

Prep News



"If nothing else, value the truth"

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— NEWS FEATURE —

Homosexuality at St. Louis U. High

Editor's Note: Though the Prep News prides itself on thorough reporting, it is rare that a writer attempts an undertaking of this scope and that this much space of an issue be devoted to one article. To consider all the factors that lead to the complexity inherent in the topic of homosexuality, Jon Kim has spent the last three weeks compiling this news feature. The final product is quite lengthy, but we believe that it is worth the unusually long time taken to write it and the unusually large space required to print it; we hope you will take the extra time necessary to read it.

Jonathan Kim
Editor

The issue of students with same-sex attraction has recently caused a lot of discussion at St. Louis U. High: this year at the Fall Ball, students brought up the issue publicly by bringing male dates to the dance, and two years ago, a group of graduated seniors created a support group, called the Ally program, for students with different sexual orientations. Although the administration shut down the Ally program, it caused a committee of faculty

to discuss the issue after the end of the program two years ago, and the administration must continue to wrestle with how to deal with same-sex attraction at SLUH and its social events.

So, what exactly is the current administrative policy on formal dances? Currently, according to the Parent-Student Handbook, formal dances are meant "to introduce to the students a more formal, social setting and also to help formulate proper manners and behavior between males and females."

The Handbook further states that "dates are required; however, exceptions are permitted with the permission of the Assistant Principal for Student Affairs." With permission from the Assistant Principal of Student Affairs Eric Clark, a student may go alone to the dance if he does not wish to bring a female date. Under no circumstances may a student bring a same-sex date to a dance. However, if a student does bring a same-sex date, according to Clark, the school will not force the student to leave the dance, and the administration will deal with the issue at a later time.

According to the school's mission statement, SLUH "is a Catholic, Jesuit learning community whose members strive to grow in their personal competence and in their commitment to building Christ's Kingdom of justice, love and peace." Therefore, the school considers Catholic teachings in its administrative policies. According to the Catechism, the genital homosexual act is "intrinsically disordered.... Under no circumstances can

Germanese named Player of the Year

David Mueller
Sports Editor

Last Saturday, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* named senior Joe Germanese its soccer "Player of the Year." One of the captains of this year's soccer team, Germanese led the state championship squad in scoring (31) and assists (17).

"He's a dynamic player," said head coach Charlie Martel.

Despite his success—he trailed only junior Tim Walters of Lafayette in points—Germanese said, "I thought I was in contention (for the award), but I was surprised."

Martel picked only Germanese and John DiRaimondo to be on the varsity team as freshmen in the summer of 2000, making Germanese the only graduate of '04 to play all four years on the St. Louis U. High varsity team.

"Freshman year was a good experi-

ence," Germanese said. However, he admitted, "I didn't play."

Sophomore year Germanese stepped into a starting role with the loss of DiRaimondo to the U.S. Youth 17 national team, Frank Simek to the Arsenal youth program, and Matt Kreikemeier, '03, to a season-ending broken leg. Germanese played well despite his inexperience, scoring 14 goals and assisting on four.

"(Sophomore year) was a transition," Germanese said. "Mr. Martel came to me and said he needed someone to score, and there was a starting position at forward, though I thought I was going to play midfield." Germanese said, "I don't feel like I did that well.... We struggled to score."

Germanese developed his talents in the '02 off-season to become a premier goal scorer his junior year, finishing with

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Fine arts department will perform today

Tom Fontana
Core Staff

During activity period today there will be a mandatory fine arts assembly that Choral Director Joe Koestner called "the performing arts department's Christmas card to the school."

The assembly will include performances by the symphonic band, the jazz band III, the combined choruses, the after-school dance classes, and, as students enter the gym for the performances, the circus club, for an "added touch." However, students should not expect too many traditional performances of holiday favorites. For example, the jazz band will perform a contemporary funk piece entitled "Two Seconds to Midnight," and the symphonic band will perform "Celtic Carol," an Irish celebration of the traditional tune "What Child is This?" that Band Director Bryan Mueller called "Christmas meets Riverdance."

Koestner described the assembly as "a quick, varied program. Each group is performing for about five minutes. So if everybody gets down (to the gym) real

quickly, it won't even take up the whole activity period."

In addition to offering holiday-themed entertainment for students as Christmas draws near, the assembly will serve a second purpose. Today's assembly will be a preview of sorts for this Sunday's winter concert. In the theater on Sunday at 1:00 p.m., the bands will perform and the

make it to either of (the shows on Sunday), they'll have a chance at the assembly on Friday to get an idea of what quality the fine arts are here at SLUH."

Attendance at today's assembly is mandatory. Assistant Principal for Academics Mark Michalski explained that making attendance mandatory had a two-fold purpose: "First of all, (SLUH has) many who participate in our fine arts program. Number one, we want to give them a chance to show the things they've done to the rest of the student body. Number two, I think it's important that we encourage an appreciation of the arts, and one way to do that is to have our students who are actually participating in the arts through our curriculum to present what it is that they do."

Though students have an opportunity to attend the concert on Sunday, Michalski believes

in the necessity of a mandatory assembly. He said, "There are times during the course of the year when we put on different kinds of assemblies for students that are educational, for example, issues dealing with health, welfare, these kinds of things.

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DRAWING BY GREG BERBER

choruses and dancers will follow at 4:00 p.m. Tickets, which are valid for both parts of the show, cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for St. Louis U. High students and recent alumni. Tickets for children of grade-school age and below are free.

Said Koestner, "In case students can't

Two SLUH students make State Band

Brian Krebs
Reporter

Three members of SLUH's band journeyed down Interstate 70 to Hickman High School in Columbia, Missouri and to the All-State Band auditions. The students had to wait for most of the day. About 1,000 students tried out. After one audition with a prepared piece, they waited for call-backs. All who were called back then had to sight read the same new piece, a piece of music that none of the musicians had seen before.

Junior Charles Ullmann won the first tuba chair in districts on Nov. 11th. He competed with 39 tubaists and placed

third, but he will play first chair in the All-State Orchestra. This was his third year participating. Last year, he also won third in state. Of the experience, Ullmann said "It was probably the highlight of my year, thus far."

Last month, junior Paul Florek won first trumpet chair in districts, and on Saturday, he won first chair All-State. He was given the choice of playing in either All-State Band or All-State Orchestra. He chose the orchestra. His reasons are simple: "I always do orchestra. Orchestra is just better. It's more prestigious." Florek says he "looks forward to playing in orchestra next year because of the quality of musicians."

Sophomore Ben Anderson had also won the first chair in districts, playing the tenor saxophone. He accompanied Ullmann and Florek on Saturday, but unfortunately he did not win a chair. However, Anderson reflected positively on his experience, saying, "Besides the waiting, it was pretty exciting. I would encourage anyone who wants to do music to try out...You meet some great people."

Next on the agenda for Florek and Ullmann is a three-day state concert at Tan-Tar-A in the Ozarks early next year.

Band director Bryan Mueller is proud of his students and said, "I'm looking forward to another year working with these students."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gregg encourages SOA discussion

To the Editor:

My fellow classmates and I who went down to the School of Americas (SOA) have recently come across the article entitled "U.S. Army's School of the Americas excels in human rights instruction" that someone has been leaving here and there on the SLUH grounds. This article asserts from today's evidence that the SOA "is not only squeaky clean, and a model of transparency and accountability, but also provides the best human rights instruction for the military in the nation." Some of us have taken somewhat of an interest in this article along with its distributor and are excited to find someone who shares a similar fervor for issues relating to politics (whether we agree with this individual's particular stance or not), especially those concerning foreign policy. Please do not consider this a challenge but rather an invitation to initiate a discussion between this person (along with any constituents he may have) and us.

It is the possibility for a mature and open dialogue between individuals that I feel is one of SLUH's greatest assets. I fear it would be a shame not to take advantage of this opportunity for the free exchange of ideas that would provide students with the opportunity to gain so much more knowledge and perspective on an issue that they may not be familiar with. So we who went down to the SOA implore this person to make himself known to us to allow for the free exchange of knowledge and understanding from both parties.

Sincerely,
David Gregg, '05

Quote of the Week

*"God made man because he loves stories."
—Elie Wiesel*

Gratitude for SLUH service Loyola Academy

To the Editor:

Christmas comes in many shapes and sizes to our youth. For our students at Loyola Academy, Christmas came on Dec. 6, 2003. The day of activities, fellowship, and giving arranged by the students at SLUH's Community Service Program, the SLUH Mothers Club, and the SLUH Alumni Mothers Club, was a great day for our students. It was a day that provided a bond between middle school students and high school students. It was a day that made our boys feel extra special, a characteristic that many of our students do not experience on a regular basis.

Some of the comments from Loyola students about this special day included: "I loved the food!"; "The magic show was great!"; "The gift certificates and wallets were really nice gifts!"; "It was cool hanging out with SLUH kids—they are really neat!"

We are grateful for the continuous support that SLUH students provide for our mission. Your participation in this event is a shining example for our Loyola students that SLUH men live by their motto—"Men for Others."

Thomas M. Nolan
Director, Loyola Academy

St. Mathew's Parish

To the Editor:

I want to thank you and the Fathers Club and to compliment the SLUH students and their dads who came to St. Mathew's Parish the past two Saturdays. The workers were excellent, and their help to us was immense. We now have a new sub-floor and floor in our church sacristy, much to the delight of our parishioners. In addition, the outdoor recreation area which we provide for the neighborhood is clean. Plants there and in front of the church are mulched, the community garden is prepared for winter, leaves are

raked around the church and convent, and many other little jobs are taken care of.

This continues the long and wonderful tradition of collaboration between SLUH and St. Mathew's and once again testifies to the high quality of your students and the families from which they come. Keep up the good work.

Your names are joined to the long list of benefactors of St. Mathew's, for whom we offer Mass each Friday. And please remember that you are always invited to our 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday morning.

God's Peace!
Mark D. McKenzie, S.J., '56

FINE ARTS

(from 2)

"There are times when the administration from time to time decides that we think this is important enough for (students) that we're going to mandate that students go to it. In this case, I think the idea of helping students develop an appreciation of the arts through other students who are involved in the arts (does this)."

Michalski went on to say that he saw the assembly not only as a fun experience, but as an opportunity to honor and commend students who participate in the arts

at SLUH. "I think its a wonderful opportunity for (students) to show the rest of the school the creative things they're involved in. Just like in the (awards) assembly (at the end of the year), what we're doing is recognizing students for the things that they've done in the midst of our curriculum."

Said Mueller, "We appreciate the administration's letting us give a holiday concert and invite everyone to see the rest of the concert on Sunday at 1:00."

FEATURE

(from 3)

(the homosexual act) be approved.” However, “(People who experience the same-sex attraction) must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.”

At the same time, the administration does not want to alienate or isolate students with same-sex attraction, and as a result, the issue of homosexuality, specifically allowing male dates to formal dances, presents a complex administrative problem for SLUH. After discussing the issue of same-sex attraction at SLUH, the administration has chosen to prohibit same-sex dates as a result of meetings during the past two years that have discussed same-sex attraction.

“We have had a committee of faculty who have been meeting about this issue (of same-sex attraction at SLUH) since I first came,” in 2002, said principal Mary Schenkenberg. “We have tried to work very hard to make SLUH a safe place for all of our students, including gay students. We have had, as a result of those meetings, a faculty meeting devoted to this issue where we brought in speakers from the outside and our faculty discussed this issue in small groups.”

Schenkenberg said that the committee “(was) looking at the whole question of how do we, as a Catholic school and a Jesuit school, minister to our students who are having issues of sexual identification. So in that light, we tried to look at ‘As a Catholic school, what are our responsibilities? As a Jesuit school, what are our responsibilities?’ The dance policy is a little piece of that.”

According to Schenkenberg, the committee consulted students and psychologists along with the Catholic Church’s perspective to “think through the issue about what is our responsibility to the Catholic Church, what is our responsibility to our students, what is our responsibility to the Jesuits.” The committee decided that the school needed to raise awareness in the school about students who have same-sex attraction by promoting respectful language in the faculty and students, by ensuring that the counseling department knew how to help parents and students who had questions with their sexuality, by listening to students, and by acquiring books in the library.

Part of the complexity of the issue regarding same-sex dates concerns the purposes of the formal dances in a contemporary social context in a Catholic school. There are different perspectives about what cultural messages couples send when they attend a formal dance.

“It really has to do with what is the philosophy behind

dating,” said theology department chair Allen Boedeker. “If dating is identified as a way of learning to build interpersonal relationships with other human beings on a non-sexual basis, I don’t know if there would be any problem with (same-sex dates). The difficulty is that in our society, dating tends to be geared toward a sexual outcome eventually, whether it’s within or outside of marriage. And if that is the definition that people who engage in dating have for that activity, then we in no way could support (same-sex dating).”

In the context of this cultural attitude, the administration could not allow same-sex dates to formal dances because “there would be an implicit, indirect validation of a homosexual sexual behavior,” said theology teacher Jim Linhares, “From the point of view from the Church, it would be an indirect but nevertheless meaningful validation of homosexual sexual behavior.”

Said Linhares, “Even if a couple who comes to the dance are simply friends and they don’t have a romance at all, they are stepping into the shoes of boyfriend and girlfriend, man and woman, lovers, and even ultimately, by extension, married people. So a formal dance—boys and girls dancing with one another, having a date, picking her up, doing all of those things—it is a couple thing that presupposes a sexual relationship in a ritual way. If the school were to allow same-sex couples to dances, it would at a ritual level be approving a homosexual sexual relationship.”

From a cultural perspective, Linhares believes, “(Formal

dances) serve as ways for boys and girls to be with one another, to be closer to one another, exchange with one another in community supported ways. Dances allow you a safer, ritualized, socially acceptable way to say, ‘All right, we are on a date together, I don’t have to do this all by myself, I am being kind of shepherded through this.’ It is pretty intimidating. A tradition of formal dances gives you a way to get you through that, sort of in a sense supported by the community, encouraged by the community.”

Schenkenberg agrees, saying, “(Dances) have a formal part. There is romance with it. It has a kind of romantic feel in a courtship tradition, and so that is where I think our faculty is ready to spend the time and energy for male-female opportunities to do this.”

However, other people believe that date dances don’t neces-
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*“This inclination, which is
objectively disordered,
constitutes for most
(homosexuals) a trial. They
must be accepted with respect,
compassion, and sensitivity.
Every sign of unjust
discrimination in their regard
should be avoided.”*

*—Catechism of the
Catholic Church no. 2359*

Hoopbills open season with win over Pacific

Kyle Poelker
Reporter

The trek down I-44 was a long one last Friday for the Jr. Bills as they took a road trip out west to face the Pacific Indians in a season-opening tradition that dates back to head coach John Ross's first year. The drive back to the U. High, though, wasn't as long because of the solid defeat handed to the Indians by the Jr. Bills in a dramatic 55-50 win.

The Jr. Bills opened their season on a stagnant and sloppy note, however, going scoreless for their season's first two and a half minutes. Jeff Milles broke the bagel mark with a three-point strike that opened up the season's scoring. Even with shooters like Milles, the first-half score was disappointing, but luckily, with Pacific's lack of dribbling knowledge, the Jr. Bills were able to keep the game close on the nearly 10 turnovers that they were handed.

Despite Pacific's sloppy passing, the Jr. Bills still managed to eek out 24 first-half points to put them only one point behind Pacific heading into halftime.

The third quarter was much the same as the first half, with low scoring and lots of defense. Junior Dave Goettelman hit a three with four minutes left in the quarter to put the Jr. Bills just one point behind, but they couldn't keep up for the rest of the quarter, ending it down 41-37.

They fought back though, and with 1:31 left in the game Goettelman hit a layup to tie the game. Milles then hit a jumper with 42 seconds left that put the Jr. Bills ahead for good. Despite a huge block by the Pacific center on Mark Lubus, Andy Lowes iced the game on the free-throw line for a season-opening win.

With one tough road win in tow, the Jr. Bills squared off against Kirkwood on Monday looking for another away win. With the first game jitters

out of their system and John Kaminski back in the lineup after returning from injury, the Jr. Bills looked much crisper on the court. They took control of the game from the start and handled Kirkwood's full-court pressure with ease, taking a 15-13 first quarter lead. Led by a stellar second quarter performance by Goettelman, who hit a trio of threes, the Jr. Bills led 29-25 at the half.

The back and forth scoring continued throughout the third quarter and into the fourth, with Kirkwood taking shots at the Jr. Bills' solid lead. It worked finally, and after a Milles turnover midway through the fourth quarter, Kirkwood tied the game on an easy layup. But Kaminski got the offensive board on the next trip down the court and put the ball in to secure the lead.



John Kaminski goes for a layup against Webster.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE HALL

Racquetball places second in Winter Rollout

Tom Carrow
Reporter

This past weekend, the St. Louis U. High racquetball team faced off against all of the area teams in one of the most important high school tournaments of the year. The Winter Rollout has five boys divisions, divided by skill level. Division one contains varsity seeds one through four; division two contains varsity seeds five through eight, and so on. For each individual win by a player, the team receives points, and when a player advances in his bracket, he accumulates more points. The points are added up in the end to determine the final team champion.

The Racquetbills came flying out of the gate early, with few players losing in the first round. As the day progressed, matches got tougher and tougher, but the SLUH players stayed strong. By the early evening, the current team-point totals were

released, with SLUH in the lead, followed closely by DeSmet. The other teams in the field posed no threat, and they continued to fall farther and farther behind. As the late rounds of the tournament progressed, nearly everyone left was from SLUH or DeSmet, and the matches were getting increasingly evenly matched, causing long games.

The semifinalists and the finalists garner the most points, so they are the most important matches. Division one started with number two seed Tom Carrow facing off against DeSmet's number one seed Eric Becker. Carrow lost in two straight games, 7-15, 14-15.

On the other side of the bracket, SLUH number one seed Phil Mathews took on number two seed Charlie Hostman from DeSmet. The game was a long battle, with long rallies and many diving shots. After a long first game, Hostman came out ahead, 15-13, but the second game was dominated by Mathews, 15-3. The

tiebreaker was to be another long game for the two exhausted players, but Hostman prevailed, pulling away after an otherwise close game and winning 11-8. Head coach Joseph Koestner commented that Hostman was "really on fire, hitting all of his shots." The loss set up an all-DeSmet final, guaranteeing a large number of points for them.

SLUH's hopes were still alive, however, with players in the finals of three other divisions. The division two finals were between SLUH number five seed Eric Durban and DeSmet's Brett Bronenkamp. Bronenkamp was too much for Durban, who fell 14-15, 4-15. Division three was nearly the same with JV sophomore Justin Langan taking 2nd place. JV-2 star Matt Koch won a final match in division four, but couldn't salvage a victory, and DeSmet ended up running away with the tournament, winning 790 to SLUH's 485.

see PRINCE, 12

Grapplebills defeat rival CBC, 48-21

Harold Carter
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High wrestlers dominated archrival CBC with a 48-21 win on Tuesday evening at St. Louis U. High. Coming off two consecutive wins over Windsor and Hazelwood West, the Grapplebills were looking to remain undefeated and avenge last year's loss to the CBC Cadets.

After three byes gave the Jr. Bills an automatic 18 points, the Jr. Bills started rough with a well-fought match by junior Jeremy Bledsoe (112 lbs.) who lost to Spencer Mango (ranked 2nd nationally), and a loss in the 135 lb. weight class by sophomore Sam Cummings. Even with a slow start, the Jr. Bills took charge of the tiring Cadets with a win by junior Andrew Poulin (119 lbs.), a 7-2 decision win by junior Christopher Cahill (140 lbs.), and

an 8-6 decision win by junior Shaun Whalen (160 lbs.).

With the duel becoming even more



Mike Smith takes down his CBC opponent.

(171 lbs.) overcame his ailment and a seven point deficit to pin his opponent in the third period with only 4.6 seconds remaining in the match. Mike Smith (145 lbs.) also fought back from nearly being pinned in numerous peculiar positions to defeat his Cadet opponent with a late period pin.

Jump-starting a season with a 3-0 record, Curdt said, "even though a win over a ranked team is nice, we still have a lot of development and work to do." The Jr. Bills will have a full weekend coming with a Friday dual match against Ft. Zumwalt North and the Ritenour Tournament on Saturday.

Speech team orates at Ursuline

Andrew Mueth
Reporter

Last Sunday, the St. Louis U. High speech team competed for ribbons and glory at Ursuline Academy. Several schools participated in a competition that involved intellect as well as poise, wit as well as drama. Students competed in seven categories: original oratory, radio, poetry reading, humorous/serious, duet, prose, and extemporaneous (spur-of-the-moment) speaking. According to speech team coach Kathryn Whitaker, the team did well for their first meet. The team felt that they increased their league standing at the meet. "(The participants) are very strong and have lots of enthusiasm (for the event)," said Whitaker.

While all of the team did very well, Whitaker pointed out junior Paul Barker, who competed in two categories. The second of Barker's categories, prose, was taken on at the very last minute, only several days before the meet. Even with this late notice, Barker was able to pull off two blue ribbons at the meet. Said Barker, "(The meet) went really well; however, the guys are way outnumbered by the girls (who compete). It's a really fun team thing, though."

see CICERO, 8

CBC overwhelms Busiebills

Tom Fucoloro
Reporter

Last Friday night, the St. Louis U. High hockey team battled the top-ranked team in the area, the CBC Cadets. Despite extensive efforts to improve the team's 1-5 record, the Jr. Bills finished with a disappointing 10-1 loss. The Icebills then lost to Chaminade on Monday night by a final score of 5-1.

In front of a large crowd of SLUH fans, the Icebills stepped onto the ice with the energy and determination to stop the highly skilled CBC team from gaining good scoring positions. By forcing the CBC skaters to one side of the ice, the Icebills stopped their offensive skill for most of the first period. With a goal from freshman Dan Steck, the Jr. Bills showed the individually skilled CBC offense they could stop them as a team, at least for a period.

After the first period, however, the Cadets began to force their way through the Jr. Bills' defense. Despite multiple CBC goals, the Jr. Bills did not quit trying

challenging for the Cadets, the seniors showed why they are the leaders of the young and developing Jr. Bills team by putting the match out of reach from CBC.

According to head coach Tim Curdt, the seniors in particular "wrestled from their hearts" against the CBC Cadets. After a weekend of sickness, Ryan Stevenson

at any point in the game, but the Cadets walked away with a 10-1 victory.

Monday night, the Icebills faced a much different challenge in the Chaminade Red Devils. As senior defenseman Colin Dowling said, "It didn't seem like either team was into the game."

The Jr. Bills played fundamentally well, but they lost because of technical mistakes. Similar to the CBC game, the Icebills and Red Devils were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period thanks to another goal by Steck. But the Red Devils were able to capitalize on some Jr. Bill mistakes to score four more goals by the end of the game to leave with a 5-1 win.

Jr. Bill goalie junior John Pecher played a strong game, which is a good sign for the Icebills, who lost starting goaltender Charlie Effinger before the start of the school year.

The players want to thank their fans for supporting them this past weekend. The Icebills face strong rival DeSmet on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Affton Ice Rink.

SLUH spreads holiday cheer around town

Timo Kim
Core Staff

As Thanksgiving passes and Christmas approaches, numerous St. Louis U. High students have offered their time and abilities to help make the season special for various local charities and organizations. Coordinated by the Fathers Club, the President's Ambassadors, and Community Service Project (CSP), these activities ranged from special dinners to daylong parties.

For three weekends before Thanksgiving, SLUH students and their fathers traveled to St. Mathew's parish to help with one of the Fathers Club's yearly projects. Although their main project consisted of replacing an old floor in the sacristy, the students also raked leaves, collected trash in an outdoor recreation facility, and cleaned up the grounds of the parish.

"I'm really grateful for the help from St. Louis University High," said Father Mark Mackenzie, the pastor of St.

Matthew's parish, "We are always delighted to have help from the SLUH Fathers Club."

Also during the Thanksgiving season, the President's Ambassadors continued their yearly projects in the community. Three Sundays ago, they collected and distributed Thanksgiving baskets for 25 needy families in St. Henry's parish. On Thanksgiving, they carved turkeys, cut pies, and prepared other food with their fathers for an evening turkey dinner at the St. Francis DeSales parish.

Last Saturday, the President's Ambassadors held an all-day Christmas party at SLUH for the students of Loyola Academy. Their celebration began with dodgeball games in the gym followed by activity stations, in which teams of children would compete for points. These activities included throwing footballs at targets, bowling with washers, and a contest in which every child and Ambassador tied balloons to their ankles and ran around the gym trying to pop the others' balloons without losing their own balloons.

"(Dodgeball) was throwing the ball, kicking the ball, or whatever; it turned out to be a free for all," said President's Ambassador Skip Young. "(The Ambassadors) had to do some clean up afterwards, but other than that, (the party) went really well."

After a pizza lunch, the children met Santa and received gifts from the SLUH community before watching the Short Attention Span Circus of SLUH perform various feats of juggling, magic acts, and clowning in "A Christmas Pantomime."

CSP celebrated the holidays by having Christmas parties at several of their normal venues. In the past two weeks, they have held Christmas parties at the Girls Hope and the Boys Hope service venues and held special dinners at the St. Patrick Disabled Women's Shelter and the St. Peter and Paul Shelter. CSP Coordinator Suzanne Walsh emphasized, "I am so appreciative of all the generosity and kindness of all the people who have helped out with these projects."

Science club treks across vast distances

Sean Powers
Reporter

Last Friday night, while most people stayed indoors, the St. Louis U. High science club backpacked in the cold, arriving at the Bell Mountain trailhead in the Mark Twain National Forest in the dark around 7:00 p.m. Snow had fallen in the area earlier that day, dusting the trail located west of Farmington in southern Missouri. Science club moderator Steve Kuensting said, "It was a bit cold during the night, but everyone did well. There was no complaining at all."

Seniors Ryan Vierling and Dan Leiser, juniors Jared Luner, Luke Dang, Sean Powers, Kevin Hatch, sophomore Dan Marincel, freshmen Tim Metcalf, Peter Kidd, and adults Steve Kuensting, Jeff Luner, and Norm Birtley backpacked a total of twelve miles and returned back to St. Louis early Sunday afternoon.

The twelve backpackers started right away on the trail. On Friday night, they hiked four miles through the cold forest

free from the wind. In the valley, the hikers found a campsite at Joe's Creek around 10:00 p.m. They made a fire for warmth in the cold night, and after about two hours of jokes and stories around the fire, most of the members retreated to their tents.

A cloud-free sky and a shining sun greeted the valley Saturday morning. The hikers awoke late and cooked a warm meal for breakfast to warm up. Then they broke camp, stuffed their backpacks with all their gear, and started on the trail around 1:00 p.m. The trekkers hiked four miles, most of the time uphill to the top of Bell Mountain, a rise in elevation of 600 ft. Eventually, they made it to the top of the mountain in time to take a view from a glade, watch the sunset, and collect wood for a fire.

The highlight of the weekend came just after a vibrant sunset when the backpackers built and lit a fire. At its highest point, flames reached twelve feet tall. "The fire made everybody happy. We needed to warm up. A fire makes people

Sunday morning, the group awoke early to a beautiful sunrise from the glade atop the mountain. They quickly packed their gear up and ate a quick breakfast of granola bars and Power Bars so they could arrive to the vans on time. The backpackers continued on their hike four more miles, going slightly downhill until they arrived at their starting point. Everyone arrived back unharmed, and they drove back to St. Louis.

First time backpacker Kevin Hatch said, "It was a good opportunity to introduce myself to backpacking, going with people who knew what they were doing like Mr. Kuensting."

The science club is planning on going backpacking again over Christmas break to the Paddy Creek Wilderness and this spring break to the Grand Canyon. Kuensting said, "We all enjoyed this trip and are getting ready for the Grand Canyon this spring break." For pictures of the past trip, visit the science club's website at: <http://www.sluh.org/bioweb/scienceclub/photos/125-703/125->

Underclassmen cap successful soccer seasons

Brian Wulf
Reporter

On the night of Nov. 10, a slight breeze swept across the field of the St. Louis U. High Stadium, where the SLUH and CBC B-teams met in the final of the McCluer JV Tournament, each sharing a head-to-head record of 1-1.

After two hard-fought halves of soccer, the teams were deadlocked at one, until Chris Schrank sent a left-footed shot careening into the side netting.

"I enjoyed scoring Germanese-style," Schrank said, reflecting on the event. The 2-1 victory in the championship capped off a great 16-4-2 season for the Jr. Bills.

Head coach Steve Schad said that the victory was a "team effort" and that "the team really reached their peak at the end of the season."

This season held a unique significance, since Schad moved up to B-team to coach several of the players for a second straight season. Schad spoke of having "higher expectations" for this group because of his prior relationship with them on last year's freshman team. The level of comfort led to the success of the B-team experience throughout many of their games.

However, the B-team did experience

some difficulties due to a roller-coaster schedule and competitive play from quality opponents. The B-team responded well to their losses with big wins like their 10-0 win over JFK and 8-0 victory over Hazelwood West.

The B-team, primarily consisting of sophomores, received valuable help from four freshmen on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball.

Freshman Matt Leinauer and sophomore Tom Irvin led the team in scoring, converting in key situations, specifically in their 2-0 victory over Chaminade late in the season.

Sophomore defender Mike McCarthy, commenting on the season, said, "We worked very hard throughout the season and it showed on the field."

The SLUH C-team also had a very respectable record of 11-6-1. Experiencing SLUH athletics up close for the first time, the freshmen adjusted well and pushed into the season with great determination.

C-team coach Tom McCarthy was excited coming into the season because of what he called "a large talent pool."

The freshmen started out well with a convincing 3-0 win over Vianney, but lost their next four games, partially due to several unfortunate injuries in September

that sidelined a couple key players.

The loss of players did not hold the freshmen team down for long, as they went on to win their next eight games in a row.

McCarthy said, "Our depth on the field and critical scoring helped out a great deal." Freshmen forward Rusty Brooks contributed seven goals during this streak and went on to lead the team in scoring.

Another factor that led to the success of the freshmen team was the key leadership demonstrated by the captains, Freshmen Kenny Gravlin, Andy Weis, and Bryan Bander. Their leadership showed through in the C-team's huge victory against CBC.

Gravlin, talking about the game, said, "We played extremely hard, and fortunately, we came out on top."

At the end of the season, the overall morale of the freshmen was high.

Looking back, Andy Weis recalls, "Despite our troubles early on, we came together and made a good season out of the whole thing."

Both the B and C soccer teams have developed well over their respected seasons and are optimistic in continuing the soccer tradition of SLUH.

CICERO

(from 6)

Most of the team earned blue ribbons, a score that is equivalent to an 'A' on a test. Whitaker felt that it was a very strong day in the storytelling categories. The team earned three out of four first places in the scenes categories, which included scenes from several plays, including *The Elephant Man*. They scored a red ribbon in extemporaneous speaking, a red ribbon in original oratory, a blue in poetry, a blue in prose, a blue in humorous/serious, and several other blue ribbons.

The team consists of numerous new orators, who all played their part. The contest is very much a team event, with each member doing his best individually in order to help the team succeed. Whitaker and the whole team look forward to their next meet, on Feb. 1, and to the remainder

Belugabills win first meet

Nick Appelbaum
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High swimming and diving team wasted no time getting down to business for the 2003-04 season. After winning their first meet last Thursday of last week, the Jr. Bills set their sights on Lafayette the next day. The Nautilusbills quickly sank their opposition, nearly doubling Lafayette's score.

On Monday, the Speedobills traveled south to Cape Girardeau to take on Cape Central. Despite the slippery walls and an overall lack of vigor, the Jr. Bills were victorious once again. After the meet, junior Tim Heafner commented, "The strength of this team is that we stay in our lanes well. It's obviously the key to our

Despite their success, the Belugabills are wary of the competition, namely Parkway South, who won three state titles in a row (1998-2000) and are brooding over their current two season drought. After nearly doubling their roster size, Parkway South hopes to nullify SLUH's incredible depth. Jr. Bills head coach Fritz Long admits that Parkway South is "definitely the team to beat," but thinks that Parkway South's boasting will be their downfall.

The prestigious Marquette Relays, which the Aquabills won last year, consisting completely of various relay events, will give the Jr. Billikens an opportunity to see just how deep Parkway South and the other contenders are. The meet will start at 4 p.m. at Marquette High School, and fans are encouraged to attend (blue

DOUBLE FEATURE

(from 4)

sarily imply a sexual relationship, but rather serve as an opportunity for students to interact with others in a social setting.

Said Clark, "My own personal opinion, I don't know if I really believe if (a formal dance couple) is a symbol of marriage no matter how far (the symbol) is." Clark believes that dances should facilitate the "proper behavior between males and females," meaning that dances should teach SLUH students proper social etiquette towards females in general. Clark expects each student "to treat (his date) like a young lady. Does that mean that you are going to marry her sometime? No."

In a letter written to express his opinions on formal dances, Jeffrey Harrison, S.J., stated that SLUH is "freighting our dances with much more meaning and purpose than they can bear. I have been very surprised by what seem to be the assumptions that our boys are all, more or less, headed for marriage. Not only does this exclude our gay students, it also excludes those who may enter a life of vowed celibacy as well as those who choose to remain single. If dances, even in some small way, must mirror married life, then this creates perhaps more problems than it solves.... All of our young men, headed for marriage, gay, vowed, single, whatever, are going to live in a world of women. Can we not say that our dances are opportunities for the students to move in a social setting which helps them learn how a Christian young man behaves among the women with whom he will one day study, work, worship, and live?"

In an interview, Harrison said, "I am not saying that it couldn't be (a rehearsal for marriage), but that it is not, in and of itself, intrinsically a rehearsal for marriage. If you knew for sure that you aren't going to get married, then how could you come to this?"

Harrison believes that dances are "an opportunity for young men and young women to get together on a social level and learn what that is about. Personally, I don't see why that has to be done on a one-to-one, Noah's Ark one-by-one, two-of-each kind of thing. If it is all boys, obviously the thing doesn't work. If it is all girls it doesn't work. Does it have to be couples? I don't see that it has to be."

Senior Dan Lieser, who brought a male date to the Fall Ball, agrees with Harrison. "(Formal dances are such) that you know how to interact with others in a formal setting. I think (formal dances are) supposed to (help students) learn manners. While I think it is important to know how to socialize with women, I don't think it needs to be the sole purpose of the dance. I think that you are also with your guy friends from SLUH and your dates are part

of that experience, but I don't see why (the dates) have to be women."

If this policy could possibly exclude students with same-sex attraction who want to bring male dates, what does the Catechism's teachings—that "(people with same-sex attraction) must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity" and that we at times should give "the support of disinterested friendship" to assist people with same-sex attraction to live out their lives in Christ—mean practically for the SLUH community?

Although the Church says to support and accept people with same-sex attraction, the Catechism does not explicitly say what support and acceptance mean in a pastoral context. "(Support and acceptance) isn't clear," said Linhares. "That is going to mean different things to different people. You could argue that (supporting gays as human beings) meant support groups here at SLUH and being able to bring a male to a dance. Or you could make an argument that neither of those things is appropriate. It isn't clear from the Catechism just by itself what the best way to support is. It is clear from the Catechism that if your support meant lending approval of the person's progression to a homosexual genital expression, that isn't appropriate. The Church does not want to give support which leads in that direction. And yet it wants to recognize that a person's homosexual orientation may not necessarily be something he chose and may not necessarily be something that has to be fixed. It may be something that has to be accepted."

Harrison said, "Where does loving and accepting stop and, in other words, 'I approve of you and I love you and accept you as a homosexual, as long as you don't do anything about it, or you can do some

things and not other things?' See, nobody has made a list (about what is appropriate and what is not). That is what we are trying to hammer out here. Those are things that we have been arguing about for the past two years. If we have a support group for gay kids, does that mean that we are encouraging them to do gay things?"

"Homosexual genital activity is considered sinful by the Church. That's clear," Harrison said. "I'm not saying that everything is up for grabs, but there is stuff in the middle. How does friendship play out for gay kids? You can be friends with a girl and she could be sitting on your lap, but that doesn't mean that you are going to have sex. Can gay kids do that? If two people are having sex, yeah, that is wrong. No student in this school should be having sex, because they are not married. Now, that doesn't mean that there isn't a range of activities between not knowing anyone and having sex that are acceptable or moving towards

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"You could argue that (supporting gays as human beings) meant support groups here at SLUH and being able to bring a male to a dance. Or you could make an argument that neither of those things is appropriate. It isn't clear from the Catechism just by itself what the best way to support is."

—Theology teacher
Jim Linhares

FEATURE III

(from 9)

unacceptable. Where are those for gay kids?"

The theology department approaches the issue of homosexuality based on the Catechism and Scripture. According to Boedeker, "Dealing with it from Church-based teaching, we support people who are finding themselves with same-sex tendencies but in no way support the acting out of those tendencies for their lifestyle. So we would be certainly be in keeping with what the Church teaches."

According to Boedeker, support would mean that the community would help students with same-sex attraction deal with their orientation and understand the nature of their attraction, and acceptance would mean that the community would love those students as human beings made in the image and likeness of God.

"If we had a student here who was alcoholic, we would certainly do what we could to support that person in any way to not give in to the temptation to drink alcohol," said Boedeker. "We are fully supportive of those people who find themselves with same-gender tendencies. We are in no way supportive of them acting on those tendencies."

Boedeker said, "Were those people to engage in (homosexual acts) we would say it is a disordered act, they are in a sinful situation, and we would support them in every way we could to remove themselves from that sinful situation through the sacrament of reconciliation, through psychological counseling, through whatever positive means of support we could give to them to overcome the temptations."

Lieser had a more general idea of acceptance, saying, "How do I think an average person should interpret (acceptance) in light of homosexuality? I think it means treating them the same way you want to be treated. I mean that is really what Jesus taught: Love your neighbor as yourself; treat them the way you want to be treated. I just think that is the most important thing to remember. I don't think that you should treat them differently. 'Treat them with love and acceptance' basically says treat them like you should be treating them: like everybody else, they shouldn't be different."

Potentially, students could feel hurt by this dance policy, which leaves the school and the administration to figure out how to approach and support these students.

Linhares said, "What I would say to gay students who feel that they are being prohibited from going to SLUH dances (is), 'I understand how that must feel.' What I guess I would try to say to them is: can they step back from their own personal set of circumstances and see that what is at stake for the Church is the

institution of marriage. This isn't something we have come up with on our own, but which is a part of God's plan. Therefore, the Church cannot just walk away from that. It is a part of who we are as a community, what we believe has been revealed to us by God for the best destiny of the human family.

"The school, I think, would say to a gay student, we want to support you in the journey you have to make," said Linhares. "It is a difficult journey you have to make toward a happy, healthy life. It is not fair, but it is going to be complicated for you, harder for you. The homosexual student has to decide for him or herself whether (his or her) future is remaining in the Church.... It seems to me a gay student should expect support, guidance, acceptance, unconditional love (from the school). They should expect that if there are policies that are hard for them to accept or handle, that the school will be there to explain to them as best they can and not kind of sweep them aside, to be sensitive and caring and as inclusive as they can be of those students."

In the Statement from the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops Committee on Marriage and Family, *Always Our Children: Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers*, published in 1997, the Bishops state that we should "strive first to listen," which according to Harrison, is what SLUH needs to do more of. "Where I think we have a problem at St. Louis U. High," said Harrison, "is that we rushed in and said everything before we have listened.... I am saying that we need to do a lot more listening. We gotta start saying yes to something, and the easiest thing to say yes to is to let gay kids talk about themselves, about who they are, about what they are confused about before we start coming up

with, 'No! Dances are about marriage, and that means, da da da, sorry. We keep shutting doors; when do we open a door? I would really be in favor of not shutting any more doors until we open a few more. I think kids are getting the 'No, no, no' loud and clear and 'Be gay as long as you don't say or do anything about that.' I think that it is really dangerous."

Harrison believes doors were shut on students with same-sex attraction with the dance policy and the ending of the Ally program. "Maybe those doors need to be shut, but where are the open doors? Where is the love and acceptance? Where is the listening? I think that is what we are struggling with."

Lieser said, "I think that we should have a support group for homosexuals, bisexuals, transgender, questioning students, whatever, because it is really hard for a homosexual student to really

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—Jeff Harrison, S.J.

FEATURE IV

(from 10)

fully develop himself because he is not able to talk about it, usually, with everyone else. I just think that a support group like this, just as we have STAR, I mean STAR is about alcohol and drugs and they make it clear that they are not judging you and they are not supporting this or that but they are just there to help. I think that something like that for the sexual orientation issue (is needed)."

When asked about his expectations from the school, Lieser said, "I expect the school to look out for all of its students, look out for the health and well-being for all of its students, and I expect the school to make a genuine effort to do what they can with this issue. It is an issue that a lot of students have, not being able to express themselves, their feelings, sad or depressed about these issues, and they feel alone. I expect the school to not be completely focused on appearances. I expect them not to be 'well, because people will think we are doing this or saying this, we can't do (a support group).' I think that is really stupid. If we know what the right thing to do is, we gotta do it. It doesn't matter what other people are going to perceive that to be."

As far as administrative policy is concerned, Clark said, "I am gonna love those gay students like I love my heterosexual students. I am gonna support them

in any way that I can. I will not allow them to feel mistreated here."

Schenkenberg believes that SLUH has made a lot of progress as a result of the committee and faculty meetings.

"What has come out of this whole discussion are a lot of things that if they may have been done before, at least they now have been clarified and formulated for our community," said Schenkenberg.

Schenkenberg continued: "Those are things like our counseling department to look at what resources do they need to provide young people who have questions about sexual orientation; what resources do they have to provide parents, if parents are looking for something; what is our responsibility in a situation like that to our young people. So we have acquired resources. We have acquired books in our library. We have tried to educate our faculty and our student body to the fact that we have to be open and accepting and nurturing of all of our students, and you've heard the presentations we've done in the last year and a half on language and being alert to language that can be hurtful to other people.

"Will we continue to dialogue about this?" said Schenkenberg, "Of course. Will we continue to listen to what students want to say thoughtfully and respectfully? Yes."

PIC OF THE WEEK



Junior Paul Barker reads a poem to the crowd at last night's poetry night.

GERMANESE

(from 1)

19 goals to lead the team. His junior success carried over into this year as he more than doubled his scoring total from his sophomore year to end with 31 goals and 17 assists, highlighted with his overtime treble against Cape Central in the state semi-final.

The "Player of the Year" honor has brought a fitting close to his career at SLUH.

Every year a conference of coaches votes for their choices for the all-metro teams and the player of the year. However, this year, like many others, a vote was unnecessary.

"Post-Dispatch reporter Joe Lyons just said, 'Joe Germanese,' and there wasn't a vote," Martel said. Martel continued, "It was very unanimous.... Usually that's the way it happens. Very rarely is there a vote."

Martel felt that Germanese deserved the award. "Joe has always been focused on school and he's always been focused on being successful here at St. Louis U. High, and I think he did everything he possibly could."

Friend and fellow captain John Kornfeld said, "I was really happy for Joe.... He's a great guy. I know how hard he works for what he has."

Germanese felt pleased with the recognition. "I thought it was a pretty big honor," he said. "A lot of great players have won it in the past.... It's sort of elite company."

Germanese's honor comes only seven years after SLUH grad Taylor Twellman, '97, won the honor. Twellman went on to lead the MLS in scoring two seasons ago for the New England Revolution.

Martel said, "Taylor was more physical and had a more precise shot. Joe is more explosive. They're different players."

"It's a good individual award," said Germanese, "but you can't do it without a team. If you play for a team that isn't .500, you won't get anything like this."

Germanese has not decided where he will continue what promises to be a successful career. He is considering Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Vanderbilt Universi-

by Tim Huether

Calendar

Dec. 12 - Dec. 19

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Schedule R
 Homeroom Mass: M101
 Fine Arts Assembly
 College Visits (Sign Up in the Counseling Office to Attend):
 University of Southern California @ 12:52-1:22pm
 V/JV/C Wrestling @ Ft. Zumwalt North @ 6pm
 V SW Marquette Relays @ Marquette through 12/13
 C Blue BB vs. Chaminade @ SLUH @ 4pm
 Pizza Sticks and Half Pizza

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

V WR @ Ritenour @ Ritenour Tournament @ 10am
 V HOC vs. DeSmet @ Affton @ 7:30pm
 V Frisbee @ 11am
 ACT Exam

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Christmas Concert @ 1 pm & 4 pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Schedule R
 Lock-Down Drill
 IM Sophomore BB

V HOC vs. Marquette @ Chesterfield @ 7:40pm
 JV4/JV6 RAC vs. Parkway West @ Concord @ 3:30pm
 C White BB @ St. Mary's @ 6pm
 Steak Fries and Pizza

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Schedule H
 Homeroom Mass: M204
 V BB @ CBC @ 7pm
 V SW @ Parkway South @ 4pm
 V/JV/C WR vs. Vianney @ SLUH @ 6pm
 V/JV1 RAC vs. Kirkwood @ Concord @ 3:30pm
 JV5 RAC vs. DeSmet @ Hampshire @ 3:30pm
 B BB @ CBC @ 5:30pm
 C Blue BB @ CBC @ 4pm
 Cookies and Burgers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Schedule R
 Sr. Semester Exams
 Fr. Class Lit.
 Jr. Rep. Mtg.
 IM Soph BB
 V SW @ Parkway West @ 4pm

JV WR @ Windsor Tournament @ 4:30pm
 JV2/JV3 RAC vs. DeSmet @ Hampshire @ 3:30pm
 C White BB vs. Lutheran-St. Charles @ SLUH @ 4pm
 Pretzels, Chicken Rings, and Chicken Wings

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Schedule R
 Homeroom Mass: M222
 Sr. Semester Exams
 Fr. Eng. Tutorial
 IM Junior BB
 V/JV/C WR vs. Parkway North @ SLUH @ 6pm
 Bosco Sticks, Mostaccioli, and Garlic Bread

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Schedule R
 Senior Semester Exams
 Homeroom Mass: M201
 STUCO Talent Show
 V BB vs. DeSmet @ SLUH @ 7pm
 V SW vs. Marquette @ SLUH @ 4pm
 B BB vs. DeSmet @ SLUH @ 5:30pm
 Cheese Garlic Bread, Meatball Sandwich, and Rib Sandwich

NIKE

(from 5)

Kirkwood never got any closer and with late game foul antics, Lowes again was money on the line to put the Jr. Bills over the top for a 54-50 win.

With an undefeated record, the Jr. Bills were looking to storm into the Webster tournament Wednesday with a defeat of the area's number six team and host, the Webster Statesmen.

It was a competitive game in the early going with SLUH taking the lead on a Kaminski layup and Goettelman bomb from behind the arc. The Jr. Bills couldn't subdue Webster for long though, and after an alley-oop dunk that put Webster down by one and a buzzer shot to end the first, the Statesmen had the lead and did not look back.

They opened up the second quarter

the same way they ended the first, with a 15-0 run that lasted three and a half minutes. Despite the Jr. Bills' best efforts, there was no recovery possible because of poor shooting and turnovers.

Though they made a valiant effort, the Jr. Bills weren't able to cut into Webster's lead from its early second quarter run. A 9-point run included Chris Luth's and Curtis Hoette's old-fashioned threes and a conventional one by Dan Henry, but there was nothing the Jr. Bills could do. With poor shooting and a lack of control on the boards, the Jr. Bills were doomed to the 65-45 loss handed down to them by the Statesmen.

So the Jr. Bills will take a day to regroup and begin their quest for the consolation championship at Webster today at 4 p.m. They will use the remainder of

the tournament as preparation for the year's biggest game to date, a Tuesday night away game at CBC. So if you can't come out this weekend, be there Tuesday to cheer on the Jr. Bills as they become undefeated on the campus they own, the new CBC.

PRINCE

(from 5)

Mathews summed up SLUH's slate tournament fade by saying, "A lot of guys seemed like they were getting tired, which caused them to hit lazy shots and underperform."

Even after taking an unexpected second place, the Racquetbills are hoping to perform well during the season as they continue on towards the state tournament.