

Prep News

VOLUME LXVI

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2002

ISSUE 26

Ally campaign suspended by administration

Many felt blindsided; administration has broader student wellness plans

Andrew Ivers and Geoff Brusca
Editor in Chief, Core Staff

Earlier this week, the administration suspended the Ally pledge, an independent campaign organized by students to fight homophobia, saying that it felt the quickness with which the campaign was organized could mean organizers may not be equipped to deal with problems that arise and may, consequently, be detrimental.

The Ally pledge was introduced at morning prayer services on Wednesday, April 3, through last Monday and consisted of a pledge the participant signed saying he or she would interact peacefully with homosexuals or people sexually confused and try to aid them. Pledgers would

also wear a rainbow-colored button that said "ALLY" on it. The main problem arose when organizers of the campaign began handing out fliers describing how to be an Ally, fliers that the administration had not approved.

A great number of people in the school community found language that they felt contradicted the teachings of the Catholic Church. There was also some confusion, partially due to ambiguous reporting in the *Prep News*, that the campaign was actually a school-sanctioned organization, which it is not. The Ally campaign is merely an action taken by concerned students and is not a club.

As the campaign mobilized, it be-

came clear that many people had questions about the intentions and the platform of the organizers. Thus, the administration asked organizers to suspend the signing of the pledge and the distribution of material and buttons. No buttons had yet been distributed because not enough had arrived to be distributed to everyone.

The school also asked organizers to postpone plans to have a SLUH graduate from the 1960s hold a forum on Wednesday, a national day of awareness for homosexual persecution.

During the roughly ten weeks that student organizers met—in part to set the week of observance campaign into mo-

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Peter Gosik as Lucifer and Lauren Weber as Eve in Arthur Miller's *The Creation of the World and Other Business*. In this scene, Lucifer harrasses Eve about her fallen state. Story on page 6.

Correction

The lead headline on last week's issue erroneously referred to a "Gay-Straight Alliance" at SLUH. There is no such organization; the name is a misunderstanding of the Ally campaign. The same change applies throughout the article.

New security plan gets results

Incidents drop from 17 to 0 in one year

Andrew Ivers
Editor in Chief

During the 2000-2001 school year, the SLUH campus fell victim to between 15 and 17 incidents of crime, Director of Security Charlie Clark estimated from rough records that were kept before he was appointed in August 2001. Thus far this year there have been zero in the areas that SLUH security guards patrol.

Clark gives all the credit to the school's four main guards: Mike Dougherty, James Karcuff, Bev Vaughn, and Rick White. Vice President of Administration Brian Sweeney also gives credit to Clark's supervision, namely the new screening process that he instituted.

Clark said the old process of hiring a

guard was, as he has been told, to call the company, which was Sentry Security until the end of last November, request a guard and then Sentry would appoint and post a guard itself. Now Clark screens the guards himself.

"Now I talk to them before they come out," Clark said. He explains the job expectations to them and, he said, "if I'm not comfortable with that interview then they're not placed out there." He watches the guards intensely for their first few weeks and "if I'm not happy, they're removed. And I tell them that," he explained.

The school had to fire and hire a surprising number of new guards while contracting with Sentry, yet since the

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Sophomores assault St. Louis with service

Brian Fallon
Reporter

Last Saturday, the second annual sophomore day of service was held at sites throughout St. Louis. Sophomores met in the chapel at 8:00 a.m. for a short prayer service before they went out to work at their sites. The twelve sites were supervised by fourteen faculty members who assisted in the cleanup of the neighborhoods.

Pastoral Director Rob Garavaglia was in charge of the service project, and went from site to site supervising the cleanup. Garavaglia emphasized that, "the whole purpose of the sophomore day of service is for the sophomores to meet and work with residents of St. Louis City. Many come here and aren't introduced to different types of people because they don't participate in service." Garavaglia also mentioned that the sophomores have been given the opportunity in the hope that

ALCATRAZ

(from 1)

switch to Whelan security last fall, SLUH has stuck with the same four guards. Clark added that the problem with Sentry did not involve the guards but the company. Two guards, Doherty and White, transferred from Sentry to Whelan so they could continue to work one campus.

White, who works Monday through Saturday, 4 p.m. to midnight, said he thinks the system has improved and that the school has "gotten better people" as well. He transferred from Sentry to Whelan and says, "With the new company, if you have problems, they're easier to get a hold of them." He also received a raise in pay when he transferred.

One or two guards always patrol the campus from 6 a.m. until 12 a.m. every day except for Saturday morning or at times of large extracurricular events, which has been the case since before last fall. Yet after a parent's car was burgled on Oakland Ave.—at that time not under

they would find out who their real neighbors are.

"Close to a hundred sophomores attended the project, truly making a difference on the sites they worked on," said Garavaglia.

"They really worked hard and changed areas that desperately needed cleanup," said art teacher Mary Whealon, who worked with sophomores in the Kings Oak neighborhood adjacent to SLUH. "It was impressive how well they organized themselves; they were really efficient with the time they had to do the project."

English teacher Steve Missey worked with sophomores at the Dr. Martin Luther King Center last Saturday. "I thought the day was terrific. The sophomores seemed to enjoy the sites they worked on."

Other sites where students worked included Bell Garden, Lafayette Square, Natural Bridge, Shenandoah, Vista, Benton Park, the Tower Grove neighborhood, and Saint Cronan's and Saint Matt's

the partol of SLUH security and thus not a blemish on this year's record—during a Direction Day last August, Clark expanded the the school's security patrol to include Oakland west of the school. The Science Center's security also expanded its partol eastward to help SLUH.

Sweeney said this year there is "a heightened awareness of everybody in the school about being secure. People tend to stop people who don't belong in the building."

Clark says that as a result of closer supervision of the guards, "our patrols are much more diligent then they were. I think the guards are going above and beyond." It also helps, he says, that the school has "a steady group of guards who look at this place as their home and protect it as their home.

"I think they're doing a wonderful job," he concluded, "I give full credit to the guards."

parishes.

SLUH worked along with Operation Brightside in making the day of service such a success. Summarized Garavaglia, "I get much more out of the experience of service than what I put into it because I begin to understand how people live, think, and believe. The students can come out of the day with a Christian attitude, feeling good about their service to the community."

After working at their sites for three hours, sophomores put down their rakes and brooms and came back to SLUH for a cafeteria lunch. After lunch, the students returned to the chapel to have mass celebrated by Ralph Houlihan, S.J. The mass was an appropriate way to end the day, reminding the students of the purpose of their service.

Amnesty, ACES host speakers



Amnesty International reps inform students about social realities of the death penalty on Wednesday.



Reverend Robert Tabscott speaks in the theater about African-American education in St. Louis on Monday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Houlihan questions Ally campaign's message

To the Editor:

On Wednesday and Thursday last week and again on Monday this week, in place of prayer service, a group of well-intentioned upperclassmen attempted to remind the SLUH community that dehumanization, prejudice, unkind language, homophobia, and bigotry of any kind against anyone is unacceptable.

These intentions are obviously good and deeply rooted in our faith. Jesus taught and we as Catholics believe that everyone is special. We hold that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and therefore worthy of respect, love, and appreciation.

Unfortunately, in spite of the good intentions, the result was confusion, ambiguity, concern, division. Students and faculty were confused because they had no idea what was about to happen at this presentation and the language used in handouts and to a certain extent in "the pledge" was unclear and ambivalent.

What had been proposed to Dr. Bannister as a fairly broad-

based call to oppose racism, sexism, and homophobia turned out to focus entirely on the call to be an ally for gay, lesbian, transgender, or bisexual individuals. Moreover, students were asked to sign a pledge to this effect without being sure of whether they were being asked to approve of homosexual acts or simply to affirm individuals.

Sadly, the subsequent handout ("Tips for Becoming the Best Ally Ever") is at best ambiguous and arguably tends toward an

Unfortunately, in spite of the good intentions, the result was confusion, ambiguity, concern, division.

approval of the gay lifestyle. Number six of the tips reads, "Challenge your own physical inhibitions around members of the same gender. Where it is appropriate and consensual, feel free to express physical affection with someone of the same gender." Does this mean we should express ourselves with a harmless hug or in a way that is totally improper? Why should one challenge their inhibitions? Might

they not be well-founded? Is the word "consensual" a code word for something improper?

Another example of ambiguity is the use of the word
see HOULIHAN, 5

COMMENTARY

Ivers urges those who believe in pledge to act regardless of politics

Andrew Ivers
Editor in Chief

Earlier this week, the administration decided to suspend the Ally campaign until everyone involved could clarify their understanding of the issue. Clearly, some conscientious people in the school felt blindsided or insulted by the sudden appearance of this campaign. Yet at the core of the Ally campaign is a group of caring, supportive students who are not sanctioned by the school and not trying to influence anyone's decision about sexuality, but rather are trying to bring awareness about and offer shelter to those who suffer in an often hostile community.

Despite the fact that the administration has plans for student wellness which, given their long-term nature, may well have to wait until the summer to be discussed, there is nothing hurtful about a week and a day of awareness of injustice. Perhaps the organizers should not have handed out materials that were questionable to some people in the school community. But for caring students to take a stand in a prayer service and deal the first blow against injustice—especially against attitudes towards homosexuals that go more unchecked at SLUH than most other kinds of discrimination—was something this school des-

perately needed. Perhaps the literature should have been suspended, but not the observance.

But despite political and religious feelings about the appropriateness of the Ally campaign, now is the time, as many organizers and signers of the pledge have realized, to take the pledge to heart. Those who believe in eradicating homophobia, in making the campus a safe place for everyone, in opening dialogue for all—the supportive, the opposed, and the confused alike—those must take action. Students must fight injustice vigorously but with compassion for the confused and with a willingness to listen to and even acknowledge problems with their own arguments.

But most of all, individuals must gather the courage to confront those who are difficult to confront—their friends. If one truly believes in eradicating injustice in the school, it means being truthful about one's beliefs and telling everyone, even people one loves, how hurtful and dangerous their actions, perhaps taken in ignorance, can be. Even more difficult, perhaps, but certainly just as essential, will be for all involved, supporters and opposers, to look inward and find the discrimination that arises in their everyday thoughts and actions. If we as a community truly want a just and equal campus, we need to take equality to heart and act upon it peacefully yet courageously.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ally campaign put undue pressure on students

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in regard to the events of last week concerning the Ally campaign. For several weeks, I have been hearing of private meetings being held to discuss the issue of homosexuality and its role here at SLUH. I was skeptical of this group, for I do not agree with the homosexual lifestyle. But when expressing my opinions on the matter, I was confronted with remarks such as, "What kind of Christian are you?" or "You're just a gay hater." And it seemed to me that while the campaign was trying to make life for homosexuals more comfortable, they were making it harder on the students who do not believe in their same ideals.

Also, because I am not Catholic, and I do take a more literal view of the Bible, including those scriptures specifically concerning homosexuality, I have been faced with even more pressure. I have always been told in theology classes that many of the

Thuet argues for Ally pledge

To the Editor,

I love SLUH and everything I thought it stood for. But right now, for the first time ever, I am embarrassed to be a Jr. Bill. The Ally program was set up to provide support and love for those questioning their sexuality or those of a different sexual orientation than the majority of the population, and to call attention to and renounce homophobia and bigotry in our SLUH community. This message, I feel, was very clearly expressed by the pledge (taken mainly from a similar pledge at Holy Cross, a Jesuit university) and by the prayer services given. This message in no way endorsed or promoted the homosexual act. Chris Storey said in the prayer service that we are not saying that the homosexual act is right or even a matter of choice. That's not the issue. That's not what we are asking people to support. We are asking people to support the person, not the act.

The end of the pledge says, "I don't have to feel guilty about what I know or believe, but I do need to take responsibility for what I can do now." So we leave it open for each person who signed the pledge to believe anything about the morality of homosexuality. We ask only that they think about what they believe and take responsibility for it. There are many people who read the pledge, took it seriously, but couldn't sign it because of some fundamental problem they had with what it said. I respect and love these people. I would firmly disagree with and denounce anyone who called someone a bigot or excluded them in any way for not signing the pledge. That goes against everything the Ally campaign stands for. No one should be excluded from our human family for any reason. Or as the pledge specifically says, "Every person is entitled to dignity and respect."

But I would also ask the administration or whoever stopped the campaign to take full responsibility for their beliefs. It is very
see **THUET, 6**

other denominations of Christianity, including mine, take the Bible too literally and use passages out of context for our own benefit. But when I was sitting in prayer service last week, I noticed that the students leading the prayer services were doing exactly the same thing. They chose the scriptures out of the Bible that would put their case in a good light rather than dealing with the real issue of the acceptance of homosexuality, which the Bible specifically calls "an abomination to God."

Furthermore, the students claimed the pledge preaches a message of love and Christian acceptance of all people regardless of age, race, gender, or sexual orientation, but when reading the Ally pledge, I found no reference to love or Christian living in the
see **PENISTON, 5**

Boesch addresses concerns about Ally campaign

To the Editor:

I would like to start off by thanking all those who supported the Ally campaign, especially teachers and administrators. We knew going into this that there would be a lot of questions and opposition to what we were trying to do. Words were taken out of context and misinterpreted. Some believed that the issue didn't deserve a week of awareness. I, personally, am very happy with where we are right now.

I would like to address some of the controversy this campaign has started in the halls and in the classrooms. It was brought to my attention that one student was called a name for not signing the pledge. I would hope that whoever did the name-calling realizes that that action goes against everything the pledge and those who brought it to SLUH stand for.

Also, as for the issue of a transgender person, some believe that by putting that group in the pledge, we were offering it as a viable option for a lifestyle. This goes right along with people saying that if you don't agree with homosexuality as a lifestyle, you shouldn't sign the pledge. Throughout the week, we tried to stress that it is, and has been from the start, an issue of the person, not the lifestyle. It's about respecting who a person is and not judging them based on their sexual identity. We don't assume anything about any person who has signed the pledge, except that they will take the message of love and acceptance seriously.

We were only actually given three and a half days of awareness, but in that time we accomplished a lot more than I think most realize. We started conversation. We showed a minority group of students that there were people in their classes, in the faculty and in the administration that cared about them and their concerns. The school still has a long way to go, but every process has a starting point. We have to go one step at a time and hope that there will be those students next year who will take the next step. Hopefully, with each step, support from the SLUH community will grow. Thank you.

Jake Boesch '02

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Moore recommends website

To the Editor:

If I'm like most SLUH students, I have found myself discussing homosexuality more often this past week than I have in my entire life. Sometimes in my conversations, my friends and I reach a dead end where we don't know what to say or even what to think.

When this happens, I've been recommending a website I'd like to share with the community: www.mytruefreedom.net. This site helps everyone deal with not only homosexuality, but also sexuality as a whole for young people from a biblical perspective. I really believe that this site can provide help and understanding for both students and faculty and that it can help bring the divided community together through God's love.

Thomas Moore, '03

PENISTON

(from 4)

whole thing. I do not disagree that it is my duty as a Christian to love everybody, but it is also my duty to defend my beliefs and values that stem from the Bible when they are challenged.

Because the students presented their views of homosexuality during prayer service, no other views on the issue were discussed, and many students were left with unanswered questions. The students also presented their argument in a way such that even those who did not agree were left feeling that they must not love everyone. I feel that the issue of homosexuality should be debated, but the presentation during prayer service was very inappropriate.

Many of you out there are probably thinking, "Well, this kid is just some radical, Bible-believing, conservative Protestant preaching from a view of the Bible that does not have any weight in today's society." I say to you, maybe so. But it is your duty as intelligent Jr. Billikens to look at both sides of any argument so as not to be shamed into picking the only side that is presented. I also know that there are other students like me who are struggling for a voice in this matter but have been humiliated into silence by those who oppose us. I challenge you to stand up and express your view just as I have.

And to the administration: it is your duty as the leaders of this Catholic-Christian body to take a stand on what the Church teaches as well as what the scriptures say, along with the belief system that this school was founded upon. You have the power in this situation; now what are you going to do with it?

My love for all people is strong even though I do not always agree with their action. Over the past four years, this school has taught me to be a better man of God and a man for others on so many different levels. It has also taught me to speak out against opposition and defend my beliefs and values in healthy, educated debate. And as I leave this school in a few short weeks, I pray the leaders after me will continue to do the same thing.

Mark Peniston, '02

HOULIHAN

(from 3)

"heterosexism." Heterosexism is a word not found in the dictionary. Does this recently-coined word mean to blur the differences between males and females? Does it mean that heterosexual attraction is no more normal than same sex attraction?

Why did the leader or leaders responsible for these unclear handouts not explain to the SLUH community why they chose them? Why they did not offer a clear statement? If the goals were clear, why the ambiguous language?

Why did they not simply ask people to sign a pledge that said "I am opposed to racism, sexism, homophobia, and the use of harmful, hurtful language against any human being"? Would not that have achieved their goal without causing confusion and pain?

Still another problem was the brevity of the presentation. A proper consideration of the question of respect for persons of same sex attraction has to be within the context of a theology of the body, the proper understanding of human love, and the virtue of chastity, which would require a considerable amount of time and reflection. A ten-minute period is not suitable for this kind of careful thought. To consider the issue out of context is analogous to reading a thirty chapter book by beginning with chapter twenty-seven. A wise sage once remarked, "a text out of context is a pretext."

Clearly, any effort to ask people to sign anything implying approval of homosexual acts would be unacceptable, since that kind of behavior is contrary to the collective experience and wisdom of millions of people in the Catholic tradition down through the centuries who regard that kind of behaviour as immoral. This is a belief grounded in a rich vision of the beauty of sex and the inherent dignity of every human person.

Secondly, it is unfair to ask any Catholic or Catholic institution publicly to approve of any organization or doctrine that runs contrary to deeply-held beliefs of conscience, faith, and the tradition of the Catholic community. To create or foster such teaching or groups inside the halls of SLUH would be even more egregious. Such behaviour would violate the respect due to a human being and to this school, the very respect the organizers of the event professed to deepen.

On the other hand, care for every individual within the walls of Backer, including those who have same-sex orientation, must be the passionate concern of students and faculty. The fact that Dr. Bannister, Father Sheridan, and Messrs. Hannick and Mouldon have been talking about care for students and school climate since November and have organized a summer workshop to deal with some of these issues is encouraging. Hopefully, this task force will have greater clarity, fidelity to tradition, and effect than this missed opportunity.

Ralph Houlihan, S.J.

Miller's *Creation of the World* promises laughs

Alex Green
Reporter

“**M**ake way dumb stars, the world of man begins!” These are the words of Lucifer in the Dauphin Players’ production of Arthur Miller’s *The Creation of the World and Other Business*.

Focusing on three questions of man’s existence, the play tells the biblical story of creation. After making Adam (senior Alex Green), God (senior Chris Storey) creates a partner for him, Eve (Cor Jesu sophomore Lauren Weber). While the world is perfect at first, God realizes that the two do not multiply and calls for help from Lucifer (sophomore Peter Gosik).

Going against God’s will, Lucifer introduces evil into the world in the form of an apple, forcing God to cast Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and into the barren desert. After many years, Cain

THUET

(from 4)

serious to denounce one sin as so wrong that anyone who commits it is no longer entitled to our love, to our respect, and even to the support of a group of students who signed a pledge. I would even go so far as to say that this stance is anti-Christian and anti-Catholic. As Catholics and Christians we are supposed to follow Christ and all of His teachings. And one of His most central teachings is the Law of Love. He says, as Chris pointed out in prayer service, “We are to love everyone.

No exceptions. No loopholes. Love everyone.” This is exactly what I believe it means to be a Catholic. And when a school takes away my right to sign a pledge and join a program stating that I will love everyone by giving support, dignity, and respect to them, regardless of what they look like, what they believe, or how they act, then that school is impeding my right to my Catholic beliefs. I believe it is a problem that right now I feel I would have

(junior Brandon Bieber) and Able (senior Justin Smith) are born, only to become enemies. In an effort to bring God’s favor onto the family, they try to make an offering to the Lord, but the intervening Lucifer prevents them. He instead convinces Cain to kill his brother out of anger and jealousy. In the end, Adam and Eve are yet again left alone in the desert, calling for God’s mercy.

The play is directed by Kathryn Whitaker, with technical direction by Scott Sanders. The studio-style production uses suggestive lighting and sound to help immerse the audience in the scene. Stage Manager Tom Recktenwald says, “Uncovering the meaning of this play has taken weeks, but has been very rewarding.” Equally excited about the play are the three angels, Chemuel (senior Joey Neilsen), Raphael (sophomore James Erler) and Azrael (junior Brian

more of a right to express my Catholic beliefs at a public school, where this right is protected by law, than at this Catholic institution where this right is supposed to be held sacred. That right is so important to me and my parents that we pay tuition to allow me to go to a place where those in charge can and should be expressing and

I believe it is a problem that right now I feel I would have more of a right to express my Catholic beliefs at a public school ... than at this Catholic institution where this right is supposed to be held sacred.

teaching me these same Catholic beliefs, which they are in fact denying through the shutdown of the Ally campaign. In closing, I would like to praise the administration for the speeches on student wellness given this year. They made me feel like those in charge really loved and cared for me regardless of the many things I do wrong. But in this past week I have begun to feel that either this message has been in vain, or that they really only care about, love, and support a select group of students when only they do something wrong.

John Thuet '02

Cunningham). Speaking together, they believe this is “one of the most interesting ways to look at the creation story.”

While this play has comic elements, parts of the story are very intense. Junior Joe Moellering viewed a dress rehearsal of the play and said “there were many humorous moments.” At the same time, the intense moments are “realistic and scary,” said stage crew member Mike Smallwood. Assistant Stage Manager Ted Makarewicz adds that “it is incredible how realistic the props are.”

This play marks the final production of the Dauphin Players’ 2001-2002 year. It runs tonight, Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. each night. Prices are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. For more information, go to the Dauphin Players web site (www.sluh.org/dauphin).

MOTHERS AND SONS DANCE AWAY AT TWO HEARTS

John Castelli
Reporter

In the mid 1970s, there was no Mother-Son dinner dance, only the Father-Son Banquet. This discrepancy caused a group of mothers to organize a special night for students to spend with their mothers in a more formal situation. Today, this dance is called the Mom Prom.

This year’s Mom Prom was held on April 5 at the Two Hearts Banquet Center at the intersection of Lindbergh and Gravois. It took approximately fifteen mothers to plan the event, which hosted 438 seniors and mothers.

The semi-formal affair began with a Mass celebrated by Paul Sheridan, S.J., and was followed by a buffet-style dinner. After dinner, Mom Prom-ers danced to the musical stylings of Old Kids on the Block, whose drummer is Dave Mouldon, the chairman of SLUH’s counseling department. During the band’s break, three senior groups, including Twink, kept the crowd entertained until the band came

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ALLY

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tion—history teacher Jeff Harrison, S.J., who was asked by the students to aid them as a faculty member, met with Principal Robert Bannister to get approval for the actions of the club. Bannister, according to student organizers, was one of the most supportive administrators.

But Bannister said that Harrison did not fully communicate all the actions of the campaign. “What I did not know is that, one, we were doing the prayer service and two, I did not know that we were handing out a lot of material,” said Bannister. He said he was under the impression that the campaign would deal with a variety of issues, not just sexual ones.

The organizing students said they got the approval of the pastoral director, Robert Garavaglia, for the prayer services.

“Father Harrison and I had been in communicaton,” Garavaglia said, “He told me a group of students expressed an interest and wanted to get together, not necessarily as a support group but just to get together and talk about ‘How can we support gay students in the school?’ ...He told me that they were interested in doing a prayer service dealing with the issue of homosexuality and whether or not that would be okay. ...He told me in general what it was going to be like and what it was going to be about and I just gave him my support.

“At the time, I didn’t think (telling others) was necessary,” he added, “But looking back on it now, I certainly was open to people’s criticism that said it might have been good to include more people.”

One student organizer, senior Jake Boesch, said, “Initially, I was extremely disheartened (by Monday’s suspension of the Ally pledge campaign). It kind of felt like a slap in the face, because we had done everything that we felt, as students, (we) needed to do in terms of talking to a teacher, a Catholic priest, the principal of the school, and the head of the pastoral program, to get this all cleared up and under way.”

But, after a few days, Boesch remains hopeful. “We’d have to talk with the administration about (reinstating the pledge). In a certain sense, we were out

short and it’s not completely out of the realm of possibility to be asking for at least some kind of administration back(ing),” he said, adding, “I am optimistic that appropriate steps will be made by the administration in coming to terms with this issue.”

Before the pledge was suspended, over 150 students signed it, according to Boesch. On Monday, after the suspension, students assembled a petition to reinstate the pledge, which over 100 people signed. It will be presented to the administration next week when the students meet with Bannister.

Among some of the members of the community who felt that there were problems with the distributed literature were theology teachers. Said Tim Chik in a prepared statement, “I believe the language used in the pledge—‘Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered, and Bisexual’—is, at best, confusing and, at worst, advocative of an active gay lifestyle.”

Teachers also said that phrases in the material like, “If someone mistakes you for gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, do not treat it as an insult, or rush to correct the idea,” suggest that heterosexuals are wrong to feel their own sexual emotions are more natural, as the Catholic Church teaches. Some people also question the term “heterosexism,” a word that is not in the dictionary.

Senior morality teacher Jim Knapp, S.J., also pointed out that “transgendered,” a word that is in the titles of most of the material, suggests a non-Catholic spiritual belief that a person’s soul exists independent of one’s body before birth, that the soul of one gender could be planted in the body of another gender.

One of the main reasons the Ally initiative is being put on hold is that the administration and Board are working on an alternative plan for total student wellness. A task force is tentatively being formed as an effort among those organizations and the Care Team, which will hopefully deal with student concerns about their sexuality and other wellness topics.

Bannister explained that, given the administration’s plans to develop a workshop and a tentative task force, the announcement of the campaign at this time

may be premature. Thinking over different facets of the issue, he said, “I don’t see us having to sign a pledge (but) maybe we need to.... And how do we deal with that? (This) is what I thought we were trying to figure out as an institution. What is it and how do we work with people?”

According to Bannister and President Paul Sheridan, S.J., student wellness plans are being executed very deliberately and carefully, and the sudden actions of the campaign may be harmful.

“Do we know what the support group should do?” Bannister asked. “I think we’re a long way from...having all the things done that we probably need to do. ...I think it’s fine to raise the issue but it’s another place where we ought to be cognitive of other people’s feelings.... I’m not sure we know where we need to be and that’s one of the things we need to be working on between now and the next year.”

Therefore, he is looking at many different ideas right now, including bringing in psychologists as consultants for building a newer, more particular counseling program for students with questions concerning their sexuality, bringing them in as staffers on such as program, or setting up self-help discussion groups for students with the same questions.

“We need to get better at caring,” said Sheridan, who in many ways pulls together the plans of the school and the Board. “All of us have been working on these (issues)...and (we were) slowly examining ‘What are the needs here? Do we need to support the needs today and what do we need to do tomorrow?’ All of these are coming together in a very logical way.”

Regarding the future of the Ally program, Boesch said, “It was a student-led initiative and the administration needs to recognize that anything they do, they’re going to need to talk to the students and keep information going back and forth so that neither side gets blindsided. And that’s pretty much the consensus of how we all feel. We need to make sure we’re all on the same page.”

Patrick Meek of the Core Staff also reported for this article

Tracksters finish 5th of 23 U. City

Team also takes 1st at All-Catholic Meet

Brian Gilmore
Reporter

Last Saturday, the Ready-Set-Go-Bills entered the University City Invitational, a huge meet with many formidable opponents. By the time the meet ended a long and grueling eight hours after it began, total darkness covered the unlit stadium. After tallying the scores, SLUH emerged from the darkness fifth out of 23 teams, one of the highest places by a SLUH team at such a large meet in recent history.

Running first on the day, the 4x800 team of John Parr, Pat Leinauer, Peter Schaefer, and Tom O'Brien claimed silver, crossing the tape with a time of 8:26.3. All day long, the distance team would supply a steady stream of points, ignoring



Jr. Bill Brent Harvey explodes off the blocks.

the large number of runners and turning in great performances. O'Brien took first in the 1600 (4:36), with Kevin Crean running a fine race for second (4:41). In the 800-meter dash, Schaefer won his heat in 2:02.5, taking third place overall. Late in

the day, after sitting around for the better part of six hours, Parr won the 3200 in 10:03.6, with Leinauer finishing third in 10:13.4.

"Before the race, Tip asked me if it hurts to run the 3200," Leinauer said, "and yeah, it was some good pain."

Reid Heidenry continued his tear in the high jump, jumping a personal best 6'4", equaling the best overall leap on the day, but got beat in a jump-off to take home second place honors.

Other key contributions came from the 400-meter relay team, Brent Harvey in the 100-meter dash (11.5), and Thomas Moore in the 400 (53.5). Though not scoring for the team, juniors Kyle Gonnerman and Drew Noblot went 1-2 in the

JV 3200, and sophomores Andrew Linhares and Brennan Connor were 1-2 in the JV 1600, breakthrough performances for all four. Not to be outdone, sophomore Tony Cattaneo won the JV discus with a launch of 111'3".

see **SHORT-SHORTS, 11**

Rawlingsbills suffer two tough MCC losses

John Stewart
Reporter

The varsity baseball team did not have much time to dwell on its loss to the Spartans of DeSmet last Tuesday, as they faced the 2nd-ranked Chaminade Flyers in a tough inter-conference matchup that kept spectators on edge until the final out. Fortunately for the Jr. Bills, they were able to out-slug and out-pitch a very talented team as they held on for a 9-7 victory.

"It's great to go out and prove that you're one of the best teams in the area," said second baseman Eric Enright. "We were just clicking on all cylinders."

The top half of the first inning left the Jr. Bills wondering what they had gotten themselves into, as the Flyers were able to put two early tallies on the board.

However, the bats of the Basebills proved too much for Chaminade's starting hurler Mo Benne as he was shelled for 6 runs on 6 hits in only an inning and a third. Inspired by the pump up music before each at bat, junior Pat Feeney belted

three of the five pitches he saw into left field for hits while scoring each time he reached base.

"(Benne) left a few pitches up over the plate, and I was able to put good wood on the ball," remarked table-setter Feeney. "Hearing Ludacris while coming up to bat couldn't have hurt either."

The TomEmanskybills were able to score three runs in three consecutive frames as they jumped out to a quick 9-3 lead. Timely hitting by seniors John Beck and Tony Aiazzi combined with effective hurling by junior workhorse Tyler Faulstich helped the EndorsedbyFredMcGriffbills hold off the Flyers through the middle innings.

"I had pretty good control of all my stuff," remarked Faulstich. "(Jim) Manning did a nice job of calling a good game for me and recognizing what was working."

The Flyers, however, would not go down without a fight, as they were finally



Eric Enright rounds third base against DeSmet.

able to knock Faulstich out of the game in the sixth inning after closing the margin to 2, 9-7.

Unfortunately for the Flyers, junior Matt McArthur came out of the bullpen and closed the door. However, the excitement did not cease when McArthur entered, as two very difficult and exhilarating plays were needed to end the game.

With two outs in the top of the sixth and men on first and second, a hot shot was stroked just to the right of first baseman Andy Hecht, and the ball ricocheted off

see **ALUMINIUM BATS, 12**

Harris leads Volleybills over CBC 15-7, 15-8

33 assists by the senior and 11 kills by Kris Lowes lift Jr. Bills

John Pimmel
Reporter

Sports fans, when you think of SLUH volleyball, it's certain you think of fine-tuned behemoths like Kris Lowes or Jim Lutkewitte. You picture their long appendages stretching toward the ceiling as they tattoo "Mikasa" on some poor unsuspecting opposing player's forehead. That's good, because they do. But do you ever think of a relatively short young man by the name of Ryan Harris? You should. Some Cadets certainly did as they exited the gym on Monday.

In their latest Metro Conference matchup, the Deceptivelysmallbills took

on a strong CBC squad on our home turf. Ryan Harris showed why he is one of the best setters in the Midwest, as he offered up 33 assists to his fellow Spikebills. Several of those assists went to Kris Lowes who led the Junior Bills with 11 kills. To be fair, the opposition caused the game to carry on a lot longer than necessary.

Following the game, utility man John Thuet remarked, "Well, I'm excited about the win, but it took a little long. I was hoping to be home in time for *The Simpsons*." Alas, it turns out the game would had to have been the quickest in history for Thuet to return to Oakville by 6:30. The game contained several impressive volleys with Junior Bills diving and

sliding across the varnished hardwood of the SLUH gym. But the high-flying varsity emerged victorious 15-7, 15-8. Only once all season has a team scored double digits on this crack squad of servers, spikers and setters.

Want to see if the streak continues? Come watch the VolleyBills take on the Mustangs of Marquette tonight. And for those not faint of heart, the Junior Bills take on the Golden Griffins of Vianney next Wednesday. Some have dubbed it one of the best volleyball matches in the Midwest. Seems there's a trend starting on this volleyball team. Don't you want to come watch?

Druids get first win over DeSmet in two years

Tim Piechowski
Core Staff

After a two and a half-year drought against their biggest nemesis, the St. Louis Rugby Druids vanquished DeSmet this week in a 17-13 victory.

The Druids came out mentally psyched and more physically prepared than they have been all year.

Within minutes of the opening kickoff, the Druids' Mark Duvall was able to touch the ball in for a try, giving the team a quick 5-0 lead. Duvall's try was set up by a spectacular drive down the field by the backfield, including co-captain Tom Lodes, Brad Drakesmith, and a stellar run from winger Matt Diehr. "Our first score set (the backfield) up for some great play, we knew we were faster than (DeSmet), and we wanted to take advantage of our speed for the rest of the game," Duvall said after the game.

As the backfield was blasting through the Spartans' defensive lines, the forwards were doing their part by winning the vast majority of their scrums. Scott Cunningham, who played prop this week, said,

"We switched up where people were playing in the pack this week, which helped a lot as we consistently were pushing them back."

Following Duvall's score, the Druids went to their powerhouse Brad Drakesmith, who proved he could turn up the voltage, as he scored a try in the middle of the first, running a DeSmet defender into the ground. At the end of the first half, the Druids were in the lead 10-6. The Spartans managed to score just two field goals in the half for their points, both off Druid penalties.

In the second half, the Druids continued to dominate the field. After another blazing drive in the middle of the half, Drakesmith was again handed the ball and drove in for the score. From there, co-captain Pat Meier was able to hit his first extra point of the game, after dealing with heavy winds in the first half.

The Druids kept control of the ball most of the half, and the score looked like it was going to remain 17-6 when the final whistle blew. The Spartans, however, were able to slip their first try of the game in with just two minutes left, and brought the

game to a much closer 17-13. But the Druids were undaunted. The team managed to keep the ball deep in the DeSmet backfield off the kick off for the remaining minutes of the game.

The team's coach, Suzanne Walsh, was delighted by the Druids' play. "We beat the best team we've played all year," she said. "Our hands were good. We were fast."

This weekend, the team plays Francis Howell at 11:00 behind the Jewel Box in Forest Park, their final game before districts start next week.

FOOT FAULT

(from 8)

cess of the tennis team, and once the weather gets warmer, with all the publicity we have been getting from the STUCO Sports Commissioner in the after-school announcements, I am sure we will get a huge turn-out of fans to come cheer us on."

Today the Tennisbills are in Columbia, Mo., taking on Columbia Rockbridge and Cape Girardeau Central. Next week is another crucial time for the team as they face conference foes DeSmet and Vianney on Tuesday and Wednesday respectively, and perennial powerhouse John Burroughs on Thursday.



The Druids hoist their players.

Lacrosse team beats rival Parkway West 11-2

Jim Fox
Reporter

After a long break from gameplay, the Jr. Bills were back in action last Thursday. The Laxbills suited up to take on Parkway West at West, which is always a tough matchup. The J-Bills, however, were able to come through with an 11-2 victory.

The Lacrosse team understood the challenge it would be facing in the game. They had seen the Longhorns earlier in the preseason jamboree at Soccer Park and lost 3-2. Even though the jamboree is meaningless, West left an impression with their defeat of SLUH. Couple that with the rust created by spring break, and the Laxbills were in for a test.

But it was evident from the start that the Jr. Bills came to play, and they set an early tone. In the first quarter the offense controlled possession and created opportunities. Juniors Jim Fox and Matt Hof each found the net, and the Jr. Bills jumped

out to a 2-0 lead.

The Longhorns were unable to get anything going against the suffocating SLUH defense. Senior Dennis Burke led the way, completely shutting off his man. The strong defense also attacked ground balls with tenacity and fire, leading to many more offensive possessions.

In the second quarter, Junior attackman Travis Dum scored on an extra-man opportunity. Working the ball around gracefully, the man-up (similar to a hockey power-play) offense was able to swing the West defense out of position. Hof, working the ball from behind the cage, then found Dum wide open on the left wing. Rearing back his stick, Dum torqued it around, ripping a laser to the goalie's off-stick side. The ball found its way just inside the post and wrapped the net back around the post from the outside with the ball still hanging in it, a perfectly placed shot.

The first half ended with the Jr. Bills ahead 3-1, and SLUH looked to capitalize

on their dominant play by pulling away in the second half. The floodgates opened in the third quarter with goals from Nick Brescia and Dan Hopmann. Not looking back, Fox, Hof, and Hopmann each added their second goal. Junior Ryan Dugan led the distancing effort with three crucial goals, and by the end of the game the Laxbills found themselves ahead 11-2.

After the game, junior attackman Tim Branch was "very impressed with the offensive effort." Branch was especially awed by Hof. "He is so good with his quickness, speed, and accuracy," said Branch. "He puts the ball in the perfect spot."

The Jr. Bills' season is just starting. Tonight they take on Memphis University School, the Tennessee defending state champion, at 5:30. SLUH looks to avenge last year's loss, and the team is geared up to play. So come out to see your buddies play, and consult the bulletin board in front of the cafeteria for other upcoming games.

SHORT-SHORTS

(from 9)

Coming off success at U-City, the track team eagerly anticipated the All-Catholic Meet, held on Tuesday and Wednesday at Vianney. By the time the two-day event concluded, SLUH had scored 131 points, good enough for first place among the eleven participating schools. CBC was second with 117 points.

At All-Catholic, success was had in all areas of the meet, a well-rounded performance that was especially impressive.

Starting with the shortest distance, Chris Carter placed third in the 100-meter dash, crossing the line in 11.2 seconds. Peter Allen set a new personal best in the 110-meter hurdles, running a 16.2 to take fourth place. SLUH was strong in the 200-meter dash, with Josh Saleem taking second (23.2) and Carter third (23.4). The 4x100 team of Carter, Harvey, Tim Boyce, and Saleem finished second (44.2), after they were edged out by CBC in a photo finish. The 4x200 team of Harvey, Dan Heard, Boyce, and Saleem, took third with a time of 1:34.4. All totaled, the

sprint team contributed many valuable points to the victory cause.

In the high jump, Heidenry was at it again, soaring over the six-foot bar to clinch the victory. His early successes hold great promise for the rest of the season. Bob Kaestner performed great in the shot put, fending off the competition to win with a throw of 44'7".

The middle distance team nearly swept the open events, placing first and third in the 1600, first and second in the 800, and first and second in the 3200. O'Brien took a healthy ten seconds off his time from U-City to win the 1600 in 4:26.9, with Schaefer running a solid time of 4:35.8 to earn third place honors. O'Brien wasn't done, however, as he overcame a second-lap surge from fellow teammate Schaefer to win in 1:58.9, nosing out Schaefer's 1:58.95. Not only was O'Brien's time good enough to win the race, but it was a Vianney Stadium record.

"It's a privilege to hold a record at a place where (current Missouri runner)

Neville Miller ran," said O'Brien.

Parr also tasted victory in the 3200, eclipsing the ten-minute barrier to win in 9:58.8, ahead of Leinauer's second place time of 10:07.7.

"It's exciting to win a race," said Parr, "but it's even more exciting to help the team win the meet."

"I knew before the race that John and I would go 1-2." Leinauer added, "Oh, wait, who am I kidding, I felt horrible and didn't even think I was going to be able to run."

Adding more valuable second place points, the 4x800 team of Crean, Leinauer, Schaefer, and O'Brien ran a season-best 8:16.1, finishing before all teams but St. Mary's.

Totaling up wins and losses, the Varsity Trackbills are a combined 35-4 so far. They will take a well-deserved week off before returning to the track next Thursday at the Ladue Invitational, held at Ladue Horton Watkins High School. The meet begins at 4:00.

by Patrick Meek

Calendar

Apr. 5-Apr. 12

*All times pm unless otherwise indicated.***FRIDAY, APRIL 12**

Schedule L

Dauphin Players *Creation of the World...*
@ 7:30

C-Track vs. DeSmet @ 4

V/JV-TN @ Rockbridge Tourn.

V-BB vs SLUH Tournament @ Heine
Meine @ 7

V-VB @ Marquette @ 5

SATURDAY, APRIL 13Dauphin Players *Creation of the World...*
@ 7:30V-BB vs SLUH Tournament @ Heine
Meine @ 10am & 12:30**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**Dauphin Players *Creation of the World...*
@ 7:30**MONDAY, APR. 15**

Schedule R

Academic Orientation for Class of 2006

B-BB @ Webster @ Heine Meine @ 4:15

C-BB @ Vianney @ 4:15

V/JV- VB @ St. Mary's @ 5/6

V-Golf @ Webster Cup @ Players' Club
@ 8

JV-Golf vs CBC @ Westborough @ 3:30

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Schedule R

Junior MAP Test

V/JV-TN vs DeSmet @ 4

V-BB vs. Hancock @ Heine Meine @ 4

B-BB @ St. Mary's @ Wilmore Park @
4:15

C-BB @ St. Mary's @ Carondolet @ 4:15

V-Golf vs Chaminade @ Glen Echo @
3:30JV-Golf vs Chaminade @ Normandy @
3:30**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**

Schedule R

Activity Period: St. Louis Univ., Army
Reserve Recruiter

Sophomore MAP Test

JV-Track @ Webster Invitational @ 4

V/JV-TN vs. Vianney @ Meramec CC @
4V-BB vs. Belleville West @ Heine Meine
@ 7

V/JV- VB vs. Vianney @ 5/6

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Schedule R

Activity Period: Junior Class Meeting

V-Track @ Ladue Invitational @ 4

V/JV-TN vs John Burrouhgs @4

V-BB vs. Roosevelt @ Heine Meine @ 7

V/JV- VB @ Chaminade @ 5/6 pm

V-Golf vs Webster @ Normandie @ 3:30

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Schedule R

Activity Period: Freshman Class Meeting

B-BB vs. Hancock @ Heine Meine @ 4

V/JV-VB vs. Kirkwood @ 4/5

ALUMINIUM BATS

(from 9)

Hecht towards Enright. Enright gathered the ball and led McArthur perfectly towards first base as he was forced to cover. The runner was called out on a bang-bang play that ended the Flyers' rally.

Hecht was also involved in another edgy moment in the top of the seventh with two outs as he dove towards the first base line, fielded the ball on one hop and landed on the bag in the same motion, forcing the runner out and ensuring the win for the Jr. Bills.

"That was a pretty scary play," Hecht commented after the fact. "I'm just glad I could come down with it and help the team win such a big game."

Head coach Steve Nicollerat remarked that "a win like this is definitely a step in the right direction. We need to be able to keep that level of consistency throughout the rest of the season. We should find out how consistent we can be over the next couple of weeks."

The Basebills continued their stellar play as the Vikings of Normandy traveled to Heine Meine field for a matinee affair that proved to be all Jr. Bills as they

smashed the Vikings 14-4 for a five-inning contest. The strong arms of Matt Lange, Rico Bertucci, and Matt Ikemeier led the pitching staff as they combined for ten strikeouts in four innings while only allowing one base runner. The offense was sparked by sophomore sensations Tyler Aholt and Joe Palumbo as the duo reached base in five out of six plate appearances while driving in four runs. The win left the Jr. Bills with a 6-1 record going into the important conference game against the Griffins of Vianney.

The Jr. Bills were unable to continue their run, losing 7-2 to Griffins on Wednesday evening. Stellar pitching and timely hitting led to Vianney's success against the fourth-ranked Jr. Bills. The NoPepperbills were unable to put together a serious rally as they were limited to only 2 runs by Oklahoma State-bound Tom Cowley. A combination of physical and mental errors costed the Jr. Bills as they trailed throughout the entire game.

The Jr. Bills face the U. City Lions Thursday afternoon and follow up with action this weekend in the annual SLUH Tournament at Heine Meine.

OH, MAMA

(from 6)

back. The revelry continued until around 11:30, when the band stopped playing. Everyone "thoroughly enjoyed (the evening)," said senior class moderator Tom Becvar.

Mothers' Club president Ann Boyce, mother of senior Tim Boyce, said she believes "the purpose of the Mom Prom is to give the moms and their sons a wonderful and memorable evening together." Most seniors would agree.

"I enjoyed it very much... It was good to have a nice experience with my mom that was related to SLUH," said senior Mike Huelsing.

The night not once allowed seniors and their moms to be closer, but it gave moms the opportunity to get to know each other better. It was truly a memorable occasion that marks another milestone for the seniors before they graduate.

Becvar's wife and son Dan attended the event. He said his wife thought the dance was "one of the best things she's ever done and she'll always remember it."