

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

Prep News

"If nothing else, value the truth"
VOLUME LXIX, ISSUE 19



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2005

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STUCO holds third Forum

Greg Fox
Editor in Chief

St. Louis U. High's Student Council held its third quarterly Forum meeting of the year yesterday in the theater. Coming on the heels of last quarter's five-minute meeting, STUCO president Joe Eggleston deemed the meeting a success, saying that it was "better than the last one."

Because the Fine Arts field trip left from the theater at Activity Period, the Forum squeezed into the farthest west seats and the start was delayed almost fifteen minutes.

Eggleston began the meeting with the distribution of a first ever Forum agenda. The first item of discussion was the travel raffle ticket system for this year's Cashbah. Discussion about the travel raffle was sparse at the beginning of

the Forum, but was considered with more depth later in the meeting.

Once the initial discussion on the travel raffle was finished, Eggleston steered the discussion to the sale of Valentines, set to begin next week. STUCO plans to sell T-shirts and candygrams for delivery and to local girls' schools. The T-shirts will also be on sale for \$5 for Jr. Bills' personal use.

The final item on the agenda was a roundup of SLUH's aid effort for the tsunami victims in southeast Asia. At the Forum, Eggleston estimated that the school raised \$6,000, and STUCO moderator Brock Kesterson confirmed an exact total to be \$5,821.66 at a later time.

Once STUCO covered the three items on the agenda, they solicited suggestions from the crowd regarding the upcoming and long-delayed Fall Festival.

see TREY, 12

Vandalized Pastoral office closed afterschool

Andrew Mueth
Core Staff

The pastoral office, once a lounge for students, has been closed indefinitely after school in light of recent vandalism in the office.

Last Friday, during a morning meeting of the teachers whose offices are in the pastoral center, one of the teachers noticed a burnt spot, similar to a cow brand, melted into the carpet below the electrical outlet along the wall dividing the pastoral center and the STUCO office, as well as burn marks on the outlet itself.

Theology teacher Matt Stewart said, "We had no idea what (the mark) was." Theology teacher Tim Chik investigated and dug out of the hole in the carpet a singed, blackened paper clip bent into a long horseshoe shape.

The teachers determined that a student had inserted a plug partially into the outlet, and then shoved the ends of the misshaped paper clip into the socket as well. The paper clip had then heated up, and the student had taken hold of the clip, presumably using a rubber glove or similar object to protect his skin, and shoved it into the ground twice, forming an M or W shape.

This recent mark is not the first of these brands to appear in the office. This past October, the staff noticed a similar mark but was puzzled as to its origin and let the matter drop. Therefore, Stewart

see BRAND, 11

1818 Registration takes over 215c

PHOTO BY ALEX SCIUTO



Senior Tim King joins the droves of upperclassmen registering for 1818 credit for their classes. Registration was held yesterday during Activity Period in 215c.

Demosthenesbills orate to finals berth

Seth Clampett, Cliff Leak
Core Staff, Reporter

Eleven Jr. Bills participated in the third Christian Interscholastic League speech meet of the year held here at St. Louis U. High last Sunday, Jan. 30. The Cicerobills competed against 16 other area Christian schools, including Rosati-Kain, Nerinx Hall, and St. Francis Borgia. The speech team brought home a total of eight blue and five red ribbons.

Seniors Marty Wilhelm, Paul Barker, and Kevin Boehm all earned two blue ribbons in separate categories: Wilhelm for original oratory and storytelling, Barker for extemporaneous speaking and duet (with partner Boehm), and Boehm for prose and duet.

SLUH senior Greg Fox received a blue ribbon for extemporaneous speaking, and juniors Cory Meyer and Eddie Szewczyk earned a blue ribbon each, Meyer for prose reading and Szewczyk for radio broadcasting.

Senior Jack Buthod earned a red ribbon for humorous/serious interpretation, junior Matt Walsh and sophomore Tim Nesmith both earned red ribbons for poetry reading, junior Jack Cunningham was awarded a red ribbon for storytelling, and junior Tom Vordtriede earned a red

ribbon for original oratory.

Each speech meet consists of two rounds. The orator is judged on a scale of 1 to 25, and, within each room, he or she is assigned a ranking ranging from one to five. The combined scores from both rounds are added together, and the total decides whether or not the participant receives a red or blue ribbon.

Along with individual scores, the overall team gains points throughout the series of speech meets. The school earns one point automatically for each participant, and the team is granted points based on the rankings of their team members. If a student is ranked third, second, or first in their rooms, the team receives two, three, or four points, respectively. The team's total points are added together throughout the first three speech meets and affect the team's standings in the league. SLUH's speech team, coached by Kathryn Yarman-Whitaker, is currently in first place in the league and defending its first place victory from last year.

The final meet of the year, scheduled for Feb. 27 at Incarnate Word, includes the top seven participants in each category based on their total points throughout the first three meets. SLUH has qualified students in every category except poetry. The final speech meet consists of only one

round of competition with three judges in each room. No coach is allowed to judge her own students, so the only category Whitaker will be able to judge is poetry reading. The scores earned at the final speech meet for the team are added to the scores from the first three meets, and the total score determines the winning teams for the year.

Barker and Boehm, who have performed a scene from *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* for their duet acting, currently are the leading duet team and they have the most points out of all the duet teams from the other schools. They enter the final speech meet as the favorites in their category. Barker said of the accomplishment, "Flattering. It was really surprising to know after the first three meets. Even getting a perfect score at the last one was amazing. We put so much intense work into that scene with Mrs. Whitaker, so to know other people outside the SLUH community think it's good is nice."

"We would like to defend our title, and we definitely have the ability to do that," said Whitaker. "Just like art, it is subjective, so anything could happen."

Lockers replaced in junior hall

Sean Kickham, Austin Klages
Reporters

Sophomores with lockers in the southeast corridor of the junior hallway came back from their post-exam break to a delightful surprise: 20 freshly-installed shiny and new lockers.

The lockers were purchased to replace smaller lockers that were "falling apart," according to sophomore Dominic Zanaboni. As a result of the lockers' small size, students were forced to leave their books, backpacks, and coats on the ground, often creating a mess.

Last fall, Assistant Principal for Student Affairs H. Eric Clark approached

Facilities Manager Patrick Zarrick requesting the purchase of the new lockers. Zarrick complied and ordered the lockers through H & G Sales, Inc. for about \$3,000.

The old lockers have been moved into the basement and currently sit in the storage room across from Scott Gilbert, R.N.'s office, unused.

Sophomore Andrew Winkler is excited about his new locker, saying, "I feel great! ... For the first time my book bag fits in my locker. ... I think we deserve (the new lockers.)"

Fellow sophomore Nick Wilhelm chimed in, saying the new lockers are "a nice upgrade."

Announcements

Foosball Tournament

Tuesday, February 15, 2005.

Entry is \$5 per team and the tournament starts at 12:50 p.m. sharp!

To sign up or if there are any questions, contact Mr. John Legens in the Advancement Office or see junior Niall Kelleher.

Father-Son Rec Night

Monday, Feb. 21, 2005, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Snacks and drinks provided.

Don't miss this opportunity to spend a "guys' night out" with your sons! For additional information, contact Mark Wilhelm at 314-576-2977.

SENIOR PROJECT REFLECTION

“La fe en acciones amor, y amor en acciones servicio”*

Sean Powers
Core Staff

San Pedro Sula, Honduras. I hadn't even known it existed until I saw it typed on my boarding pass in December. Then, after flying all morning from St. Louis, I found myself landing on a 747 there. It was December 28 and I had just left my family, friends, home, girlfriend, American culture, and the English language. I traveled farther away from home than ever before to spend a month in Honduras for my Senior Project. I vividly remember the obvious question—what in the world was I thinking to come here?—repeating through my head as I heard everyone conversing in rapid Spanish and saw the soldiers with automatic weapons lingering outside the airport.

After about a three-hour ride in a cramped van with six other “gringos” and five Hondurans, we made it to Yoro, the town which was to become my home for the next month. Yoro, to any Honduran, was a major city. To us Americans, it was more like Smalltown, USA.

There were a total of two paved roads and one stop signal in Yoro. Horses and oxen still meandered down the dirt streets next to mountain bikes and beat-up Toyota trucks. Houses, businesses, shops, and factories squeezed next to each other, all fighting for any prime retail spot down every city block. Coke and Pepsi signs plastered the walls of practically every building. At any time of the day, people of all ages seemed to be sitting on a stump or rock on a street corner simply watching people go by. I wondered to myself, when do these people ever work?

Our mission was to spend four weeks in Yoro working with malnourished children in the St. Ives Center, commonly referred to as El Centro San Yives. While we were at the center, anywhere from 14 to 17 kids populated the building, all there because of malnourishment, usually from their previous poor family life. In the States, I had seen those commercials asking for money to missions for poor kids with swollen bellies, but I had never before seen them in real life. I had never before touched a child with one. To me, they were not even real, just another product of the television.

Along with being malnourished, all these kids were also physically, socially, and mentally underdeveloped from a previ-

ous lack of a proper diet and social interaction. Three-year-olds couldn't talk, and 18-month-olds couldn't walk. That's not normal for any child. This was not going to be as nice a vacation as I thought.

When we arrived the first day, most all the kids were sitting on big straw mats, neither playing nor really interacting with each other. Of the original sixteen, I recall four coming over to greet us. The rest of the kids weren't too shy to come over; we just meant nothing to them. To them we were nothing. But by the first few days the kids began to see we were there to stay. Each day got a little louder with more laughs, and each morning they would grab onto our knees ready to play, saying, “A mi!” which is like saying in English, “Me next! Me next!”

I remember our advisor, Mr. Charlie Merriott, saying before

we left that we each were going to get attached to a kid. I never thought Efran would be that kid for me. As I said, most of the kids, excited to play, grabbed on when we came in the main room. Efran was not one of those kids. He simply sat on the mat with his bloated belly, a big bed sore on his right ear, a congested chest, a humongous “outy” belly button, and a seemingly constant frown. He would watch as all the other kids crawled and walked away from next to him to next to us. Honestly, I was intimidated by the weak, motionless, sick two-year-old boy. Seeing him sit there staring into nothingness, my heart went out to him more than any other. I wanted to see him crawl, smile, interact, simply develop. I made it my own personal project to interact with and hold him so I could see any type of development.

It was a lot easier idea in my mind. When I first started trying to interact with Efran, it was like playing with a brick wall. I got no response besides cries. After the first two days with him I began questioning if he even knew he was getting some caregiver's full attention, something any other kid would love to have.

The third day with Efran was a sunny, warm day, so I brought him out to the patio. I laid down to prepare for my daily nap and plopped him onto my stomach. Efran, rising and falling with my breath, all of a sudden cracked a smile!

I still don't even know why he smiled. It seemed almost too simple to crack a smile just sitting there. I was so proud and

see YORO, 11



Powers holds Efran during his afternoon nap

PREP NEWS VOL. 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, lay-

out, 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*.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Volume LXIX *Prep News* editorial section serves the purpose of being the vehicle of 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 the 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; they will also strive to offer solutions if the focus of the editorial is a problem.

Either in response to anything in the editorial section or simply in an effort to express one's opinion about a SLUH-related topic, 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 the letters must be signed, but the author's name may be withheld from publication by request.

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 may be given to any *Prep News* editor or moderator. In addition, they 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.

SENIOR PROJECT REFLECTIONS

The *Prep News* is soliciting seniors' stories from their Senior Project. Senior Project Reflections will be printed for the next few weeks. Seniors who travelled or who had particularly interesting or moving experiences are strongly encouraged to speak to a *Prep News* editor or moderator to submit a reflection.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE LOCASTRO



February 4, 2005

Skiptomaloubills fall to Jeff City, scorch Gateway

Henry Samson
Reporter

The Jefferson City Jays traveled across Missouri to the heart of St. Louis to face the Jr. Billikens last Friday. Both teams boasted a quick-strike offense with an emphasis on movement and shooting. But in this battle of the bomb (24 three pointers were attempted), the Jays proved to be the stronger team. They routed the Jr. Billikens by 16 points, 60-44.

From the opening tip, both teams established their own fast-paced style of play; 15 of the total 22 points in the first quarter were scored in transition, and the momentum shifted back and forth as both teams had numerous fast breaks and drives. A Jeff City three-pointer put the Jays ahead 13-9 at the end of the first quarter.

Although junior Tim Garvey scored in the first ten seconds of the second quarter on a quick strike, Jeff City countered with a pair of treys to silence any hope of a momentum shift. SLUH began to play sloppily on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. SLUH had

only scored 19 points by halftime.

Though down by eight, the Jr. Billikens had been in this situation before, having pulled themselves back from a 15-point deficit against Glenwood earlier this year. The Jr. Bills looked as if they were about to do the same as senior John Warner emphatically began the second half with a two-handed slam.

But again the Jr. Bills' defense started to deteriorate, and Jeff City began to cut around and through SLUH's half-court defense. There was not much the Jr. Bills could do for the remainder of the game, and they closed the night with a 60-44 loss.

Although the defense faltered, and the free throws left a little to be desired, basketball fan Dan Burghoff remarked, "Warner was the best tonight." Warner indeed had a stellar performance, churning out a season-high 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Eager to forget the loss to Jeff City, SLUH crossed the street to Gateway Tech Tuesday night with renewed energy.

The Jr. Bills meant business from the

first whistle. Jumping out to an early 7-2 lead that resulted in a Jaguars timeout, SLUH's ball movement and hustle outmatched their previous performance immensely.

On defense, the Jr. Bills isolated Gateway Tech's point guard at the top of the key, sometimes even at midcourt, while senior magician Dave Goettlemann threw no look passes that got even the Gateway crowd to cheer in disbelief.

"Those passes were sick," senior Charlie Samson said from the sideline.

Play evened out for the rest of the first half, but every time Gateway pulled the score close, SLUH came up with a steal or forced a turnover to send play in the other direction. By halftime the Jr. Bills rested on top by five, 30-25.

Junior Pete Cooney set the stage for an impressive second half by opening the third quarter with back to back three pointers to extend the Jr. Bills' lead to 11 points. Cooney exploded in the third quarter, providing 10 of the Jr. Bills' 19 points to accompany their tight defense.

see **HOTSAUCE**, 8

Sharkbills look to place high in MCC tourney

SLUH puts three swimmers in nearly every event

Kevin O'Neill
Reporter

The past week has been a busy one for the St. Louis U. High swimming and diving team. On Saturday, the Speedobills had both the junior varsity MCC championship meet in the morning and a varsity tri-meet against Parkway South and MICDS that evening.

Many Speedobills woke up early on Saturday morning to swim in the JV MCC championship meet at Chaminade, then travelled to the St. Peters Rec Plex to participate in the tri-meet. Unfortunately, the Speedobills were unable to come away with a victory in either of these meets.

For the third consecutive year, SLUH finished second in the JV MCC championship meet behind Chaminade. The Speedobills and Red Devils traded the

lead multiple times throughout the course of the meet, but in the end, the Red Devils finished ahead of the Jr. Bills, victorious by twenty points.

Despite the loss, the future looks good for the JV Speedobills. Sophomore Paul Merrill shattered senior Andrew Schaeperkoetter's meet record of 1:14.33 in the 100-yard breaststroke by finishing with a time of 1:11.25.

In addition to this new record, nearly every Speedobill swimmer dropped substantial amounts of time in their races. "It was good to see everyone improve during the season," commented Merrill.

Later that day, the Speedobills competed against Parkway South and MICDS. This meet ended in a loss for the Speedobills as they finished with 70 points, compared to MICDS' score of 77 and Parkway South's 90. During this meet, U.

High swimmers placed first in only two events, the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke.

The Speedobills' low score can be attributed to the unusual lineup, in which seniors who did not compete in the varsity MCC championships this past Wednesday and will not compete tonight were granted one last race. Many rookie senior swimmers shaved all the hair off their bodies, hoping to swim as fast as possible in their last competitive race. Senior Jack Horgan made a unique statement, shaving his entire head except for his sideburns.

Seniors Brian Lovinguth, Andy Kriegshauer, Andrew Petty, Kevin Mooney, and Kyle Ortmann also had strong finishes to their season.

In the third meet of the week, the Speedobills took on conference foes

see **STATING**, 8

Riverotterbills fall to CB, defeat Summit, Althoff *Jesuit Cup against DeSmet Saturday night*

John Pecher
Reporter

On Jan. 21, the St. Louis U. High Icebills hoped for their first win in over five games as they faced off against CBC. Despite having tied three teams, two of them in the top ten, the Jr. Bills' chances looked grim as they took on the defending state champs.

However, the Busiebills gave the Cadets a run for their money. In the first period, senior captain Larry Howe scored to give the Jr. Bills the early lead. By the end of the period, however, the Cadets had rebounded to tie the game at one.

A hard-fought second period, which consisted of another Jr. Bills goal by senior Tom DiFranco and yet another quick response by CBC, would again leave the game tied, but with the momentum on SLUH's side. They hoped to hand CBC their first loss in over two years.

However, because of a Mid States rule, the ice had to be cleaned in between periods, which may have changed the tempo of the game. Although the Jr. Bills battled relentlessly throughout the third, a power play goal by the Cadets put them up 3-2. CBC slid a fourth goal past the outstretched leg of senior goalie John Pecher to seal the victory. Pecher, despite the loss, saved an impressive 32 of the 36 shots he faced.

Howe described the team's performance as "the best we've played all year. We really came together as a team."

Regardless of the loss, the Puckbills tried to carry the energy into the ensuing game last Monday against Althoff. What was supposed to be an easy win turned out to challenge the team more than they had thought. SLUH outshot Althoff 35-16 but only won by a score of 6-5. The win moved the Jr. Bills to third in the Metro Conference, with a league record of 4-4-1.

On Saturday, the Icebills sought to

capture a non-division, yet key victory against Rockwood Summit. The game proved to be a bit easier than the Althoff matchup, and the Jr. Bills crushed the Falcons, 12-2. Freshman goalie Alex Effinger made a notable varsity debut, saving 13 of the 15 shots he faced.

On the offensive side, SLUH scoring came from just about every line. Howe, junior Clint Mohs, and sophomore Chris Place each contributed two goals. Junior defensemen Austin Fitzgerald and Steve Beck also scored their first goals of the season.

The two-game winning streak brings the Icebills to their last two games of the season. They will take on St. Charles West at the St. Peter's Rec Plex tonight at 9:45 p.m. Their last game, and possibly the biggest of the season, will be tomorrow as they take on DeSmet in the 31st annual Jesuit Cup. The game starts at 8:15 p.m. at the Affton rink.

Racquetbills win Hendren Invite, fall to CBC

Eric Durban
Reporter

The final weeks of the racquetball season usually prove to be the most treacherous. The Racquetbills were sitting pretty after their victory in the annual Hendren Invitational, but lightning struck in the form of CBC, and the Jr. Bills disappointingly fell to the rival Cadets.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the JPKbills traveled to their stomping grounds out at Vetta Sports-Concord to compete in the 19th Hendren Invitational, named after Parkway Central's longtime racquetball coach, Gary Hendren.

Before faltering to DeSmet last year, the Jr. Bills had won the tournament seven years in a row.

Yearning to bask again in the glow of a Hendren championship, the Teachbills came into the competition hungry and prevailed with a total of 22 points, one point ahead of DeSmet.

In this round-robin style tournament where players played between three and five games, the Bouncyballbills only lost three matches. With each win garnering one point, the Jr. Bills finished the day with a 22-3 record, as six of their eight players went undefeated.

Although the Pennbills enjoyed their victory, they were disappointed by the absence of their toughest competition, the CBC Cadets, who for some unknown reason didn't compete in the tournament.

"It was an exciting tournament (that came) down to the last matches," said head coach Joe Koestner. "It was just unfortunate that CBC couldn't compete, which would have made the competition tougher and prepared us more for our upcoming match (against CBC)."

Coming off a win at the Hendren Invitational, the Jr. Bills squared off against CBC on Jan. 27. Lacking the sense of urgency and competitive fire needed to defeat their top opponent, the Jr. Bills fell 5-2 to a quality CBC team.

"We came in ready to play an ordinary match, and CBC came out with nothing to lose, catching us off guard," commented Koestner on his team's lack of intensity.

Before the match even started, the Jr. Bills were in a hole. Senior No. 1 seed Ryan Franklin was sidelined with a knee injury and had to forfeit his match. His early loss proved to be a pattern, as four of the first five matches went to the Cadets. In almost every match, the Pinchbills were out-hustled by CBC, who consistently hit clutch shots.

If it weren't for a win by senior No. 5 seed Eric Durban, 15-6, 11-15, 11-3, the JPKbills could have been faced with a shutout.

Although the match was already in the hands of the opponent, senior No. 2 seed Pat Corcoran came into his match playing well. Although the scores don't necessarily show it, Corcoran dominated his difficult opponent on the way to a 15-

see RACK-IT, 8

JV Grapplebills take second in MCC

Varsity to compete in sectionals next week

Jesse Zacher
Reporter

The JV wrestlers participated in their final competition of the season last Saturday, the MCC Championships at CBC. SLUH wrestlers from all weight classes were present except for the 103 lb. class.

SLUH's pinning action began with sophomore Phil Patton (112 lbs.). He had a 4-0 record on the day. Patton pinned three of his opponents, each in the first period, and had a bye to notch his fourth win, taking first in the tourney.

Sophomore Rich Darragh (119 lbs.) finished the tournament at 2-2, yet won his last match of the season 2-0 over Matt Francis of Chaminade, sealing off his second year of wrestling with a fist pump.

Junior Joey Kister (145 lbs.) also performed great at his final tournament of the year by notching a 3-1 record. Kister tore it up in his last match against Tim

Farley of CBC with a quick takedown. Kister chose to be on the bottom to start the second period and reversed Farley right into a pin.

Sophomore Tim Metcalf (152 lbs.) had a perfect 4-0 record in the tournament. Coming off a pin over Tim Winkler of CBC in the fourth round, Metcalf dominated Kevin Menuk of Chaminade, winning by 8-3.

Sophomore Jared Ford (160 lbs.) won the tournament with a 4-0 record as well, pinning three opponents. Ford annihilated Clayton Costello of Chaminade with a tight-gripped pin 1:52 into his last match, and had a bye in the final round to seal the deal.

Sophomore Andrew Austermann (171 lbs.) ended his extraordinary season with wins over all of his opponents from the MCC. He added another great tournament performance to his resume after winning 5-1 over Brad Sturm of CBC.

Sophomore Niko Mafuli (275 lbs.)

finally got into his pinning style. He smothered all of his opponents for a 4-0 record on the day. He ended his season with the loud boom of CBC's Brian Trigg's back hitting the mat, pinning Trigg in twelve seconds.

The team scored enough points in rounds two and three to keep close behind Chaminade throughout the day. The Jr. Bills had many pins on the day to keep their score up. Sophomore Drew Lucido (189 lbs.) and junior Chris Bushmeyer (215 lbs.) ended the day with 2-2 records, and each had pins which came in the huge second round for the Jr. Bills. But in the end, SLUH took second to Chaminade at the MCC tournament.

The varsity squad sees playoff action at the sectional tournament next Friday and Saturday, Feb. 11 and 12. Then it's on to state at the Hearnes Center. Look for SLUH to send at least six wrestlers to Columbia.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

PHOTO BY TIM HUETHER



Senior TE/LB Matt Herzberg (left) committed to play college football with Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co. during Activity Period on Wednesday, national signing day. In a small ceremony in the team meeting room, around 60 seniors, football coaches Gary Kornfeld, Rob Chura, and Mark Tychoneivich, and Herzberg's parents Matt and Laura, were on hand to watch Herzberg sign.

"I really loved the coaching staff (at Air Force). I went to a camp over the summer, and I really liked the way they ran things. ... I've always wanted to fly," Herzberg said.

Herzberg does not expect to play next year, while he will still be learning Air Force's system, but hopes to play by his sophomore year.

Last season, Herzberg had 2 rushes for 2 yards and 6 catches for 55 yards and 1 touchdown. On defense, Herzberg had 33 solo tackles and 28 assists, and two fumble recoveries.

Also signing on Wednesday were soccer players Brent Zang and Tim Weir, and QB Matt Behr. The three signed with DePaul, Northwestern, and Drake, respectively.

Water polo standout Tim Heafner has not committed to a college yet, but is still considering many schools, including Fordham, Iona, Santa Clara, and Loyola Marymount.

—Compiled by Tim Huether

STATING

(from 5)

Vianney, CBC, DeSmet, and Chaminade at the varsity MCC championships, which consist of two days of competition. The preliminary round occurred on Wednesday and the final round will take place today.

To make it into the final heats today, a swimmer must place in the top 12 during the preliminary round. After the preliminary heats on Wednesday, seniors Tim Heafner and Adam Trafton are seeded first and second, respectively, in the 100-yard freestyle. Junior Wes Going is seeded first in both the 100-yard backstroke and the 200-yard individual medley. In the 100-yard butterfly, the third seed belongs to sophomore Jake Roeckle. The Speedobills will be represented by at least three swimmers in nearly every event for the final heats.

"We swam well, but we only swam to earn places for Friday, when it really counts," said Trafton.

Come out to support the U. High swimming and diving team and view some exciting swimming. The finals, located at Chaminade, begin at 4 p.m. today.

HOTSAUCE

(from 5)

SLUH broke the score open to a 49-35 lead at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

Gateway crept back to within eight points with two minutes left in the game, but their foul trouble hurt them in the final two minutes. Enjoying the perks of a double bonus situation, SLUH was complete ice on the foul line. The U. High Hardwoodbills sunk 15 free throws in the fourth quarter alone to stick a knife in the heart of any Gateway comeback. SLUH improved their record to 11-9 with the 69-55 win.

Tonight it's payback time, as the CBC Cadets invade SLUH's home court at 7 p.m., bent on repeating the teams' last meeting.

"CBC is a must win," said a stern Dan Henry before practice Wednesday. As always, expect a hectic atmosphere and a non-stop bout. Please come and support the team tonight at 7 p.m.

RACK-IT

(from 6)

11, 15-8 victory. With their second win of the day, the Splatbills drew a little closer to the Cadets and salvaged some form of reassurance in their two victories. The loss, however, left the club feeling extremely disappointed but fired up for the approaching state tournament, where they can get another crack at CBC.

Combining the CBC victories with a heated rivalry developed another unfortunate side effect, trash-talking. In almost every match, tempers flared at one point or another. Words were exchanged before and after matches, as well as an uncalled-for threat of a fight by one CBC player.

"From what I saw, I was less than pleased at what went on," senior No. 4 seed Joe Lorenz said.

"As much as I'd like to say that CBC caused all the trouble," commented senior No. 2 seed Pat Corcoran, "the Jr.Bills also didn't handle the situation very well."

As a result of the loss, the Rolloutbills will likely finish the season with a 9-1 record, identical to CBC. However, CBC won more individual games in the two season matches and therefore will win the league championship.

Frustrated over their loss to CBC the previous week, the JPKbills came out on Feb. 1 against the Parkway West Longhorns with renewed determination. The team realized that their intensity must never falter or a state championship could fall by the wayside, and showed some of that fire by shutting out the Longhorns, 7-0.

Coming off a loss against CBC, junior No. 3 seed Justin Langan got his game back on track with a quick 15-7, 15-3 victory. Every Jr. Bill won in straight games; however, many players started to tire physically in their second games and allowed a few too many points.

Endurance is something that Koestner addressed after the match, "We can't mess around in our matches, because we are going to need to have energy all the way till the end of the day (at the state tournament)."

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"FAVORITE REVOLUTIONS/ REVOLUTIONARIES" CREDITS

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Of microbes and men: SLUH germs

Kyle Kloster
Core Staff

A month ago, I read a CNN article that asked the weird question “Is your desk making you sick?” According to the article, offices are the furtive spawning pools of the pestering creepy-crawlies we call germs. Desks, doorknobs, phones, and keyboards that people constantly touch serve as stomping grounds and mating beds for billions of body-invaders like streptococcus, the strep throat germ.

As an average teenager—oblivious to health hazards, too lazy to wash my hands, and too health-unconscious to worry—I turned my runny nose up at the article. But, as a *Prep News* member who constantly touches keyboards and phones in an unkempt office, and as a student who rubs his hands on desks, doorknobs, and lockers 35 hours a week, the news struck me with its mind-boggling numbers—21,000 germs on one square inch of a desktop.

“Places with a lot of people breed a lot of germs,” I thought. “The more people, the more germs, and the more germs the more illness,” I subconsciously concluded. Then, I had another chilling thought: St. Louis U. High is a place with a lot of people, some of whom are like me. After recalling that I hadn’t washed my hands well for several days, I thought, “This could be bad news.”

What could the bacteria population in a germ-metropolis like this amount to? This question led me to the science office, and I enlisted biology teacher Steve Kuensting’s mind for help in counting our microscopic classmates.

Kuensting was very willing and interested in the idea and ordered a set of nutrient agar (a medium researchers use to nourish and cultivate microbes) and petri dishes (the containers that scientists grow bacteria in). After preparing the agar inside the dishes for swabbing (collecting dust and grime from test subjects) and briefing me and a few friends helping out with the experiment, Kuensting sent me off to find our school’s dirty truth.

The swab squad used a standardized procedure Kuensting had outlined. For each test, we would wipe a sterile Q-tip across a predetermined amount of surface area from the test subject. Next, the swabber would rub off the Q-tip’s gunk into the petri dish using a preset number of strokes. After our Q-tip-wielding troop finished collecting, Kuensting placed the 40 dishes in the science department’s incubator, set at human body temperature, to grow overnight. The next day I counted and calculated to produce some pretty alarming statistics as well as some amusing fun facts.

Counting things you can’t see presents obstacles, and the hazardous nature of bacteria prevented me from even opening the dishes. So I measured the surface area covered and divided by the average size of a bacterium—half a square micron, according to Kuensting. A micron equals one two-millionth of a square millimeter, meaning for every one square centimeter I counted,

200 million separate beings lay in waiting, each with the ability to reproduce an equal number of germs in little more than half a day (in the perfect circumstances—on a human host or its temperature and nutrient equivalent). I began to hallucinate; oogles upon oogles of dust mites slithered from knobs and nooks into my body and destroyed me. However, luckily for us all, bacteria cannot move, except when humans transfer them.

Obviously, I wanted to know what was the dirtiest place in all of SLUH, a building stewing with 1,200 bodies excreting and rubbing surfaces more than eight hours a day.

You won’t be surprised either—a randomly selected doorknob in sophomore hall, English teacher Patricia Coldren’s classroom M201, scored more than triple the runner-up’s germ total with 22 billion microbeasts in its petri dish.

Other scary statistics: a random student desk generated a second-place crop of 7.2 billion infectoids, and the *Prep News* office floor fell in third with 6.2 billion bacteria. The floor of the locker room showers tallied around 4 billion pathogens, and the change return slot on a cafeteria vending machine totaled almost 5 billion bacteria.

A SLUH toilet seat, in conflict with the CNN report’s finding that toilets held very few germs, yielded 1.1 billion plagueings, and, to my dismay, the activation button on the brand-new hand sanitizers clocked in at 1.15 billion minibugs.

After viewing all the data, I lamented that fact that not all swabs picked up enough or transmitted enough bacteria to give even a relatively accurate number. Several test sites registered zero visible bacteria, which is good news for the doorknobs of the math department, English department, foreign language department, and a random *Prep News* stapler.

The swabs that functioned correctly, however, continued to make me cringe; the history and theology office doorknobs propagated 2.7 and 2.5 billion mini-conquerors and microheretics.

In a highly anticipated but disputed swab, English teacher Tim Curdt’s laptop exceeded fellow teacher Steve Missey’s laptop by 50 million creepers.

A billion is a large number, I thought, a scary number in this context, so I went to Kuensting again to find some meaning in the numbers.

“How many Plaguebills would it take to get to the center of a human?” I asked Kuensting, who was accompanied by fellow science teacher Dan Shelburne. According to Kuensting, depending on the strain of bacteria, a few hundred to a few thousand could put anyone in bed, and a few rare strains could infect a human with a single bacterium. I recalled David and Goliath as I tried to fathom the potency of these minute things.

I had calculated the number of microbes that grew in ideal conditions overnight, so I asked Kuensting, “About how many

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bacteria did the patches of film in the petri dishes come from?"

Bacteria reproduce, he explained, by division, and one division takes approximately half an hour. So, in the approximately 13 hours the dishes were in the bacteria, around 330 germs doubled and doubled again and again, eventually producing 22 billion friends.

At first I scoffed at that original number—I knew I could handle just 330 boogie men. Then I calculated the germ density of the swab area—that is, the number of creatures in one square centimeter of surface, and found that we had picked those 330 bacteria off of five square centimeters—that means 66 germs in one square centimeter, and probably 4000 bacteria on one doorknob alone. I joined Kuensting and Shelburne in their infectious giggling at the ironic and inescapable multitude of the germs.

"People aren't gonna want to come to school after they read this," Kuensting predicted joyously.

Keep in mind that these numbers are all very approximate and that the whole experiment comes from the organization, execution, and calculation of a 17-year-old as fallible as you *and* with a medical background as vast as one year of high school biology. That said, I estimate, with no authority whatsoever, that the numbers I pose are at least 15% off, if not 30%.

I had the numbers figured out, but I needed qualitative explanation now, and returned to the experts. Kuensting gleefully discussed the gross and astounding truth about cooties.

"Most vomiting and diarrhea," Kuensting began, "are caused by fecal-oral transfer."

Shelburne chimed in, "Some weirdo who does whatever he does in the bathroom, doesn't feel like washing his hands, leaves the bathroom—he touches the doorknob. You could wash your hands real well, but you're not getting out of the bathroom without touching that thing."

Kuensting further soiled the conversation and my ideas about anything public saying, "Just one gram of human feces contains one billion bacteria. And all it takes is a smudge," he finished, grinning slyly.

The information established that germs are everywhere, but what effects can these numbers have on a student body in the crux of cold season? During the second and third quarters from the 2003-2004 school year, SLUH students collectively missed 1840

days of school. In the first and fourth quarters, the student body sat out for only 1514 days.

At Lafayette High School, which, as a public school, keeps meticulous records of student attendance as required by law, in the winter months an average student attends only 94.2% of school days. In September, however, an average student attended 96.3% of school days. Although sickness doesn't cause all absences, the substantial difference between seasonal absences points to bacteria's definite role in keeping students out of the classroom.

Not really believing in the possibility of cleanliness anymore, I asked the germ gurus, "What can you even do to avoid this stuff?"

Kuensting adopted a slightly more serious expression and nodded deliberately, emphasizing his words: "Wash your hands."

Shelburne interjected, "And be dead."

A Shelburne and Kuensting tag team then explained that you should wash your hands vigorously for at least thirty seconds if you want to disinfect your hands, adding that, if you don't dig under your fingernails, you're not really helping anything.

SLUH health teacher and nurse Scott Gilbert offered his own advice: "The best way to combat (bacteria is to) wash your hands. That is the number one line of defense in fighting

(germs). That's why we got those hand sanitizers installed."

Gilbert also speculated that he's seen a record low number of sick boys in his office complaining about a flu or sick stomach this year, and suggested that the sanitizers, possibly, have helped significantly. He added that, if you're too lazy to wash your hands but want to stay healthy, keep your hands and fingers away from your face and eyes.

Looking at the gross information and helpful advice I had accumulated, I realized that people have spoken out about things like this before, but hand washing still lacks a devoted following. Sadly, I understood that a hygiene reformation has little chance in this cold, dreary world where freeloading bacteria can suck a body dry and go unprimanded, and that leaders of sanitation reformation, like Gilbert, Kuensting, and Shelburne, go unappreciated.

Do remember Shelburne's words though; if you're a weirdo who does what he does in the bathroom, and opens doors without washing your hands first, you're just ruining it for the rest of the God-fearing, Christian, hand-washing population.



Mr. Germ finds a new home at SLUH.

YORO

(from 3)

excited for him and relieved to see all my efforts weren't for nothing. It was a start. All the kids' smiles made us incredibly happy, but to see a rare smile from a usually apathetic kid was somehow even more rewarding.

Efran and I were on a roll for a few days. I figured out that "motherly touch," and figured out once I picked him up there was no way I could put him back down without him screaming. He still wasn't the happiest kid there like Lita, Alanzo, or Javier, but he seemed to enjoy life a little bit more: smiling on the mats when I came in each morning; crawling around to play with the blocks; covering his eyes for a small game of "peek-a-boo."

About two weeks into the trip I came down with the flu. I missed a day at the center and sat in bed all day wishing my headache would go away. That same day, Efran was put on a nebulizer to relieve his congestion. It was the beginning of some amazing physical progress, much more rapid than before.

I went back the next day and saw a

BRAND

(from 1)

knows that it happened after October and is almost sure that the recent burn was inflicted in the last two weeks.

Stewart remarked that Chik was filled with "furious rage and anger" at the act, and that he himself finds the "complete lunacy appalling...(why) somebody would be that stupid is beyond me." Both Chik and Stewart noted the potential danger of the act, and Stewart emphasized that the building's old wiring and walls create a great fire hazard.

"It shows a lack of respect for the building, the people in it, (and) the 187 year tradition (of St. Louis U. High)," Stewart commented.

Though Chik and Stewart have received several anonymous tips as to who committed the act, they have not "sought confirmation" of any lead, said Stewart.

new Efran. The bed sore on his ear was rapidly shrinking, I didn't hear even one of his congested coughs, he was smiling, and he crawled over from the mat to come and greet me, something he had never done before.

My relationship with him changed. While I wanted to hold him and show him how proud I was of him to be on his own, it didn't feel right to pick him up because I wanted to see him keep crawling around and exploring on his own. All the light was on him, not me. I knew his own physical activity was way more valuable than holding him. Then I realized that even though I wanted to know that my efforts were worthwhile, I would much rather give that up to have these kids develop into healthy kids and lead happy lives.

Part of the project is to love them, but sadly, part of it is also to let go. In a few days I would be gone from Honduras, out of their lives. What I got out of this experience is nowhere as important as their continuous growth. I was so incredibly humbled to be part of that child's growth

and development. Whatever it was that I previously wanted out of this project—mainly to figure out how blessed of a life I lead and what I could give to others—meant nothing to me anymore. To see Efran and other kids conquer their developmental problems was more than enough to receive. I quickly became third place in my eyes behind God and others. But even so, I saw so much peace and joy from the kids' actions and looks.

I never thought that would happen; that I could see so much joy from even the bitterest child. That's because when I first arrived in Yoro I couldn't see how so many people could be so happy with so little. It took living with a family and sharing my time with these malnourished kids for a month to see that happiness is universal, that love is love, even where there isn't air conditioning, purified water, Cadillacs, or the internet. Joy, happiness, and peace are simple human emotions. For a month I found those simple emotions in seventeen malnourished, underdeveloped kids whom I had no relation to before in my life. What an experience.

PIC OF THE WEEK

PHOTO BY SEAN POWERS



An industrial crew works on what used to be a warehouse on Berthold Ave. The crew cleared the warehouse in January in preparation for SLUH's Vision 2000 expansion plan.

by Andrew Mueth

Calendar

Feb. 4-Feb. 11

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Schedule R
 IM BB Fresh vs. Faculty
 Symphonic Band Field trip
 V/B BB vs. CBC 5:30/7 p.m.
 V SW MCC Championships @
 Chaminade
 Pretzels, Chicken Strips, BBQ Sandwich

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Schedule R
 Senior Project Reports Due
 IM Bombardment
 Ambassadors Meeting
 SAC Meeting 7 p.m.
 Seasoned Fries, Pizza

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Schedule L
 Mothers Club Faculty Breakfast
 Young Republicans
 Founders Reception 6 p.m.
 Fiesta, Taco Salad

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Schedule M
 Formal Attire
 Ash Wednesday Liturgy
 Cheese Pizza, Meatless Spaghetti, Fish
 Nuggets

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Schedule R
 Fr. Eng Tutorial

Fac/Staff Mix-it-Up Luncheon
 IM Bombardment
 Rosary in Chapel
 Cheese Garlic Bread, Lasagna, Bread
 Sticks

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Schedule R
 Fast Friday
 IM BB Juniors vs. Faculty
 NHS Meeting
 V/B BB @ DeSmet, 5:30/7 p.m.
 V SW @ State Mix, Rec Plex
 V WR Sectionals
 Bosco Sticks, Cheese Papa Johns

FORUM

(from 1)

"We will have it soon," Eggleston said during the meeting, and named a tentative date of March 18, the final day of third quarter exams. The Fall Festival had been cancelled in the fall, and STUCO has decided to hold it despite the impending arrival of spring and the Spring Fling.

Commenting on the timing of the festival, STUCO Vice President Tim Heafner said, "We're going to spring into Fall Festival."

After senior John Castelli pleaded with the present homeroom reps to make sure TVs were tuned into KUHI-TV on Monday mornings, Eggleston raised the subject of improvements to the campus.

Eggleston was concerned about the slope on the east side of the Berthold parking lot, which is very steep and often causes cars with low ground clearance to bottom out at anything above very low speeds.

"I've talked to (facilities director Patrick) Zarrick about that," Eggleston explained.

He further said that he suggested pouring concrete on the trouble spot to make the exit safer and more gradual.

"We're looking to make improvements to the school," Eggleston said after the Forum.

Principal Mary Schenkenberg also attended and then brought up the subject of the travel raffle for the second time in

the meeting. Schenkenberg first questioned whether other schools fail to sell all of their tickets like SLUH, then wondered if other incentives could be offered to boost participation.

"The Mother's Club is responsible ... for the distribution of tickets and the incentives," responded Kesterson. "They work through (STUCO) to get (the tickets) out to the students and then we collect them."

Currently, classes that sell their quota of tickets receive a day off of school. However, Kesterson said that in the past, top-selling students have received free dance tickets and other incentives.

Some students and STUCO members raised the problem that students don't respond to an incentive offered to 250 students. Heafner suggested limiting the day off to specific homerooms which met the quota, but then also cited the problem of students missing classes and teachers having their students absent and still covering material.

During the discussion, students pro-

posed a number of solutions, ranging from the current system to individual days off, but few presented truly feasible solutions. Discussion tapered off after a few minutes and gave way to the final topic of the day: a king and queen of the senior prom.

Heafner proposed the idea, and debate began about how the king and queen would be chosen, which sparked a number of conversations among members of the audience. The meeting ended shortly thereafter.

An estimated fifty students were in attendance for the meeting, most of them STUCO representatives. Throughout the meeting, Eggleston and



STUCO officers lead the Forum yesterday.

STUCO addressed the crowd as representatives. Eggleston commented on the matter, saying, "I don't think many non-homeroom reps come. We try not to focus on homeroom reps ... but it's really hard to get all the homeroom reps in one place together."

"We highly encourage other people to come to the meetings," Eggleston said.