

Feature: "Here Comes the Sun": spring music recommendations, page 9

Opinion: Piechowski questions whether ninety minute exams are meeting goals, page 13

Opinion: Barker responds to Angrisani letter about Harrison sermon, page 3

Prep News

"If nothing else, value the truth"

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ISSUE 24

SLUH Peace Coalition to march Sunday

Brian Kane
Core Staff

A coalition forces massed on the Iraqi border, a group of St. Louis U. High students and faculty formed their own coalition.

Senior Kevin Mills, a member of the Young Democratic Socialists Club, had been against military action in Iraq since its proposal. In mid-February of this year, his father, math teacher George Mills, came up with the idea of an oil boycott. Kevin Mills attended a meeting where the St. Louis Instead of War Coalition's direct action committee presented the idea, and in time he became a member of the committee.

He posted flyers around the school in early March describing the United States military's anticipated "shock and awe" strategy for the war. Sparked by a suggestion from Young Democratic Socialists Club Moderator Jeff Harrison, S.J., Mills decided to form a group of SLUH students and faculty members who were
see PEACE, 11



The SLUH coalition's banner

Trips to continue despite war

Greg Fox
Core Staff

In the wake of September 11, President George Bush and the Homeland Security Department reminded the American people to be vigilant but to continue with their lives despite the dangers of terrorist attacks. With the war in Iraq raging, the risk of terrorist attacks has been placed at "high." Despite the risk of terrorist attacks on Americans at home and abroad, SLUH's many overseas trips plan to go on as scheduled; none have altered travel plans so far.

Ritenour High School cancelled its trip to France last week, citing parents' concerns about the war and anti-American sentiment in France, which opposes American action in Iraq. Ritenour officials were unavailable for comment.

French teacher Jennifer Crespin, who

is chaperoning the trip to France, is not concerned about anti-American opinion in France. Crespin explained that the French "are against the policy and not the Americans." Crespin feels safer flying than she used to and plans the trip to be "business as usual."

Bill George, English teacher and leader of the trip to Ireland, is not particularly worried about flying. He is not concerned "any more than [I] was last year," although he admits to being concerned about flying all the time. He is not worried about the group's being in Ireland, however. "We're going to a safer place," George says.

Chinese teacher Ching-ling Tai's China trip is in a unique situation, as it is the only trip to Asia. Despite the possible escalation of a standoff with North Korea at the end of the war with Iraq, Tai is not
see TRIPS, 2

Tuition rises 8% for 2003-2004 school year

Patrick Meek
Core Staff

On March 10, St. Louis U. High President Paul Sheridan, S.J., sent a letter home to parents to inform them that tuition for the 2003-2004 school year would be raised \$550, to \$7500.

In the letter, Sheridan stated that in order to compensate for the rising cost of education and to continue to provide adequate aid and compensation to teachers and facilities, the school would need to continue to raise tuition eight percent.

The process of increasing the budget began in September when the Budget/
see PRICE HIKE, 14

Matt Hoffman
Editor in Chief

What goes to every school dance, has only one eye, and inhales but never exhales? Unfortunately, you probably read the title to this article and already know the answer is the school's breathalyzer. Anyway, it was stolen at the Sno-Ball.

At the dance, STUCO moderator Brock Kesterson was in charge of the breathalyzer because Assistant Principal for Student Affairs Eric Clark was at a JSEA board meeting in Dallas. However, Kesterson was busy with his other duties, and, to avoid lugging the breathalyzer around all night, he left it with a worker at a podium at the Starlight room.

"She was apparently going to be at her post all evening," said Kesterson. "I asked her to keep an eye on it for me."

However, when Kesterson returned to reclaim the machine, the woman had left to help with the coat check, and the

breathalyzer had vanished.

"I guess I should have just carried it around all night," said Kesterson.

Clark learned of the stolen breathalyzer from Kesterson Friday night through a phone call from Dallas. The next Monday, Clark announced that the student who stole



Teacher Steve Casey displays the breathalyzer.

the breathalyzer could return it "anonymously, with no questions asked." Clark added that if the breathalyzer were not returned by Wednesday, a \$100 bounty

would be placed on the student who stole the breathalyzer, which costs an estimated \$275. The \$100 was to come out of Clark's pocket.

"First of all, I wanted the breathalyzer back," said Clark. Clark said that he was 95 percent confident that his plan would get the breathalyzer returned. Clark felt confident that whoever stole the breathalyzer had friends who knew he had done it. He also thought that other students probably either saw the theft or heard about it.

Clark felt he had to offer a bounty "because of students' past records with turning in thieves," or the breathalyzer would not be returned.

"Why do I have to (prompt) someone to do something that's right?" Clark asked.

To the dismay of the school's newlyformed bounty hunters, the breathalyzer was returned anonymously Tuesday with a note that read, "Here is the breathalyzer. Sorry for taking it. It was a lapse in judgement."

Schulte recovers from operation

Brian Fallon
Core Staff

On March 3, math teacher Joesph Schulte underwent knee replacement therapy at St. Mary's Hospital. The infected knee was removed and a spacer was inserted in place of the knee. Schulte is in his third to fourth week of recovery. He has an additional nine weeks of recovery. Schulte is currently donning a cast that extends from his thigh to his ankle and must use a walker to move around.

"One of the most important things initially is rest," said nurse Scott Gilbert. He added, "There will be quite a bit (of inflammation) when someone is just out of surgery."

In addition, Schulte has to take a physical therapy course twice a week to keep his muscles loose. Gilbert explained, "Most people, no matter what type of surgery they have, with something like this which involves walking and the knees, shouldn't bear weight for a couple of weeks."

Schulte explained that he has to take antibiotics for two hours in the morning, and would need someone to drive him to

and from school if he were to come.

As stated in the February 28th issue of the *Prep News*, Schulte was predicted to be back at SLUH and ready to teach as early as April 7. In fact, Schulte will be unable to return as early as predicted, and he says that there is a slight chance that he will be able to return to school before the school year ends. If Schulte is unable to return for the end of the school year, he said that he will be ready to teach again by fall.

In early June, another surgery will be performed, and a titanium knee will be installed. Schulte explained, "I knew that there would be a three month recovery, but I was a little apprehensive at first."

As Schulte continues to recover, many miss his presence at school. "I just miss hearing his voice in the hallways and his energy," said theater director Kathryn Witaker, "I miss him a lot."

"I'm used to him being here...he's part of our family," said sophomore Mark Zurline.

Echoed senior Dan Reilly, "(Mr. Schulte) has a larger than life presence and certainly we miss having him around."

TRIPS

(from 1)
concerned. "I'm not concerned about North Korea at this point. I don't think North Korea will take the opportunity to get into a war with America," Tai says. "I feel that China is much safer right now."

Students and parents are following the lead that their chaperones are giving them and, for the most part, are not concerned. Erik Buchholz, a junior on the way to China this summer, shares Tai's confidence about travel abroad. Junior mother Mary Ann Dowling, whose son Colin is going to France, is not concerned about the trip, though she does admit to being concerned about anti-American sentiment in France; Marilyn Sonderman, whose son Dave is also going to France, cited international flying as her only concern, but she is "trying to remain optimistic."

In this time of uncertainty and ever-present terrorist warnings, stability and cooler heads must prevail. Fortunately for the students excited about upcoming educational overseas trips, SLUH's chaperones are allowing good reason to prevail over quick, impulsive decisions.

COMMENTARY

New exam system needs oversight

Tim Piechowski
Sports Editor

When any new plan is implemented, whether it be on an assembly line or in a school, there are bound to be kinks which need to be worked out.

On the whole, our new 90-minute exam system seems to be working better than the old hour-long system of exams. Students are able to go back over their work in the extra time and, on the whole, are able to work at a steady pace instead of rushing to the end of an exam. However, there seem to be two underlying issues with the new exam schedule which are going unchecked: how are former extended time students being treated under the new system, and how are we ensuring that teachers are only writing a one hour exam?

In the past, extended time students were given time and a half to complete their exams: 90 minutes for regular exams and three hours for the two-hour exam.

Under the new system, there is no separate room for extended time students.

According to Assistant Principal for Academics Mark Michalski, "If a true one-hour exam is written, extended time students still have the extra time."

While this sounds fair, there are some circumstances in which we should still use an extended time room. For instance, the third quarter Calculus AB exam is intentionally designed to be 90 minutes in length.

As math teacher Jean Elliott explained, the exam is written

for a 90-minute period in order to fulfill a Saint Louis University 1818 college credit requirement.

"In the past we've had to ask for an hour and a half exam," Elliot said, "This year, because there is an hour and a half slot, (Calculus AB teachers) didn't ask for any extra time."

While the fact that the exam is an hour and a half is not problematic in and of itself, the problem lies in the fact that students who may have required extended time were not told they could use it. Additionally, there is currently no consistency in the exam system, as some proctors have allowed students to go beyond 90 minutes while others have not.

When the administration developed the new exam schedule, administrators believed the schedule would alleviate the need for an extended time room. As proof of this belief, Michalski said that the Counselling department had not informed him of any students requiring extended time since the new exam system has begun.

Additionally, in a Sept 6, 2002 *Prep News* article (Vol. 67 Issue 2), Principal Mary Schenkenberg said that the new 90-minute exam schedule would stop extended time students from having to be "singled out."

However, the philosophy behind the school is giving extended time for exams was not to single out students, it was to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of the exam material. This goal should not be abandoned.

If they need it, extended time students deserve extra time if they need it on exams designed to take up the entire 90-minute
see **PIECHOWSKI,12**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Barker responds to Angrisani, defends Harrison's homily

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to Matt Angrisani's reaction to Fr. Harrison's homily at the Ash Wednesday Mass. I was disappointed to see such a negative response not just from Matt, but from many other classmates as well. What discouraged me most was the opinion that political messages have no place in the Mass.

I think it is a priest's obligation to offer his interpretation of the gospel in the context of current events. I don't think I can speak for Fr. Harrison, but it seemed to me that he intended to cause discomfort and to offend. That is exactly what a homily must do.

Jesus did not preach half-heartedly. He was not cautious with his words to avoid confrontation. His message was effective because it struck directly at the heart of religious and moral corruption, and it was so offensive that it ultimately led to his death.

I admire Fr. Harrison's homily because it presented a challenge to all of those who would prefer to "water down" Jesus' teachings. It is very easy for a person to give up something for Lent. It is a small challenge to listen to a homily about ways we can best develop our souls. It is far more difficult to listen to a

sermon like Fr. Harrison's where our secure world and our desire to push controversial issues out of our minds are attacked, discomfited, and exposed.

I was especially frustrated by the comment that a homily is a one-way venue that leaves no room for a rebuttal. Did Jesus leave room for a rebuttal? Did Jesus preach about hypocrisy and then step back and say, "Go on Pharisees; now it's your turn; tell them how you feel?" Absolutely not. He saw corruption, and he exposed it. I see corruption now. I think Fr. Harrison sees corruption now. It is our obligation as a community of followers of Christ to see that corruption and bring it down. That requires a certain amount of discomfort and insecurity, but it is a sacrifice that must be made.

It is very clear from His teachings that under no circumstances would Jesus support a war. There is simply no excuse for something so evil. Shouldn't the supposedly most powerful nation in the world be able to find a peaceful resolution? Perhaps that is the kind of Christ-like sacrifice and struggle our nation has chosen to forget.

Paul Barker, '05

Six Dollar Burger chomps the competition

Tom Fontana
Reporter

Though the FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) National Robotics Competition succeeded in achieving its goal of providing exuberant, robot-themed competition for schools and corporations, the weekend was not without its share of metal-crunching mayhem to keep fans of TV's Battlebots or Robot Wars salivating.

The Robot Club arrived in St. Charles, the site of the St. Louis Regional Competition, on Thursday, March 6, and they received somewhat distressing news. Each robot in the competition had to submit to inspection prior to the competition. Six Dollar Burger, the SLUH robot, had several exposed gears that could have mangled part of any other robot that ventured too near.

Rather than risk immediate disqualification, the Robobills improvised by using pieces of cardboard to cover the gears. The team also labored constantly to per-

fect the programming for the robot's autonomous, or self-controlled, mode.

Having taken care of those problems, the Robocobills took part in Thursday practice rounds, with different team members taking turns at manning the controls. Beginning with Thursday's practice round and continuing through Friday and Saturday, the matches provided ample action. It did not take long for some matches that started as wholesome box-stacking fun to begin to slide into the entertaining realm of robots ramming one another, playing fields littered with broken parts, and one incident involving the spontaneous combustion of a robot.



Six Dollar Burger poses for picture.

The robot rumbles, bot bouts, and mechanical melees attracted many a cheer from the crowd in the St. Charles Family Arena.

The DrRobotnikbills quickly began to dole out punishment to various opponents. During one match, Six Dollar Burger wedged itself underneath an opponent and succeeded in flipping the other robot onto its back, rendering it helpless.

Two moments particularly stuck out in the memories of the Robot Club members. The first occurred in a match that pitted SLUH against one of the toughest robots in the competition. This robot had been racking up points all day by plowing through its opponents' stacks of boxes. No one had yet devised a way to stop it, but the

see **BATTLEBOT JR.**, 13

OEC scubas in Mexico

Nick Odem
Core Staff

During spring break, the Outdoor Experience Club spent four days scuba diving in Cozumel, Mexico. The group also visited local Mayan ruins in Tulum.

About one dozen Scubabills left St. Louis on Friday, March 14. Despite cautions against air travel due to the situation in Iraq, the OEC found only minor delays while traveling.

The first two days consisted of training seminars and practice dives. OEC members wanted to have scuba diving certification so they could have more freedom as to where they explored.

While taking a practice dive, the crew encountered what Facilities Director Patrick Zarrick called "large, crashing waves." According to a resident of Cozumel, the storm was the worst in six or seven years. Although everyone had to be

pulled out of the water and onto a pier, Zarrick said, "Everybody got out OK."

After obtaining certification, members of the group saw sharks, eels, squid, barracudas, amazingly colorful fish, coral, and lobster while exploring depths of 40-80 feet. Zarrick also mentioned that this diving area, as far as sightseeing is concerned, is second to only the Great Barrier Reef, located off the coast of Australia.

Junior Bo Purcell noted, "Going around the island in Jeeps was fun (because) you could see the parts you usually don't get to see." Purcell's favorite part of his trip was a nighttime dive into Paradise Reef.

Senior Greg Stahl sustained the only injury of the trip by stepping on a nail in a nightclub. He was given a tetanus shot.

Zarrick summed up the trip as having "good coral reef exploration and a good time."

WELLNESS TO HOLD

TUESDAY ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday, the Wellness Club will host another speaker in the gym. The assembly will require a mass schedule—that's an "M" on your schedules for those of you scoring at home.

The speaker, Jason Barber, is coming "to tell his story," said Wellness Moderator Craig Hannick. Barber spent six years in jail for manslaughter after he drove under the influence of alcohol, got into an accident, and killed his brother, a passenger.

He is sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, who approached Hannick through Joe Castellano, a member of the the Board of Trustees. Hannick was "sure that (Barber) has other sponsors."

The assembly will take about an hour.

Volleyball team serves up new season

**Nick Engle
Reporter**

Last year the Jr. Bill volleyball team walked off the court with heads hanging low after losing to Vianney in the State semifinal. Disappointed, they seemed to have a mission for the next year.

Now it's next year and the Jr. Bill volleyball squad is on its way to completing that mission. This team is highly decorated and comes into the season ranked number one in the metro area. Both the team and fans are expecting a lot of success this year.

"We expect to win State," said senior Alex Lepp. This is the simple goal that the team has set for itself.

This season the team has the best shot at a state title that they have had in years. The Volleybills return seniors Brian Guntli, Alex Lepp, and Tim O'Connell from a team that went 19-7 last year.

Guntli is the only returning player from the 2002 All-Metro first team. He will undoubtedly be the go-to guy for the very inexperienced varsity team. Guntli, who played outside hitter last year, will

most likely move to the setter position to make up for the lack of experienced setting on the team. Guntli will also serve as one of the team's captains and play a



A teammate congratulates Andy Lowes.

crucial role as a team leader.

Lepp, who is also a returning starter from last year, will accompany Guntli as a team captain. The younger players will also look to Lepp's leadership as well and to his emotion on the court. The team will count on the middle hitter to produce kills.

Tim O'Connell suffered a broken ankle early in preseason practices and will miss significant time. "He might be out

for the rest of the season," said Quinn. The break is described as "complicated," and doctors aren't sure how long it will take to heal. Upon his possible return later this season, the team will rely heavily upon O'Connell for both his leadership and production.

The unknown factor for this team will be the six juniors: Greg Vollmer, Andy Lowes, Andy Halaz, Matt Huskey, Tom Hill, and Sean Crotty who will all play various roles on the team this year. The team will ask Halaz, Lowes, Vollmer, and Huskey to step in immediately and make a contribution. All of the juniors have little or no varsity experience which will force them to mesh together quickly in preseason practice and in the early stages of the year. These players have all been successful at the junior varsity level, losing only one match in two years, but will need to prove themselves quickly at the varsity level.

Another big factor on the team this year will be sophomore sensation Joe Guntli. Guntli, who played in a few varsity games last year, will be asked to step into the mix right away and assert himself as a dominant force at the net. His ability to adapt and play consistently at the var

see VOLLEYBALL, 12

Meek places first at skating National Championships

**Patrick Stephens
Core Staff**

Last weekend, junior Patrick Meek won the U-19 Intermediate Division of the U.S. National Short-Track Championships held in Milwaukee, Wis. at the Pettit Ice Arena. As a result of his victory, Meek has been automatically named to the U.S. Junior National Short-Track Team.

On last weekend's event, Meek said, "This was the biggest meet of the year for U.S. speedskaters (because) the only way to qualify for the U.S. National team is through this meet."

see MR. MEEKS, 8

Laxbills drop opener to DeSmet

**Jim Fox
Reporter**

After suffering a disappointing second-round loss in last year's play-offs to archrival CBC, the 2003 St. Louis U. High lacrosse team is back with a vengeance. Looking as strong as ever, the Laxbills feel as though this may be the year for a run for State.

Although the team lost a solid core of seven seniors from last year's team, they will return numerous starters, with many other players stepping up to fill in. After a long week of tryouts in what has affectionately become known as "the warehouse," a crew of the 29 best players were chosen, made up of 15 seniors, 12 juniors, one sophomore, and one freshman. This year's squad has great talent and significant depth, a telltale sign of a strong team. The team will look for leadership from its

abundance of seniors, and especially from captains Matt Hof, Travis Dum, Jim Fox, and junior Mike Talerico.

One of the biggest changes for the 2003 Laxbills is the presence of new head coach Robert Palmer. Palmer, a former collegiate player from the east coast, immersed himself right away into the St. Louis lacrosse scene. After coaching at the renowned Irish camp over the summer, Palmer took the job as the head coach of the SLUH program when former head coach (and now freshman assistant) Barrett Smith had to step down because of job conflicts. Palmer brings a fresh, new outlook of fast-paced lacrosse to the SLUH program and a style of play that should allow it to beat the best teams in the area.

The Jr. Bills would not have much time to develop under Palmer before they faced defending state champion DeSmet,

see LAX, 7

Tennisbills would love to ace season

Dan McDougell
Reporter

It's that time again. Spring is heating up and so is the Jr. Bills' tennis team. 2003 looks to be a promising year, following a strong finish in last year's district and sectional tournaments.

Let's recap a bit: last May, the Jr. Bills won first in the district tournament with a record-setting number of wins. Pat Steinway, '02, earned second in singles, with doubles team Pat Reich and Joe Harvath, '02, taking third. There was potential for doubles team Chris Monti and Dan McDougell to go to State, but they fell apart and gave up a huge lead in

the third set of the semifinal match.

The Jr. Bills sent only Steinway to the state tournament but performed well at Sectionals nevertheless. In the first round, the Jr. Bills upset powerhouse Parkway South with a come-from-behind victory 5-4 by doubles team Monti and McDougell. The match ended with the South team hitting a ball long on a 40-30 score. Kirkwood was the next opponent, and they proved to be a worthy one. The Jr. Bills eventually lost by one match, and just missed sending the whole team to State.

Hopefully this year, they can do just that. They have many returning varsity members and are looking stronger than ever.

Making up the singles squad are Reich, sophomore Jack Horgan, McDougell, and Monti. These boys are large and in charge and are pumped up for the season to start.

In the doubles arena, Suneal Menzies and Dan Costigan return strong and ready to play, as well as two hopeful freshman prospects, David Lesco and Steve Hipcus. Fans should be seeing some good things from these little tykes in the upcoming years. All in all, the boys are going to be hard to beat this year and will be keeping their eyes on State.

They will play Cape Central today at Dwight Davis Memorial Tennis Center in Forest Park. The team encourages all students to attend.

Batbills open season with late-inning heroics

John Schrank
Reporter

A nearly flat field, newly green grass, bats, balls, gloves, and excited faces. Put all that on the diamond that is the crown jewel of American sports, and you've got baseball. That's just what SLUH had last Monday when the Batbills opened their season with a 5-4 win at Belleville West. Yes, of course it was a perfect day for baseball: crystal clear skies, 75 degrees, fresh breeze.

The team of 27 Jr. Bills bused twenty miles from SLUH to Illinois, finally reaching Belleville West's field. The grass was verdant and the field was as flat as the rest of Illinois, yet the outfield fence was a sort of plastic orange net, just a step above chicken wire, which had the nasty habit of turning our fast runners' triples into ground-rule doubles. After getting off the bus, the team quickly filled the air with the ping of aluminum bats, the smack of baseballs pounding into mitts, and their own sports-related chatter and wisecracks.

The ambience was one of genuine excitement and anticipation, and it was

clear that the ballplayers were excited. "The morale of the team [is] good," said left fielder Nate McMahon.

Added starting pitcher Tyler Faulstich, "I think this is a good team, strong hitting and highly defensive. I expect we'll have a really good season."

Clocked at an impressive maximum of 89 mph, Faulstich's fastball has more heat than Phoenix in July.

"I average 85 consistently," he said.

Anyone who crowds the plate while this righty's on the mound had better be prepared to fiddle with some pretty serious chin music.

Before the game, the team gathered 'round long-time coach Steve Nicollerat, who led the group in a pregame Hail Mary. Shortly thereafter, Faulstich trotted to the mound to throw the first pitch of the year. Despite the best efforts of Faulstich and right fielder Joe Palumbo, several line drives to right drove three Belleville players home before the inning could be drawn to a close. The bottom of the inning saw no scoring from the Jr. Bills, and the score remained 3-0 Belleville West.

Innings two and three saw no scoring from either team, thanks largely to Faulstich's dominating pitching and some

lucky fieldwork by West.

As the fourth inning began, the air was growing cool with the evening breeze, but the sun had yet to set on the Batbills. In the top of the inning after West had gotten two outs—just when Belleville thought they had the Jr. Bills right where they wanted them—center fielder Pat Feeney launched a ball into centerfield. It struck Belleville's fence and was officially ruled a ground rule double.

"I could have turned that into an inside the park homerun," complained Feeney.

But he got to home plate anyway when first baseman Andy Hecht, who came to the plate right after him, curved a line drive to left field for a double. Hecht scored when designated hitter Dave Records drove a low one right over second base. A hit right to the first baseman ended the inning, but the damage was done and the score was a close 3-2.

The bottom of the fourth saw no score, but it was the last for Faulstich, who had struck out six men.

Inning six saw more great action from Jr. Bill batters, who ended up driving in three more runs with calculated hits to the

see **BASEBALL**, 7

March 28, 2003

Trackbills look to improve

Matt Killiany
Reporter

When asked to provide predictions for the upcoming track season, senior Kevin Crean replied, "Wait, it's track season already?" Yes, Kevin, it is track season. It is time to break out the spikes and singlets and hit the 364-meter oval just west of the school building, which serves as the training ground for the U. High track and field team.

The team will look to build on a 2002 season that saw them bring home all-state honors in the high jump, 3200-meter relay, 1600-meter run, and 800-meter run. Expectations run high for this team, and as assistant coach Tim Chik said, "We expect to send several athletes to State this year."

Thomas Moore and junior Steve Nagel lead the sprinters. Adding to the mix this year is freshman phenomenon Paul Chaney, who is already on the brink of breaking the school record in the 400-meter dash before the season has even begun. The sprinters hope to be headed for the state meet on the legs of this trio.

EXLAX

(from 5)

the powerhouse of the St. Louis area, the Thursday before spring break. Having only two days of practice, the Laxbills were set to meet the Spartans on the turf of Soccer Park, a location advantageous to the new style of play.

Not allowing themselves to be intimidated by DeSmet, as have previous squads, the J-bills came out fired up. Hof and Dum both scored in the first two minutes to put the Jr. Bills up 2-0.

The team outplayed DeSmet in the early going through their outstanding defensive play. In a bold coaching move, the team came out in a zone defense that perfectly counteracted the DeSmet offense. DeSmet wasted away their offensive possessions with bad passes and outside shots that were no match for goalie Ben Zaegel.

see LAXII, 13

The throwers will be led by junior Tony Cattaneo, as they attempt to recover from graduating one of their top throwers last season.

In a related story, thrower Marc Stevenson suffered an injury during practice. On March 13, he went to retrieve his shot put, while another thrower accidentally threw out of turn. Despite getting hit in the head, Stevenson remarkably avoided a concussion of any kind but spent a night in the hospital for observation.

Tim Steitz looks to follow in SLUH alum Reid Heidenry's footsteps on the way to the state meet, where Heidenry earned an all-state medal in the high jump.

The hurdlers are led by Peter Allen, who has run very solid times in the past few seasons.

The distance runners are paced by seniors Crean and Peter Schaefer, who are both returning State medalists. Although many of the top distance runners have been banged up at the beginning of the season, the distance squad looks very strong and hopes to send several athletes to State this year.

Speculation aside, it is time to own up to the preseason hype for the Trackbills. The varsity squad opens its season Saturday at the Washington University track. Events start at 9:00 a.m. and will run all throughout the day.

BASEBALL

(from 6)

gaps. Halfway through the inning the score was 5-3, but West squeezed out another run despite the excellent pitching of reliever Rico Bertucci.

The seventh inning—which is also the last in high school play—went scoreless. Bertucci, who entered the game in the 5th inning, credited the low scoring during his tenure on the mound largely to defense.

"I think I just put the ball in the strike zone and let the defense play," he said. "Plus, I think we got the butterflies out early." The game ended with the Jr. Bills edging past Belleville West 5-4.

The team was fortunate to have come out ahead after such a slow start.

"I think whenever you start off in a 3-0 hole, you worry, but we battled back and never gave up," said McMahill. "A lot of credit goes to our hitters and Rico (Bertucci) for closing it out. It's a team game and was most definitely a team effort."

All are optimistic about the rest of the season.

Feeney noted, "It was a good way to start the season out. Hopefully we can keep it up all the way to State."

PN Nightbeat

DRUIDS DEFEATED BY DESMET, 12-0

On Thursday night, the Druids dominated the first half in a fierce game against rival DeSmet. However, the team capitulated in the second half, losing 12-0.

"We had some opportunities to score, we just didn't capitalize on them," Druids back Nick Albrecht said.

In the first half, the Druids had two line outs within the five-meter line, but failed to capitalize as DeSmet players ripped the ball away.

The team was moving quickly towards the try line, but lost the ball 30 meters out on a knock-on.

The Spartans pounded the ball through to the tri line twice in the second half to win the game.

BATBILLS DEFEAT NORMANDY, 12-0

Last night, the Jr. Bills baseball team defeated Normandy 12-0 at the opening day of the new stadium on Aviation Field. Pitchers Tony Sneed, Matt Ikemeier, Jeff Milles, and Matt McArthur combined for five brilliant innings, striking out nine and allowing just three hits while shutting out the opposition.

Sophomore Brandon Beal and senior Andy Hecht led the Jr. Bills to victory, combining for four hits and seven RBI's.

Ultimate team goes 0-5 at Huck Finn

W. David Mueller
Core Staff

Last weekend the Junior Bills Ultimate Frisbee team found a way into the Washington University Huck Finn tournament for college teams in Fenton. Despite walking away with an 0-5 record, the Jr. Bills seemed pleased with the results.

The tournament was designed to give every team five guaranteed games: four in pool play and at least one on Sunday, the playoff day. Teams were ranked in the playoffs based on how they did on Saturday.

The first game was against an inexperienced Southwest Missouri State, which had a number of wobbly throws. The Frisbills took advantage early with hot defense and were up 7-4 at half. Most Ultimate matches are played to 13 scores, and a halftime comes when a team reaches seven points. The Hammerbills lost whatever they had in the first half and stumbled to a disappointing 13-10 defeat.

Captain Denis Agniel said, "I think fatigue played a factor towards the end."

But the Layoutbills had no time to pout. They had to turn around and start

their next match in less than 30 minutes. So they guzzled their water, devoured some orange wedges, and prepared for their next match as best they could to take on Hendrix University.

After yet another quick start, the Jr. Bills defense began to jog, and the long toss proved to be the foe of the Stackbills' weekend as they couldn't find the cut to beat their opponents deep. A bright spot was veteran disc wheeler Nick Engle, a presence in the middle of the stack, making good cuts to the sidelines for the easy pass from a handler.

The team lost 13-9, but next on the list for Black Saturday was the highly respected Truman State squad.

Agniel commented, "Southwest and Hendrix were inexperienced, while Truman was very structured with one dominant player, which, in turn, makes everyone else better."

The structured Truman team mesmerized the Jr. Bills with their very green jerseys and graceful flat-lining long tosses, going up on the Frisbills 7-0 at the half.

Moderator Paul Spitzmueller noticed, "I think we realized we needed to pick up the pace."

Truman cruised to a 13-2 win.

"Our best game, in terms of structure, was actually the Truman match," said Agniel, ever the optimist.

By the last match, the running and sunning had beaten down the weary Highsocksbills, and Winona State capped off Saturday with a 13-5 beating of the Junior Bills Ultimate team.

Both Spitzmueller and Agniel were pleased with the first day of competition.

"We started meshing as a team," said Spitzmueller. "You don't get that in practice."

Agniel said, "Early on we were making too many cuts or not enough cuts, but that cleared up." Agniel tried to define the structure the team was progressing towards: "We should always have people moving to an open area, but not more than one to any given open space."

Agniel was also quick to point out that this was the team's first tournament of the year and a few players' first ever.

Senior Steve Mathias has made an invaluable impact, stepping up into the mid-range spot to take the place of Joel

see **ULTIMATE**, 12

Golfbills tee off on Vianney in opener

Pat Neuner
Reporter

Spring has arrived. The days are getting longer; the temperature is slowly climbing; and the Jr. Bills golf team is back in action.

The Tigerbills enter the season with four returning starters: Zach Schmitt, Mike Dougherty, Pat Ostapowicz, and junior Pat Neuner. All bring valuable experience from a team that finished only one shot out of qualifying for the state tournament one year ago. Newcomers junior Matt Koch and sophomore Kyle Ortmann also look to provide support for the Bantlebills. Freshman Alex Luebbert and sophomores Steve Lestmann and Kevin O'Connell also will have opportunities to play with the varsity squad this spring.

Due to the inclement weather on Tuesday, the team's match against St. Mary's was postponed. Therefore, the Jr. Bills got their season started Wednesday afternoon at Quail Creek against Vianney. Pat Neuner led the Jr. Bills with a solid 39, and he received some sound support from Schmitt, Dougherty, Ostapowicz, Koch, Ortmann, Lestmann, and Luebbert. All had quality rounds in the 40's.

As darkness fell on South County, the scores were tallied, and the Titleistbills emerged victorious. Pat Ostapowicz provided the team's highlight of the day with an eagle 3 on the par 5 ninth hole.

Wednesday afternoon provided the good start the team was looking for, and they will try to maintain their good play as the season continues.

MR. MEEKS

(from 5)

The meet is also important because it determines who gets to travel and compete with the Junior and Senior National teams. The meet had seven separate divisions, and the top two finishers from each division qualified to travel. Finishing in the top spot in the Intermediate division, Meek is only behind the top two finishers in the Senior division for Senior National team considerations. The Junior squad was announced, but Meek must wait until later this year to see if he earned a spot on the Senior team. Meek was confident after this weekend's finish, stating that he will "potentially, probably, be named."

Even though he just completed the biggest event of the year, Meek has another big meet coming up this weekend at the North American Championships. The meet, to be held in Milwaukee, will include representatives from the U.S., Canada, and several European countries.

Here Comes the Sun: Spring Music

Geoff Brusca, Charlie Hall
Editor, Reporter

"Weather changes mood/Spring is here again/Reproductive glands..."

It's the middle of March, a Friday, let's say. The sun's out, school's out, it's a perfect 72 degrees, and your backpack, stuffed heavily with a naive sense of confidence in your own self-discipline (because we all know you're definitely going to get started on the Pre-Calc homework this weekend) lies abandoned but not forgotten in the backseat like that carton of rotten milk in the back of your fridge. You roll the windows down, spray your windshield to wipe it clean of the week's grime, and face what could possibly be the most important question of your weekend—no, your life: what CD should you put in the stereo?

Well, maybe you don't like Kurt Cobain and Nirvana's aforementioned "In Bloom" during spring. A little too harsh? Too depressing and angst-driven for the green season? Just too damn confusing?

But if it's a crime to rock and roll, we can folk it up a bit. How about a little Bob Dylan: "If not for you, winter would have no spring." (Get the theme?) There's clean, clear lyrics for you. Don't let the nasally voice get to you: beside his songs about drugs and religion and anything else he wants to be deliberately ambiguous about (read: 1965-1973, 1975-2002), Dylan's usually twice as clear as history teacher Steve Aylward when he starts speaking in German. Plus Dylan's early folk guitar puts you in a seasonal mood to understand those glands everyone's favorite ripped-jeans-boys keep screaming about.

So what do you listen to during spring? When the windows are down for the first time, and you can irritate the middle-aged folks waiting at your stoplight or impress the girls who aren't looking your way just yet (simple oversight) by blasting those tunes that feel like new life to you. Spring has a sense all its own, what with flowers and rain and baseball and hormones, and, of course, it's got its own musical flavors, as many as there are people with CD players and cases with Ace of Bass stickers plastered across the front of them.

But maybe your tastes don't lie easy folk or hard alternative, Bob or Kurt. Maybe they lie with more obscure or uncategorizable.

Like senior Alex Bayer, who chose the Thievery Corporation as his band: "They're an electronica-type, laid-back Easternish group from Washington, D.C.," he said. According to him, it's

appropriate spring music because, "It's exploring the edges of peace and how it can go out and come in and the flows of energy and happiness; also, social and political awareness, too." He said the cyclical nature of the music echoes the spring's cynical return.

Or maybe you just have a really poor reason to listen to music a little more publicized than that. The winner of the "Most Puzzling (and possibly worst) Argument for Spring Music Award" goes to senior Brian Korbesmeyer, who said his spring song, "is 'Lose Yourself' (by Eminem) because whoever wins an Academy Award is clearly the best musician in the world."

Though maybe the appeal of spring music solely because of your car and the nice weather is justifiable. "My favorite spring

song," said senior Ryan Max, "is Van Morrison's 'Moondance,' because spring is the first time you can open up your windows and drive at night and go places, and it's the best song for opening up the window and sticking your head out." You can also go fishing for a concrete way to link the song itself to spring: "Moondance. You know: it's a clear night, the moon's out..." Max trailed off.

Senior Kevin Fournie also linked an album to the season and his car. He chose a Jack Johnson live album because, "It's good with the window down, you've got that breeze,

(and) since it's live you've got the people cheering, and there's energy."

Or, if you're a skinny guy from Illinois who still watches "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," like junior Chris Baricevic, you would choose the classic reggae collection *Legend* by Bob Marley. "Any Bob Marley song is so perfect when it's 70 degrees and the wind's blowing in your hair," Baricevic insists. After breaking into a rather entertaining rendition of "Buffalo Soldier," Baricevic explained, "All this stuff's going on with school, but you can just close your eyes and all of a sudden you're on the Jamaican beach, and you don't have to worry, because that buffalo soldier, he's got your back." But Chris, what if it's raining? "Slayer."

If reggae's not your thing, then, (like Physics teacher Kent Kershenski,) you might choose some straightforward American pop rock. Kershenski's choice is Weezer's eponymous third album, unofficially dubbed *The Green Album*. Its buttery-smooth garage distortion and intricate Beach Boys' harmonies may be attraction enough, but to Kershenski, he picked the album mostly

see TUNES, 10

"My favorite spring song is Van Morrison's 'Moondance,' because spring is the first time you can open up your windows and drive at night and go places, and it's the best song for opening up the window and sticking your head out."

-senior Ryan Max

TUNES

(from 9)

because of its fertile color: “The CD is actually green,” he observed. “It’s sunny and bright. Really, though, I’m more of a winter person.”

Classic rock seemed to be a popular choice for the spring soundtrack. “For springtime,” said senior John Hitzel, “Led Zeppelin—Zeppelin III and IV, mainly—work really well; they connote a feeling of rejuvenation, the excitement of just being...(Their) acoustic guitars, like folk music, make it seem more nature-oriented, more natural feeling. They do a lot of really cool string stuff on three.” Apparently, Hitzel really did feel the spring music excitement, because he went on to list like 18 bands and songs and albums, only one of which will make it in here: “‘Baba O’Reilly,’ by the Who,” he continued, “It’s got that buildup, and at the end it’s like ‘Yeah!!’ (here he actually yelled) and then the synthesizer works well.”

English teacher Rich Moran also got back to the spring folk roots with his selection: Paul Simon’s *Graceland*, which ushered in a new musical era. “It seems to me,” he said, “it almost marks the beginning of interest in this country in world music. Paul Simon kind of made it happen with that album.” Referring back (for an English teacher, inevitably) to spring flows, Moran added, “I’m interested in albums where the songs all seem to be related to each other in some way, especially if you can’t exactly tell how they’re related, but you just know they are. The songs seem to fit together rhythmically.”

Senior Jamie Stroble couldn’t have agreed more: “I’m gonna have to go with *Graceland* by Paul Simon. I mean, come on. It’s such spring music, with all the African vibes. For me, personally, it’s something I was always listening to when I was driving. It was the only CD in my car.” After finding out that Moran had picked the same album as he, Stroble remarked, “I want to go on the record saying that I’m greatly angered about my album being stolen.” (Whether or not Moran actually stole Stroble’s copy of *Graceland* has yet to be discovered, but I know that the last time I saw my *8 Mile* soundtrack I was standing by Moran’s desk.) Stroble went on to give an opinion not stolen by Moran: “Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young, ‘Suite Judy Blue Eyes’...it’s bright, it’s up tempo. Especially when the school year, everything’s winding down, and it’s lighthearted.”

Senior John Schrank, who has an expansive and thorough knowledge and understanding of music, enjoys perhaps the largest historical range of music: “From Beethoven to the Beatles,

from Schumann to Simon and Garfunkel, from Bach to Billy Joel, I listen to it all.” But he said that spring didn’t have much effect on his tastes. “I listen to music more loudly (in the spring),” he said. “It doesn’t really change what I listen to. But it’s time to open the windows, and that tends to not be the same sound the stereo makes, so I have to turn the stereo up to listen to the music.”

Junior Mike McHugh would choose any disc of the four compact disc set *Nuggets*, a compilation of 60’s American garage rock. Bands appearing on *Nuggets* include The Standells, Captain Beefheart and His Magic Band, and Strawberry Alarm

Clock, “sunny music from a sunny era for a sunny time of year,” according to McHugh.

Like McHugh, classmate Brian West, when he’s not sitting in the dark of his basement listening to Pink Floyd, would choose something from the psychedelic ’60s, but this time from the other side of the Atlantic. “The Kinks’ *Village Green Preservation Society* and its nostalgic, innocent outlook and upbeat tempo reminds me of springtime,” he said.

Lead vocalist of the band Los Constables and U. High junior John Randall thought long and hard about what music he would play during

springtime, and decided that anything from the ’80s metal band Iron Maiden would nicely complement a serene springtime afternoon. “Yeah, they rock pretty hard,” Randall concluded.

If you must insist, your humble junior writer’s personal choice would be 1991’s *Nevermind*, by the aforementioned (twice now) Nirvana. Why? It’s not just that *Nevermind* gave the god-forsaken decade a fresh start, it also gave rock music in general a rejuvenation—a much-needed spring rain, if you will. What’s that? Nirvana’s not for you? Cobain’s visceral howl too much?

The senior writer suggests turning to the life-blooming from the brown forgotten landscape. Why not turn back to all that smooth pop-alternative you heard on The Point or The River during the Golden Age of Rock (1993-1997)? Why not breathe life back into the dead shoots of the dusty record collection you left in the back of your closet (or just rip a bunch of songs off Napster)? Bask in some of those grade school memories with the licks of Everclear, the Primitive Radio Gods, Semisonic, Bush, the New Radicals, the Spin Doctors, or Oasis.

But, hey, just kick back and listen to your own spring music. Or other people’s. We don’t really care. We won’t be able to hear you over the David Hasselhoff.

“I’m interested in albums where the songs all seem to be related to each other in some way, especially if you can’t exactly tell how they’re related, but you just know they are. The songs (on Graceland) seem to fit together rhythmically.”

—English teacher Rich Moran

PEACE

(from 1)
opposed to the war.

Mills spoke with Pro-Life Club Moderator Tim Chik and Amnesty International Moderator Paul Spitzmueller. Discussions with the two led to the creation of SLUH's Peace Coalition, comprised of Amnesty International, the Democratic Socialists, and the Pro-Life Club.

"It's not a new club at SLUH. It's clubs coming together for a particular purpose. Presumably, if the war ended, so would this coalition," said Harrison.

Yesterday, however, things were complicated when Chik met with members of the Pro-Life Club to discuss their involvement in Sunday's rally. No final decision was reached at the meeting, but the group decided to meet again this morning before school to consider the issue further. Judging by the opinions voiced at Thursday's meeting, it is very likely that the club will drop its sponsorship of the rally.

Chik stressed that the club still supports the coalition's ideals of peace, and that the club supports the protection of all human life, whether it is that of an American, an Iraqi, or a civilian or soldier of either background. However, Chik said that "possible uncontrollable factors outside of SLUH" could lead to a conflict of interests at the rally. More specifically, he feared that the rally may not show proper support for members of the United States armed forces currently fighting in Iraq.

Chik and other members of the club speculated that they could more accurately express their views by possibly hosting prayer sessions instead of open protest. However, as of Thursday afternoon, that issue had not been thoroughly discussed.

Harrison identified raising awareness of the war within the school and sharing information about it as two goals of the coalition. "Another one is to participate in First Amendment rights of speech, assembly, (and) petition of grievances," he said.

Another of the group's goals is to allow "SLUH students to express their

support of our troops," according to coalition member Brian Christopher, S.J. He added, "We are worried because it's our friends, it's our family members, it's our loved ones who are going over there to fight for a cause that we understand to be unjust and illegal."

Christopher identified drawing attention to the issue through an upcoming

"Cars passing by are going to see a crowd of students with signs, and hopefully they'll think. Hopefully it will make them think... 'What do I think of this war? Do I want to support this war? How do I want to support our troops?'"

—Theology teacher Brian Christopher, S.J.

protest as another of the coalition's goals. "Cars passing by are going to see a crowd of students with signs, and hopefully they'll think. Hopefully it will make them think," he said. "Other SLUH students will hear announcements about this...and hopefully that will give them pause to think, 'What do I think of this war? Do I want to support this war? How do I want to support our troops?'"

The protest Christopher spoke of will take place this Sunday, March 30, as part of a city-wide anti-war rally. At the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park, several interest groups, including labor unions, college students, religious congregations, and high school students will march from different locations to the rally. The high school students' march will start from Aviation Field at 2 p.m.

Instead of War contacted Mills with the idea of using SLUH as the starting point of the high school students' march. Mills then sought administration approval, which he received.

The group has made one sign which reads, "Pray for Peace," but encourages anyone planning to attend to bring their own signs as well.

A major topic of discussion at this week's planning meetings for the coalition was the use of civil disobedience at the march. Though some of the coalition's members have expressed a willingness to use this tactic, Mills said that the administration has asked that no civil disobedience during the protest be associated with SLUH.

"If there's civil disobedience, there will be no march," said Spitzmueller. "I'm assuring the administration that this is a peace march. Our aim is not civil disobedience."

Spitzmueller went on to say, "It is my understanding that there will be an undercover police officer here at the school."

Mills has been trained as a peacekeeper through *Instead of War*. Of the responsibilities of peacekeepers, he said, "Peacekeepers aren't really any kind of real security. They try to keep people calm, and keep any kind of violence from breaking out." He added that peacekeepers will be in communication with the crowds throughout the march to direct them. Two officially trained peacekeepers will march with the group from SLUH.

So far, this weekend's protest has been the main concentration of the coalition. "We're really working towards the rally," said Mills. He noted that the group "thought about starting to help out in relief efforts," but because they have been rushing to finalize this weekend's plans, no plans in that regard have been solidified. The group briefly mentioned the possibility of posting a "Pray for Peace" sign on SLUH property, so that it could be seen by drivers on Highway 40.

Mills further added that the group will be open to the ideas of anyone with suggestions, and Harrison stressed that the group is open to everyone, not just members of its three main clubs.

PIECHOWSKI

(from 3)

period. They shouldn't need to send another request through the counseling department for extended time. Students should not have to push for extended time they deserve.

The second issue, arguably more important because it affects the entire student body, concerns how we, as a school, ensure that exams are being written for the appropriate one hour length. In reality, the answer is that very little is being done.

When I asked Mr. Michalski about exams being written to take longer than the 60-minute limit, he said, "No students have come to me with concerns regarding the length of their exams," although he added that two former extended-time students had complained about noise in the hallways.

While no one has come to the administration directly, there seems to be an undercurrent among students in the hallways who feel their exams are being written for beyond the 60 minutes.

On Thursday afternoon, I spoke to a dozen students about the exams; while most of the students praised the new system, many also voiced concerns.

"I'm less rushed," one student said. "I get time to check my work and go back."

Another said, "I love (the new exam format)."

However, some of the same students who praised the system also made clear that they believe there are issues which need to be addressed.

"One of my teachers definitively told our class that he made (the exam) longer," one student said.

Another said, "I used the hour and a half on all of my exams. It may just be my slowing down, but I don't think so."

Students may hesitate to voice their concerns with teachers or the administration for the same reason I considered not writing this commentary: they are afraid they will be passed off as whiny, unprepared students looking for excuses.

One student said, "I wouldn't feel comfortable with (citing a complaint); (the administration) would think I was whining."

Worse still, some students believe they would be entirely ignored.

"I don't think (the administration) would do anything," a student noted.

Another concern may be that students do not normally go to the administration with their grievances.

Several students noted that they'd never gone to the administration with complaints before.

In the Sept. 6 article, Schenkenberg spoke positively of the new exam system, saying it could create a "less rushed" testing situation, but also warned that the less rushed situation was "dependent on teachers really writing a one-hour exam."

We cannot simply trust that teachers are going to write one-hour exams. As with any system, there will be some who will (whether intentionally or not) abuse the 90-minute exams.

The administration must continually ensure, through student surveys and perhaps some form of ombudsman, that the

ULTIMATE

(from 8)

Koehneman, who may be out for the season with a broken arm. Also making his tournament debut was the very athletic Joseph Edward Moellering, a big target to pass to. According to senior captain Brian Korbesmeyer, JoeMoe's size was huge: "We're not used to playing people much bigger than us. We need mo' size and speed."

On Sunday the team walked onto the field hoping to advance with a win. The score teetered back and forth with the Discbills going up early 4-3 with some chilly offense, but once again they found themselves down at half 7-5. "Everybody played within their limits," said Korbesmeyer. "We lose when we try to do too much." Then the fatigue and lactic acid of playing four and a half games took root in the cramping legs of the Ultimate team as Northern Illinois University took control with their long game and won 13-7.

Though the team won no games, the tournament gave the squad invaluable game experience. "We learned how to control the disc in the tournament," said Spitzmueller.

Agniel said with perfect glee, "I was really happy. Our offense has really devel-

oped. By Sunday morning you could see a lot more understanding and flow." On Sunday the movement to open spaces was fast and organized, truly a more structured offense.

initial one-hour exam system is being adhered to.

In some governments and corporations, an ombudsman serves as an impartial investigator to citizen or employee complaints of abuse. Here at SLUH, we most likely couldn't have a true ombudsman system because of the adult-student makeup of a school. However, a system could be developed where a student government, or perhaps members of our National Honor Society, would be able to represent and voice student concerns to the administration.

We need communication to ensure this new exam system continues to be implemented properly. Extended time students must be given the same opportunities as other students to show what they know. The administration must find a way to ensure one hour exams are written.

oped. By Sunday morning you could see a lot more understanding and flow." On Sunday the movement to open spaces was fast and organized, truly a more structured offense.

This weekend the Ultimate Frisbee team looks to a high school tournament in Nashville. Though a very winnable tournament, the team will need good defense from a new zone they hope they can pick up on the fly and good disc movement while playing within their capabilities.

VOLLEYBALL

(from 5)

sity level will be very important for the team.

The players and the coaches agree that the key to this season will rest on the ability of the underclassmen to make the transition from junior varsity to varsity. It will be very important that the team comes together in the preseason practices and becomes a cohesive unit, instead of just six people on the volleyball court. For the seniors there is a sense of urgency because it is their last shot at the state title. The team will need to take the urgency into its first game with CBC on Wednesday.

BATTLEBOT JR.

(from 4)

Robobills altered their robot's programming to move on the opposite side of their stack to try to steady it against the impending offensive onslaught. Six Dollar Burger performed better than expected and succeeded not only in saving their stack, but also in bringing one of the competition's best robots to a startling halt, which elicited raucous cheers of approval from the crowd.

A second moment that the team will savor for quite some time took place in a match against DeSmet. The rival schools' robots approached each other on opposite sides of the ramp. SLUH lowered its robot's arms and succeeded in grabbing hold of DeSmet's robot, which they then dragged around the playing field.

However, one cannot expect to escape from a conflict unscathed, and the SLUH robot encountered its fair share of robo-wrath from opponents. During one match, Six Dollar Burger found itself flipped on its back and on the receiving end of repeated ramming perpetrated by an opposing robot that was made almost entirely out of wood. The Robobills tried to use the collapsible arms on the back of their robot to try to gain enough leverage to flip it upright and mount a defense against the pummeling of the wooden warrior. This risky maneuver proved quite unsuccessful, and the arms began to break loose from their mountings. Despite its flagrantly illegal tactics, the timber tyrant was not disqualified.

In the end, the SLUH team placed 41st out of 55 teams.

There were several reasons behind SLUH's defeat. First and most obvious, this was SLUH's first year in competition, and their experience was minimal when compared to many other teams, some of whom have been competing for twelve years.

Second, SLUH was drastically undermanned. SLUH's team of less than ten paled in comparison to teams that seemed to average about thirty people, including teams that had as many as fifty members.

Third, SLUH appeared underfunded when compared to other teams. More experienced teams showed up in buses pulling horse trailers that contained multiple fully-functional robots complete with tool kits. Though SLUH received grant money from NASA, many other teams had several sponsors.

Junior Greg Eschelbach spoke of plans next year to perform better. Eschelbach said that SLUH was "almost guaranteed to get NASA money again" and that they would try to contact other companies about possible sponsorships.

Finally, at the competition, SLUH was repeatedly randomly assigned to team up with inferior robots in several of their matches. Junior David Burghoff recalled that during one match, the robot with whom they had teamed "literally stopped working after a couple of seconds."

Robotics Club moderator John Shen reflected back on the team's performance this year and looked forward to becoming more competitive in future years. Shen

said that he was "very happy with how the robot itself turned about" but had to admit that he was "a little disappointed with our point total [in the competition]." Shen felt that SLUH "received a tough draw" when it came to the robots they had to team with.

He expects the team to perform much better next year and stated that they had already begun working on a design for next year. Shen believes that experience will be the key for any success SLUH hopes to have next year. He also mentioned that "almost [the] whole team will be back next year" and that it will be helpful to already have a completed robot on which they can practice programming while simultaneously constructing a new robot.

Shen expects to begin fundraising much earlier next year to secure better resources and facilities. He expressed his gratitude to everyone who helped get the SLUH Robotics Club get off to a good start in its rookie year.

LAX II

(from 7)

SLUH was unable to bury DeSmet in the early going, though, as their lack of practice began to show. Having trouble clearing the ball from the defensive end of the field and being outplayed on most groundballs, SLUH gave up possession after possession to a skilled DeSmet team. DeSmet was able to get back in the game through their seemingly endless possession of the ball and three straight goals.

At halftime, the team was upbeat in knowing that they were still in the game with DeSmet and was pleased with watching the DeSmet team spend their halftime out on the field trying to figure out how to handle the SLUH zone.

The second half was similar to the end of the first, where the inability to clear and work their offense led to a lack of SLUH scoring and an overabundance of DeSmet possessions. Keeping the game close until a pair of goals by DeSmet in the closing minutes, the Jr. Bills fell 8-4.

Although it was a loss, the team was positive about the outcome of the game. After only two days of practice, the team was able to hang with the area's best team and showed many of the hallmarks of a winning team. Zaegel's outstanding play in the nets was also a source of encouragement for the team.

The game's leading scorer, Dum (two goals), was very pleased after the game. "We played well for what little preparation we had," he said. "With more work on the little things, I think there's no telling how good we can be. It was nice to play well against DeSmet."

After taking the Spring Break week off, the Junior Bills are jumping right back into the action with a full week of practice followed by a full week of games. They next play Chicago's Libertyville on Saturday at 2:00. The bulletin board outside the cafeteria has the team's full schedule.

by Brian Fallon

Calendar

March 28 -April 4

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Schedule R
Fast Friday
Freshman/Senior Mental Meltdown @ AP
Cashbah Preview Party
V BB @ Festus TBA
V/JV Tennis vs Cape Girardeau Central @ 4:00 pm
Urban Plunge through 3/29
Curly Fries & Papa John's

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Cashbah @ 4 pm
V TR @ Washinton University @ 9:00 am
V BB @ Festus TBA

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Schedule R
Reconciliation through 4/4
V BB vs Bishop DuBourg @ 4:15 pm
B BB vs Bishop DuBourg @ FOPO # 2 @

4:15 pm
C BB vs St. Mary's @ Wilmore @ 4:15 pm
V/JV VB vs Pattonville @ 4/5:00 pm
Pizza/Taco Sticks & Grilled Chicken Patties

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Schedule R
V BB vs Vashon @ 4:15 pm
C BB vs Chaminade @ FOPO # 2 @ 4:15 pm
V/B TR @ DeSmet @ 4:00 pm
V/JV VB @ Hazelwood West @ 4/5:00 pm
Toasted & Baked Ravioli

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Schedule R
College Visits:
Marine Corps @ AP
Freshman Class Meeting @ AP

Sophomore Class Liturgy @ AP
V/JV TN vs Clayton @ Shaw Park @ 4:00 pm
V/JV VB @ Marquette @ 4/5:00 pm
Bosco Sticks & Hot Wings

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Schedule E
Parent Teacher Conferences
V BB @ Chaminade @ 4:15 pm
B BB vs Chaminade @ FOPO # 2 @ 4:15 pm
Cookies & Taco Salad

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Schedule E
Senior Mom Prom
V BB vs DeSoto @ 4:15 pm
C BB @ Westminster @ 4:15 pm
V/JV TN vs Marquette @ 4:00 pm
Fries & Fish 'n Chips

PRICE HIKE

(from 1)

Finance Committee and the administration met in order to appropriate money to balance the budget for the upcoming school year. Although in past years there has been a gap between the operating budget and income, recently the administration has taken steps to reduce the gap.

"Six years ago, the Board of Trustees asked us to look into ways to bridge the gap between the operating budget and money coming into the school from tuition," said Vice President Brian Sweeney.

Right now the operating budget is \$11 million, with \$7 million for faculty salaries and benefits. The Budget/Finance Committee continued to meet throughout the fall and winter in order to establish the tuition. Three weeks ago this committee finalized their proposal of a \$550 increase, and the Board of Trustees, which has final approval over this issue, approved it.

"The committee was not overly pleased to make this choice," said math department chair Tom Becvar, who sits on the committee.

Sweeney believes that once financial aid is deducted, the school will bring in \$6.8 million in tuition, with the endowment and fundraising making up the rest of the budget.

"Only 69 percent of our budget is covered by the tuition; as a result, four million (dollars) needs to be raised," said Sheridan.

In the past several years, the endowment, which is basically a trust fund that makes money from the interest from stocks and investments, has failed to return any money.

In addition to the increase in tuition, for the second year, SLUH has added an activity fee of \$150. This mandatory fee covers benefits that students receive throughout their SLUH careers. These items include the *Dauphin* yearbook, the *Prep News*, drama, and various athletic activities.

"Students receive six or seven hundred dollars worth of activities each year," said Sweeney. "This is merely a starting point...We hope to raise it in the future."

"We try to separate this fee in order

for people to understand what their fees cover and not to bunch these fees together," said Sheridan.

Even with these increases in tuition, SLUH still remains competitive compared to many of the secondary schools in the area. DeSmet Jesuit has tuition for the 2003-2004 at \$7430. Christian Brothers College and Vianney will both be at \$7100. Chaminade's tuition for next year will be \$9750, up \$550. Vianney increased its tuition \$600.

"Many of these schools have mandatory fees that are not included in their tuition," said Sweeney. "I believe that this will be the first year that Vianney will be higher than us."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Winter Running Club would like to announce the top Mileage runners:

1. **Drew Kaiser** - 660
2. **Andy Bonner** - 548
3. **Charlie Samson** - 518
4. **John Oliver** - 513
5. **Danny Meier** - 432
6. **John Kelly** - 374
7. **Ben Murphy-Baum** - 370