

# Prep News

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## Six seniors receive honors at assembly

**Brian Kane**  
Core Staff

At the Awards Assembly last Friday, the faculty and students individually honored six St. Louis U. High seniors. Conor Hagen received the Archbishop May Service Award, Kevin Price won the Hinck-Hereford Award, Ben Wastler won the Ed Hawk Award, Joseph Neilsen won the Jesuit Secondary Education Award, Greg Szewczyk won the Dunn-Martel Award, and Alex Green won the Mac Boland Award.

Conor Hagen received the Arch-

bishop May Service Award, which recognizes "extraordinary achievement in service." CSP Coordinator Pat Zarrick gave students in the CSP homeroom applications for the award and Hagen was informed about a month ago that he would receive the award.

Hagen has been involved in community service throughout his career at SLUH. As a freshman, he tutored students in local elementary schools. During his sophomore year, he volunteered at Turner Middle School; last year, he worked at the Northside Community Center. This year, in addition to volunteering at Turner and

Northside, he helped the International Institute tutor refugees from foreign countries such as Afghanistan and Somalia. He plans to continue his service at Carleton College in Minnesota.

Hagen expressed his happiness with SLUH's community service program by saying, "I'm glad that over the last four years community service has become a bigger deal in the school and there's involvement from all four grade levels."

Kevin Price won the Hinck-Hereford Award, bestowed on "the senior who distinguished himself in leadership, scholarship

see **TROPHY**, 6

## Follies set to amuse, shock

**Kevin Moore**  
Sports Editor

What is more funny than seeing Doc Crotzler tackle Tim Cosentino four times in the Senior Follies trailer released today in homeroom? The answer: Senior Follies.

A group of seniors led mainly by

Gilmore, and Alex Jones produced the trailer both to have fun and promote the show, which will play Saturday and Sunday night at 7:30. "Back in January, Alex (Green) asked me to help with the trailer since I had made something similar for the cross country team," said Gilmore. "It really picked up this week when a bunch of guys found out about it and started to help. There were definitely a few late nights, though."

The show promises a hilarious mixture of skits, songs, and dances. Dave Decepeida and Alex Born co-wrote one of the more original skits, titled "Crouching Tai, Hidden Zarrick," which includes amazing choreographed martial arts. "We've

see **LAST LAUGH**, 5



From top to bottom: Joe Bartel, Dennis Burke, and Tim Roth in Follies fun.

## SPRING FLING FLIES THROUGH THE RAIN

**Matt Arnold**  
Reporter

Spring Fling is usually marked with sun, basketball, bands and barbecue. This year's Spring Fling had it all, except the sun. Last Saturday's rainy weather forced STUCO moderator Brock Kesterson and history teacher Dave Barton to bring the fling inside.

"I was really hoping there wouldn't be any rain because the nice weather always makes Spring Fling a lot of fun," Kesterson said.

Relocating into the gym, the Danis lobby, and the theater loge allowed all the events, other than the car smash, to go as planned. Some people were skeptical about

see **RAIN-OUT**, 4

**Denis Agniel**  
**Core Staff**

Several years ago, St. Louis U. High's Board of Trustees decided to keep SLUH at its present location. With this decision to stay, the U. High reinforced its commitment to the community in and around the neighborhood of Backer Memorial. Area developers have now put into motion a plan to further revitalize the community.

On the property bordering Kingshighway to the east of SLUH, McCormack House at Forest Park Southeast, a new assisted living center, will open its doors for the first time, offering one- and two-bedroom apartments to people aged 62 years and over.

After a community planning process of monthly meetings from 1998 to 1999, the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood, located just east of SLUH on the other side of Kingshighway, identified a need for housing the aging population. With many of their neighbors unable to take care of their homes any longer and others living in substandard housing, the community instituted a plan to tear down the houses between Wichita and Cadet and replace them with the McCormack House. Many of the demolished houses were "derelict housing," said Brian Phillips of the Washington University Medical Center Redevelopment Corporation. "Most

of (the housing) was obsolete," Phillips explained, citing that many properties were either of inferior quality or rental properties owned by absentee landlords.

Washington University Medical Center has an interest in its neighboring communities, said Phillips. Because of this interest, the Washington University Medical Center Redevelopment Corporation

h i r e d  
M c C o r m a c k  
Baron & Associates, Inc., to help prepare a master revitalization plan for the neighborhood two and a half years ago. The plan delineated a number of goals for the community, including

the renovation of Adams Elementary School, Manchester, and the area from Wichita to Cadet, which along with the intersection of Manchester and Kingshighway is known as the "gateway area."

The decision to acquire the properties in the gateway area did, however, meet with some opposition. "There was a lot of debate on the acquisition of the houses in the gateway area," said Project Manager Vince Bennett of McCormack Baron.

"In many cases," said McCormack Baron employee and SLUH alumnus Mike Goeke, "you want to preserve housing." But this time, he explained, the "greater good" lay in buying and renovating the area.

McCormack Baron worked with Alderman Joseph D. Roddy to provide a relocation plan that met with the approval of the community. SLUH English teacher Rich Moran explained that often redevelopment "squeezes out people without much money." However, this situation was different. "People got fair prices for



The McCormack House on Kingshighway.

their houses," he said.

With the decision made to renovate the property, the task of obtaining financial support confronted the development team of McCormack Baron, the Washington University Medical Center, and the Forest Park Southeast Housing Corporation. A developer will usually receive support from both the public and private sectors. In this case, the Missouri Housing Development Commission pro-  
**see JESTER, 6**

## Murray voted Teacher of the Year by class of '02

**Brian Fallon**  
**Reporter**

Every year the senior class decides who they believe is the teacher of the year. Last Friday, at the awards ceremony the class of 2002 chose history teacher Terry Murray.

Murray has taught at SLUH for ten years. Having received his master's degree in urban affairs, he now teaches U.S. History, AP Politics, and Foreign Policy. He is also the junior class moderator. In addition to teaching and leading the jun-

ior class, Murray has also been the assistant varsity soccer coach for eight years and the varsity swimming coach since he came to SLUH.

"It is a wonderful honor to be recognized by the students in my last year here," said Murray, who will be leaving SLUH at the end of this year. to become the head soccer coach and teach history at MICDS.

History teacher Steve Schad, a friend and colleague of Murray, noted that "this award has never been a popularity contest, especially with Mr. Murray."

Many were saddened when they heard of Murray's departure, but Schad explained that "he really wants to be a head soccer coach, and it's necessary to move on to another school after you've been teaching somewhere for as long as Murray has."

Murray was shocked when he received the teacher appreciation award, saying, "I was definitely not expecting to receive this honor, especially since most of my time is spent with the junior class." Murray mentioned that "it has already

**see TOTY, 14**

## COMMENTARY

### Juniors should take leadership seriously

**Matt Hoffman**  
Core Staff

STUCO is an important part of SLUH. They raise money, hold blood drives, and instill spirit throughout the school and at sporting events. I feel that, as a whole, next year's nine junior members of STUCO are devoted to serving the school. I am satisfied with next year's STUCO members.

However, I am disappointed at what took place during the two rounds of speeches. To me, it seemed like very few of the candidates attempted to convince the audience that they were the right men for the job. Instead of substantive speeches, the audience was given humorous gags or skits, some of which were offensive, one of which had to be stopped by STUCO Moderator Brock Kesterson. Humor has a place in Student Council and in Student Council speeches. However, to replace a real speech with a gag, a skit, or a dance which displays your ability to entertain rather than your ability to lead a high school seems to be ridiculous. Shouldn't candidates take their two-minute chance to talk to their classmates as an opportunity to show why they want to be leaders as members of STUCO?

It is, however, hard to blame candidates for resorting to hijinks when they know that voting often depends on how outrageous their speeches are. One candidate's plan was to deliver a joke performance followed by a serious speech. After sending the audience into belly laughter, he dropped his gimmick and attempted to begin a serious speech. However, members of the audience shouted for him to sit down instead of hearing what he wanted to say about his qualifications and plans for the future. The candidate, figuring he had already won over the crowd, took his seat. Unfortunately, he listened to the crowd. He had made them laugh, they liked him, and he was elected.

This seems to be the way in which we qualify candidates for STUCO: funny speech, fast wit, you're in; serious speech,

serious mood, you're out. A qualification for STUCO might be an ability to entertain, but what about qualifications like leadership, devotion, and a good work ethic? The people casting the votes choose the qualifications. The majority of these people voted for candidates who displayed only their ability to entertain. If a candidate doesn't take his speech seriously, can we realistically expect him to take his position as a leader of the school seriously? An extroverted person who can entertain a large group of people could be a potentially good leader, but he should also be expected to explain his feelings and ideas toward a leadership position at SLUH.

That's not to say that the same candidates would not have been elected had they added substance or seriousness to their speeches. Many of the candidates who gave joke speeches are serious people. But, according to Kesterson, students traditionally vote for the candidates with the funniest, most outrageous speeches. Do we want to fall in line with tradition without even considering what is at its heart? We see outrageousness as the key ingredient for a STUCO member. We see the tradition, but don't question it.

Our STUCO members are our leaders. I have seen leadership qualities in many of next year's STUCO members, and I think they take leadership seriously. However, if they show that they do take leadership seriously during their public speeches, they have good reason to believe they will be ousted by a candidate who uses a speech as a chance to prove that he is the funniest, craziest candidate.

Something needs to change. Kesterson plans to revise the election process to force students to give some serious thought to their speeches. Do juniors at SLUH need an administrator to step in before they can take leadership seriously? As students who claim to be committed to leadership for the rest of our lives, we should act seriously about it. We should expect a lot from our Student Council. If they know we expect them to take their positions seriously, hopefully they will.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Schenkenberg thanks students for openness

To the Jr. Bills:

Thank you for talking with me on Tuesday. I think I spoke with around 100 students and got written responses from 30. I know that is a small percentage, but it gave me a sense of the SLUH student community. I discovered that SLUH guys are friendly, funny, articulate, thoughtful, love their school, and are hungry most of the time.

Perhaps because I was in the cafeteria, there was much talk about food: more chicken wraps, more cinnamon buns, and healthy choices for those who are tuned to nutrition (like the wrestlers).

I also heard thoughtful comments on most of the issues covered recently in the *Prep News*: the ally pledge, the possible changes around homeroom, student work load, time for activities, time for homework, the schedule (7 period day, block days, etc.)

I was happy that I heard from a cross section of students—freshmen through seniors. Juniors, I was especially pleased to talk with so many of you, the future leaders of the student body. I look forward to working with you next year.

Thank you for making me feel welcome at SLUH. Enjoy May.

Dr. Schenkenberg

# Thuet makes duct tape tuxedo for prom

**Tim Piechowski**  
Core Staff

Some have touted it as the most versatile invention in the world. You see it everywhere. Posters are taped up with it. Broken windows are taped shut with it. Handlebars are kept on bikes with it. Holes are taped up with it. Cars are sometimes permanently fixed with this solve all-invention. What is this all-in-one fix-it device? That's right, you guessed it: duct tape. Now, however, the sticky material which has saved untold millions from true fix-it work is entering a new field through the ingenious work of John Thuet and his girlfriend, Jane Schlafly: fashion.

Tonight, Thuet will be attending Nerinx Hall's prom wearing a full tuxedo made almost entirely of duct tape. His date will also be wearing a dress made entirely of duct tape. Although Thuet and Schlafly sound a little bit eccentric for seemingly trying to start a fashion revolution single-handedly, they have good reasons for their outlandish outfits.

"My girlfriend was online looking

for scholarships, and she found out that one of the duct tape companies was offering money for any couple making a dress and tuxedo for a prom," says Thuet.

Upon further research, they found that Manco, Inc., the company owning the rights to Duck brand duct tape, is running a contest in which students are asked to design formal wear for their proms. After judging, the grand prize winning prom couple will receive a total of \$5,000 in scholarships (\$2,500 each), and the school hosting the prom in which they attended will also be given \$2,500.

Thuet believes that he and Schlafly have a real shot at winning the competition.

His full tuxedo includes a tux with three pockets, a handkerchief, a vest, a shirt (complete with buttons), pants with pockets, a bow tie, a top hat, a cane, and

duct tape shoes. He also mentioned that his pants have pleats, and that he has suspenders. The tux was made with a total of 5 grey, 3 blue, and 3 thin rolls of white duct tape, for a total of \$30. His date's dress was made from blue duct tape.

"It took me forever to make," says Thuet, continuing, "Over two months, I spent hours and hours on it." Thuet initially

tried to make his duct clothing by simply taping over regular clothes, but he found that they crinkled up quite a bit. Upon hearing this, Schlafly suggested that he buy cut-out patterns for his outfit.



Thuet and Schlafly decked out in duct tape.

From there, he cut out all of his clothing onto bed sheets, which he could smooth out much better than regular clothes. His top hat was made from a cardboard cut out he made himself.

"The shoes are the only part I cheated on. I just taped over regular shoes," commented Thuet.

With all of this work, Thuet now proudly calls himself, "The Master Taper from Oakville."

He said that he didn't feel too weird about wearing the duct tape outfit to a prom. However, he did state a concern about his outfit that he discovered while appearing on Channel 11 News last week: "It's really hot." On the other hand, he also figures that he saved about \$70 by not renting out a tuxedo for tonight.

Thuet says that after Nerinx Hall's prom, he intends to wear the tuxedo to SLUH's prom next week and then take it off, "It'll probably really stink," by then he said, continuing, "and you can't wash it."

After wearing the tuxedo to SLUH's prom, he and Schlafly will be required to send the tuxedo, dress, accessories, and pictures in to Manco, the Duck tape company, by June 14 for judging.

## RAIN-OUT

(from 1)  
the last-minute indoor setup.

"At first I was a little nervous that it wouldn't go over as well, but as the day progressed, it turned out to be better inside than out," said junior class rep Casey Barrale. The basketball tournament, the music, the joust, and the NHS barbecue all proved to be very successful in their new locations.

The three-on-three basketball organized by Barton pitted 32 teams—31 student teams and one faculty team—against each other. J.C. Pleban of the SLUHnatics said, "Even though it was inside it was cool." At the end of the day, Winthrop was the winner. Pleban, whose team placed second, said optimistically, "It was a tough loss, but who's going to stop us next year?"

Spring Fling provided a diverse group of bands this year. "I liked playing out-

side, but this year was the best year for music," commented senior Rami Srouji. Uberstank, Quelnt, Twink, The Johnny 5, the Nat Turner Maneuver, The Big O, and DJ Joe Graham all played many musical styles, from punk rock to electronica. Joe Graham, who showed off his DJ abilities, said, "It was really fun to play for my first SLUH crowd."

Said Dave Mahach and Pat McIver, "Listening to Joe lay down his phat beats let us get down with our bad selves" after hearing Graham bust out the Beastie Boys and Michael Jackson.

Aside from a fire alarm that was set off by either the barbecue pit or the cotton candy machine around 2:30, Spring Fling was a success. The day was capped off by a STUCO mixer at 7:30. Regardless of the move inside, the fun atmosphere of Spring Fling added another great Saturday to the Spring Fling tradition.

# Spring 2002 *Sisyphus* to be set loose

**Geoff Brusca**  
Core Staff

As spring emerges from winter, we find flowers blooming from winter cold, bears leaving their caves, and grumpy, sleepy editors stumbling out of their final meetings just before they send their magazine to press. That's right! The *Sisyphus* Spring '02 issue will be published next week and is scheduled to hit the halls at the exorbitant price of 25 cents around Thursday.

The issue will tie the preceding Winter '02 publication for the longest *Sisyphus* ever, with 52 pages of literary and artistic genius. Sophomores Robert Matschiner and Charlie Hall bolstered the bookish editing staff of seniors Andrew Ivers, Andy Neilsen, and Joey Neilsen and juniors Rico Bertucci, Geoff Brusca, and Matt Mourning as the literature editors considered over 70 submissions.

Among the shiners of those fiction pieces accepted are Joey Neilsen's "Pictures," a story in which, moderator Rich Moran says, "a boy learns again how much he values home and his parents' love," and senior Tim Paradise's "Bac Gzao," an exploration of what is foreign and what is friendly. Brusca's "Gray Pants" is also an interesting stream of consciousness piece which contemplates the interactions between superficiality and self-confidence in the context of a romantic relationship.

But despite the senior show, *Sisyphus* continues to trend toward youth, with freshman Paul Barker adding the story "Elephants" and the poem "Hate," a work which Moran believes "gets at the conflict between (the) ideals and experience (of its namesake)." Hall, with Barker, looks to be like the future of the magazine, as his poems "Cold, nor Distant" and "Grandma's" lend a bouncy young step to the spring issue.

Poetic superstars Andy Neilsen and Ivers wordsmithed their final masterpieces of their SLUH careers, as Ivers' "Instant Message" and Neilsen's "On the Dying of a House" lead the poetry of the issue.

From the Technology and Literature section, Ivers' "Instant Message" and Hall's "Cold, nor Distant" both present the conflict of emotion and distance with communication severed by supposed technological advances as portrayed through people interacting over AOL's Instant Messenger.

The art of spring comes out incredibly in this issue, as terrific submissions combine with the *Sisyphus* innovation of scanning artwork directly to bring out clear, evocative, stimulating visual masterpieces. Art editors Sean Smith and Howie Place considered and appraised pieces from students of varied art classes, and the standouts are Smith's "Snowy Hillside" and junior Matt Shaver's woodblock of a young girl, a work Moran describes simply as "striking." Moran also called this issue, "one of *Sisyphus*' most beautiful."

Junior Matt Hoffman and sophomore Brian Kane make up the special teams with Hoffman's layout genius making for

a geometric and stylistic achievement and Kane's webmastering bringing the magazine to all realms.

But at the heart of this particular



Artwork by Howie Place

publication is that it will be the last for editors Ivers, Neilsen, and Neilsen, and moderator Frank Kovarik thinks that "this will be an exciting issue because it will be the end for the three senior editors."

So be sure to check out such a highly-lauded and jam-packed *Sisyphus* as it is sold by your friendly *Sisyphus* editors next week.

## LAST LAUGH

(from 1)  
spent a lot of time choreographing the moves, and we hope it turns out well," said Decepada. "It should be exciting."

Senior Chris Storey commented, "That skit is the most amazing thing I have ever seen!" The two-act show includes many other surprises which will surely woo the audience.

Along with the innumerable skits included in the play, there are also a number of songs and dances, including the SLUH ballet, which has become a follies tradition over the years. Many songs will be scattered throughout follies in addition to the traditional opening theme

song.

"I think the choruses provide a really good counterbalance to all the spoken dialogue," described Koestner.

Director Jeff Harrison, S.J., is enthusiastic about the upcoming show. "I think the writers have done a fantastic job under sudden limitations," he said.

The large amount of senior participation is also a strength of the show. "With just under 100 seniors, it's one of the largest shows I've seen," said Harrison.

The culmination of hours of toiling over skits beginning in the first quarter will take place on Saturday and Sunday night. Said Harrison, "The spirit is good."

## JESTER

(from 2)

vided the venture with \$1 million, while allocating \$505,500 of federal and state tax credits to the developers. Fannie Mae chipped in an additional \$935,000. As of right now, the Forest Park Southeast Housing Corp. indicates that there is \$35 million currently used for renovation in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood and \$10 million of that is headed to the McCormack House project.

The impact on the community is two-fold. Immediately, the community gains sorely needed housing for seniors. The 89 new units offered by the McCormack House will allow residents to stay in their neighborhood even after they need additional assistance, rather than having to leave their neighbors, their church, and their social groups. It also provides generally affordable prop-

## TROPHY

(from 1)

ship, and athletics." Price has played water polo for SLUH for four years, the last two on varsity. Price was a team captain on this year's state championship team. He also spent his senior year serving the school as STUCO secretary.

"It was really nice to know that (the award) was coming from my classmates," Price said.

Ben Wastler received the Ed Hawk Memorial Award for being "the senior who with love and dedication to SLUH, and through his example of working and giving, was most able to influence his class towards success by cooperation and unity." Wastler has been active in several areas of leadership and service at SLUH. Since he was a freshman, he has competed on SLUH's soccer and swimming teams. A member of the National Honor Society, Wastler was a President's Ambassador for two years, a STUCO class officer in his junior year, and a senior advisor this year. Next year he will be studying at Georgetown University.

On the meaning of the award, Wastler said, "You really feel like you've left your mark." As a winner of the Ed Hawk Award, Wastler will deliver a

erty to the elderly of the area. The added apartments will accomplish one of the major goals of the project: to "attract and keep people in the city," Director of Senior Services at McCormack Baron Jeanette Langton said.

The other benefit of the project lies in McCormack House's aesthetically pleasing nature. Many involved stressed the importance of the improved appearance of the new gateway area. The new buildings will make what Phillips calls "an excellent statement of revitalization." Goeke stressed the importance of the impression given to passersby, "(The project) will really clean up that corner (at Manchester and Kingshighway) and improve the neighborhood." The renovation of the area could lead to additional outside investments and more rejuvenation.

The overall goal of the project is to

speech at graduation on May 25.

Joseph Neilsen was honored with the Jesuit Secondary Education Award for being "intellectually competent, religious, open to growth, loving, and committed to doing justice in generous service to the people of God." This award is voted on by the faculty, rather than the senior class.

After expressing his enthusiasm for learning, Neilsen said, "I've done what I like to do.... If I hadn't liked it, then I wouldn't have done it."

During his time at SLUH, Neilsen has competed on the Quiz Bowl and Speech teams, worked as a member of the *Sisyphus* staff, and starred in theater productions. In addition, he was a senior advisor, an NHS member, and he eats lunch in the cafeteria daily.

As the recipient of this award, Neilsen will give a speech at the graduation dinner on May 24. "I feel really privileged to be able to speak... at the end of my SLUH career.... I also feel honored that the award was printed on such high-quality paper," he said.

Greg Szewczyk won the Dunn-Martel Award, given to "the senior who possesses a high level of scholarship as well as the discipline and commitment to athletic participation." Like Hagen, Szewczyk knew

provide an economic stimulus to the area, and thereby encourage people to move into the neighborhood and to retain the current population, and so far, those involved are encouraged by the progress, said Moran.

Also involved in the construction of McCormack House are Architect Trivers Associates, Environmental Engineers Professional Environmental Engineers, Inc., and Contractor Altman-Charter Company. And in addition to the McCormack House project, another project involving McCormack Baron and the St. Louis Science Center remains. On an under-utilized piece of property at Manchester and Kingshighway, McCormack Baron plans to construct an interactive science park, for which the Science Center will manage the programming.

In all, Moran remarked in regards to all of the revitalization, "We in the neighborhood are very happy."

before the assembly that he had received the award. Szewczyk has played water polo for all four years, serving as captain of his freshman, junior varsity, and varsity teams. Szewczyk was also a member of the swimming team during his sophomore, junior, and senior years, and ranked in the top eight of the state as a junior and senior. Szewczyk cited good team relationships as a reason for being so involved athletically.

Alex Green received the Mac Boland Award. It is presented to "the otherwise unheralded senior who through his dedication and determination has most influenced his fellow students toward more united participation in the spirit of SLUH." In his four years at SLUH, Green has been involved with the *Dauphin Players*, Speech team, Chorus, and Dance. He also served as the Box Office Manager, and was an Admissions Ambassador. He periodically wrote for the *Prep News* and *Dauphin Yearbook* as well. "I feel honored and humbled by this kind gesture," Green commented.

Overall, the senior class was pleased with the results of the awards assembly. Said senior Joe Griffey, "All the winners were very deserving."

May 3, 2002

# Up and down Volleybills lose three of five

**Jim Lutkewitte**  
Reporter

The Jr. Bill volleyball team has been getting some great competition lately. Going in to the end of last week, the Slambills were just recovering from the illness of John Thuet, whom they deeply missed in an earlier loss to DeSmet in the Parkway Classic Tourney. Although it seemed like a big loss, the team expected that once everyone was healthy they could win.

No big deal, right? Well, the Jr. Bills, managed and owned by Brian Wacker, suffered another loss when senior outside hitter Jim Lutkewitte suffered some bowel problems towards the end of last week. The Jr. Bills lost to a talented Pattonville

team in two games.

"We just didn't show up to play today," senior phenom setter Ryan Harris commented. "It's just that simple. You can't play down to the levels of teams below you, and we did today."

Thinking that the alarming loss to Pattonville might awaken the incredibly talented Jr. Bills, Kris Lowes came out throwing some St. Chuckbows, contributing 4 kills Monday against CBC. Juniors Brian Guntli and Alex Lepp did most of the bow-throwing, combining for 24 kills. Kyle Banahan also had an impressive serving day, snatching 11 points from CBC. Yet a few bad passes here and a few hitting mistakes there gave the AlloverthecourtBills their first losing streak of the year, falling short in the



Tim Paradise goes up for the spike Wednesday.

second and third games, 13-15, 3-15, respectively.

"We didn't pass the ball today, and when you can't do that with a team that thrives on offense, it's hard to win games," said senior Tim Paradise, who came up with a few fantastic digs in the match.

Head coach Terry Quinn added after the game, "We didn't come out with any spirit, and a loss resulted."

Tuesday was a different story. The newly-spirited team came out flexing their pipes, beating Hazelwood West in two games, 15-1, 15-8.

This spirit carried over into Wednesday as the Jr. Bills defeated Parkway West in another two-game match with scores of 15-4 and 15-11. In the second game of both of these matches, the Spikebills got a new look as sophomores Andy Lowes and Matt Huskey strutted their stuff. Even freshman Joe Guntli made an all-star appearance in both matches. Knowing the Jr. Bills can depend on younger backups like these is a big plus to this well-rounded team.

The MostlySOCOBills know they've got to prove who they really are with a tough schedule ahead of them that includes Vianney in the last game of the season next Thursday, May 9th.

Last night the Volleybills lost a heartbreaker to the Spartans. After losing the first game, the Jr. Bills battled back with a 15-8 win in the second game. Unfortunately, however, DeSmet overpowered the Jr. Bills in the rubber game, 15-12.

## Golfbills swing to 3rd in districts, fail to qualify for state

**Brian Slater**  
Reporter

Last Tuesday, the Golfbills competed in districts at Persimmon Woods, where they hoped to place in the top two and advance to the state tournament. Their district includes such perennial powers as Chaminade, DeSmet, CBC, and Parkway South. Many often say that this district is more competitive than the state tournament, so the winner of the district is often a favorite at state.

Senior Andy Schumert definitely brought his 'A' game, firing an incredible one-over par 72. Said Schumert, "I just went out and did my best, and I was happy with the results."

Following Schumert was senior Joe Sharamitaro, who also shot well with a 74. After that was junior Pat Ostapowicz with 78 and senior first-seed Pat Robert with 79.

The team's score total, which includes the top four individuals' scores, was 303, a score that would have won the Webster Cup and the MCC championship. This was not the case on Tuesday, though, as DeSmet edged them for second

with a 300. Chaminade easily took the title with an extremely low 293.

What makes this year's third-place finish so surprising is that they beat last year's first-place score in districts by five strokes, and the Jr. Bills actually won the title last year. "The team played incredible," said Robert, "and I think we are a lot more surprised than disappointed that we didn't make it."

Head coach Greg Bantle agreed with Robert's sentiments, saying, "We've said all along that it's the hardest district in the state. Any of the three top schools in the district could have won state, but our guys played great."

On a positive note, Schumert and Sharamitaro were two of five individuals from the district who qualified individually for state, so they will represent SLUH and try to win the individual competition.

"I was really proud and happy for them," said Bantle. "Joe (Sharamitaro) has never been there, so that's special for him."

The tournament will take place in two weeks at Silo Ridge in Bolivar, Mo. However, the team still has numerous matches, including one against DeSmet.

# Stagnant offense blanked by Chaminade

*Nicolletatbills rained out against DeSmet to start MCC week*

**Nate McMahill**  
**Reporter**

The Jr. Bills were on a roll, winning six straight and coming into their game with Affton with a number four ranking in the area. The Rawlingsbills were looking to keep their streak alive going into Affton, and they sealed the deal with an 11-1 victory in five innings. Matt Lange was on the hill for the Jr. Bills and he pitched brilliantly, only letting up one run in five innings, while junior Matt McArthur came in as he often does to shut the door.

Some of the major offensive highlights from this game included the three homeruns for the Gotitbills, including two by senior John Beck and one by McArthur. When asked to comment on his homeruns, Beck simply smiled and said, "Dong Dong."

Next, the Jr. Bills had an MCC showdown with the Chaminade Red Devils. Junior Tyler Faulstich was on the hill, and he proceeded to show great command,

pitching a brilliant game. All his pitches were on and he could have made Babe Ruth look like Baby Ruth. However, the Jr. Bills simply couldn't get the bats going. They came away with only one run when Beck hit a double to right-center, scoring Ryan Wessels. In the end, the Emanskibills came up just a little bit short, dropping the game 2-1.

The great thing about baseball is that you get a change to bounce back the next day, as was the case for the Jr. Bills. They squared off against conference foe DeSmet in an MCC game that definitely felt like an early state playoff game. The rain had come in and sprinkled the field and the Jr. Bills were hoping it would hold off for the game. Matt Lange was pitching for SLUH and battled, doing a stupendous job of working himself out of jams. Lange only allowed one run, which came in the fourth inning as DeSmet senior pitcher Tim Landy hit a single in between Beck and Twellman, scoring the runner from third.

The Jr. Bills once again could not get

their bats going, until, in the bottom of the fifth inning, junior Andy Hecht stepped to the plate with a 2-0 count. Hecht got a pitch to drive and he did just that, hitting an absolute bomb down the left field line. The ball was hooking the whole way as it sailed beyond the fence. All of the Heine Meine faithful turned their glance to see the umpire calling "foul ball." When asked to comment about his "home run," Hecht said, "It was a tough break. You come out every day ready to play and ready to do your best for the team, and sometimes it just doesn't go your way."

It would turn out that was the last real scoring opportunity for the Nicolletatbills, as the rain and lightning rolled in and the game was delayed. After about a twenty minute rain delay, the umpires called the game and the Jr. Bills simply ran out of time. They have a busy week ahead of them playing make-up games, so check your *Prep News* calendar for time and location.

## *Schenkenberg's first visit with students*



From Monday to Wednesday, SLUH's principal-select Mary Schenkenberg visited with staff and students as she planned. Schenkenberg met with over 100 students during her four-plus hour stints on Tuesday.

## *Quote o' the Week*

*"Spring, Spring! Like a mad magician flinging silks and colored rags from his trunk the earth produced the yellow and white crocus, then the fox grape, the forsythia flowering on its stalks, the blades of iris, the apple tree blossoms of pink and white and green, the heavy lilac and the daffodil."*

—E.L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*

# LAXbills sweep groundballs, Lafayette

**Jim Fox**  
Reporter

**B**arreling down the home stretch of the season, the LAXbills have recently been on a roll. After winning four in a row, the J-Bills needed to continue their streak with a win over Lafayette last Friday in the Stadium game in order to gain a first round play-off bye. They were able to pull off a blowout win, 10-3.

Playing their only game of the year in the SLUH Stadium, the Jr. Bills came out fired up and got off to a quick start. With their usual dominant ball control, SLUH's offense kept the pressure on Lafayette and off their own defense.

Junior attackman Ryan Dugan started the scoring in the first quarter after a feed to the crease from fellow attackman Matt Hof. The team put in two more goals before the first twelve minutes were over, and SLUH led

3-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter saw more SLUH dominance, putting them ahead 5-0 at half. One of those goals came off another feed from Hof to the crease. Taking the ball from his X position (behind the goal) Hof drove his man to the back left of the goal, then turned back on a dime toward

him. Hof simultaneously threw the ball to an open Dum and ducked down to protect himself from the hit. Dum caught the ball and turned a split-second into what seemed to be all the time in the world, snapping two fakes high. With the goalie embarrassingly out of position, Dum tossed the ball into a wide gap to the goalie's offstick side for the goal.

The start of the second half saw a comeback from the Lancers. Closing the gap to 5-3, the Lancers put the pressure on the SLUH offense to step up. It did with two fast break goals that shot the silver bullet in the heart of the Lancers, and SLUH possession controlled the rest of the game.

Hof again led SLUH's dominant effort. With three goals and four assists, Hof equaled his and the team's single game high in points. Junior middle John Belgeri and

Dum each added two goals in the game.

The other half of the dominant effort came from the defense. Offering virtually no chances for the Lancers to get off good shots, the SLUH defense made lacrosse look easy. Defensive starters Adam Shalapin, Dennis Burke and Joe Bartel all played remarkably well. Shalapin played his typical stingy defense, and he had an assist on the much needed goal to stop the Lafayette comeback.

Burke held one of the area's leading scorers to only one goal and effectively rendered him useless for the rest of the game. Bartel won 12 groundballs, the single game high for the team this season. One amazed fan referred to Bartel's performance as "the best game I have ever seen played by a long-stick defenseman."

The game puts the Jr. Bills in control of their own fate as they vie for a playoff spot. Now the Lacrossebills are looking forward to the rest of the season and the importance of each game. The next big one comes Saturday at CBC at two o'clock where the Cadets will look to avenge last year's playoff loss to SLUH.



Jr. Bill lacrosse went head to head with Lafayette last Friday in a 10-3 victory.

the back right. Beating his own man, Hof forced the man covering attackman Travis Dum on the crease to come over and stop

## Mother Nature postpones track meet, SLUH leads MCC

**Brian Gilmore**  
Reporter

**O**ften billed as one of the largest meets of the season outside of the State Meet, the finals of the Clayton Invitational never got off the ground this Saturday, getting washed out after Thursday's preliminaries. It was the third time this season that a meet had been either postponed or cancelled due to inclement weather.

On Thursday, however, certain areas of the team showed promise for the upcoming postseason meets. The 4x100m and 4x200m teams both qualified for the finals, along with Thomas Moore in the 400m dash. Unfortunately, for a team full of athletes ready to post their best times

and distances of the year, Saturday morning brought a steady deluge that forced the postponement of the meet.

The finals were rescheduled for Monday, but in order to be able to train properly for yesterday's conference meet, the coaches conferred with the athletes and chose not to attend.

Yesterday, the Tracksters traveled to Chaminade to compete in the MCC Championships. By virtue of their triumph at the MCC Relays earlier in the season, and since points carry over between the relays and conference this season, SLUH held a slight lead in the overall MCC title hunt as they looked to improve upon their fourth place finish last year. Results will be listed next week with a preview of the District meet, the first step on the way to State.

# Tennisbills place third in Belleville East Invite

*Harvath, Reich swing to team-best fourth in doubles*

**Joe Harvath**  
**Reporter**

This past weekend, the SLUH tennis team crossed the river to play in the Belleville East tournament, competing against sixteen of the top teams in Illinois. Unfamiliar with most of the teams from the East Side, the McEnroeBills went into the weekend not really knowing what to expect. But thanks to a strong performance from each member of the team, in both singles and doubles, the Cross-courtbills came out of the tournament

with an impressive third-place finish.

The Acebills found themselves in fifth place after day one, which consisted solely of doubles. Each of the three SLUH doubles teams won at least one match, greatly helping the overall score for the Jr. Bills. Leading the way for the Backhandbills were Joe Harvath and Pat Reich, who teamed up to play in the number one doubles bracket of the tournament. The duo defeated strong teams from Belleville East and Alton Marquette on its way to a team-best fourth place finish. Pulling through with an impressive fifth-

place finish was the number two doubles tandem of feisty juniors Chris Monti and Dan McDougell, who were out until about 10:30 p.m. fighting to capture that crucial fifth place match, which proved to be key in the final team score. Not leaving empty-handed, the number three doubles duo of Pat Steinway and Jack Horgan won their first match before being defeated by the eventual first-place champions, and then again by the eventual fifth-place champs. This success in doubles left the Jr. Bills in fifth place after day one, eager to battle for first in the second day of singles.

In the second day of the tournament, rain put a damper on the singles portion of the tournament, causing the whole tournament of about 48 first-round matches to be moved to Kings Point Tennis Center. Kings Point consists of eight indoor courts. Because of time constraints, each match was played as an eight-game pro set, as opposed to the usual full two-out-of-three set matches played in the tournament. But this posed no problem to the Raincoatbills, who all won their first round matches. Steinway, McDougell, and freshman Horgan all made it to the semifinals of their brackets, and Harvath, Reich, and Monti also picked up victories before being defeated in the second round, each by the eventual champions.

The success of the singles bumped the Forehandbills from a mediocre fifth place to a respectable third-place finish overall. The Tennisbills look toward next week where they hope to defend their title and add another plaque to the theater lobby as district champs. They could move on to the next round of the playoffs, Sectionals, while sending a few guys to the state tournament individually.

### Announcement:

The Pulse radio station will debut its website today. Check out the Pulse at [www.sluh.org/pulse/radio.htm](http://www.sluh.org/pulse/radio.htm)

## Inlinebills roll past Flyers, into year-end All-Star game

**John Pimmel**  
**Reporter**

Tonight, the MOIHA all-star schedule pits the MCC All-Star team against a group of OK kids from St. Chuck. Unlike other sports, the All-Star game points to the end of the roller hockey journey. With the season winding down, it seems fitting to take stock of the feats of the beloved Black-Biskit.

SLUH's 3-7-1 record is deceiving, and one would be foolish to assume that it tells the whole story. In the past three games, the J-Bills have gone 1-1-1, while scoring an average of four goals a game. Also, when playing at home (whispers: *All-American*), the Boys in Blue are 1-2. With two of the last three games at home, the end of the season could end up quite nicely. Now, onto the fix everyone needs so badly: the stats.

On April 19, the Rollerbills stayed home and faced off against a severely oversized Chaminade team. Leading scorer and all-around tough guy Nick Koenig showed why he wears a "C."

Criss-crossing in front of either side

of the goal, Koenig elegantly tapped home two goals in the first half of the game. In the second half, Koenig offered up the cross-goal pass to a wide-open Andy Skosky, but Skosky fell over his own wheels, and the puck went through the crease, ending up on Koenig's stick again. Quickly, he flicked his wrists and finished off his hat-trick, leading his team to a 5-3 victory.

Said Skosky, "Nick was awesome tonight. I wonder if he could possibly teach me how to not fall down." The torrid scoring of Koenig continued as he tallied another goal and two assists in the remainder of the three-game road-trip. All told, Koenig wound up with six points in three games.

Defenseman Nathan Linneman did his best, but only ended up with 4 points in three games. He said, "Jeez, *only* four points? I'm a defenseman. I thought that was pretty good." He's a little bitter. He's probably just upset that the end of the season draws nigh. On Monday, the Jr. Bills take on a talented DeSmet team at AA Gold at 9:00 p.m. Come root for the upset that could put us in the post-season.

# Recollected in tranquility: Bannister looks back

*Principal reflects on seven-year tenure at SLUH*

**Andy Neilsen**  
Editor in Chief

**Prep News:** How has the school physically changed since you became principal?

**Dr. Bannister:** The first time I came in they had already completed the restoration of the Jesuit wing, I think it had occurred a year before I got here. But when I got here they were in the process of renovating the science wing and they were building the band room and the chorus room. That was the summer of the beginning of my first year. We had moved the offices up to (J124) at that time. That was a rather major restoration. Back before you guys got here there were doors (that) had big windows in them, they had transoms, they were really left over from the 1920s. They had glass blocks—that glass block sitting up (in Bannister's office) there actually came from M101, and when the guy was hauling it out I said, "What are you going to do with that, because that was my first homeroom?" and so he gave me a glass block. So we had completely renovated the center of the building. We opened the theater at the same time. The following year we then tackled the gym and put in a new set of windows. And the following year was the library. The library was the major one. When you walk in, where the offices are, there were storerooms and the offices were where the computers are. And we actually brought in a guy with some national prestige relative to designing libraries and he liked our library design, and he made the suggestion to the system we have now. So basically we've had construction in almost every site.

**PN:** What effect do you think the new classrooms and theater have had on the school as a learning institution and a physical body.

**DB:** For one thing, it allowed us to have classroom space to reduce the class sizes, because at one time Mr. Clark's office was where 113 is and literally from where Mr. Aylward's room is there was one classroom there and all the rest was office space. This (the main office), of course, was the auditorium. Really by allowing us to do this it freed up all those. We probably got three or four classrooms on (the east) side, one or two on (the west) side.

Eventually, we even picked up classrooms above us, even though it sounds like they're reenacting the Civil War now and then. We were able to pick up space we've never had before. I think the classrooms have allowed us to keep the class size down.

The other thing that it allowed us to do was wire the whole place for computers, even though at that time we really didn't

have, other than telephone lines, access to the internet. But that year we were able to click into a T1 line which gave us much faster (access) and bigger capacity. But, also, all of the televisions that you have in classroom were made possible, so you didn't have guys pushing carts down the hall and trying to struggle with those kinds of things.

I think that with the renovations, basically instead of trying to develop one or two smart classrooms, I think what we've tried to do is to give each room the capacity to be a smart classroom.

**PN:** You said in an interview with the *Prep News* when you first came here that one of your goals was to develop a new curriculum and cut down on students who leave SLUH before graduating. Do you think you have achieved those goals?

**DB:** To some degree I think that, for example, in science our program is really in a state of shift and change. I think in the area of history just simply doing what they've recommended doing has helped. I think we've made some shifts with having a health program. The English department keeps adding classes that I think are very good, very interesting. I guess one of my concerns would be, could we not do what we want to do with junior English with elective courses and achieve the same goals and therefore allow students to have even more of a selective process?

I think academically speaking we've made some strides and some changes. I think in the area of computers we have a lot more now than we've had in the past. I know we've changed the amount of time that theology can have. So from that point of view I think this community has done a really good job of keeping the curriculum moving. I think the new administration hopefully will see maybe some better ties between curriculums.

When I came we were probably at about 1005 (students), and then we would end the year somewhat below. Right now we're about 1030, and I think one of the reasons is that I don't think we lose students basically because of academics. One of the concerns that I have now is the climate of the school and how we respect one another. I think there are some major things that we need to be addressing. If a student can be accepted here at (SLUH), there's no reason that student shouldn't be able to graduate from (SLUH). I think numerically speaking that ... you can probably show that we've turned that around.

**PN:** Have you noticed anything different about the students here at SLUH since you've been principal?

**DB:** I hope that students feel like they are heard and listened to; I think that they probably have been in the past. I think there are  
see **BANNISTER, 12**



Bannister's 2001 yearbook picture.

**BANNISTER**

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more opportunities here because there are smaller classes, I think that people are now able to say things. (Whereas) they would've been one of thirty, they are now one of eighteen in a class. I think therefore people are starting to converse more. I think an extra period in the day when you can go off and talk to somebody other than just the activity period has been a help.

**PN:** Is there any club or organization that you are particularly proud of at SLUH? What is the importance of such organizations?

**DB:** I am absolutely flabbergasted by how many (there are). My only concern is that we won't be able to staff the clubs. Read our mission statement. I think that what we are talking about is, "Do we see SLUH as preparing young men to be leaders in a functioning society?" I think the answer is "yes." If you're just in classrooms, I don't think that happens. It's in activities, it's in sports. I think all clubs and activities really and truly are as important as the academics.

**PN:** What would you say is your vision of a successful SLUH, and how has your time as principal achieved that?

**DB:** Obviously I envision SLUH as still having the strong academics and strong support program that it has enjoyed in the past. If anything, we're in our niches to try to be dealing with those kids that God has already blessed with a lot of potential and to try to help (them) to be all that (they) can be, which is why I say that extra-curriculars are as important as those curriculars. I hope that when I came it was a tighter program in the sense that the schedule was locked in, it really was a strong regiment type of a situation.

I think we have expanded to a degree to allow for some choice-making by students and I would like to see us do more of that. My vision is that we continue always trying to do the same kind of things that I think makes SLUH the Jesuit school that it is. I know that it sounds corny, but being a man for others. I hear people saying, "We need to be more concerned with our fellow man." I think the benefit of SLUH is that balance. I know that people keep moving further away from core cities. My hope is that SLUH still becomes, because of its location, more able to draw people into the center. I think trying to keep an atmosphere here where people can be from different locations (is important). Believe it or not, I think that geographic diversity is a bigger problem than economic diversity. I think Fr. Sheridan does a super job in trying to give us the wherewithal to do these things.

**PN:** How do you think that the neighborhood has changed due to SLUH's presence during your seven years, and how do you think that has contributed to SLUH's growth and the neighborhood's growth?

**DB:** I was on the board when we started deciding, if we're going to stay here, we also need to have a chance to grow. I think we made a presentation of saying if we're going to be in the neighborhood and we're going to be here for a while, then we

need to be a good neighbor and we need to be supportive of the neighborhood.

I think we have tried to do that, we have said to them what we think we need and how we would try to deal with them. I don't think we've tried eminent domain, I don't think we've done a lot of other things. If anything I think we've raised the value of this area.

But we've also said, we need to get (SLUH) kids off the streets. I think we have been able to find a place that's safe for kids to park that's agreeable and fair to the community. I think with our service projects we've gone out to this community and dealt with this. And at the same time it's been very beneficial to Washington University, finally, as they've seen that they need to be part of this as well. Dealing with Adams School has been important. I think we've been very communicative with the Science Center and Compton-Drew. I think even as we look to the possibility of developing what (Sheridan) calls Vision 2000 which is really a student life center, I think we're doing it with a view of how it's going to affect the neighborhood.

**PN:** Any thoughts on leaving?

**DB:** When I was a senior here, it didn't hit me that it was over until my own *Senior Follies*, and this I guess is just kind of another *Senior Follies* for me.

**PN:** Are you looking forward to retiring? Any summer plans?

**DB:** Getting up early at four o'clock in the morning on a winter morning to decide whether or not we'll have school is something (I won't miss). I plan to go to Scotland right after graduation and spend about a week there. I usually go up for a couple weeks during the summer to the Canadian border usually for "recharging the batteries" so I'm fresh when I get back in. My family is very mobile, I have daughters that love to travel, we have an agenda of things to do.

**PN:** In what capacity will you return next year?

**DB:** Fr. Sheridan has asked me to be a consultant to him. I promised to give him two days a week if not three. But even there, for example, he's probably going to ask me to pick some projects that I think promote SLUH. I don't think I should be seen to be somebody that, if they don't get along with the present principal, they can go find me. I think I need to be away from that but at the same time very supportive of whatever we do. So I hope I can find a balance without hiding.

**PN:** With almost 30 years of administrative experience, what advice do you have to Dr. Schenkenberg as SLUH's new principal?

**DB:** I think she should enjoy it. I know Dr. Schenkenberg, I've seen her operate when I was out at Ladue, I had communications and opportunities to work with her when she was at Nerinx. I don't think she needs any specific heads up. I'm sure she's going to do a very good job. My advice to her is to enjoy, and hopefully she leaves it better than she found it.

# Under pressure: AP curriculum examined

**Paul Hoglebe**  
Reporter

To AP or not to AP, that is the question on the minds of many sophomores and juniors filling out their schedules for next year. Ask any caffeine-fueled, sleep-deprived upperclassman what he thinks of an AP curriculum and you're probably going to receive nothing more than an elaborate complaint. With the weight of the consequential tests adding stress to an already hectic time of the year, students may not always be the best source for the merits of AP classes. So instead, we turn to the teachers to judge the current Advance Placement program, its benefits and some of its shortcomings.

Recently, a collection of AP teachers scattered throughout the country has spoken out against the concept of the AP. They feel that the curriculum forces them to compromise interesting but just as relevant material for the sake of teaching to a test.

Believing that the students lose understanding from the accelerated nature of the courses, concerned teachers would prefer their pupils master course aspects that seem more directly applicable. Another concern is that students choose an AP course over a regular one just for the sake of having the college game's trump card of a high school transcript adorned with the initials "AP" throughout. Some reputable high schools have already disbanded the AP program at their school.

Similar are the feelings of Steve Kuensting, SLUH's AP Biology teacher. Said Kuensting, "The problem with the AP curriculum is that you have to teach to a test." Further compounded by the fact that he "doesn't have the time to get through even that," the situation prevents him from covering any interesting subject to an extent that gives that content justice. Kuensting would like to delve into local biology, but since AP Bio covers all forms of life in detail, that prospect is out of the question. The sheer quantity of minimum material to cover is discouraging; even with adding an extra lab period a week, this year's class was unable to cover all of it. He stated that, "College credit is good, but biology to me is more than a book and a test." Ultimately, Kuensting would like an advanced biology class that still contains the same caliber of students while providing him a chance to cover material he feels most important.

Other science instructors feel rushed in their AP endeavors, but many not to the same extent as the AP Biology class. Chemistry teacher Charlie Busenhart was forced to add a one semester senior elective to more fully prepare dedicated chemists for the AP test, and when he saw the curriculum, "dropped what

I thought wasn't applicable in the near future." He tells students directly what he will not cover but what the AP test expects them to know. With that said, though, he finds merit in the AP system because "it covers the important things to know anyway."

Echoing Busenhart's sentiment, Physics B guru Paul Baudendistel feels that because he has certain objectives to get across ensures that he presents the best class possible, making it "truly college prep." While "the tradeoff between content and process is always there," Baudendistel finds solace in knowing that he has the best of SLUH's best in his class. With the highest echelon of students to work with and to challenge, he believes that in the end, the students "have a better learning experience."

Math teacher Tom Becvar, always a proponent of the AP concept, instructs qualified seniors in the ways of fabled BC Calculus. Stating that "most everything covered in class falls right in line" with the content of the AP test, Becvar never feels he has to compromise any material. While the inherent workload

is great, proportional rewards follow for the intrepid few in many different arenas. He feels that AP credit "helps students in a lot of ways," especially in terms of saving time and money in college, and hopes that qualified students take advantage of the opportunity.

The Social Studies department ardently defends the AP program. U.S. History teacher Dan Monahan said that "AP courses ensure mastery of the material while forc(ing) us to teach a college-level course." He feels that the specific skills gained in accelerated

classes help students later in their academic careers and are well worth the additional effort. He stated, "I have to teach a well-balanced course," but added that he "never feel(s) compromised."

Another AP advocate, Modern European History teacher Steve Aylward said, "Our courses prepare (the students) for the test, but I do not 'teach to' it." He, like Monahan, believes that the AP syllabus designates what a well-rounded course should be, but also says he will always teach a course that addresses the most pertinent material. "I wouldn't change the course if it wasn't AP," he said.

And then there's the English department. Honors English teacher Jim Raterman explained that his and similar classes "emphasize reading and writing at a sophisticated level." Honors English takes students with high proficiency in that area, like any other AP class, but does not specifically cater to the AP test. Raterman prepares students at a high level like any AP course, "but that's the purpose of the course anyway." While some of the

see **THREE HOUR TOUR, 14**

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*"Our courses prepare (the students) for the test, but I do not 'teach to' it. I wouldn't change the course if it wasn't AP."*

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*—History teacher Steve Aylward*

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## TOTY

(from 2)

been difficult to make my peace about leaving, and the reception of this award has made it even harder to accomplish that... I have always loved working here, and this award is a great honor to leave with, since it's a symbol of all the time I have spent at SLUH."

One of the final things Murray will do for the senior class is to speak at their graduation dinner.

"How do I write a speech about my experience and time with these students into words?" he questioned. "How do I express all my emotions from the past ten years into one speech?"

Murray explained that teaching is never a nine-to-five job, and that there are so many emotions that come along with the teaching experience. "We have as many stresses as (the students) experience, only (the teachers) are supposed to

be in control of the class."

Those who have had him as a teacher or a coach know how hard Murray works to form a relationship with his students that exists outside of the classroom. Senior Ian Mulligan noted that "this honor is great for Mr. Murray because he works so hard to be the best teacher he can. The most rewarding thing for him is how proud he must feel about receiving this recognition."

Senior Dan Hartwig said that he voted for Murray not only because he was leaving, but because he really deserved the recognition. "I thought this would be the way to show my appreciation because he has been more of a coach and a friend to me than he has been a teacher."

Senior Scott Cunningham voted for Murray because he showed "a genuine care for all the students, even for those he has never taught."

## THREE HOUR TOUR

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specific mechanics of the test are not covered, the students who take the test are perfectly qualified to do well.

While it is not at the instructional end of the AP, the Counseling Department has a direct influence on student placement in these weighty endeavors. Counselor Dave Mouldon elaborated: "You have to find the right balance between courses," knowing that even one can be a stressful undertaking. With admission to highly selective schools becoming more and more elusive, counselors encourage qualified students to go for the AP label, but also recognize the worth of one's challenging oneself. Having to take AP classes for the mere sake of college admission is an "unfortunate reality, but it shouldn't always be the determining factor."

While every department and AP class does not receive representation in this article, one can see how many different opinions exist about the AP. Some swear

by it, others find it flawed. Some courses are predisposed to fit the AP perfectly, while others overflow and rupture their container, stressing the students' time to the maximum. For some disciplines, especially science and language, meeting five times a week just does not provide teachers with enough time to cover all necessary material. Given the difficulty of rearranging the schedule, though, it could be some time before concerned teachers could see beneficial change.

All interviewed faculty members agreed on the worth of receiving college credit. Amongst the varying stances, there was a shared appreciation for eager students who were willing to push themselves. So if the question whether to take an AP course is on your mind, remember to challenge yourself reasonably and choose things that interest you. Ask questions and make choices based on the right reasons. It is about learning, after all.

## Drunk Driving



Mary Smith from Mid-America Transplant visited SLUH on Thursday to discuss drunk driving from her own tragic point of view: Smith's two year-old son and husband were killed by a drunk driver ten years ago. The assembly, which also addressed organ donation, was mandatory for seniors.

## THIS WEEK IN PN HISTORY

**Volume LVII Number 29**

**Friday, April 30, 1993**

"The Druids swept through the regional tournament by defeating the Creighton, Lawrence, and Rockhurst clubs.

The St. Louis Druids next and largest challenge will be to bring home its first ever national championship."

**Volume XLV Number 29**

**Friday, April 3, 1981**

"A.P. tests will be given in mid-May. Be prepared!"

**Volume LXV Number 29**

**Friday, May 11, 2001**

"As with this year, there will be seven class periods in the day, and a block schedule will be used once each quarter on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

One of the largest changes facilitated by the new schedule was the movement of theology classes from three classes to five each week."

# Plainsong: the reality of teenage pregnancy

Emily Augsburger, Andrew Ivers,  
and Ann Schroeder

For most high school students, male and female, the gravity of parenthood is years away. Their focus is still strictly personal. Their future is formed on their own terms: college plans, maybe a major, maybe a career—in some cases, perhaps a girlfriend or a boyfriend they think may be with them through their college years, but that's about it. Perhaps they are sexually active, but regardless of the number of those who are, teen pregnancy and teen parenthood are often far from their minds. In society, it is certainly still taboo. Yet it is a reality for many young couples, a reality more prevalent than most think.

The majority of today's teenage population is romantically involved with another individual, and of that majority, half are sexually active. In 1999, 49.9 percent of high school students reported having had sexual intercourse during their lifetime. Also in 1999, 38.6 percent of 9th-grade students, 46.8 percent of 10th-grade students, 52.5 percent of 11th-grade students, and 64.9 percent of 12th-grade students reported having engaged in sexual intercourse, according to Planned Parenthood.

But for students in private Catholic high schools, those numbers seem to be just that—dry data, hardly connected to their lives. Yet there are seniors at Nerinx Hall and SLUH, just to narrow the focus, who came into parenthood far sooner than they ever thought they would.

Seniors Joe Devine of SLUH and Mandy Muschler of Wentzville High School have been together for a year and nine months and are also the parents of a ten month old girl, Taylor.

Devine and Muschler dealt with the challenge together, but there did prove to be a difference from where each felt the pressure.

"Telling my parents was the toughest part, probably," said Devine. "It was kind of tough. I just kind of told them one day and they reacted in their own different ways. At first they were kind of mad...and all they (did was) get angry, but eventually I guess they learned that...there's nothing you can do about it now, to take it back, so you just have to deal with the situation."

As is usually the case, the young woman felt the greater

*Emily Augsburger and Ann Schroeder are staff reporters for Nerinx Hall's newspaper, Hallways, and Andrew Ivers is PN's editor in chief.*

societal pinch—given that she could not physically hide her pregnancy the way a man could. "I live in a hypocritical world. I was kicked off cheerleading squad because I was pregnant, but all the girls were sexually active. They called me a slut," Muschler said. "Once I was walking in the mall and an older lady saw me. She grabbed the little girl who was at her side and pulled her to the other side of the walkway to avoid me, almost like it would rub off on her."

After the original trauma of the pregnancy, Devine and Muschler faced the decision of what to do with the baby. "For us, abortion (was) not even a choice, for either of us. So, basically it was give her up for adoption or keep her," said Devine. "Both our parents at first didn't support keeping the baby but then they realized that we can do it, we have the capability, so we decided to keep her."

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—Mandy Muschler

Devine and Muschler retained custody of the child. Taylor lives at Muschler's house and, since Muschler's mother is retired, someone is always watching the child. After arranging proper course credits, Muschler made a deal with her administrators, allowing her to attend class every other day. According to Devine, he and Muschler will also be able to attend college.

All told, Devine and Muschler's lives were not severely altered by their daughter's birth. As Devine said a few times, "Our situation is one in a million to where we did have the capability and we did have the means (to raise the child)." He also said that he and Muschler are lucky enough to be committed to each other, not just committed to a relationship for Taylor's sake.

Yet just because their lives were not set back by their daughter's birth, as Devine said many couples' often are, does not mean they made no sacrifices. Once again, the female seems to have borne the brunt of the burden. "I don't have a social life. I gave up everything for (Taylor)," said Muschler. "Sometimes I don't want to come home. I love Taylor, but I just want a break. And I wouldn't come back."

"Sometimes I can't always go out or do what I want sometimes," said Devine, "but in the long run, we have both said that see PREGNANT, 16

by Patrick Meek

## Calendar

May 3 - May 10

**FRIDAY, MAY 3**

Schedule H

Junior Ring Dance

V-TN @ Belleville East Tourn. @ 4 pm

V-Track @ MCC Meet @ Chaminade @ 4:00pm

C-BB @ DeSmet @ 4:15 pm

B-BB @ Granite City @ 4:15 pm

V-RH All Star Game @ All American @ 8pm

**SATURDAY, MAY 4**

V-BB vs St Mary's @ HM @ 1 pm

B-BB vs CBC @ HM @ 4:15 pm

JV-TN @ Edwardsville Tourn. @ 4pm

V-Lax @ CBC @ 2pm

**MONDAY, MAY 6**

Schedule R

C- BB @ Frosh Tourn

V-TN @ District Tourn.

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

V-Lax vs Kirkwood @ Nipher Middle @ 4:30

V-RH vs DeSmet @ All American @ 9pm

**TUESDAY, MAY 7**

Schedule R

V-BB vs CBC @ Washington U. @ 1 pm

V-TN @ District Tourn.

V/JV- VOL @ Mehlville @ 4/5pm

V-RH vs DuBourg @ Top Shelf @ 7pm

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**

Schedule M

C-Track @ Vianney Invite @ 4:00pm

V-BB @ Vianney @ 4:15 pm

V-TN @ District Tourn.

V-Lax vs Lindbergh @ 4:30

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**

Schedule R

C-Track @ Vianney Invite @ 4:00pm

B-BB @ Vianney @ 4:15 pm

V-TN @ District Tourn.

V/JV- VOL @ Vianney @ 6/7pm

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**

Schedule R

V-TN @ District Tourn.

**PREGNANT**

(from 15)

we can...do what we always wanted to do."

Almost more importantly, he said, he has found the legitimacy of his opinions tarnished by his experience. "People might think that just because I'm fine with my life right now and fine with my situation, my relationship with my girlfriend, that...I'm okay with premarital sex, and that's one big problem I have. My beliefs on premarital relations (have been) complicated, but Mandy and I still believe to this day that we're in love with each other, we want to be with each other for the rest of our lives...I still don't believe that people who don't love each other, don't promise to be with each other—I still don't believe in premarital sex. I don't think it's right. I don't condone it."

Nerinx Hall senior Adrienne Weber found out she was pregnant when she was a sophomore, and, knowing she could not raise the child, waded into her pregnancy unsure whether to abort the child or give it up for adoption.

She said she was initially, "really scared and confused," but eventually gathered the courage to seek help from others, starting with the child's father. "When I told him, he said he would do whatever he could to support me," Weber said. Slowly, she revealed her secret to the rest of the

people in her life, including those in her church community. "As everyone began to find out, they were there for me. All of my family friends and parish members were so amazing."

She didn't think most of the people in her life even acknowledged her pregnancy until she was close to seven months through. But, she often wondered to herself, "Are they judging me? Do they think I'm older, married?" Suspicion stalked her constantly, but fortunately no one ever persecuted her. "No one hurt me...to my face."

As pressure mounted, Weber struggled between the options she set for herself: abortion or adoption. Believing she knew what to do, Weber even went so far as to make appointments for the abortion. After three failed attempts to finalize the appointments, she concluded that the best decision for her was adoption. She told the father her decision to have the baby, but his previously "supportive" attitude quickly turned to betrayal.

"Once I let him know I wanted to have the baby, he started denying (his fatherhood) to everyone." Nevertheless, the experience Weber went through helped her grow as a person, and her growth continues a full two years after the birth of her child. She always has a simple bit of advice for other young women: "It can happen to you."

# Prep News

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—*"If nothing else, value the truth"*—

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