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# Prep News

VOLUME LXVI ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2002 ISSUE 20

## 265 students admitted to class of 2006 *Class includes 20 students from out of state, 4 from Loyola Academy*

**Dan Butler**  
**Core Staff**

After several months of waiting, the class of 2006 was finally chosen by the SLUH admissions committee. This board of advisers, headed by Admissions Director Mark Michalski, also includes President Paul Sheridan, assistant principals Art Zinselmeyer and H. Eric Clark, Tim Curdt, Mary Michalski, and Principal Robert Bannister. The committee finalized its decisions last week after receiving 339 applications in the fall.

In addition to sending in the applica-

tion forms, all applicants are required to complete an interview. Michalski oversees the group of about thirty SLUH interviewers. "They just do a wonderful job," he notes. He added that the interviews had to be pushed earlier into the year in November in order to have fewer scheduled around the holidays.

Because the freshman admittees come out of so large an applicant pool, Michalski feels that next year the school will see yet another outstanding class. "I'm excited to see this class of young men. They seem to be of high quality and character," he noted. Of the 265 students the school accepted,

91 percent are Catholic, coming from 81 parish grade schools. An additional 26 non-Catholic grade schools were also represented.

Diversity appears to be one of the strengths of the new incoming class. Although it is 87 percent Caucasian, 26 African Americans, six Asians, four Hispanics, and one Filipino were among the admitted students. In addition, there are 18 newcomers from Illinois, one from Kansas, and one from Ohio.

In addition to the usual mix from the parish schools, SLUH has admitted a  
**see NERVOUS, 3**



Alan Naylor and Brandon Bieber in last night's opening performance of *Celebration*. Story on page 4.

## PETTIT TO UNDERGO STEM CELL TRANSPLANT

**Andy Neilsen**  
**Editor in Chief**

Four and a half months ago, Steve Pettit, father of senior Mike Pettit and former Fathers' Club president, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a fatal form of blood cancer. Today, Pettit will be receiving a stem cell transplant that will keep him in the hospital for two to three weeks for observation.

The stem cell transplant process begins when doctors grow healthy stem cells in the blood stream. They remove the cells  
**see PETTIT, 3**

**Correction: The SLUH Family Mass is Sunday, February 24 at 9:30 a.m.**

## Four Jr. Bills recite in Shakespeare contest

**Paul Hogrebe  
Reporter**

On Tuesday, three students filled the Ignatian Conference room with the eloquence of William Shakespeare in an inaugural competition. The contest allows budding thespians to show their Shakespearean prowess by reciting a sonnet and a monologue by the famous playwright. The two speeches, approximately two to three minutes in length, lend themselves toward a powerful and emotional performance by the actor.

Junior and senior English teachers told some of their classes about the contest, while other individuals were specially notified because of their acting experience. The competition was open to all non-freshman students. This year's three contestants were junior J.R. Strzelec

and seniors Chris Storey and Chris Nausley.

This was the first year for the Shakespeare contest, sponsored by the English Speaking Union, here at SLUH. The organization tries to foster appreciation for the English language. English Department chair Chuck Hussung received an invitational letter from the organization to host a qualifier here at the school. Theater instructor Ken Ferrigni found out about the contest independently, but quickly talked to Hussung and prompted him to run an invitational.

Even with three contestants, the competition was very tight. The officials were English teacher Miles Grier, theology teacher Tom Finan, and theater teacher Kathryn Whitaker.

While Strzelec's rendering of sonnet 130 and Storey's rendition of Titus

both warranted high recognition, it was ultimately Nausley, with his original interpretation of a monologue from *The Merchant of Venice*, who won the day.

Hussung says he "was very impressed with the deliberation of the judges," realizing the hard choices they had to make.

Of his victory, Nausley commented, "I'm glad, but really do not know what to expect after this."

The next stage of the contest will take Nausley to UMSL this Saturday for a district meet. Winners from each of the 57 regional qualifiers then travel to New York, the final venue of the Shakespeare competition. The national grand prize is the chance to study at Oxford University in England.

Hussung hopes the fledgling competition will grow in the coming year, saying, "with a little advertising, it will be bigger next year."

## O'Connor places third in Irish dance competition

**Brian Kane  
Core Staff**

Though senior Kyle O'Connor can be considered the best dancer at St. Louis U. High, his skill most likely would not be shown at a mixer or a formal dance.

All last week, O'Connor competed in the All-Ireland Championships for Irish dancing. The event draws competitors from all over the globe. Nevertheless, O'Connor swept the floor, placing third in the competition. Though the real World Championships take place in Scotland during spring break, the All-Ireland was just as challenging. "It might as well have been World," said O'Connor.

Irish dancing has long been a part of O'Connor's life. His sisters used to take lessons, and it was during that time that his parents got him into it. He began taking lessons when he was eight years old at the Richens School of Irish Dancing, which was owned by Anne Richens. Richens flew in from Dayton, Ohio to teach the lessons.

That situation is not uncommon for Irish dancing teachers. "A lot of teachers

teach in several different cities," O'Connor said.

After three years of lessons at the Richens School, the school closed. O'Connor then transferred to the Lavin-Cassidy School. His teacher there flew in from Chicago to teach. When that teacher stopped teaching in St. Louis roughly five years ago, the school was turned over to one of its dancers and was renamed the Graham Academy.

Though he is officially part of the Graham Academy, O'Connor still holds onto his old school. "When I compete, I don't compete under (the Graham Academy) name. I compete under Lavin-Cassidy's name," he said, "Every once in a while, I fly up to Chicago since I'm still a part of their school."

Being enrolled at SLUH does pose challenges to O'Connor. He says that most of the dancers have lots of other kids their own age around them that also dance. Though his situation makes it harder, he has managed to work around it and succeed. "I have to take the initiative and do a lot of the work on my own," he says.

Though he is always learning,

O'Connor has taken up the responsibility of teaching Irish dancing as well. He has recently been spending more time teaching than practicing. He has been teaching for three years, and plans to continue doing so, possibly as a profession. This requires taking a lengthy exam to become certified. There are not any regulated courses, but a good deal of independent learning is necessary.

O'Connor has been competing for roughly the same amount of time he has been taking lessons. He began by entering regional championships, and has been entering progressively harder competitions ever since. When he was ten years old, he took part in the North American Championships for the first time. When he entered the World Championships for the first time, he was only twelve years old.

The challenge of competing against a very large number of dancers from so many places is not the only thing that faces him in the World Championships. "It's really tough over there. American kids don't get noticed as much as the Irish kids do.... The judging is very subjective.

see DANCER, 3

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Strzelec questions dance guidelines

To the Editor:

At a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee for Student Affairs (ASCA), parents, students, faculty, and staff discussed what criteria should exist for a student's attendance at one of SLUH's several date dances. After the meeting, Mr. Clark said that he would "have to try" letting students come alone to the dances. At the same meeting, Mr. Kesterson suggested that students bringing non-SLUH males as dates would contribute to a "mixer situation" at the dances. I believe that these two conclusions are backwards.

The (I feel) obvious assumption of a date dance such as Fall Ball is that the guests invited by students are dates. By "date," I mean that the person should at least function as a dance partner. This creates a balance between SLUH students and their dates, so that even if partners are switched, no one is left standing alone.

A SLUH student coming to a dance alone would, of course, upset that balance, resulting in a very high likelihood of certain

### PETTIT

(from 1)

with a catheter and purify the cells. After purification, the cells are reintroduced to the patient's bloodstream in hopes of outnumbering cancerous cells.

Pettit peppered answers back during the interview, seeming more energetic than even a healthy person would be, an extraordinary fact considering his four months of chemotherapy.

Pettit experienced four four-day treatments of chemotherapy to keep the cancer from spreading. He reported only mild side effects; he lost some hair but has since grown it back. He expressed great hope for the stem cells.

"(The transplant is) a tough ordeal, but it should send me into remission," Pettit asaid. "I feel good about my chances."

In addition to the stem cell transplant, doctors will experiment with new drug combinations, trying different things to send the cancer into remission.

Doctors are also hopeful about the prospect of a cure of multiple myeloma in the next ten to fifteen years, a hope that Pettit enthusiastically shares.

"I feel good," he repeated. "I'm young, healthy, and in good shape."

Pettit kept the interview light, again showing and telling about his good spirits and health. "It's awfully hard to get down when cards come every day, when the football team dedicates their season to you, when you receive so much support from old friends," Pettit glowed. He went on to list a myriad of people who had helped him get through his sickness, thanking them for prayers and especially citing the courage of his immediate family members, beaming with pride at the maturity of his kids and calling his daughter a "pillar of strength."

Pettit downplayed his excitement about the transplant. "I'm

students getting left out during the dance.

A male date, however, maintains the balance, *so long as the guest is a date*. The only problem with this is the homophobia that pervades this school despite the tolerance that is preached in our classrooms. Anyone who feels that a gay student "should know the disturbance they were creating" has obviously missed one of this school's most important lessons, and needs to get over himself.

I don't think that SLUH students should attend date dances alone or with males who are not dates, because both of these scenarios contribute to the "mixer situation" that Mr. Kesterson is wary of. But if a student is brave enough to admit he is gay despite all the bigotry he will face, I feel that he should be allowed to bring another male as a date. We as a school simply need to work to overcome our homophobia.

J.R. Strzelec, '03

a little nervous this week," he said. "People have it a lot worse than me, though."

Despite his hope, Pettit made no guarantees about his health. "I could get hit by a truck tomorrow," he joked.

### NERVOUS

(from 1)

Loyola Academy graduate for the first time. The fledgling Jesuit grade school, which is supported by Fr. Sheridan and numerous other volunteers from SLUH, is in its first year of graduating students. Of the seventeen who applied to area high schools, four applied to SLUH; all four were admitted. Father Sheridan, clearly pleased with these results, noted that, "The school is working...Frank Corley, (principal) Tom Nolan, and the other faculty do a really excellent job." Sheridan added that the success of the Loyola school is due to "the great volunteers, the fact that the families identify with the school, and the maturation of the kids."

### *Quote of the Week*

*"Not madness," Aureliano said,  
"War. And don't call me Aurelito  
anymore. Now I'm Colonel  
Aureliano Buendia."*

# *Celebration* marks 2002 musical debut

*Schmidt and Jones play boasts a cast of 70*

**J.R. Strzelec**  
Reporter

**C**elebration is not a musical play. As director Joe Schulte has been telling his cast from day one, "This show is a ritual." Penned by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones, the acclaimed team who wrote *The Fantasticks*, *Celebration* embraces archetypes rather than overly specific characters. In a cast of almost 70 performers, Schulte states that there are only five characters.

First, there is the young Orphan (junior Brandon Bieber), who embodies hope, innocence, and all the good that can be found in the world. He is guided by Potemkin (junior Alan Naylor), a man who has experienced just about everything the world has to offer, good and bad, and has come to the decision that the best thing he can do is keep himself alive. Potemkin hopes to use Orphan's beautiful innocence to gain the favor of Mr. Rich (sophomore Peter Gosik), the most powerful and most corrupt man in the world.

Along the way, Orphan meets and falls in love with the beautiful Angel (Kirkwood junior Jen Sheehan), who is torn between her love for the Orphan and the enticing prospect of becoming Somebody.

Rich and Orphan soon become engaged in a contest between youth and age, good and evil, life and death. Surrounding them is *Celebration's* fifth and largest character, the ensemble. Through singing, dancing, juggling, and all manner of performing, the ensemble leads and follows the four principals on their journeys, putting on masks to assume a wide variety of identities.

"The reason this show is so good is because it has such a good message and plays on so many levels," Naylor said.

*Celebration* opened last night, and performances will continue throughout the weekend. Showtimes are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 7:30, with a Sunday matinee at 2:00. Come join the ritual.

## Chinese Club celebrates 15-day new year with food, fireworks

**Kevin Pape**  
Reporter

**T**he new year of the Chinese calendar was celebrated on Feb. 12 this year. Every year the celebration falls on a different day, as there are 29 days per month in their calendar. In order to catch up with the lack of days, an extra month is added every few years just like a leap year.

The Chinese Club has its own events planned for this year as they do every year. On Sunday, the club will trek to Chinese Square in the U. City Loop. Here, they will get to see a Chinese community closely, learning more about culture from the atmosphere and their Chinese folktale sessions. The group will eat at Wonton King Restaurant.

Senior Dave Decepeida thinks that the trip lets club members see more of Chinese culture. "It brings us all together; we see a lot more," he said.

The 15-day festival and ends with a party like our new year's celebration. It is a time for family and tradition. Chinese teacher Ching Ling Tai commented that in China, "Traffic is impossible because everyone is trying to get home."

A lot of time is spent keeping the house clean, but sweeping the dirt out is considered unlucky. The dirt must be swept inward and then carried out.

Red is a festive color and is used in directions. Children receive "lai see," or lucky money, red envelopes with dollar bills in them. Another tradition is not to spank children because if you cry on new year's day, you are to continue to cry all year. When visiting friends and relatives it is customary to bring some oranges because, in Chinese, the word orange is a homonym for luck.

Before midnight everyone in the family sits down to a banquet. Food is a big part of the celebration. A whole fish, a chicken with the head and feet, and uncut noodles are all served for togetherness and a long life. Decorations called "chun lian," or couplet, are put on both sides of doors. They have poetic sentences written on them.

Everyone in the family will then wait in suspense for the new year. When the clock strikes midnight, all the doors and windows are opened to let go of the old and welcome the new. Fireworks are set off and the party continues.

2002, or 4699 in the Chinese calendar, is the year of the horse. There are twelve different symbols for years, including the rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. People that are born under this sign of the horse are active, energetic, and quick-witted.

## NHS BOOK

### POLL RESULTS

Student Picks by Percentage:

Goosebumps	17.4%
Boxcar Children	6.8%
Harry Potter	8.5%
Berenstein Bears	37.8%
Matt Christopher	9.8%
Babysitters Club	4.0%
Beverly Cleary	1.9%
Judy Blume (Fudge)	2.9%
Other	11.3%

855 students were polled.

The NHS book drive continues through next Friday. All books will go to children at Adams Elementary School for their independent reading projects.

# Siebenman, SWAT team dunk Vianney 84-64

*Big performance Monday overshadows loss to Chaminade*

**Reid Heidenry**  
Reporter

Last Friday night, the Basketbills ventured West to the Athletictron, looking to steal an MCC victory against 17-5 Chaminade. Doing so meant shutting down Chaminade's ever dangerous Kenny Lee and keeping center Ted Morris in check.

SLUH big man Matt Wyrwich knew what he had to contend with and was fully prepared when Morris tried a turnaround jumper early. Wyrwich wasn't having none of that, stuffing Morris' shot Thanksgiving-style. Adam Siebenman fed off that energy, stealing a pass on the next possession and skewering the length of the court for a lay-in and a throw.

Early in the second quarter, Kevin Schroeder went straight Country Crock on Chaminade, burying a three to put the Basketbills up 14-12. "Kevin has nice

touch from the arc," said DuBourg senior Rachel Novak. Indeed Schroeder does, as he went 3 for 6 from three-point land with a solid 12 points on the night. Chaminade fought back though, taking a 24-16 lead just before half.

In the third, the Basketbills made their own run after another Schroeder three-ball. The Schroeder-special sparked an 11-3 run that ended with six-nine Wyrwich, hitting a three just as time expired. "When it left my hand, I knew the trey bomb was cash money," said Wyrwich.

Though it has not been confirmed,

there is speculation that with that three, Wyrwich became the tallest player in SLUH history to cotton a triple.

In the fourth, Chaminade's Kenny

Lee took over the game. Lee was unstoppable, scoring 21 on the night and cementing a 54-39 Chaminade victory.

At one game under .500, SLUH was looking to rebound from the tough loss and

get a win on Monday against visiting Vianney.

Back at home, the NuttinButNetBills see **CHARITY STRIPE, 8**



Wyrwich looks for an opening against the Chaminade defense.

## Puckbills clip Griffins' wings in playoff opener

**Kevin Moore**  
Sports Editor

Last year the St. Louis U. High varsity hockey team lost the first game of their two-game series in the state playoffs against Rockwood Summit in the round of sixteen. Although the Jr. Bills bounced back to win 6-1 in the second game, Summit scored first in the sudden-death mini-game after the second game to move on to the next round.

Many of this year's Jr. Bills who played on the team last year remember that series well. Memories of a scramble in front of the SLUH net in the mini-game, followed by a seemingly slow motion wrist shot into the upper left corner of the net by a Summit player, have motivated this year's squad.

Determined to start this year's series with a win, the 7th-ranked Jr. Bills took on the 10th-ranked Vianney Griffins in the first game of the series on Monday. Hoping to set the tone for the next game, the Jr.

Bills skated away with a strong 4-1 victory at the South County Recreation Center.

After Vianney scored the first goal of the game with only 13 seconds left in the first period, the Jr. Bills came flying out in the second. Midway through the second period, Jr. Billiken hustle led to a goal by captain Bob Lachky. Picking up a rebound off of a slap shot by Dennis Burke from outside the blue line, Lachky's initial shot was turned away by a pad save. However, the puck came skirting back to Lachky, and he tucked it inside the left post to tie the score at 1.

Seconds later, junior Tim Mudd added a fluke goal. Holding the puck behind the net, Mudd flung the puck off of the goalie's

pads and into the net.

"We have been down after quite a few first periods, but we never let that get to us," said Lachky. "In a really short span, we got a couple of good bounces."

Later in the second period, Joe Mantovani scored to give the Jr. Bills a



The Puckbills swarm the Vianney net early in the first period of their 4-1 win Monday night.

commanding 3-1 lead. As Vianney cleared the puck, Burke skated back to his own blue line to retrieve the puck. As Mantovani snuck behind the defenders, Burke shot him a pass off the boards.

Mantovani pulled the puck to his right on a breakaway and flipped a backhand over the goalie. "I saw Joe and knew he had a clear path to the net. He is a finisher," said Burke.

see **2-MINUTE MINOR, 7**

# Swimbills boast 16 all-state finishes, fifth place

**Michael Petersen**  
Reporter

The results are in: mission accomplished. SLUH attained its two goals heading into the State Swim Meet last weekend, finishing top 5 and having all swimmers set personal best times. In an extremely competitive field of many teams, the Murraybills finished fifth, one of the best finishes in SLUH swimming history. Three of the top five teams were from the MCC, at which SLUH took second place in Conference. DeSmet upset Parkway South by a narrow margin, taking the crown away from the 1999-2001 state champs by four points.

"We were ecstatic with second place at Conference and fifth place at state," said head coach Terry Murray. "We were in it until the end in both events. Individually, we had 16 All-State finishes (top 8) and 4 All-State Honorable Mentions (top 16). All three of our relays were All-State.

## Six SLUH wrestlers qualify for state meet

**Mike Smallwood**  
Reporter

As you sit here reading this, six members of the SLUH wrestling team are preparing to wrestle their second round matches in the state tournament. These six competitors earned their way into the big show last Saturday at Hazelwood Central in sectional matches.

Rob Nahlik (112) was ready to continue his season-long quest to state when he took the mat for his first match. He faced an opponent he had previously beaten but did not underestimate him. He had a strong match, with several pinning attempts until finally he got the fall at 4:50. In the second round, he again came out strong to take an early lead. However, his opponent got a reversal at the beginning of the third period to pull within one. Then Nahlik turned it on, getting his own quick reversal and following that up with a near pin to win 10-5. With that win, Nahlik secured himself a place in the state meet and finished with the second seed of

Even though we're such a young team, everyone was calm. We'll only get better."

Entering the preliminary section of the meet last Friday morning, SLUH came off a 10-2 record and a good breakfast at IHOP. The T-Bonebills advanced to the finals in nearly every race, not qualifying in only the 50 Freestyle, 500 Freestyle, and 200 Individual Medley events. Eight Jr. Bills swam in five different races and three different 4-man relays in the finals.

In the 200 Medley Relay, senior Greg Szewczyk, junior Tom Heafner, sophomore Nathan Harris and freshman Tim Heafner utilized the four strokes of swimming—back, breast, fly, and free—to produce a sixth place state finish, garnering 26 points for the Jr. Bills early on in the

meet. In the 200 Freestyle, sophomore Kurt Doll finished 11th overall. This race was a personal best for Doll, who scored 6 precious points for the Flip-turnbills. Swimming in the 100 Fly finals were



Greg Szewczyk swims the backstroke in prelim relays on Friday.

Heafner and Harris. Finishing sixth and fourteenth respectively, this dynamic duo tacked on 13 and 3 points. In the 100 Free event, Szewczyk and Doll combined for 18 points, as each swimmer cut times significantly from earlier races. Szewczyk finished fifth, and Doll ended up 13th in one of the most competitive races in swimming. The 200 Free Relay swam well as the Splashbills picked up 24 points with a seventh-place finish. Harris, Doll, junior Brad Witbrodt and sophomore Nick

see **SPEED-O**, 7

the sectional after losing his finals match.

Boyd Gonnerman (119) also took great advantage of his chances to make state. He completely controlled his first opponent, giving him only escape points and winning 13-5. He lost his second-round match, which put him in a must-win situation against a wrestler he had also previously beaten. This tight match was tied 2-2 going into the last minute when Gonnerman exploded for a takedown and followed that up by going for the pin and getting near-fall points. He ended up winning 6-2 to qualify for state.

Gonnerman, however, did not come simply to continue on to the state meet but also to do well. He went hard-nosed into his finals match and was again tied going into the third period. After choosing down, he was able to get the reversal and win 7-6 to get the third place seed for his sectional.

Justin Clerc (140) also picked up a big first-round win, which ended up being important for his qualifying for state. He led the entire match and ended up winning

11-9. Also losing his second-round match, he was in a must-win situation. Clerc was up to the task when this match came down to the third period tied. As the team looked on with anxious support, Clerc escaped from his down position to take the lead 3-2 and refused to let his opponent score any points on him, holding out for victory and a birth into the state tournament.

After winning his first-round match 8-2, Chris Wagnitz (145) also was in great position to make the state competition. After losing his second-round match, he bounced back in a dominant fashion. He constantly kept pressure on his opponent by working for chances to escape and then attacking for takedowns to win 12-0. Wagnitz unfortunately injured his arm while wrestling in the tournament and defaulted his finals match. However, he will be wrestling at state, and hopefully the injury will not inhibit his performance.

Joe Bommarito (152), who qualified for state last year, demonstrated his experience in all of his matches. He easily won

see **HEADGEAR**, 8

# Riflebills set records, head to Nationals

**Chris Seals**  
**Reporter**

On Feb. 2 and 3, SLUH hosted the 2002 Missouri Junior Olympics in the rifle range. Competitors from all over Missouri traveled to the event to compete in .22 rifle, air rifle, or air pistol. SLUH's varsity and JV teams competed in .22 rifle and air rifle, and performed well in both.

The varsity team of Giles Walsh, juniors Scott Isaak and Adam Hilkenkamp, and sophomore Chris Seals shot powerful .22 scores of 548, 550, 540, and 548, respectively. Isaak took second in the championship, only 1 point behind the state champion.

The JV team, consisting of sophomores Andrew Hrdlicka, Kevin Gentsch, Bo Purcell, and Keith Reilly, shot 530, 528, 497, and 469 respectively.

The Junior Olympics offered the shooters a chance to earn a spot in the National Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs in March. In order for an individual to advance to the Nationals, freshmen, sophomore, and junior shooters had to get a score of 545 or better; senior shooters had to shoot a 550. Isaak (550) and Seals (548) received automatic invitations to the Nationals due to their qualifying scores.

This past weekend, the Riflebills traveled to Highland, Ill., to compete in the NRA 3-Position Sectionals, shooting for national rank. The varsity team of Isaak (556), Seals (551), Walsh (544), and Hilkenkamp (534) broke their school record with a 2185, setting another record one point greater than the record broken in

Murray, Ky., two weeks ago. Last year's varsity team took third place in the nation. This year's varsity team hopes to take first, with a score 47 points higher than last year's.

The JV team of Hrdlicka (530), Gentsch (541), Purcell (497), and Reilly (490) followed up with a strong score of 2057. Overall, the Riflebills continued their domination of all other rifle teams in Missouri. The varsity team took first



Junior Scott Isaak, left, and sophomore Chris Seals both qualified to go to Nationals in Colorado.

place in the match, and the JV team took second. Isaak took second place in the match, and SLUH had several shooters among the top ten in the event.

This weekend will be a little less work for the Riflebills; they will shoot on their home turf against Quincy High School, and expect a big win, considering both of SLUH's teams beat Quincy's varsity team in the sectionals last weekend.

## SPEED-O

(from 6)  
Konczak each sprinted two lengths and dropped a full second from their final time compared to their prelim time. Szewczyk tallied up 14 points with a fifth-place finish in the 100 Back, dropping a half-second from 55.96 to 55.46 and setting a personal best in his final race.

Attending the state meet was Jim Knapp, S.J., who noted that "the number of personal best times for our swimmers was amazing, in both the prelims and the finals. That says it all right there."

SLUH's 400 freestyle relay team of Konczak, Tim Heafner, Doll, and closer Szewczyk mustered a fantastic sixth-place finish. This notched an extra 26 points to SLUH's total, as the relay team set another personal record. Their prelim time

of 3:24.61 was impressive, but ending the season with a stunning final time of 3:23.00 leads to high expectations for next year.

Finally, the 100 breast stroke was in the hands of Tom Heafner and sophomore Gabe Toennies. Not surprisingly, both swimmers achieved personal best times. Heafner finished third overall (1:01:42), adding 16 points and Toennies finished 13th, adding four. The state record in the 100 Breast is held by Jeff Commings, '91, with a time of 54.78. Commings was about a second off the national record, and beat this year's top finisher by more than five seconds.

Water polo coach Paul Baudendistel offered some final thoughts on the tremendous season, commenting "We better do better next year."

## 2-MINUTE MINOR

(from 5)

With the 3-1 lead, the Jr. Bills played solid defense the rest of the game in front of junior goalie Dan DiLeo, who stopped 25 of the 26 shots he faced. "DiLeo was playing incredible," said Lachky. As time ticked off the clock in the third period, sophomore Kyle Butler added an empty netter to seal the 4-1 victory.

Lachky attributed the win to the Jr. Bills' effort. "We kept working hard and

had the momentum in the second half of the game," he said.

The team realizes, however, that they still have much work ahead of them. "We don't want to get ahead of ourselves," said Mantovani. "It was nice to win the first one, but we haven't really done anything. We just want to stay focused, and hopefully things will bounce our way."

The Puckbills play Vianney in game two of the series Friday at 8:00 at Affton

Ice Rink. With a win or a tie, the Jr. Bills will advance to the quarterfinals Saturday at 7:30 at Affton against the winner of the series between Rockwood Summit and second-ranked DeSmet.

The Jr. Bills must play well Friday if they want to continue their season Saturday. "Vianney will come out flying because they don't want to go home yet," said Lachky. "They're a physical team... we just have to play our game."

## CHARITY STRIPE

were ready to do some bow-droppin'. Freddie Daues took over the game early, dropping 10 digits in the first quarter alone, 18 for the game. Said guard Andy Wahl, "Freddie was definitely spitting some mad game down low." Another Daues fan, Ally Fresco, thought Freddie played well too. "Huh? What?" said the DuBourg senior.

Late in the first with the Basketbills up 19-15, Adam Siebenman tried to get a lob in to Wyrwich. Siebenman was too strong, accidentally making the shot in the process. The only problem: Siebenman was out of bounds at half court. his miracle shot might have been a clue for the Golden Griffins to guard him a little tighter. But the G-squareds didn't take his advice, and Siebenman later made them pay.

Early in the second quarter, Kris Lowes took a bullet from Jason Lafloure and elevated to the orange bowl for two. Lowes was fouled in the process, netting the

throw for a three-point play. "There's no shame in his game," Cor Jesu senior Molly Myers said.

Minutes later the Siebenman train started to roll over Vianney. Siebenman took a pass to the baseline, swooshing a Jordanesque fadeaway that left him out of bounds and on his back.

Minutes later, after Siebenman's own version of the Schroeder-special, Wyrwich swat-teamed another Vianney shot for one of his 8 blocks on the night. Following the block, superstar sophomore Andy Lowes netted a double to give SLUH a 28-25 lead. "Once he gets into a good rhythm, Andy's a very good shooter," said sophomore Christy Piper.

Overall, the night belonged to Siebenman and Andy Wahl. The backcourt

tandem combined for 32 points. Siebenman had 31. What's amazing is that Siebenman scored 31 on a mere 16 shots. He was all over the court, taking charges, doing sick 360s across half court to break the press and give the fans what they wanted, the patented run up the steps after saving the ball. Dedicated fan Tony Sansone was impressed. "Ace job Siebs. Free smoothies," said Sansone.

Siebenman, in all his glory, was modest after the game: "I have to give a lot of the credit to my teammates."

Schroeder, who supplied Siebenman with the ball and his team with 8 assists, said of Siebenman's performance, "It must have been the countless hours spent in the weight room with his girlfriend, Katie Truman."

Truman."

Siebenman continued, "I was having a lot of fun out there, and I didn't know how many points I had until Troy (Lindbeck) motioned to me from the stands." The Basketbills put on a show for

Lindbeck, scoring 84 before the night was over. The game ended with the thirty-second point of the tandem coming from Wahl at the line. Kalei Lowes, sister of basketball chiefs Andy and Kris, and a St. Joe's standout said, "Andy (Wahl) is really good, but he's no Lowes." The Basketbills won 84-64.

Tonight the U. High will take on Cape, 7 p.m. at SLUH. Making a possible appearance are sophomores John Kornfeld, Jeff Milles and freshman Dave Goettleman, who were moved up to varsity this week. "It's an honor to be up here with these guys. We should learn a lot," said Kornfeld. It's also senior night, so make sure to come cheer on Rob Boehm, Anthony Benbow, and the rest of the SLUH seniors.



Junior Phineas Troy heckles a Chaminade forward. The Jr. Bills couldn't weather Chaminade's late scoring spurt, losing 54-39.

## HEADGEAR

(from 6)

his first-round match with a 3:07 pin. He continued his march to state when he dominated his second-round opponent. Bommarito came out of the gates quick to get a takedown and then continued pummeling him down several times in the second. He put even more pressure on his opponent in the third with several pinning attempts to win the match 11-1, making him a two-time state qualifier. In the finals he lost to a returning state champion from Hazelwood Central, who is undefeated in the last two seasons. However, he will still have the two seed from sectionals and could see this opponent again at state.

Other wrestlers in Colin O' Brien's weight class, 160, came into sectionals gunning for him. His first-round match showed his raw power as he attempted to pin his opponent a total of four times but just could not get the stick. He did get the technical fall, however, after he got a reversal in the second period and followed this up with a 3:31 pin in his second round match. That win made O'Brien a three-time state qualifier. With his usual focus and glaring aggression, he took the mat against a very worthy opponent from McCluer North in the finals match. After a scoreless first period, O'Brien got on the board by turning his opponent and picking up some near fall points. Only letting his opponent escape twice after that, he won 6-2 to become the sectional champion.

O'Brien, like Bommarito and other SLUH wrestlers are "peaking at just the right time," said head coach Tim Curdt. "They all handled the pressure so well." Looking ahead to next year already, Curdt said he was especially pleased about the four juniors that qualified.

The team left for the University of Missouri in Columbia yesterday after homeroom and should fare well against the best competition in the state. As Bommarito put it, "We just have to be confident (we) can beat our guys and wrestle like 'I want to win,' and 'I am not just happy to be there.'"

# Soccer made in Germany: alum recalls '72 Olympics

**Patrick Meek**  
**Core Staff**

For most of us, a hostage situation is something from the latest Harrison Ford movie. However, one SLUH alum experienced it on the world's greatest stage: the Olympics.

Arthur "Buzz" Demling began to play soccer at a time when it was not as popular as it is now. After playing in youth and grade school leagues, Demling came to SLUH, where he continued to play under legendary coach Ebbie Dunn. Dunn and Demling eventually became extremely close.

"I remember when I first started (teaching), I used to come into the faculty room and occasionally see Ebbie and Buzzy sitting together and talking," said fine arts teacher Joan Bugnitz, Demling's cousin.

"You always knew where you stood with him," commented Demling. "He made the game fun."

Demling noted that Dunn held great respect for the game and its rules: "If you got a yellow card, you were out of the game."

After completing his high school education at SLUH, Demling went on to Michigan State.

"Back then there were not many colleges that had soccer programs," Demling said. Despite being offered a scholarship to St. Louis University, Demling instead chose to go to Michigan State because "It was a chance to get away (from home)."

"I had a number of friends on the team," continued Demling. "Half of the team was from St. Louis and the other half was from Jamaica, with one guy from Detroit."

With that group over the next four years, Demling played on some good teams. In 1970, he was named to the All-American team.

"It was a great honor to be awarded with the All-American certificate," explains Demling.

However, Demling's greatest honor would not come for another two years. In 1972, he was named to the U.S. Olympic soccer team.

"It was a great honor to play for the U.S. and walk behind the American flag in the opening ceremonies," said Demling.

Prior to the Olympics, Demling and the rest of the Olympic team spent two years together, during which they played against All-Star teams and various other teams in addition to playing qualifying rounds. The team also played in the 1971 Pan-American games, in which the top teams from the Americas played

together.

Demling's Olympic experience did not turn out to be what he had expected. The first problem was the team's early elimination from the Games.

Upon entering the Olympics, the U.S. team was seeded in a tough first round group with Malaysia, Morocco, and West Germany. After playing each of these teams once, the U.S. team ended up with an 0-2-1 record.

"We were the first U.S. team to ever make it past (the) qualifying (round)," said Demling. "However, it was disappointing to be eliminated in the first round."

He continued, "The Russians were the other team which was eliminated, so we all sat around together drinking vodka and told stories which no one understood."

The terrorist attacks that took place during the Games also put a damper on Demling's experience. On September 5, 1972, members of a faction of the PLO called Black September stormed into a room of the Israeli wrestling team and took several members of the Olympic team hostage. After several tense hours and a failed attempt at rescuing the hostages, the ordeal ended with five of the terrorists and eleven of the Israeli athletes dead.

When asked how he learned of the situation, Demling recalled, "Our assistant coach was running back (to the athletes' village) from a boxing match with his hood up since it was raining. Back then security was lax, so you could pass by the entrance easily. As soon as he passed by the

entrance, he was surrounded by five or six people with machine guns asking what he was doing. After he got back he told us what had happened."

"My reaction was total disbelief at first," said Demling, "We could see the Palestinians in their ski masks from our porches."

Of the atmosphere surrounding the village during the crisis, Demling said, "I felt fairly safe with the police and the German military."

Even with that harrowing experience, Demling still has good memories of his times at the Olympics, such as "trading pins with other countries."

After Demling got back from Munich, he went back over to Germany to play on a team in Frankfurt. However, after one year playing there he came back because he was lonely.

"When I went to SLUH, I took Russian, so I did not know the  
see **RINGS**, 12



Demling (9) heads the ball in a game against Normandy in 1966.

# Hell Week: the mad diary of a thespian

**Brian Wacker**  
Reporter

It is 2:13 a.m. on Wednesday morning. I am sitting at my computer with a cup of coffee, two empty Mountain Dew cans, Dave Matthews playing in the background, and a headache that I have had since 5th period. I have been up since 6 o'clock this morning, even though it was a late start, because I had to make up homework from the night before. Now, with the impending doom of incurring the wrath of Missey, I will probably be up another hour finishing this feature. Why do I do this, you ask? Why have I been up for 20 hours on a Tuesday? Why am I putting myself through such nonsensical, unneeded strife? Easy.

'Cuz I'm in Hell.

You may have heard it thrown around in class by students as a way of justifying their slumping grades. You may have had an older sister who went through it during her plays in high school. You may have even had a dance class cancelled because of it. But, brother, until you've experienced one (or nine), you cannot begin to comprehend what Hell Week really is.

For those unfamiliar, the term Hell Week is given to the week of practices preceding the opening night of a particular theatrical production. Typically, at SLUH at least, Hell Week starts on the Sunday before opening night. Actors, singers, and dancers arrive at school around 4 or 5 in the afternoon. That night, they are expected to assimilate the costumes, the finished set, and the experience of singing along with an actual orchestra, none of which have been there yet. A full run-through of the show is not typical, but they work large chunks of the show in random order until about 10.

"The Sunday practice is the very definition of inconvenient. Having to form your whole weekend around a practice that takes place right when I want to do my homework stinks," laments stage director Tom Recktenwald, a junior. "I either do it earlier in the weekend, or not at all." Unfortunately, the latter is the choice made by most students. I can't say that too many of them choose the former.

Practices on Monday and Tuesday are typically the hardest. All participants are expected at practice by 5:30 p.m., and to be in costume by 6. Notes are then given to the cast on mistakes made the night before, new blocking schemes, and costume changes. For about an hour, they practice those changes. They go straight from improving mistakes to applying them to the show because at 7 o'clock, the show starts with very little time to breathe in between.

The Monday rehearsal is the first time, in all seven weeks of practice, that the show is ever seen in its entirety. It is the first time the cast and crew have to deal with costume changes, scene transitions, light cues, and sound cues on the fly. If that doesn't seem daunting to you, imagine a football team of 60 players (all of whom would play during the game at some point) has been practicing for seven weeks for one big game. But during that time period, they have never actually simulated a game-time situation until three days before the game.

"One of the most humbling experiences a cast can ever have is to see what it looks like the first time the show is run," says senior singer Alex Green. "There are missed cues, shoddy blocking, tentative singing. The resounding feeling after that practice is, 'Man, we suck!'"

The cast is usually dismissed between 10 and 10:30, having been told to get some rest and be ready for tomorrow. Right.

One other side note: besides the two and a half hour stretch

*"There is a calculus test posted on the bulletin board outside the Green Room with a score lower than the number of states in the Continental U.S. It's mine."*

between school and practice, which is usually filled by finding something to eat, the cast and crew really have no feasible time to do homework. Students agonize. Teachers don't sympathize. Grades plummet. It's the cold, bitter truth that we all knew about when we got into this mess. There is a calculus test posted on the bulletin board outside the Green Room with a score lower than the number of states in the Continental U.S. It's mine.

"It really sucks because while we are thrown into this world of chaos for a week, everyone else, from teachers to friends, is still on a normal schedule and expect you to be on it too," said Steve Brown, who sings alongside me for most of the show. "You don't get any special privileges for being in Hell Week." I know about 60 guys who would agree with him.

The Wednesday practice is very similar to the other two with just one exception. The director does not stop the show for any reason short of an emergency. There are no excused missed lines. The dress rehearsal serves as the first production for the cast. The play is out of the director's hands. It usually plays out pretty well, too. There are a few mistakes, as there will be in any performance. But it seems as if the gods of theatre will not let it suck anymore. Things usually go an hour later than the other days because of extensive notes and reminders after the run-through, so people don't leave until around 11 p.m. At that point, most of the male cast and crew members have been at SLUH for 16 hours.

Not lost in all this, if you haven't realized, is the exhaustion. A typical cast or crew member will get about 4 or 5 hours a night, assuming that they don't have any extraordinary assignments, see HADES, 12

## SENIOR PROJECT

## TEACHING IN NORTH CITY: THE BISHOP HEALY SCHOOL

**Joey Neilsen**  
Reporter

What was I supposed to expect from my Senior Project? I don't think I every really thought about it. People asked where I was going and I told them I would be working at Bishop Healy School on North Kingshighway and that I was excited. Why? I probably would have said I wanted to work with kids. Numbers, letters, and if they're lucky, sentences. Maybe every now and then a little addition, some coloring. From reading project summaries, I expected them to love me, but I didn't know why. I figured it would just happen.

The whole thing seemed simple enough. Go to school at 7:30, do whatever it was I'd be doing, and leave at 2:45. Except for the middle part, I wasn't too far off. When I walked into the kindergarten room, I met the teacher, Mr. Wilbanks (I never learned his first name) and the three students, Quentin, Callan, and Tashana, with whom I would spend the most time, and yes, they were coloring. Quentin was one of the brightest, although one of the worst-behaved, students in the class. Callan was still developing her alphabet skills and I probably spent most of my time there with her.

I divided my time, if unevenly, between the pre-kindergarten class with Mrs. Ford and the kindergartners. Kindergarten work was the same every day. Alphabet, numbers 1 through 50, and four or five sentences. If they finished that, there were phonics sheets to complete and color. They went to gym, recess, music, lunch, and had a little quiet time right after recess. The pre-k kids did art projects, learned to recognize numbers and letters, wrote their names and addresses. They had snack and nap time in addition to lunch and recess, and there was always something for me to do.

For all the work I had, though, I had stopped paying attention to what I was doing by the third day. Sure, there were events that stuck out, but it became clear very quickly that my duty as a teacher's aide was hardly even secondary to my real work. Of course, I was proud if one of my kids learned something, but it didn't really matter. I found out soon that the attention I gave them, in contrast to the harsh discipline of the teachers, was much more important than anything I could teach them.

It may sound strange, but helping a five-year-old make the letter "f" didn't make my day. What made my day was the way they smiled at me, the way they absorbed every bit of attention and patience and love I had. I was trying to help Zachary in pre-k write his alphabet. "Do you know what letter is next? Can you write it? Will you please write it?" The whole time he just stared at my face, smiling and nodding. Finally he put his hand on top of his head, twirled his fingers, and said, "I'm a helicopter." "Are you a helicopter that can write?" I asked. He nodded and started working. It was the kids themselves who made the project

worthwhile.

On my last Tuesday there, I let Quentin, Tashana, and Eric move to Callan's table, where I was helping her do her numbers. They just wanted company. Callan, obviously upset, put her head on her desk and refused to work. She wouldn't say why and I couldn't get her to work, so I asked Mr. Wilbanks for help. He tried to get her to say why, but she just cried. "I hate you," she said to me. "I never forgive people who tell on me." I was hurt, because I didn't mean to upset her, but ten minutes later she hugged me and said, "I forgive you."

Those last few days, I found myself with very little patience. It was very odd and disturbing because Mr. Wilbanks had commented earlier on my skill with children, especially my patience. It's usually something I take pride in, and here I was without it. If kids wouldn't sit still or do their work, I might find myself just about to yell or worse, and I was quite confused. I also found it difficult to write in my project journal, having little to say. Suddenly, though, after one of three good conversations with Mr. Wilbanks, I understood.

We were talking about the incident with Callan, and he asked me why she acted the way she did. I told him I was baffled, and he gave me the same conclusion my parents did, and what I think I had known the whole time. She didn't want to share me with the other kids. I then realized that my frustration was no different. I didn't want to leave. My project had taken me by surprise. I expected them to love me, and they did, but I never thought I would love them back, never even imagined I wouldn't want to leave.

## *Ash Wednesday Mass*



Bishop Timothy Dolan anoints senior Dan Klein's head with ashes during Wednesday's mass. Fr. Dolan's homily told the story of a Cardinal who spent time in a Soviet labor camp; Dolan ultimately focused on the importance of sacrifice during Lent.

by Patrick Meek

## Calendar

Feb 15 - Feb 22

**FRIDAY, FEB. 15**

Schedule L

Dauphin Players' *Celebration* @ 7:30pm

V-BB vs. Cape Girardeau Cent. @ 7:00pm

B-BB vs. Cape Girardeau Cent. @ 5:30pm

V-WR @ State Championships @ Hearnes Center

V-Hoc @ Affton @ 8:00pm

**SATURDAY, FEB. 16**Dauphin Player's *Celebration* @ 7:30pm

V-WR @ State Championships @ Hearnes Center

**SUNDAY, FEB. 17**Dauphin Players' *Celebration* @ 2pmDauphin Players' *Celebration* @ 7:30pm**MONDAY, FEB. 18**

No Classes

V-BB @ District Tournament @ Normandy

**TUESDAY, FEB. 19**

Schedule B

V-BB @ District Tournament. @ Normandy

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20**

Schedule B

Activity Period: Ranken Technical Col-

lege

V-BB @ District Tournament @ Normandy

**THURSDAY, FEB. 21**

Schedule R

V-BB @ District Tournament @ Normandy

**FRIDAY, FEB. 22**

Schedule R

Fast Friday

Activity Period: Truman State Univ.

V-BB @ District Tournament @ Normandy

**RINGS**

(from 9)

language (over there)."

After returning back to the States, Demling signed to play in his hometown with the St. Louis Steamers. After one year here in St. Louis, Demling's brother was drafted by the San Jose Earthquakes.

"I asked the Steamers to trade me to the Earthquakes, so I could play with my brother, which I did," said Demling.

"I was able to play with my brother for four years," continued Demling.

After playing with the Earthquakes, he moved around the country. Demling's trek brought him to Cincinnati, Detroit, and San Francisco.

In 1980, Demling finally decided that

he had had enough fun playing soccer and decided to settle back down in St. Louis.

Demling currently works at a local electricity company as sales rep. Demling also leads the Missouri Junior Olympic Development Soccer Program. This program selects a regional team which competes against other teams in an annual tournament each summer at SIUE. From that tournament a regional team is picked and sent around the world to compete against other countries.

Demling said he still plays active soccer in an over-40 league.

"Each week I come home and my wife wonders why I still do it," says Demling.

**HADES**

(from 10)

like writing a feature on the hell they are experiencing, which would probably give them less.

Added to the lack of sleep is the constant movement, or lack thereof, at the practices. When actors are off-stage, they are in constant motion, changing costumes, getting to their next entrance, and so on. But when onstage, unless you are a lead, there is a lot of standing still without being able to scratch an itch without diverting attention away from the scene.

It is debatable as to whether the nights of the performances can actually be referred to as Hell Week, because, as anyone involved in the show will tell you, the night of the show is anything but. There is still the lack of sleep, the slumping grades, and the total exhaustion, but the rush of adrenaline and emotion one gathers while performing for an audience makes you forget all that. There is nothing hellish about it.

There really is no logical explanation for subjecting oneself to this torture. It is academic suicide with a hint of self-inflicted physical suffering. But it's all worth it. The feeling I get at the end of a show, when the 60 of us are up on stage receiving a standing ovation, is worth all that crap. Those 10 seconds of heaven are worth 10 weeks of hell.

**NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS***Dan Becvar**Jon Britt**Scott Chartrand**Matt Diehr**Ted Feldmeier**James Kersey**Robert Lachky**Kevin Moore**Joseph Neilsen**Matt Siegel**Chris Storey**Conor Hagen*