

News: Cashbah net gains reported; Brother Witz to undergo knee replacement surgery, *page 2*

Sports: Trackbills make strong showing at MCC relays, place first, *page 8*

Opinion: Career Day should have included presentation on religious vocations, *page 3*

Prep News

VOLUME LXVI

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL, FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2001

ISSUE 25

Gay-Straight Alliance debuts at prayer service *Program stresses equality through Christian love; day of awareness set*

Andy Neilsen
Editor in Chief

“Hurtful speech like ‘fag,’ ‘homo,’ ‘that’s gay,’ and ‘dyke’ reflect bigotry and are not funny. Violent speech leads to physical violence.” The quote is from the SLUH Ally Pledge, the main action of this week’s inception of the Ally Program.

Starting last Wednesday and continuing through Tuesday, seniors Chris Storey, Justin Smith, Jake Boesch and history teacher Jeff Harrison, S.J., will be presenting their solution to the problem of homophobia at SLUH. The Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), or the “Ally Program,” was adapted by Harrison and the members of the Alliance from a national organization to create an atmosphere at SLUH that is safe for people of all sexual orientations.

The GSA is the first organization at SLUH that specifically addresses the is-

sue of homosexuality, and one of the first in the country at a Jesuit high school. Creighton Prep in Omaha, Neb., recently instituted a similar program.

Based largely on the Catholic belief of loving all people, the pledge states that the undersigned will be available to anyone feeling concerned or unsafe about their personal struggles with homosexuality and be committed to eliminating homophobia wherever it occurs. The GSA has been meeting unofficially for the past six weeks revising this pledge, which was adapted from other similar pledges.

Smith said that the purpose of the pledges and their posting is “to show that, even if you’re not sure of your stance on

(the issue) you’re not afraid to say that you will not badmouth or hate something that people can’t help. It shows that we have a lot of support from the student body.”

A person’s position as an ally does not reflect his sexual orientation, Storey said, but rather his commitment to supporting his fellow students. Neither is the program designed to rally homosexuals at SLUH or force people to acknowledge their homosexuality.

“We’re not trying to get people to come out,” Harrison reiterated, “but to feel safe, to feel that this is not a place where you have to worry.”

see **ALLY**, 6



The GSA button

Homeroom house system suggested at faculty meeting

Brian Kane
Reporter

The principal may not be the only thing changing in SLUH’s near future. Recent meetings have been held on the topic of homeroom, in hopes of its improvement.

The ideas of shifting homerooms were made public in speeches by SLUH President Paul Sheridan, S.J., on student wellness issues. Since then, administrators and faculty members have been brainstorming about it. While nothing solid has been decided, several changes have been proposed.

According to SLUH Principal Rob-

ert Bannister, results from sophomore exit interviews and information from the CARE Team sparked the start of these meetings. Bannister says that those involved are looking for ways to make certain aspects of the school more efficient, with a focus on homeroom. “We’re not asking them to do more as homeroom teachers, but to be more effective as homeroom teachers,” says Bannister.

“We know there are better ways to achieve our goals,” math teacher Craig Hannick said; however, he also noted that as of yet, the goals of these efforts have not been clearly set. “We’re just analyzing possibilities.”

see **HOUSE OF CARDS**, 11

Junior class Career Day



Juniors listen to Career Day speakers as counselor Ken McKenna looks on from right. *Story on page 5.*

PHOTO BY ALEX BARNER

Computers in lab used to view pornography

Six of 32 computers accessed pornographic websites within 8 days

Matt Hoffman
Core Staff

Everyone has heard stories one time or another about pornography at Saint Louis University High. The *Prep News* conducted an investigation in the eastern room of the basement computer lab to find out if such rumors were true. Eight days after deleting all cookies (small pieces of information left from websites that were accessed) and clearing histories (list of all the websites the computer accessed) on all of the computers that had internet access, 6 of the 32 computers were found to have pornography or evidence of pornography on them. *Prep News* staff members were unable to access the internet on 3 computers. Cookies could not be accessed on 6 of the computers, and 10 computers had had their histories deleted at least once during the period of the investigation.

Computer teacher Steve Nicollerat

said, "It doesn't surprise me that there's (pornography) on (the computers)." However, Nicollerat was surprised that in a time frame of only eight days, six computers had traces of pornography. Nicollerat added, "I think that any time you have kids, computers and internet access, it's a potential concern."

Student reaction to the problem of pornography being accessed in the computer lab is somewhat mixed. "It doesn't really happen that much. When it happens it's accidental," said one student who usually spends his activity and free periods in the computer lab. He added, "If it happens, it probably happens when there are not many people in the computer lab, maybe during free periods."

One student who admits having looked at pornography in the computer lab before said, "(People look at pornography) all the time." He contributed the deleted histories to students covering up pornography sites, or other objectionable

sites they had visited. He added, "It's definitely more than 6 computers that have accessed pornography."

Six computers containing traces of pornography, however, leave questions unanswered and problems unsolved.

Nicollerat, fellow computer teacher Tim Rittenhouse and computer consultant Bob Overkamp believe that restricting access on the internet by installing programs that block certain sites is harmful to student development regarding computers. "We wanted to teach responsibility by the ability to make choices," said Nicollerat. Even programs that are designed to prevent people from accessing pornography are not foolproof. Rittenhouse stresses that a person who is looking for pornography will almost always find it.

In addition, it is nearly impossible to tell who was accessing pornography, and difficult to find out when they accessed it.

see **COMPUTERS, 11**

Cashbah '02 nets \$333,000

Direct donations help top last year's total

Patrick Meek
Core Staff

When most people are asked what they would do if they were given \$333,000, they would be unable to answer. However, when St. Louis U. High was confronted with this problem after this year's Cashbah, they knew exactly what to do: give it back to the students.

On Saturday, March 16, St. Louis U. High hosted 760 of its benefactors and alumni for the annual Cashbah dinner and auction.

The evening started at 4:30 p.m., when the benefactors arrived and attended Mass in the Student Chapel, celebrated by President Paul Sheridan S.J. Following the Liturgy, the doors of the gym, decorated with the theme of "Reach for the Stars," were opened. After everyone sat down at their seats Sheridan said grace

and dinners were served. After dinner came the main event of the evening: the oral auction.

Going into the night there were concerns among the administration that the night would not be as profitable as previous years. These concerns were a result of economic downfalls which have plagued the U.S. economy in recent months.

However, thanks to what Vice President of Advancement Thom Digman attributed to the loyalty of "very generous" alumni, the school was able to set a new record for net profits at Cashbah, exceeding last year's total of \$325,000.

Sheridan reaffirmed this point by saying, "They know it has been a difficult year for us in terms of finances because of the economy. They are very good people, very selfless."

One of the ways that SLUH was able

see **COMMUNITY CHEST, 3**

WITZ SLATED FOR DOUBLE KNEE REPLACEMENT ON APRIL 15

Dan Butler
Core Staff

SLUH's vaunted rec-room caretaker and Cashbah furniture restorer, Brother Richard Witzofsky, S.J. will undergo double knee replacement surgery later this month. After suffering from arthritic conditions in his knees for many years, doctors have finally recommended complete replacement of both joints. The recovery time is unknown, so Witz will be absent from school indefinitely after the operation takes place on April 15.

Witz's arthritis has become more and more severe recently, with the pain re

see **LEG-BONE, 3**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Career Day should have included religious vocations

To the Editor:

I am writing to voice a concern of mine regarding the Junior Career Day. I will not question the motivation for the day or even the impact that it might have on a student's life, as many people have. I will, however, question the choices given to students as viable career options. I remember being surprised as I stared at the Career Day Survey for the first time. Many honorable careers were present on the sheet: education, medicine, law, technology, and business, just to name a few. The counseling department, I thought to myself, must have made an error in judgement which I could easily fix by filling out the 'Other' category on my sheet. The main topic I filled out as 'Religious Vocation.' My three subsets were the three main religious orders in the church: Jesuit, Archdiocesan, and Redemptorist. I know that, along with myself, there are a number of students in the junior class considering the religious vocation.

Soon after filling out this survey, I received a note in homeroom telling me to report to the counseling office. Once there, I was told to alter my answer to the survey. They said that there were not enough people interested in religious life for them

to set up a session for it.

I believe SLUH, along with other Catholic high schools in America, has a duty to take a special interest in promoting the religious life to its students. If you were to read the St. Louis University High School Mission Statement, you would find that the "members (of SLUH) strive to grow in their personal competence and in their commitment to building Christ's Kingdom of justice, love and peace." We, as members of SLUH, must develop "our gifts for the service of God and others." The priesthood, despite recent controversy, is a life in which the values stated above become the paramount objective for an individual.

"I believe that if the religious life were given as an option in the survey, more students would have chosen it."

I will never say that, for some reason, priesthood is a better career path than the thousands of options available. I will say that promoting the religious life should be important to a Catholic school which claims that the chapel is the center of all that goes on in the school. I believe that if the religious life were given as an option in the survey, more students would have chosen it. Who knows? Maybe that simple prodding could reveal to someone their calling towards priesthood. SLUH must begin to show its students the possibility of religious life.

Dan Sinnett '03

COMMUNITY CHEST

(from 2)

achieve this record was by instituting a fundraising method called Fund-A-Need, in which the auctioneer called for cash donations for scholarships. This new method was devised a month ago by Sheridan and Digman. "The insight there was to ask for direct help," said Sheridan. Sheridan came up with the idea after hearing about it from one of his friends when they saw it being done at Boys' Hope/Girls' Hope auction. Sheridan said the idea "appealed" to him and Digman. Thanks to this effort, the school was able to make \$31,000 in less than a half hour.

Throughout the evening several key items were sold that also helped bolster the sum. One of these packages was an all-expenses paid trip to the 2003 Super Bowl. The package included tickets, air fare, hotel accommodations, and transportation in San Deigo. Another big ticket item which helped bring in money was a sit-down dinner with Cardinals' Manager Tony LaRussa.

For the past year, the Mothers' Club, under the leadership of Carolyn Farrell and Debbie Newbold, have been working tirelessly to put together the night. With the help of 450 volunteers and countless hours of preparation, the night came together with great success. "I thought the economy would hurt us," said

Newbold, "but I am happy it didn't." Newbold also went on to say that she thought it turned out to be a "wonderful night."

Helping the mothers out that evening were dozens of students who volunteered their night to help their school out. Ralph Houlihan S.J., who helped organize the students along with Jim Knapp S.J., thought the volunteers did "very well and came up with some good suggestions for next year."



PHOTO BY DAVE DECEPIJA

Senior Chris Finney announces a bid.

Sciencebills trek mountains of New Mexico

**Paul Hogrebe
Reporter**

While most students saw spring break as an opportunity to stay at home and recuperate from the third quarter, a group of Science Club and OEC members opted to spend their precious free time in a much different manner, backpacking through Bandelier National Monument.

On March 23, a collection of resident outdoor enthusiasts embarked on a five-day trek in the New Mexican wilderness. The group of 16 students and five adults had been preparing for months in advance, and had high expectations for the trip. The trip's architect and expedition leader, Steve Kuensting, stated, "I only hope the weather holds out," especially in light of the inexperience of some of the participants. Whether totally ready or not, the backpackers headed west. In a caravan of three school vehicles, the vagabonds reached their destination in roughly a day and a half.

The scenery at Bandelier did not disappoint as the crew immersed themselves in the pristine frontier wilderness. Surrounded by dry shrubs and cacti on the dry mesas, or ancient ponderosa pine in the shade-saturated canyons, there was an environment to fit everyone's tastes. With porous sandstone bluffs, impressive waterfalls, and ancient Anasazi ruins, there were countless postcard-quality photo opportunities. While no hiker spotted a mountain lion or notorious black bear, wildlife sightings did include indigenous deer, squirrels, and bird species.

There was some snowfall the first day in the backcountry, but precipitation ceased for the remainder of the week. Even with the good weather, the hikers still had to act responsibly, according to the demands of a very unforgiving landscape. Being in a desert environment, campers conserved precious water and transported the heavy substance from location to location if there was no source nearby.

On steep grades, balance was a concern for some students, especially when they were toting around anywhere be-

tween 1 and 2 gallons of water. On one specific occasion, the pack-laden Jr. Bills had to descend an over 700-foot slope, only to ascend its twin minutes later. This proved especially difficult for some, considering it occurred towards the end of the trip, with overloaded packs, and at an elevation thousands of feet above sea level. Junior Greg Stahl summed up the group's opinion about the challenge saying, "The trip seemed more worthwhile after that 700-foot climb."

While water is water no matter where you are (after having been filtered and treated with iodine, of course), the meals the crew ate in the desert were far different than any fast-food morsel or home cooked feast. Students were encouraged to eat plenty of carbohydrates, found in the Power Bars, ramen noodles, and oatmeal that resided in most every hiker's pack. For those who wanted a small slice of homestyle luxury, freeze-dried meals and desserts provided students with a high calorie, not to mention highly-priced, meal.

There were no serious injuries besides the anticipated blisters, scrapes, and upset stomachs that accompany a trip of this nature, and was in that regard a success. In general, everything went smoothly considering all the things that could go wrong when one leads high school students miles into the desert wilderness. Kuensting stated, "The people were great, the weather was great, and the scenery was phenomenal. It all came together perfectly."

Spring break provides students with a cessation of the relative stress of school, but the Science Club and OEC members who went on this trip took this opportunity to another level. Stripping life down to its simplest terms, participants found the peace that stems from simple camaraderie with other people and harmony with nature. That said though, senior Greg Westrich commented at the end of the trip, "We're ready to get back on our regular schedules," a sentiment shared by the entire crew.

ACES travels to Dallas

**Josh Saleem
Reporter**

Diversity is a word we hear thrown around a lot in school, at home, and in the media. But what does this word mean and how does it apply to students at SLUH? Three weekends ago a group of Jr. Billikens traveled to Dallas, Texas in order to discuss this very topic.

The group, made up of twelve upper-classmen members of the Association for Cultural Enrichment at SLUH (ACES), participated in the first annual Jesuit Student Diversity Conference hosted by Dallas Jesuit Prep, SLUH's Jesuit counterparts in Texas. Director of Diversity and ACES moderator Spencer McCall said the conference was "a ground-breaking event for Jesuit high schools. We tackled issues stemming from cultural diversity to gender biases."

Representatives from several other Jesuit schools were in attendance, includ-

ing students from Marquette, Creighton, Loyola-New Orleans, Xavier, Brebuf, Loyola-Chicago, Ignatius, and Ursuline, a non-Jesuit all-girls school in Dallas. Each school sent students involved in diversity awareness to present ways in which they deal with issues concerning diversity at their respective schools.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to hour-long presentations from each school followed by a brief dialogue about each one. Said senior Chris Carter, "It was good to hear from peers so much like us in the issues they face but at the same time coming from different backgrounds." Topics ranging from homosexuality to why minorities sit together at lunch were discussed during the day long session.

"It was interesting and comforting to know that other Jesuit high schools, regardless of school make up—all-girl, all-boy, co-ed—are experiencing the same

see ACES, 9

Twenty speakers introduce juniors to careers

Tim Piechowski
Core Staff

Wednesday, after school, professionals from multiple industries came to SLUH to speak to the junior class about possible career paths for the future. The presenters spoke in groups of two or three, based on their general industries.

There were a total of twenty speakers in seven groups, including Business and Management, Law and Law Enforcement, Health and Medical, and Engineering and Computer Science. There were also speakers from the Education and Sports Medicine, Arts and Architecture, and Communications-Media industries. The lineup of speakers was impressive and included a family practitioner, a journalist from the *Post-Dispatch*, a banker from Bank of America, the Director of Sports Medicine at Saint Louis University, and the Chief of Police of the city of Washington, Mo.

Juniors were allowed to choose two of the seven aforementioned categories. Many found that the seminars they attended were very informative.

Jon Mills, who attended both the Education and Sports Medicine seminar and the Medical seminar, said that he enjoyed Career Day as "(he) got a sense of what (he) could get into."

Mills added that he never realized the problems insurance companies present to doctors. The companies continually reduce patient benefits and refuse to pay the doctor more than a preset amount. "It made me think twice about becoming a doctor," said Mills of the seminar. He also noted, however, that he liked his education seminar better, finding that while teachers certainly don't get rich through their work, it is a fulfilling profession.

Brian Prospero stated that he was impressed by how much information the presenters had to offer about their professions. Prospero, who attended the Communications and Media seminar, was particularly impressed by a presenter who works for his own independent advertising firm. "Our advertising speaker brought samples of things he's done, like adver-

tising for the symphony, the Rams, and Forest Park Forever."

Speakers made a point of not only talking about what they do each day, and how they are financially compensated, but also how they are mentally compensated. For instance, Ken Hahn, Chief of Police of Washington, Mo., stated, "It is especially gratifying in the post-9/11 days to know we are making a difference."

Counselor Dave Mouldon was in charge of organizing the event. Mouldon said that the counseling department had done career day in the past, but had let it go for the last few years due to the complexities of getting so many people to come and speak to the students on one particular day. This year Mouldon, Vice-President of Advancement Thom Digman, Ron Gori, '64, and Matt Padberg, '87, worked to find speakers for each panel.

Mouldon believed "the day was a success," and was particularly excited

about the fact that "a number of speakers said the most important thing is to be educated."

When asked if career day would take place next year, Mouldon said the counseling department was still exploring how it would conduct career day next year. He personally believes that the career seminars would be more helpful and easier to schedule if speakers came in during activity periods throughout the year. Then students could choose what sessions to attend at their leisure.

Whether the format of career day changes or remains the same in the future, it seems many students found the day useful. Said Mark Gentry, "It was interesting to hear the perspective of someone who has gone through law school and someone who has gone through med school," and how they get to where they are in the professional world.

LEG-BONE

(from 2)

stricting him more and more during the schoolday. He had been continually sitting in the rec room during Activity Periods, when he is usually actively walking around, chatting with the freshman and collecting nickels. Most recently, Witz was forced to take a few days off after Cashbah to rest. The recent cold spells have aggravated his condition so much that he has resorted to taking trips to the countryside for relief of his symptoms. "His spirits are fine, but the pain has been getting to him," noted Jesuit colleague Jim Knapp.

Dr. Tom Fox, a SLUH alumnus, recently gave Witz the word that replacement was the best option for him. Fox, who had operated on Witz previously for a broken elbow, realized the "incredibly high pain level," and has demanded surgery. After getting a second opinion and being ad-

vised from other recipients of replacement surgery that doing both knees at once was advantageous, Witz decided to go ahead with the operation.

Brother Witz is currently residing in the Jesuit Provincial House as he awaits



Witz in his 2001 yearbook picture

his surgery. Already the lack of his presence is felt at the U. High. Ralph Houlihan, S.J., has taken over Witz's duties proctoring and running the pool room. The Cashbah furniture company doesn't again begin production until the fall, so Witz luckily won't miss restoring his furniture, one of his favorite activities. "It's not the same with him absent from the house,"

added Knapp.

Any cards or other forms of support can be turned in to the switchboard and will be delivered to Witz at the Jesuit House.

ALLY

(from 1)

At this time, Storey and senior Jake Boesch, another GSA organizer, have given prayer services to juniors and seniors, asking them to sign the pledge and to stamp out racism. The two will give the same prayer service to freshmen and sophomores next week.

During activity period the next four school days, from April 5 to April 10, members of the GSA will have pledges available to sign at tables outside the cafeteria. The action of the group culminates on April 10, a national homosexuality awareness day. The day focuses on the silencing of homosexuals due to detrimental misconceptions by other people.

Harrison agreed that the real problem is the silencing of students with a wide range of concerns regarding homosexuality. "Silence is violence," Harrison stated, quoting St. Theresa. According to Harrison, issues ranging from gay family members to concerns about a student's own sexuality often go unaddressed because of discomfort surrounding the issue of homosexuality. Students fear being ridiculed or ostracized by other students if they bring up their personal concerns about homosexuality, and thus turn inward.

Vulnerability is a key issue.

Recent studies show the lack of comfort that people feel in school about sexual orientation. Two out of five homosexual or bisexual students do not feel safe at their school because of their sexual orientation. In addition, homosexuals are four times more likely to commit suicide than heterosexuals. Troubling statistics like these, as well as what Harrison calls a "sense that one day this issue is going to come into the open," led to the formation of the GSA. "Let's not wait for a body to look at," Harrison said. He hopes to lower such statistics.

Harrison believes that one of the most serious problems for a person with questions about homosexuality is a lack of information. "If you're a heterosexual, you get all sorts of advice in theology class," Harrison said. "A gay kid gets none of that."

Harrison asserted that a lack of open dialogue about homosexuality contradicts SLUH's theory of education, to make a fully developed person. "That's the whole point of education, to integrate body, mind, and spirit into Christian adulthood. If a student is uncomfortable expressing (concerns about homosexuality), then that's a whole area of their life that they can't talk about."

Harrison acknowledged the impending storm of opposition towards the GSA. Among the concerns are a lack of understanding about homosexuality and the group's purpose. Harrison believes that Catholic teaching is on the side of the GSA. The Catechism makes a distinction between orientation (the fact of being a homosexual) and action (engaging in homosexual activity). The GSA functions as a

"I am an ally for gay, lesbian transgender, and bisexual people. I believe that every person has worth as an individual. Every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race, sex, creed, or sexual orientation."
—SLUH Ally Pledge

means for people to feel safe and to provide help to those who need it, and is not an organization designed to facilitate sexual activity.

A faculty member expressed great concern, however, that the lack of maturity among high school students could lead to rash decisions about sexual orientation. An immature high schooler may be still struggling with issues of homosexuality, but feel pressured to make a decision because of all the backing of the GSA. Some teachers also fear that the anonymity and the promise to help contained in the pledge, while well-intentioned, puts inexperienced people in a position of great influence to a person in a very fragile psychological state. They feel that the pledge gives too much responsibility to those not trained to handle such an issue.

The members realize that there will be

opposition, but Harrison is confident that there will be no violence, though the struggle for gay rights has often been checkered by violent incidents. "I'm not worried about it because I know SLUH won't tolerate it," Harrison said.

Despite this confidence, some teachers believe that members of the GSA will be targeted and suffer emotionally if not physically. "I don't want to see anyone get hurt," one teacher said.

Though the GSA has already received many signed pledges, the continued success of the program is uncertain. "We have to wait and see about that," said senior Nick Brescia. "I've seen a lot of people out doing this thing. I think their influence is pretty strong right now."

The prayer service met with mixed reactions despite Brescia's optimism. A junior said, "It seemed like they were forcing the lifestyle (of homosexuals) on me. I don't have a problem with the lifestyle, I just don't want it forced on me." He thought that the analogies with racism and Christianity lost relevance when homosexuality was discussed.

A senior confirmed a general feeling of discomfort that surrounds the issue, saying, "I'm not really comfortable with anyone talking about any kind of sexuality."

Both Smith and Harrison agreed that the point of the GSA is to get students to realize the effect that their speech and actions have on other people. "We want to get people to see the reality and the results of their actions," Harrison confirmed.

Harrison said that the Alliance's goal was pretty simple. "I'd like us to be able to say 'SLUH' instead of 'my name' on the pledge."

Due to a combination of sensitivity to the newness and controversial nature of the GSA, as well as the trepidation of many of the members, the group will proceed slowly. "We'll go only as fast as the slowest person wants to go," Harrison said.

Harrison summed up the issue of homosexuality at SLUH saying, "If it's important to a student, then it's important to God, then it's important to SLUH."

Diamondbills outscore foes 47-6 in four games

John Stewart
Reporter

Many of the SLUH community traveled south for Spring Break, and it was no different for the Jr. Bill varsity baseball team. However, they did not travel as far south as much of the student body. The Basebills spent much of their time pummeling inferior foes in the Ritenour Tournament at Heine Meine field in deep South County. They ended Spring Break with an impressive 4-0 record as they outscored their opponents 47-6.

"Games like those are good for our kids early in the season," said head coach Steve Nicollerat. "It gives the kids confidence to do things they may not feel they are capable of. It's good experience leading up to our more important games later on."

The RawlingsBills defeated the Rams of MICDS 8-6 in the first contest of the regular season. Staff aces Matt Lange and junior Tyler Faulstich combined to cool down the big bats of the Rams as they held

MICDS to 8 hits and overcame 4 U-High errors. SLUH batters plated 8 runs on 16 hits that were spread throughout the entire lineup.

"Sometimes the ball looks like a grapefruit. Sometimes it looks like a golf ball," commented junior Nate McMahill. "Fortunately for us, the ball looked like the grapefruit for us today."

The next matchup proved to be quite a favorable one as they completely outmatched the Rough Riders, winning 16-0. Scoring 16 runs is always a great accomplishment, but an even greater feat on this day was that five SLUH pitchers combined for a no-hitter, with only one base runner reaching on a walk. The pitching staff dominated the Rough Riders, striking out 11 of the possible 15 outs in the game.

"We all did a nice job of hitting our spots and keeping the batters off balance," said winning pitcher Andy Hecht. "It's nice to know that there are so many guys on this team that can go out and consistently get guys out."

The Wolverines of Vashon turned out to be the TPXBills' next victim as Faulstich turned in another solid performance. Not even basketball Prep Player of the Year Jimmy McKinney could touch Faulstich or reliever Tony Sneed on this day, as they made the Wolverines' bats seem porous. Senior standouts Tony Aiazzi, Eric Enright, Andrew Zimmerman, and Jim Manning led the offense as the four combined for 7 hits, 7 runs scored, and 4 RBIs.

"We just wanted to put the ball in play and see what happens," said platoon left fielder Tony Aiazzi. "We did a nice job of putting the bat on the ball, and it led to good things."

The final action for the Jr. Bills in the Ritenour Tournament was against DuBourg, whom they blanked 10-0, sparked by outstanding pitching performances from junior Matt McArthur, sophomore Jeff Milles, and freshman sensation Matt Ikemeire. The trio allowed only three hits over six innings while striking out a total of ten. The offense was
see EASTON, 9

Rollerhockeybills roll through tough times

John Pimmel
Reporter

Normally, as winter fades to spring, the U. High spirit fades as well. Attendance drops at sporting events, and few fans even show up to cheer, save the faithful. Super-fans or best friends (occasionally those guilt-tripped into it) stand out in the hot sun, watching as SLUH's finest struggle on the field of competition. Wouldn't you rather be inside the air-conditioned finery of the South County All-American? Well, you can be. Some of the roller hockey faithful have been there already.

The Blackbiscuitbills kicked off their spring season with three practice games. The Jr. Bills showed some tenacity on the front lines and in front of the net, but ultimately finished with an 0-2-1 record in the preseason.

The team then made the trip out to St. Peter's for the season opener against Vianney. The Griffs flashed some im-

pressive puck handling and passing skills, jumping out to an early 3-0 lead. Mike Gau started in the net for the Oversizedglovebills, facing 33 shots all told.

Junior Nathan Linneman took the game onto his shoulders at the 9:06 mark of the first half. Dancing through the defense, he cut across the front of the net and proceeded to utterly embarrass five full-grown Golden Griffins, scoring the Jr. Bills' first goal. The game went back and forth with the Bills constantly clawing back. Perhaps it was the long trip on highway 70 or the slickness of the Griffin uniforms, but the J-Bills ultimately fell 9-4.

Their bellies full of fire, the Jr. Billikens lined up in front of Gau once again. However, the Spartans of DeSmet decided a blue and white win was not in the cards. With DeSmet dominating most of the game, the Junior Bills found themselves down 4-0 early in the second. Scoring two second-half goals (roller hockey

games consist of two 17-minute halves), the Jr. Bills relied on their tenacity to pull through. Unfortunately, what they needed were goals. Falling 6-2 in a hard fought game, the Bills looked forward to their rematch with Vianney.

However, that rainy Friday rematch was destined to be a quick one. Despite their best efforts, the Junior Bills were mercied 10-0 less than a minute into the second half.

But it's not all heart-breaking news, Jr. Bill friends. The Wafer-Sized-Puckbills roared in two easy victories over St. Pius just recently. Andy Skosky, who scored the game-winning goal and assisting on another goal in their latest game said, "Yeah, well, I figured someone had to score. At least I didn't fall down."

So you see, Roller Hockey faithful, there is a silver lining in every cloud. At least it won't be hot and blinding at the Matteson Tri-Plex this Friday at 10:00. There's also a game Friday, April 12th against the Cadets of CBC.

Tracksters leap out of starting blocks

Brian Gilmore
Reporter

After a long and dark winter, spring has finally arrived. Spring, a time when young marsupials free themselves from the confines of their mothers' wombs and frolic in green pastures. Spring, a time when young lovers become engrossed in the reverie of Cupid's arrows. Spring, a time when heavy rains, near-freezing temperatures, and freak ice storms wreak havoc on track schedules. After the cancellation of two meets and many practices due to the typically abominable St. Louis weather patterns, the 2002 edition of the SLUH Trackbills finally got their freshly-laced shoes dirty on Wednesday in the MCC Relays at Vianney after five weeks

of practice.

Gametime temperatures were in the 40s and would fall more as the sun went down. Armed with layers of warm clothes, the McCarthyBills toed the line with the best relay teams the MCC had to offer, looking for redemption after a 4th place finish at the Relays last season. Perhaps more importantly, though, the meet would allow athletes and coaches a chance to see how they stack up with real competition for a change, a pleasant deviation from daily practice.

After the dust settled, SLUH not only left Vianney with valuable race experience, but with a first place performance to boot, defeating second place DeSmet 88-86.

Coming off another strong cross coun-

try campaign, the middle distance team looks to be tops in the area. Paced by seniors Tom O'Brien, (the second-fastest returning miler in the state), John Parr, and Pat Leinauer, the middle distance team should provide quality points for the overall team total in meets.

On Wednesday, the 4 x 1600 relay team of junior Kevin Crean, Leinauer, Parr, and O'Brien started the day off in style, cruising to an easy victory in 19:12.4. The distance medley team of Parr (1200m), Crean (800m), senior hurdler Brian Gilmore (400m), and O'Brien (1600m) also saw victory come their way, withstanding a charge from DeSmet to win going away in 11:10.8. Overcoming a slight deficit in the anchor leg, O'Brien ran even with an unfortunate Spartan until the bell lap, before dropping a killer 1:03 final lap on him to win handily.

"It was a good race for us," said Parr, "and I thoroughly enjoyed dismantling (DeSmet's Sean) Hartling in the opening three-lap leg."

Not to be outdone, the sprint team showed strong promise, winning the 4x100, 4x200, and placing second in the 4x400 and sprint medley. Sophomores Brent Harvey and Dan Heard and seniors Tim Boyce and Josh Saleem nailed down the 4x100 (45.4), with sophomore Steve Nagel stepping in for Heard to win the 4x200 (1:35.3).

"It was nice to see everyone running some great races at a cold, early meet, and it was especially sweet to beat CBC in our relays," noted Boyce, "but I still hate running the 400."

Senior Reid Heidenry turned in a very impressive performance, leading the jumpers to a first place tie with DeSmet with his massive bound of 6'2".

"It was a tad bit nippy out, but I just tried to sky high," Heidenry said. His jump of 6'2" was a personal best, and puts him on the early track with some of the best high jumpers in the state. Heidenry, senior Karl Guenther, and junior Rockhurst transfer Tim Steitz will hold down the jumps this year, with help from Dan Mooney and a variety of others in the

see SPIKES, 12

Volleybills open season with 15-3, 15-9 defeat of Chaminade

Brian Wacker
Reporter

The Volleybills began their journey towards the state title on March 19 with a solid victory over the Red Devils of Chaminade, 15-3, 15-9.

The SpikeBills had their wrists taped up, formations memorized, and "Pump Up The Jam" repeating in their heads as they went into their first match against Chaminade. The fate of the match was determined early as SLUH jumped out to a convincing 10-0 lead in the first game. Big smashes from senior outside hitter Jim Lutkewitte helped set the tone. "We were really clicking well in the first game," Lutkewitte said.

The KarchKarayBills put the first game away after allowing three scattered points to the obviously overmatched Chaminade squad. "It's not only that we were more talented, but they have a pretty young team," said senior Captain Ryan Harris of the boys from Frontenac.

The second game did not start as well as the GabrielleReeseBills may have hoped. They surrendered 5 early points in the beginning of the match, as Chaminade actually pulled even with the Jr. Bills at 5-5. Then coach Terry Quinn called a timeout to set the guys straight. SLUH put its starters back in and eventually put the game away by a score of 15-9. "I'm not exactly sure what happened at the beginning of that second game," recalled senior John Thuet, "but I know that we'll be happy to forget about it."

The BumpSetSpikeBills continued their trek towards the state title with a crucial early-season matchup against DeSmet last night. In a great match, the Jr. Bills defeated the Spartans 15-5, 15-10. This win will definitely give the Volleybills confidence as they get ready for the challenges that lay ahead.

The varsity volleyball team looks to continue its success with a match at Parkway Central tonight at 5 p.m. All fans are welcome.

Lacrossers crushed by '01 champs DeSmet

**Jim Fox
Reporter**

After starting its season with a flurry, the SLUH lacrosse team finished off its pre-break schedule a week and a half ago with a tussle against DeSmet, and now looks on to the rest of their season. In a highly anticipated rematch of last year's state semifinal, the Jr. Bills fell to the mighty state champion Spartans 13-0.

The game was slated for a four o'clock start last Monday, and it seemed the Markmillonbills were right on time. After allowing an early goal, the Jr. Bills started their first offensive chance with good pass work. The Jr. Bills worked the ball around, holding possession and looking for a good shot. Unfortunately, the Hollywood-

marechekbills could not take the next step and put a ball in the six-by-six. The Spartans, on the other hand, were able to finish their opportunities despite valiant efforts from a resolved defense, and the first quarter ended 3-0 in favor of the Spartans.

The second quarter would be much of the same, with the half ending at 6-0 DeSmet. One of the better aspects of the Laxbills' play was their fervor in attack and their winning of the groundballs, one of the more important aspects of the game. The swarming Spartans proved to be too much, though, and their discipline and skill gave them the edge in the groundball category.

The second half saw many an opportunity for the Junior Bills to jam a foot in the door. The Spartans, although domi-

nant with their possession, were not perfect. Almost all of the SLUH possessions came on DeSmet penalties, and they had almost five minutes of man-up play, but again, no shot found the net. The Spartans again put up at least three goals in each quarter, and the final whistle blew with the J-Bills behind 13-0.

With the bulk of their games underway now that spring break is over, the team is looking to put past woes behind them and play the way a state contender should. The CoachBarrettBills played last night against a perennially strong team in Parkway West. The team plays again Monday night against a strong Vianney team at 4:00 at either Soccer Park or Vianney, so keep your schedules clear and ask your Lax buddies on Monday where you should go to root 'em on.

ACES

(from 4) challenges," said McCall. The SLUH presentation was the final of the day, consisting of two skits and a game.

Two of the skits were set in an average classroom at SLUH and the other at a store in the mall. "We basically wanted to show what it's like for a minority at SLUH. I think people could relate to our experience through the skit," said Jeremy Ward.

With this theme in mind, the second part of the presentation was the color game and got everyone involved. Each person was given a color with specific instructions about how to interact with every other color. Scott Cunningham, president of ACES, called the game a way for people who are usually in the majority to get a chance to feel what it's like being a minority and experiencing stereotypes and dis-

crimination. Ending with a discussion about the skits and game, the presentation was well accepted by the conference. A Loyola-New Orleans administrator even

and dance were diverse, bringing together various styles from Dallas to Michigan. "It was really fun to see how teenagers dance across the Midwest," said senior

Reid Heidenry. Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and people from other religions all participated in the Mass that ended the conference on Sunday morning. Spirits were high as students returned to the airport discussing the friends they made and plans for their schools.

For many involved, the conference was the beginning of work to end discrimination and stereotypes at their schools. For others it was another step in the long process that will hopefully bring cultural awareness and sensitivity to classrooms at not just Jesuit high schools but all schools across America.



ACES members flash Junior Bill signs on their trip to Dallas.

invited the group to present to his school community.

Saturday evening was left for time to relax or dance, as a DJ provided music through the night. Of course the music

process that will hopefully bring cultural awareness and sensitivity to classrooms at not just Jesuit high schools but all schools across America.

Speedskater Meek glides to 3rd at Nationals

Jon Britt
Reporter

When one thinks about the elite speedskaters from the past, names like Dan Jansen and Bonnie Blair come to mind. Currently, skaters such as Apollo Ohno and Christine Witty dominate the sport. In the future, however, a new name might emerge in the speedskating world: Patrick Meek. That's right: SLUH sophomore Patrick Meek has a great chance to represent the United States in one of the upcoming winter Olympic games.

While many Jr. Bills took spring break trips to the beaches or the slopes, Meek traveled to Pittsburgh, Pa. to compete in the U.S. Speed Skating National Championship. Competing in the junior age group, Meek skated several races a day for three continuous days. After an easy quarterfinal in the 1500-meter short track, Meek qualified for the semifinals, in which the three top-ranked skaters in the country were placed.

After getting off to a decent start, Meek was forced to go around Paul Dyrud, from Minnesota, after Dyrud slipped coming out of the turn. As a result, Meek went into the turn two deep with Dyrud. Although Meek felt he committed no foul, the judges disqualified him from the race for impeding another skater.

After easily making it to the finals in the 1000-meter race, Meek was forced to lead most of the race after one of the top skaters, Kreg Greer, fell with seven laps to go.

"When I saw Kreg fall, I figured I had to pick up the pace in order to have a chance at winning," explained Meek.

Unfortunately for Meek, he was passed with a half lap to go by Zach Goldberg from Maryland.

Later that day, Meek also made it to the finals of the 500-meter race, but he received the number five spot on the line, the most difficult spot from which to take the lead. His strategy was to go around the turn on the outside, then cut through the pack on the first straightaway. While doing so, Meek's skate tangled with one of

his opponents', causing them both trouble. Meek finished the race in fourth place after one of the skaters got disqualified.

The next challenge for Meek was the grueling, 27-lap, 3000-meter race. After conserving energy and staying with the pack for the first part of the race, Meek broke to the front with about seven laps to go. His strategy worked here, and Meek ended up taking second place.

"I wanted to take the lead with enough laps to go so I wouldn't be caught in a sprint in the end where something detrimental might happen," Meek commented. "I

was really pleased with my overall performance." This second-place finish helped Meek achieve third place overall in the meet. His outstanding performance also assured him a spot on the U.S. Junior Olympic Team and possibly a spot on the U.S. Junior Category I Team.

Like so many all-time great athletes, Patrick Meek had talent at a very early age. He has been skating since the age of three. Although he is naturally talented at the sport, many long hours of training and practicing have made him the prominent skater he now is. About four times a week, Meek has an on-ice practice that lasts two hours. Every other day of the week, he lifts weights and runs for about an hour and a half to keep in shape.

Perhaps another reason he has excelled so much is his genes. Like the Skeleton gold medalist Jimmy Shea, Meek has inherited ability from two generations of skaters. His grandfather was a well-known local skater, and his father was one-tenth of a second away from making the national team.

Although this might be the reason he started skating, he has never felt pres-

sured by his family to continue. "Sometimes I think my dad would like me to stop (skating) because it is such a large commitment that he has to make. But I haven't stopped skating because it is the thing I love to do," said Meek.

Although he puts a large amount of time in skating, Meek does not let his schoolwork fall behind. "It is very difficult to manage skating and school at the same time," Meek said, "but the teachers here are very understanding and have made it much easier for me to manage." Meek has considered transferring to



Meek, above, practices at Kirkwood Ice Rink.

a school in upper Michigan where he would train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Marquette. However, as of now, he is going to stay at the U. High.

Meek holds his goals high and aims to be in the Olympics. "Four years away is a long time, and a lot can happen. (Being in the Olympics) is my dream and I have a pretty good shot, but we'll have to wait and see."

PN NIGHT BEAT

The Lacrossebills beat Parkway West 11-2 last night. The Brinebills were led by Junior attackman Ryan Dugan as he scored several crucial pull-away goals later in the game.

In baseball, the Nicolleratbills squeaked by a previously undefeated Chaminade team 9-7, with junior first baseman Andy Hecht sealing the win with a terrific diving catch to end the game.

The Tennisbills also beat Parkway West with a 5-2 win.

HOUSE OF CARDS

(from 1)

One model that has shown success at a school in Australia where Economics teacher Suzanne Walsh and Sheridan have taught is the house system. In this system, the school is divided into a number of houses. Each house is composed of several homerooms. Each homeroom would have a homeroom teacher, and each house would have a house master. The house master would oversee all the homerooms

in his or her house. Every homeroom would contain students from all four classes, and a student would be in the same homeroom for his whole enrollment at SLUH. The house master would meet individually with each student in the house roughly four times every year.

Some of the goals of the house system would be to build leadership more effectively and to provide stronger communication between students and faculty

so that a stronger bond can be made.

Though the idea of a house system has been given the most attention by the community, counselor Ken McKenna says that there is very little possibility of taking on the system in its entirety. For now, many smaller suggestions have been made, including putting senior advisors in sophomore homerooms, of extending the advisor program to include some juniors.

Freshman class moderator Tim Curdt had concerns about some of the options that involved mixing students from all four years into the same homerooms. "I'm not in favor of switching the homerooms because of the effect it will have on the freshmen and senior advisors," he said, specifically noting the first semester of freshman year as a time when the advisors are essential.

Another issue with the discussions is that SLUH will have a new principal next year. Bannister says that he has been keeping Mary Schenkenberg, next year's principal, up to speed about what has been going on.

History teacher David Barton approves of a possible house system, especially with regards to intramurals. He is currently planning to expand intramurals at SLUH to include activities not related to sports, complete with faculty all-star teams. Though the expansions are not dependent on the house system, they could benefit from it. "It would work perfectly for intramurals," he said.

However, counselor Dave Moulton says that the process has slowed down since its start. He says that there had been a concern that those involved had found a "solution before the problem."

At this point, Bannister says there will be a period for the faculty to brainstorm ideas and give their own suggestions, with a follow-up meeting in mid-April.

"Nothing has been set in stone.... We still have a lot of meeting left to do," said Hannick.

McKenna says he thinks some people may worry about the final result, but said reassuringly, "We won't do anything we don't agree with."

COMPUTERS

(from 2)

"It may or may not be our students. We'd be foolish to discount the fact that it could be some of our kids, but we'd also be jumping the gun if we didn't take a look at the possibility that it could be a wide number of people at our St. Louis U. High community," said Nicollerat.

He added, "We have a concern. I'm not sure how to interpret this."

Another problem is that students are often left unmonitored while using the computer lab. While some moderators make rounds through the computer lab, others remain sitting in the same place. Even when moderators do look at what students are doing on their computers, students can simply close anything they are looking at if they see a moderator.

"When I walk around, sometimes students click off of whatever they're doing," said one staff member who used to be a computer room moderator. "It's disturbing."

In addition, there are no moderators in the computer lab during free periods. Nicollerat does not believe not having supervision during free periods is a problem: "Maybe I'm being naive. I just can't believe a kid would do something really inappropriate knowing I'm next door or knowing a teacher could walk in."

Dean of Students Eric Clark said, "Maybe (during free periods) we should close it, but that's not fair to students who can actually use that time to do productive things."

For the most part, administrators and the computer staff think something needs

to be done. Said Clark, "I would love for young men to be mature enough to know the moral thing to do, but if we're relying on the student to do that and it's not being done, maybe we need to consider alternate ways."

Closing the computer lab during free periods, instituting moderators during free periods (possibly student moderators), and installing programs that prevent students from accessing pornography are all being considered.

However, Overkamp remains skeptical. He said, "There are costs... In some cases it's a cost in dollars. In some cases it's a cost of time or energy." He added, "I see no commitment on the part of Saint Louis U. High to offer any more payment than it already is. I'm doing as good of a job as I know how to do." In his opinion, restricting access to the computer lab will only cause students to want to get in more. The area he feels most strongly about is better supervision. He said, "I think something that would do us the most good is giving some effort toward the supervision of our equipment."

Principal Robert Bannister, who was surprised to hear how much pornography is being accessed, said, "We've tried to figure out how to stop (students accessing pornography). It's just one more thing we'll have to take a look at."

Said Nicollerat, "We have a concern that we need to look at. Let's see if the concern is a problem. We need to understand the problem. People need to dialogue. People need to talk about it."

by Patrick Meek

Calendar

Apr. 5-Apr. 12

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Schedule E

B/C-Track vs CCP and CBC @ 4:00 pm

V/JV- VOL @ Parkway Central @ 4/5 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

V/B-Track @ University City Invit. @ 10:00am

V-BB @ Ritenour Tourn. @ HM @ 1:30 pm

B-BB @ Lutheran S. @ 12 pm

C-BB @ Lutheran S. @ 2 pm

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Schedule R

V/JV-TN vs Kirkwood @ 4 pm

V-Golf vs Vianney @ Greenbriar @ 4 pm

JV-Golf vs Vianney @ Riverside @ 4 pm

V/JV- VOL vs CBC @ 5/6 pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Schedule R

V-Track @ All-Catholic Meet @ Vianney @ 4:00

B/C-Track @ Hazelwood West Relays @ 4:00

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Schedule R

Activity Period: Illinois Wesleyan Univ.

V-Track @ All-Catholic Meet @ Vianney @ 4:00

V/JV-TN vs CBC @ 4 pm

V-BB vs Vianney @ HM @ 7:00

B-BB @ Vianney @ 4:15

V-Golf vs DeSmet @ Glen Echo @ 3:30 pm

JV-Golf vs DeSmet @ Normandie @ 3:30 pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Schedule E

V-BB vs University City @ HM @ 4:15

B-BB @ University City @ HM @ 4:15

B-BB @ MICDS @ HM @ 4:00

V-Golf vs CBC @ Glen Echo @ 3:30 pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Schedule L

C-Track vs DeSmet @ 4:00

V/JV-TN @ Rockbridge Tourn.

V-BB vs SLUH Tourn @ HM

V- VOL @ Marquette @ 5pm

SPIKES(from 8)
long jump.

There were a few freshman/sophomore relays at Vianney, which not only counted towards the varsity total, but also the overall, end-of-season MCC standings. The 4x100 team of Jeff Pauck, Jon Leek, Joe Kennedy, and Charlie Weed warded off the competition to win in 47.8. Not to be outdone by their speedy counterparts, the 4x800 team of Andrew Linhares, Brennan Connor, Charlie Samson, and Paul Nappier also emerged victorious with a winning time of 9:03.2.

EASTON

(from 9)

sparked by the hot bats of Zimmerman and junior Adam Twellman. Zimmerman reached base in all three of his at bats, pushing his on base percentage up around .500, while Twellman increased his batting average to an even .500.

These four tune-up games prepared the team to play the Spartans of DeSmet on Tuesday afternoon. The Jr. Bills, however, weren't as effective with the bats as they had been the previous few games, and the Spartan pitchers held the Jr. Bills to only three hits in the 8-3 defeat. Two of

Both squads performed admirably.

Senior Brandon Beehner and junior Bob Kaestner will provide the muscles of the team this year, leading the throwers in both shot put and discus. The hurdlers started the year off strong, taking third place in a hotly contested race on Wednesday. Gilmore and junior Peter Allen look to lock down both the 110m and 300m hurdle races this season, but will be greatly challenged by sophomore Dan Gravlin in the 300. Bob Overkamp's pole-vaulters have been working hard, and they are primed to take the competition by force.

the three hits belonged to junior Pat Feeney, who drove in two runs with a third inning triple. Feeney later scored on a fake double steal as Aiazzi executed the run off first to perfection. Being able to stay in the rundown for a lengthy duration allowed Feeney to cross the plate before Aiazzi was tagged out. The steal play, called by mastermind head coach Nicollerat, seemed to light the fuse for the Jr. Bills for a few innings, but the team was unable to keep up with the Spartans as they lost for the first time this season.

"I think some of our guys were trying

Tomorrow, the team will travel to U-Town, the home of SLUH's own ill drummer, basketball star, and track superfan Rob Boehm to compete in the U. City Invitational at University City H.S. Races beginning at 11:30.

"I'll be there, fo' sho'," said Boehm, "U-Town is sick!"

Next week, the Trackbills return to Vianney on Tuesday and Wednesday for the All-Catholic meet. The team looks to be the best that SLUH has put out in the past couple of years, so consider coming out to give them some support.

to do a lot," said Nicollerat. "They need to stay within themselves and just do what they are capable of. They'll settle in, and we'll be alright. We also need to stop looping our hands at the plate, but we'll work on it."

The lessons in the batting cage and the refreshed attitude will hopefully help out as the Jr. Bills continue a tough stretch of the schedule that includes contests against conference rivals Chaminade and Vianney in the span of six days. Check out the *PN* Calendar to find out game times.