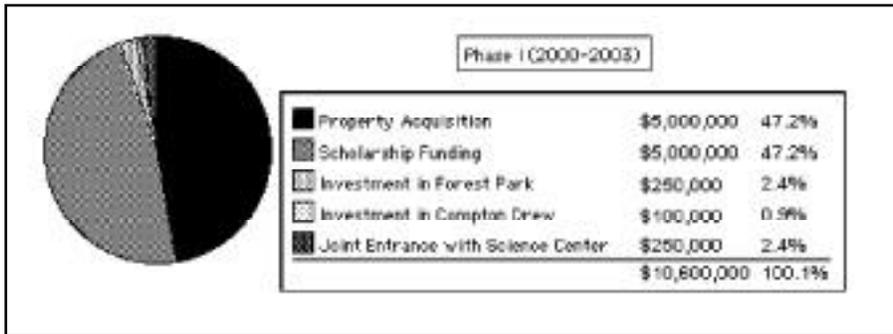
The \$32 million was divided by the administration into four parts in the summer mailing: Scholarship and Debt Retirement (47%, \$15 million), Student and Academic Services (30%, \$9.5 million), Campus Development (7%, \$2.4 million), and Competitive Athletic Facilities (16%, \$5.1 million). The Scholarship and Debt Retirement portion, says Digman, can further be broken down into \$10 million "specifically for scholarship endowment" and \$5 million with which SLUH has the flexibility of "paying off debt or just keeping it invested."

Part of the debt Vision 2000 will pay down comes from the renovations of the building which took place between 1992 and 1996. Sheridan said that the modern-

ization of the building that took place in the mid-1990s was necessary, but had "a lot of debt attached to it." Digman compared SLUH's debt to a mortgage and said that SLUH pays down principal and interest every year.

In addition to past debt, SLUH incurred some debt during the property acquisition phase of Vision 2000, which was completed in 2003. Vision 2000, however, will not add any additional debt to SLUH, as all debt incurred during Vision 2000 will be paid off by the time the project is finished. Digman has promised "no new debt."

Throughout the project, one of



SLUH's goals has been to grow the endowment. This goal becomes more difficult with high construction costs in the current budget of the project. SLUH, however, has cleared this hurdle by matching each dollar spent on construction with a dollar put into the endowment and not beginning construction until a concordant amount for the endowment has been secured.

Currently, there is a gap between the cost of a SLUH education and what students pay, a gap that will remain the same due to the cyclic nature of the investments coming in and SLUH investing in future projects. According to Sheridan, there will be more of a return from the \$15 million endowment investment each year, and this return will lower the gap. Conversely, with each passing year and new project, SLUH's operating costs will rise, thus raising the gap to its previous level.

For each dollar spent on construction, SLUH has budgeted a dollar to go

into the endowment, which will eventually total \$15 million. According to Digman, SLUH invests endowment money for a 9 to 10 percent return. The Board of Trustees has stipulated that SLUH can draw no more than 5.75 percent of the return, the rest of which must be reinvested. Money drawn from the interest goes to increases in scholarships, debt retirement and miscellaneous costs.

Money raised for Vision 2000 is also used to modernize SLUH's current facilities. Sheridan cited examples of using Vision 2000 to pay for expenses beyond the operating budget, such as the replacement of the compressor in the Jesuit Wing and financial aid. According to Sheridan, some Vision 2000 money is "(applied) to the needs of today."

Future plans for Vision 2000 include a soccer stadium and regulation-size track (\$1.5 million, summer of 2005), a baseball field (\$600,000, summer of 2005), and joint parking with the Science Center (\$3 million, summer of 2006).

The final part of Vision 2000 will be retrofitting abandoned space in the current school building, which will include current club rooms and the cafeteria. Possibilities for retrofitted areas include: a second physics lab, a lecture hall, and increased space for the art department.

Sheridan summed up the goal of Vision 2000, as being to "make our school... not extravagant but excellent in every regard," a statement echoed by Digman. Sheridan says that Vision 2000 will "affect every aspect of the life of SLUH."

Classified

Jeep Cherokee for sale
2000 Black 4-door
Excellent condition
Gray interior, new tires
84,000 miles
See Mrs. Maurer for details

ORIENTAL

(from 1)

was solid, true, and had no possibilities of failure in the future.

Crews then leveled out the field and ran tests to check the field's stability. After it was deemed stable, Tarlton laid down a fine fabric over the base which maintains the stability of the sub-base.

An expansive flat net-like drain system was laid directly over the fabric. The net system will collect up to eight inches of water an hour during rain storms, and then transport the water to the new storm drain pipes.

To begin the sub-base, crews laid down layers of medium-sized rock on top of the net-drain. Then came layers of finer rock pieces with less than 3/8 inch diameter, and included a lot of rock as fine as powder, until they achieved a sub-base consistency deemed acceptable by Sportex.

Zarrick said, "(The rock) is just as hard packed as the Katy Trail."

The Sportex team then came in on July 26th, after the completion of the sub-base, and began to lay down the turf. The crew laid the turf out in five-yard strips, beginning with the strip on the 50-yard line.

Once the pieces were laid out, the team began sewing and gluing all the pieces together.

"To my knowledge, we are the only high school or college field to have the pieces of turf sewed and glued together. Generally they only do that for the professional level fields," said Zarrick. "We felt that the seaming process is critical to a good field over the long haul."

All of the necessary colored marks on the field, including hash marks, sidelines, and the logo in the center of the field

were then precisely cut out and each colored piece was inlaid and attached.

Presently, crews are laying down a rubber-sand mixture at 1/8 inch at a time until they achieve a depth of 2 inches. The green artificial turf strands will stick up 1/2 of an inch above the rubber-sand mix. Upon completion, 150 tons of rubber and sand will cover the turf.

The extensive weight will help to stretch out the turf, after which the turf will be stapled to the inside of the track, securing it in place.

Then a rake-like machine pulled behind a tractor will be dragged over the



The stadium on Thursday, when finishing touches were being put on the turf.

field, which helps the rubber and sand settle and the artificial turf fibers stand up. This maintenance will also occur a couple times each week depending on frequency of use. Also, every month or two, rubber and sand may be reinserted depending on necessity.

Although the construction should end on schedule, that doesn't mean the summer was without delays.

Early on in the construction process, a patent issue was raised by one of Sportex's competitors. SLUH found the issue to be without merit; however, it cost a lengthy period of construction. Compounded with four days lost to heavy rains, the delay totaled over two weeks. This was followed by the two weeks of storm drain pipe removal and installation.

In addition to providing SLUH with the turf, Sportex also gave SLUH a credit which was used toward new uprights,

soccer goals, and a scoreboard.

Regulation soccer and football lines are permanently printed on the Sportex. Sports that require different lines, such as lacrosse, will have those painted on prior to games. "With too many lines on there, it would have looked like a tic-tac-toe board," said Wehner.

The Sportex provides many advantages for the athletic and Phys. Ed. department.

The new turf opens up the stadium to greater use by underclassman sports. Teams such as C soccer or C football that used to play only one game each year in the

stadium will now be able to play most of their home games there without risk to the field quality.

Also, on days that no game is scheduled in the stadium, teams can practice there. Wehner stated that varsity football and

varsity soccer will be given priority during the fall sports season.

In addition to being used more extensively for games and practices, the stadium will now also be made available to PE classes. "What that field does is open up another classroom for us," said Wehner. "I think it's safer that the kids are (in the stadium) as compared to the PE field."

Wehner also speculates that the new Sportex turf will be safer than a natural grass field would be in many instances. "It just makes a lot of sense that a turf field in late October, early November, is a lot safer than a football field or soccer field that has been torn up (throughout the year)." Wehner said, "You just don't have ruts or uneven spots ever on an artificial turf field."

Both soccer coach Charlie Martel and varsity football coach Gary Kornfeld are

see **CARPET**, 13

Moran prevents (???) fire

Alex Sciuto
Assistant Editor

Thousands of times larger than all other objects in our solar system, the sun gives the Earth nearly all the energy needed for life to survive. But sometimes the sun can be cruel and malevolent. When the sun chooses the dark over the bright, English teacher Rich Moran stands at the ready to protect humankind.

This past June, the sun began its latest assault on Earth, choosing SLUH as its attack point. Around 4 p.m. one day, a seemingly peaceful time well past the sun's noontime power, light rays began streaming into the east hallway windows near the English office.

"Mrs. (Patricia) Coldren's classroom, 201, was being cleaned, so the contents had been evacuated and they were out here in the hall, including the projector," Moran said. The projector would prove key in this bizarre and dangerous plot.

Moran continued: "The sun was coming through that window (outside of 201) directly and the projector was set up so it was aimed directly at that window. What I noticed when I came up was that there was smoke coming off the thing, and then... I went over to investigate."

Investigate Moran did, coming up with some startling information. Not only was something smoking, but that something was a *Catcher in the Rye* project, presumably from a sophomore class. The sun's machinations involved not just complete domination of humankind, but also the eradication of English literature.

NORCO

(from 2)
draft. Accepted by the faculty during the faculty meeting on Aug. 20, the statement then moved to Schenkenberg and the board's decision.

Despite these seemingly sizable revisions, however, the committee emphasizes that its changes do not modify the actual mission of the school itself.

"Every statement is reviewed with

"(The projector) had burned a little hole that was smoking, and so I saved the school by sliding (the projector) a couple of feet to the left side," Moran said. Moran not only protected all of humanity, but he is also very humble about it.

But why?

According to certain anonymous sources close to the *Prep News*, interesting and incriminating evidence has established a startling horrifying pattern for Moran. Or should he be called Rich "Pyromaniac" Moran?

Four years ago, the Currihan room deep fryer caught fire, and "Pyro" Moran was the first to discover and report the fire. "He really needs a lot of attention," the anonymous source reported. "Maybe he burns stuff for glory and fame in the *Prep News*?"

The greatest of all Midwest fires, the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, started in the barn of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Leary, but the cause has never been found. Could Moran have started the Great Fire? Experts and anonymous sources emphatically say "yes."

Even though the Chicago fire began 133 years ago, Moran has been known to vacation in the Chicago area. Also, he has long been a vocal opponent of the Chicago Cubs. Who knows to what ends this maniac will go to guarantee a Cardinals pennant?

Whether Moran is a great hero or desperate arsonist remains to be seen. But will the school survive its next brush with fire?

the spirit of its time. (The old statement) seemed dated," said Moran. "(The new statement) better fits the perception and reality of SLUH to secure the identity that SLUH already has."

Elaborated Cummings, "No matter what the words are, I think it is important for a group of a people to come together and re-own their mission... It is in this ownership that we have found vision."

Snake could be loose in school

Brian Krebs
Core Staff

Imagine a snake slithering and slinking through the hallways of the school, surprising unsuspecting students and faculty going about their daily routines. According to science teacher Steve Kuensting, this very scenario has a 60 percent likelihood of occurring on campus sometime soon.

At the beginning of the summer, Kuensting discovered that one of his corn snakes was missing from its cage in his classroom, S201. The lid to the cage was ajar. Kuensting deduced that someone took out the snake to observe it and put the lid to the cage on improperly. Kuensting explained, "The way it works is the locks on top have to be locked into position so the snake can't push the lid up. It's possible what they did was (they) took the snake out, handled it, put the snake back and stuck the lid and did not put the locks back in the slots... As a result the snake just pushed his way out."

Corn snakes are very popular household pets. Constrictors that primarily eat rodents, they rarely grow beyond five feet in length. Although the snake isn't venomous, Kuensting cautions, "If you try to pick it up, there is a chance you could get bit." He added that the snake would be unable to survive the extreme variation in weather patterns notorious to the St. Louis area. The snake will, however, be able to survive around the school for the time being by feeding on the rodent population. But, come the end of summer, Kuensting is confident the snake will die.

Kuensting elaborated, "There's a 60 percent chance it's somewhere in the building, either dead or alive, and a 40 percent chance that somebody took it." He also added that, included in that 40 percent is the possibility that the snake escaped the building after being irresponsibly put back.

This is not the first time a snake had found its way out of its cage and into the
see GAME OF CHANCE, 15

PREP NEWS VOLUME LXIX

PLATFORM/POLICY

As the student-run newspaper of St. Louis University High School, the *Prep News* is a weekly publication which 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 disseminate information for the entire school. The *Prep News* editors and staff members make every effort to be objective in their news coverage and editing, and they strive to be unbiased in their athletic reporting.

The organizational structure of the *Prep News* differs slightly from that of recent years. This year the *Prep News* has one editor in chief, one sports editor, and a features editor. The members of the editorial staff are co-workers and share the duties of writing, copy-editing, layout, and staff management. 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 accurate reporting, careful editing, and clear writing. 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 and policy of the editors of Volume LXIX of the *Prep News*.

Prep
St. Louis' only
weekly high
school newspaper.
News

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Volume LXIX, Issue 1

FILM

(from 4)

prospective applicants to St. Louis U. High.

"Many schools have a video that they show to (grade schoolers) interested in coming there for high school," said Hannick, who added that he, along with Dr. Mary Schenkenberg and Fr. Paul Sheridan are "considering the possibility (of making a separate video), determining if it would be a good idea. We want an up-to-date representation of the school."

Although this video would use the same footage as the one being made for alumni, the fact that it is intended for a different audience means that it would emphasize different parts of the footage.

Although the video costs a good amount, the school hopes that it will be worth the price by inspiring alumni to

donate money to SLUH, by, as Boedeker phrased it, "presenting and representing SLUH as it is."

14 STRAIGHT

(from 6)

1, reaching junior pitchers Morgan and Matt Ikemeier for three runs each.

CBC's starting pitcher Aaron Cox pitched seven innings of four hit ball, allowing only one run on a fourth inning RBI single by junior Brandon Beal.

"We didn't play as well as we wanted to play," said Nicollerat.

SLUH ended the season with a 20-7 record overall and 3-5 in the tough MCC, which included eventual state champion Vianney.

Nicollerat concluded, "The kids did a good job. It was a fun year."

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SIR MIX-A-LOT

(from 1)

These changes are highlighted in the updated Parent/Student Handbook. Pre-sale tickets, recently only required for non-SLUH males, are now required for all visitors. The gate will also be closing at 9 p.m., an hour into the mixer. It is also recommended that parents wait to make sure their son or daughter has gained entry to the mixer. Director of Security Charlie Clark has sought the help of the St. Louis Metropolitan police department to help with drop-off on the Oakland lot.

Not only has STUCO been working on reducing the number of people, but they have also enlarged the party area. TKO will be present in a duo of DJs on Friday. One will be in the traditional spot, at the west end of the gym. However, there will be another DJ stationed on the upper field sheltered by a tent covering the portion on the upper field west of the sidewalk.

STUCO attempted this indoor/outdoor format last year for the Spring Fling mixer, but it was cancelled because of rain. The additional dance area served to increase the possible number of attend-

CARPET

(from 10)

excited about the new Sportexe surface.

"I have always been in favor of getting artificial surface," said Martel. "You always have the same surface every time, and it plays just like grass, just as slow as grass."

"(Sportexe) plays like grass, feels like grass, everything's just exactly the same as grass," said Kornfeld. "It enables you to play a game, whatever game it is — whether it be football, soccer, lacrosse, Ultimate Frisbee, whatever—on a field that has been rained on and rained on and rained on, and still you can have a very good game.... It enables you to play contests on some evenings that you might not be able to play otherwise."

SLUH is still also considering using Sportexe in the new soccer field and practice fields, but that decision is pending and should be made in the next six months.

ees. However, Principal Mary Schenkenberg announced that the mixer would be limited to 3,500 people in hopes of reducing the crowd inside the mixer. Schenkenberg elaborated, "The Back to School (mixer) last year was too crowded. You couldn't move. It was so hot. There was water dripping from the ceiling."

However, the changes made seem to have only worsened the problems. Enforcing pre-sale tickets has forced STUCO to divide up the tickets some way. STUCO sent tickets to various private girls schools. The remaining 2,000 or so were available for STUCO to give away during the week to non-SLUH male visitors. This has led to many ticketless teens, especially girls in public or co-ed schools that didn't receive pre-sale tickets. In fact, many people from other schools have called asking how they can get tickets.

STUCO moderator Brock Kesterson said of the plan, "Did it work? I don't think it did."

Assistant Principal for Student Affairs H. Eric Clark also cites concern for the new system of pre-sale tickets: "We have to control the crowds...(However), we shouldn't use the tickets to create the

number limit because when you do that (there are too many people excluded)." Clark instead believes that elements from the old and new mixer platform should be combined. This would mean limiting the number of guests to 3,500, and only enforcing pre-sale tickets to non-SLUH males.

STUCO President Joe Eggleston is looking forward to tonight's fun, despite the limitations.

"Everybody I've talked to is very excited about the mixer," said Eggleston. "We had so many people asking for tickets. So, that's a good thing, (but now) we are out of tickets."

Kesterson and Eggleston are hopeful that the weather will be fair. However, in case of inclement weather, they are hopeful that the tent will be able to provide adequate protection from the rain to both the DJ and a good number of those outside.

Doors open at 8 and in addition to the pre-sale ticket, there is a \$5 entry fee. STUCO will be selling its "SLUHLander" T-Shirts for \$10 and glow sticks for fifty cents.

Summer School Options



PHOTO COURTESY: GRAMMIE SQUAD

Eric Sardinia performs the *Taming of the Shrew* with Nerinx seniors Dailee Joyce and Reba King as part of the joint Nerinx/SLUH Literature of Men and Women summer course. Other summer courses at SLUH were the sophomore and junior theology classes, freshman computer class, and a freshman health class.

by Andrew Mueth

Aug. 27-Sept. 3

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

Schedule M
Fr/Sr Class Meetings
STUCO Back to School Mixer
Funnel Cakes, Mostaccioli with Garlic Bread

MONDAY, AUGUST 30

Schedule R
Lock Down Drill
Pizza Pocket Squares, Chicken Fried Rice,
Stir Fried Vegetables

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

Schedule R
V Soc vs. St. Mary's in Stadium, 6:00
V/JV WP vs. Parkwy Cent. @ Home@ 4:
5:00
B Soc vs. St. Mary's in Stadium@ 4:00
Fiestada, Taco Salad with Fixins

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Schedule R
Activities Fair
JV Soc vs. DeSmet @ SLUH@ 4:00
Bosco Sticks, Brunch for Lunch

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Schedule L
V FB vs. Parkway South @ Home@ 7:00
Fr FB vs. Parkway South @ Home@ 4:15
Cheese Garlic Bread, Chicken Fettuccini

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Schedule R
Activities Fair
V Soc vs. Gibault, @ Oerter Park@ 7:00
JV Soc vs. Gibault, @ Oerter Park@ 4:00
V/JV XC, First Capitol Invitational @
McNair Park@ 4:30
Strudel Stix, Pizza with Bosco Stuffed
Crust

A/C-O

(from 2)

They ... finished the air conditioning portion, and the heating portion is still to occur."

Zarrick had the Corrigan company look at the broken cooling system; repairs were needed on the heating and cooling unit supplying the basement and first floor, and as Corrigan company inspected the situation, the unit supplying the second and third floors blew a piston and needed repairs as well. With the repair price continuing to increase, a decision was made to replace the entire unit for the Jesuit wing.

According to Zarrick, the two old systems in the wing were approximately 40 years and 20 years old. When the rest of the school was renovated with air conditioning in the mid-nineties, the Jesuit wing was left with the aging systems. The contractor from Corrigan suggested to Zarrick that it would be wise to convert the two systems into one new system supplying all four floors.

The new single air conditioning unit turned out to be easier to install because of the architecture of the wing. In the rifle range, there was an accessible transformer from which the new AC unit could be supplied with electricity. Along with accessible electricity, all the pipes fit inline with the walls from the basement all the way up to the third floor, making it easy to combine the two old regions into one.

Before the 70-ton chiller arrived,

Zarrick said, "We had to get a structural engineer out to make sure that the roof would support the 70-ton chiller, which has a loading capacity of about 8,000 lbs." Once it was deemed safe, Corrigan came during July to install the pipes and hoisted the large AC unit on the roof with a crane.

Besides a slight problem with the thermostats, the new air conditioner was fully functional by the first day of school. By Wednesday, the thermostats were fixed and fully functional. Now Corrigan has turned its focus to the boilers and heating system. They expect to finish the new installation by mid-September, but first the two old ones must be removed. Since the boilers are 40 years old, they had been coated with asbestos insulation. In past years, a company would have to maintain the asbestos, and "this gave us the opportunity to get rid of all that," said Zarrick.

For the job, SLUH contracted JNS, an environmental safety company, to remove the insulation, which was finished last week. Once the boilers are broken down and removed, the new ones, with an 85 percent efficiency rating, can be installed. According to Zarrick, the new boilers have about an 80 percent better efficiency rating than the old ones.

The cost of the new system is not yet set, but Zarrick estimates the total costs will be from \$175,000-\$200,000. The school will see some savings in the energy

bill from the AC unit, but even more savings from the heating bill with the new 85 percent efficient boilers.

Zarrick commented that "the gentleman from Corrigan estimates, that with the savings from the energy bills we will pay for the cost of the heating system in ten years."

Though there is no certain time for the new heating and cooling unit to last, it is expected that SLUH will get at least 15-20 years of use.

CINCO

(from 3)

bypassed because the most any surgery can bypass at a time is six arteries and some of Sweeney's arteries were blocked at multiple places. He will have his next checkup on Aug. 31.

Sweeney will have to change his lifestyle to decrease his chances for a future heart attack. "You have to make changes. I was a smoker; you have to give that up completely. They'd like you to reduce your salt intake; I used to love fast foods. They want me to walk at least thirty minutes each day," Sweeney said.

After his August checkup, Sweeney will decide when he will return to school and resume his duties as Vice President of Administration. He hopes that he will return by Sept. 10. While he is gone SLUH's business manager, Eric Schnable, will assume Sweeney's duties.

GAME OF CHANCE

(from 11)

SLUH world. Twelve years ago, in October of 1991, one of Kuensting's king snakes escaped its cage, later being discovered in December by Math teacher Beth Kissel (then Klauer). She found the snake during her calculus class, in the classroom that is now known as M215, under an overhead projector. Reflected Kissel, "I thought the seniors were playing a prank on me, so after they left (class) we investigated to see what it was." The "we" Kissel is referring to is fellow Math teacher Tom Bevar, whom she asked for assistance in confirming the snake. Kuensting came to the rescue, taking the snake away by the neck.

Kuensting has remained cheerful throughout the ordeal, concluding, "Such is life. And life goes on."