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St. Louis University High School

# Prep News

Volume LXV

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

Issue 1

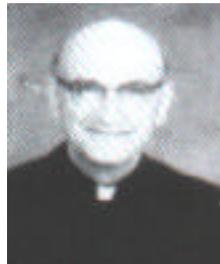
## Gerald Sheahan, S.J., SLUH Principal from '55-'67, dies in Jesuit Hall at 79

**Tim Elfrink**  
Editor in chief

A true presence in the last 50 years of St. Louis U.High history, as well as a major factor in the life of every Jesuit living in North America during this period, Gerald Sheahan, S.J. died peacefully in his sleep at 5 a.m. Tuesday morning at Jesuit Hall in St. Louis. The principal of SLUH from 1955 until 1967, Sheahan had been in and out of hospitals the past

two months because of an adrenal gland problem before passing away roughly six months shy of his eightieth birthday.

"He was a great man," said current principal Robert Bannister, who worked with Sheahan for nine years



Former principal Fr. Sheahan, S.J.

on the SLUH board of trustees. "He was the kind of person who embodied the true meaning of a Jesuit."

Sheahan joined the Jesuits in Lawrence, Kansas, and was assigned to the same seminary as long-time faculty member Martin Hagan, S. J. Sheahan followed Hagan to SLUH in 1952, when he was named the Assistant Principal. In 1955 he took over the position of principal, a job he held for twelve years, work-

see SHEAHAN, 6

## 15 new faces on '00 staff

**Raj Joseph**  
Assistant Editor

Each school year, St. Louis University High welcomes two or three new faculty members to replace teachers who have retired or moved from the St. Louis area. This year, however, the expanded schedule (from six to seven periods) has created a heightened need for more than the usual number of new faculty. Therefore, SLUH has welcomed fifteen new teachers to the staff this year.

The last time SLUH experienced such a large faculty turnover, eight teachers were added. Two major factors caused

see FRESH, 2

## Freshmen land at Green Hills, thrive on D-Days

**Kevin Moore**  
Core Staff

As many St. Louis U. High students enjoyed their last summer days, sleeping late and watching their favorite daytime television shows, the freshman class gathered for the annual direction days. The traditional introduction program, which took place from August 17 to August 22, was designed to welcome the incoming freshman class to SLUH and help them get to know some new friendly faces, according to freshmen class moderator Tim Curdt.

Each direction day began with a prayer service in the morning led by pas-

toral coordinator Robert Garavaglia. The day continued with a variety of initiative activities to help the freshmen start to learn each others' names and get acquainted with each other. These activities were led by senior advisers and other volunteers who were trained earlier in the summer by math teacher Dan See.

Following the initial activities on campus, the freshmen were loaded onto buses and shipped to Green Hills in Chesterfield. During their time at Green Hills, the freshmen were introduced to a number of group activities, including water polo and baseball.

"I thought it was a good experience" see D-DAY, 5

# NHS rakes it in with used book sale

**Andy Nielson  
Reporter**

Last Monday, bleary-eyed juniors and seniors trooped into school as early as 9:00 a.m. for the book sale. Walking sleepily down the freshman hallway toward the cafeteria with blank checks in hand, they were faced with a decision: new or used books?

To the left was the student commons, where the National Honors Society used book sale was under way. Led by senior NHS president Ben Gray and new moderator Jean Elliot, the NHS offered used books at discount price to benefit charity.

From Monday to Wednesday, Gray and a team of about ten other NHS members guided students to the appropriate books. Students redeemed their vouchers from the NHS book sale at the end of

school last year for credit on used books. Though the different books come in a variety of conditions, the deflated cost draws many to the used book sale.

Elliot was very impressed with the organization of the NHS members.

"Ben Gray was the first person I met, and he was the right person to get to know." Gray, who coordinated the event, worked from 7:30 to noon with the other members to help the sale run smoothly.

NHS members directed potential buyers to the books they needed, and settled credit accounts from the donations to the NHS.

The only downside to the used book sale was that the supply of books ran out early.

"Most of the language books sold quickly, but we still have pretty many English and algebra books left," Gray

said. Gray and Elliot both reported success, selling a total of 1,639 books and taking in \$32,770. This cash figure is preliminary, however, as the students' credits have not yet been subtracted. The NHS plans to donate the money to Honduras Project, Diabetes Walk, and the Caroline Mission, among others.

At the end of freshman hallway was another book-buying alternative, the cafeteria, where a maze of tables laden with books presented themselves to the new students. The students could buy anything from textbooks to a wide variety of Junior Billiken merchandise.

Kathy Hylla, the director of the new book sale, worked throughout the summer with Karen Troll, who ordered the books, gathered and stored the books for the upcoming sale.

Hylla coordinated the physical set up  
**see ROBBERY, 6**

## FRESH

(from 1)  
this turnover: the relocation of large numbers of Jesuits and retirements or movings, and the addition of new programs.

Principal Dr. Robert Bannister cited several reasons for the large number of replacements this year. First, the administration needed to replace faculty who had retired or moved. The administration also felt the need to hire new teachers in an effort to lower the student-teacher ratio for many departments.

Once qualified applicants for a particular job opening are identified, they are invited for an interview with a panel that includes Bannister, Assistant Principal Art Zinselmeyer, Dean of Students Eric Clark, the department chair of the department to which the applicant is applying, and President Father Paul Sheridan, SJ. According to Bannister, they typically look for applicants with the "intellectual capacity to challenge students and continue the program, human relation skills, and [a belief] in and [willingness to] follow Jesuit philosophies and give their energies."

From this search, 15 new teachers

were hired. Theology, a department whose needs expanded with the new five-days-a-week schedule, added Randy Rosenberg and Tim Chik full-time, while Tom Finan will teach two sections of junior Theology and two sections of freshman history.

Another department whose needs expanded with the addition of the full-year, three-days-a-week freshman history requirement, Social Studies also added Bonnie Laughlin, David Barton, Peter Cerneka, and Finan.

Kevin Nelstead and Kent Kerschenski are new in the Science department, where they will help ease the strain of the sections added with the new full-year mandatory freshman biology class.

Other new additions include Jean Elliott in Mathematics, Miles Grier in English, and Tim Rittenhouse, who will teach and assist with computers and technology.

Finally, the yearly influx of Alum Service Corps Volunteers—graduates of Jesuit schools who have volunteered a year of service at one of the high schools

in the Missouri Province—jumped from two to three. Adam Conway, class of '93 and Harvard graduate, will teach in the English department; Ken Ferrigni, class of '93 and Washington University graduate, will work in the Theater department; and Ryan Smith, a graduate of Rockhurst High School and Yale University, will work in the Science department.

Bannister expressed his confidence in the new hires and noted of their varied histories, "Everyone has a unique background."

One benefit of the addition of so many new teachers to the faculty is that the student-teacher ratio has been lowered. The average number of students that a teacher instructs during the day has dropped from about 110 to 95. Peggy Pride, chairperson of the Social Studies department, said that the reduction in class size "benefits both teacher and student."

Pride added that since freshmen history classes are now three days a week for the entire year, instead of five days a week for one semester, the addition of new "young faces" was necessary.

# SLUH staff, alums lead Upward Bound

**Tom O'Brien**  
Core Staff

Upward Bound, a program designed to help rising eighth-graders strengthen basic skills, had another successful summer, according to principal Chuck Hussung.

Hussung has been working in the Upward Bound program for the past thirteen years. "I think that what I like most about the Upward Bound program is seeing students gain skills through studying and as a consequence gain confidence in their intelligence." Among other reasons that Hussung keeps returning to the program is being able to watch kids from all around St. Louis come together and make friends. The most rewarding thing for Hussung, however, is figuring out how to meet a critical need. "It's something that makes working this job very satisfying, and I have a lot of fun doing it."

Serving graduates of the seventh grade, Upward Bound lasts for five weeks, and students attend five classes a day from 8:00 in the morning until 2:30 in the afternoon. Students are nominated by their grade school teachers or principals for a variety of reasons: they may not be living up to their potential in the classroom, they may need extra work in one or more

subjects, or they may need to experience a college prep high school atmosphere to help them with their impending high school decision. Students must take an entrance exam in order to be accepted into the program.

"Upward Bound is not necessarily for students who are getting straight A's and it isn't for students who are getting straight D's either," says Mr. Hussung, "It is for students who should be doing better than they have been."

While the majority of the students who are involved in the program attend suburban Catholic grade schools, Upward Bound was originally aimed at students from schools in the city. In recent years there has been a push to include more of these students.

Although Upward Bound is not formally affiliated with SLUH, a number of its teachers are faculty members and alumni. From the SLUH English Department, Tim Curdt has taught Study Skills and St. Louis History for five years and Steve Missey has taught Creative Communications for six. Current Alum Service Corps teacher Ken Ferrigni spent his first year in the program teaching the Literature class. John Shen, class of '98 and another first-year Upward Bound teacher, taught

Math. Barbara Mueller, an elementary-school teacher from Seven Holy Founders, rounded out the staff, teaching Grammar and Composition.

Mr. Curdt who has been working the program for the last five years cites the interaction with his fellow staff as a big reason he works upward bound. Curdt says that it is "a treat working with seventh graders for five weeks, and it is a treat to work with them for only five weeks."

Curdt also "enjoys watching seventh graders being introduced to a whole new way of approaching their studies, learning, and the world."

There are also six recent graduates of SLUH who serve as counselors, including Nathan Tower, class of 2000. Counselors are responsible for keeping track of students' homework, grading assignments for the classes, and running the recreation portion of the program.

Tower said of his first summer at Upward Bound, "It was a learning experience for me as well as the participants."

Graduating from the Upward Bound program doesn't necessarily guarantee admission to SLUH after eighth grade. However, ten to fifteen Upward Bound graduates each year are accepted into SLUH.

## POLICY

(from 3)

but they will not skew the author's original intent. Also, the editors reserve the right to withhold from publication any submission if it is deemed vulgar, tasteless, or otherwise inappropriate.

Any author wishing to have a letter published must submit it by 4:00 p.m the Wednesday before the letter is to be published.

Letters can be given to any *Prep News* editor or moderator. In addition, letters can be mailed to the *Prep News*, courtesy of St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland Ave., St. Louis MO, 63110 or e-mailed to [prepnews@sluh.org](mailto:prepnews@sluh.org).

## SLUH Band Swings Summer

**Ryan Vilbig**  
Reporter

Music was in the air this past summer, as a group of eight Musicbills performed throughout St. Louis County in municipal parks with the Dave Sinclair Youth Swing Band.

Led by SLUH band director Brian Mueller, the ensemble included several graduated seniors, as well as current seniors Andy Gilfoil, Andy Melenbrink, Mike Nye, Ryan Vilbig, and junior Josh Saleem. The group was also joined by drummer Josh Costello from JFK High School and vocalist Lesley Beck from Nerinx Hall.

The group debuted its "Swing and

Sinatra" show at the Ballwin Days fair in Vlassis Park. The band's summer schedule also included concerts in various parks around the St. Louis area.

Band members enjoyed the opportunity to perform as professional musicians and learned a great deal from the experience. "I had fun playing with the Dave Sinclair Youth Swing Band because it gave me a greater appreciation for swing music and made me realize how much work goes into a live performance," said Senior Andy Melenbrink, "not to mention the sixty dollars that I made for each show."

The band plans on reuniting next summer for another set of municipal parks performances.

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# OEC starts service project on Chubb Trail

**Drew Niermann**  
Core Staff

Known more for its rugged trips to various locales, the Outdoor Experience Club had a busy summer doing service work.

Club Moderator Patrick Zarrick feels "service to our environment is as vital as the usage and enjoyment of it." As a result, for the last few years the OEC has done several projects with St. Matthew's parish and the county parks.

With this in mind, the OEC once again decided to take part in a service project with the St. Louis County Parks Department. The project was coordinated with Rams Community First, a program which promotes service to youth from around the St. Louis area; in return, the club received several Rams tickets.

Early in June the OEC began their project at the Chubb Trail: helping to



Tyler Lucas and moderator Patrick Zarrick haul trees.

build a three mile extension loop from the middle of the trail to the bottom. A dream of Sam Mitchell, a retiree of the St. Louis County Parks and an experienced mountain biker, the extension will help ease the congestion on the trail, which St. Louis

County Parks reports is severely over-used.

When Zarrick heard of the project, he thought it would be an excellent service opportunity, since the trail is frequently used by the OEC. The proposed trail had taken several months to be approved by county executives, and in early June the trail started to take shape.

Eight Trailblazer bills began the process of building the trail along with three County Parks members and Zarrick. The first day's work included the removal of all the large branches and trees that were in the way of the trail.

The OEC has set September 23rd as the project's completion date, and is still responsible for getting between 50 and 100 volunteers to help in the completion process. The OEC helped in creating flyers and in their distribution to area outdoor stores. Following the trail's completion, there will be an inaugural ride.

## D-DAY

(from 1)

said freshman Tim Wahl. "We got to meet new people and learn how to act together as a group."

Jeff Harrison, S.J. helped take pictures and lead the young junior bills while at Green Hills.

A new component of direction days this year was a meeting between Paul Sheridan, S.J., Dr. Robert Bannister, and the counselors and the parents of the new freshmen that took place before the freshmen returned to the Backer Memorial for a mass with their parents.

The evening was concluded with a pasta dinner for the freshmen and their parents.

"I thought the day went very well," said Curdt. He believes that the direction days were largely successful due to "the freshmen [being] welcomed warmly thanks to hard work by Mr. Garavaglia and the teachers, the open spirit of the freshmen, and the responsible leadership of the seniors."

## PLATFORM

(from 3)

reporting of all significant news at SLUH. While any faculty member or student is welcome to submit suggestions for potential articles, the *Prep News* is never obligated to publish any article idea; the editors withhold the right to deem any potential article un-newsworthy and retain it from publication for this reason.

Our primary emphasis as editors of the *Prep News* is upon accurate reporting, careful editing, and clear writing. But we do attempt to include some visual expression—photography, drawing, technical aids, or

the like—in every issue. Despite our desire to make the paper visually appealing, we commit ourselves not to allow form to supercede substance.

The *Prep News* strongly encourages underclassman involvement and our office on the second floor of the Jesuit Wing, Room J, is always open, whether for involvement, criticism, praise, or suggestions. Without student reaction and feedback, the *Prep News* could not function.

If the *Prep News* is inaccurate, we will try to correct

any significant error in the following issue.

This is the platform and policy of the editors of Volume LXV of the *Prep News*.

*Our primary emphasis as editors of the Prep News is upon accurate reporting, careful editing, and clear writing.*

## SHEAHAN

(from 1)

ing diligently and establishing a career path that few can match in terms of success.

"He was definitely a workaholic," said longtime friend Hagan, "in the office every night, on Saturdays and Sundays, too."

After twelve years as principal, this work ethic led to Sheahan's promotion to Provincial General of the Missouri Province, which includes Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado. His six-year term in this position was marked by sweeping changes in the Jesuit order, necessitated by the declining number of young men enrolling in the order. Sheahan was forced to close several long-standing seminaries as a result.

"He had to make some major changes," said Hagan. "That seminary he had to close in Florissant was 150 years old."

After his term ended, Sheahan was made rector of prestigious Regis University, a Jesuit institution, a position he held for only a few years before being called upon for the most important service of his career. He was sent to Rome, where he spent over ten years serving as the assistant to the Superior General, the man in charge of all Jesuits in the United States and Canada. "He was in charge of correspondence, so every message sent to the Superior for ten years passed over his desk," said Hagan.

After his time in Rome, Sheahan's humility became as apparent as his greatness, as he moved without complaint from his powerful position in Rome back to St. Louis to assume the role of Assistant Provincial of the Missouri Province.

"He left his glamorous position in Rome without complaint to shuffle papers again back in the Midwest," said current Assistant Provincial Phil Steele, S.J. "That's just the kind of man that he was."

The creation of DeSmet High School can even be indirectly attributed to Sheahan's decisions as the principal of SLUH. In the early sixties, Sheahan was forced to reject so many worthy student

applicants for admission to SLUH that he was considering expanding the school to accommodate up to 1600 students.

"He had the personal responsibility of turning students down, and he hated it," said Hagan.

However, his visits to other comparably large Jesuit high schools convinced him that something would be lost from the comfortable atmosphere that resulted from SLUH's traditional size, so he instead recommended that a new Jesuit high school be built in the region. Thus the idea for DeSmet was born.

His legacy at SLUH is as impressive as anyone's, and listing all of his accomplishments is virtually impossible.

"He's absolutely the architect of our school as we know it today," said theology teacher Ralph Houlihan, S.J.

In his twelve years as principal, Sheahan oversaw the construction of the first theater, gym, and library; the introduction of Chinese, Russian, and Biology to the curriculum; the founding of the instrumental music program and the fine arts department; the institution of the demerit card system and the work-grant program; and the institution of the departmental organization of teachers and curriculums.

He also encouraged the first major influx of lay teachers into the faculty by guaranteeing their job security for the first time in SLUH history. He significantly improved life for the faculty by establishing a set pay scale and a retirement plan; before the standardized pay scale, each faculty member had to negotiate his or her salary individually, making it was significantly more difficult to make a living teaching at SLUH.

"Before [Sheahan], there were maybe four or five lay faculty members, and half of them were coaches," said Bannister. "He saw some major changes at SLUH."

Sheahan hired several lay teachers in this manner who became as much an institution at SLUH as he was, including current principal Robert Bannister, theater director Joe Schulte, French teacher Dick Keefe, and counselor Jim Murphy.

Sheahan is remembered as much for

his human touch and his virtues as a member of the Society of Jesus as he was for his many and varied accomplishments.

Theology teacher Jim Knapp had just joined the seminary at age 18 when the Provincial Sheahan met with every scholastic at the school. Initially intimidated by the meeting, Knapp was amazed at Sheahan's ability to put him at ease.

"My best friend had left the seminary the week before, and the first thing Sheahan said to me was, 'I heard your friend just left. How are you doing?'" said Knapp. "It was amazing how he really cared about everyone."

Everyone who knew Sheahan seems to remember him as a deeply respected man who managed to maintain an intimate rapport with those he worked with.

"If you came to him with a problem he'd give you an honest answer in a very firm manner," said registrar Helen Klenklen, who served as Sheahan's secretary for six years at SLUH. "If I made a mistake I'd definitely hear about it in a nice way."

"He was a good man," said Hagan. "I wish we had more like him."

Bannister, who was probably as close to Sheahan as anyone other than Hagan, had even higher praise.

"He was brilliant, kind, humble, and holy," said Bannister. "If I ever really knew a saint, it was Gerry."

## ROBBERY

(from 2)

of over 5000 books in the cafeteria with a contingent of 20 mothers each day. Volunteer SLUH mothers guided students through the labyrinth of tables to the appropriate books.

The two sales fed off of each other, as students could redeem NHS credit for new books as well as used. Hylla said that the success of the used book sale fluctuates very little, since many prefer to buy new books regardless of the price. The new book sale profit numbers are still being calculated, as the NHS and the new book sale's accounts were grouped together. Students who still have NHS credit left over will be compensated.

# A slew of new teachers in 2000

*Miles Grier: English Department*

*Tom Finan: History and Theology*

*Kevin Nelsted: Chemistry*

**Joe Potwora**  
Reporter

The SLUH English Department has a fresh talent on its staff. His name is Miles Grier, named after the great Miles Davis, the musician from the East St. Louis area.

As a child, Mr. Grier grew up with music. At age three he was singing Michael Jackson's "Rock with You." One of the biggest moments for him was at an outdoor Jazz Festival back in Cincinnati, his hometown. He was able to sing with some of the more respected Jazz singers in the Cincinnati area, which was a great honor for him.



Last summer, he took on a job in New York working for an investment bank as an equity researcher. Grier found that this environment did not suit him because he could not attain the level of excitement he could in a classroom.

He teaches two sections of juniors in this, his first year teaching.

As a youth in Cincinnati, he attended St. Xavier High School, a Jesuit institution. He moved to St. Louis five years ago for his undergraduate work at Washington University, where he graduated in May 2000 with a bachelor's degree in English.

While still in college, his professor recommended many schools, including SLUH, which caught his attention. Later, Grier says, when he learned he was selected to teach at SLUH, he "was very enthused at the opportunity. . .because it was where (he) wanted to start (his) teaching career."

see GRIER, 8

**Tom Holzaurer**  
Reporter

Having spent the past year finalizing his research for a Ph.D. in Medieval Irish Church History at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, new faculty member Tom Finan is well-positioned for teaching both freshman history and junior theology.

After earning his bachelor's degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia and his master's degree from the University of Chicago, Finan attended Catholic University of America to work on his Ph. D., which he will finish this November.

Finan's chance to study at Trinity came after he won a Rotary Club Scholarship. While there, he spent the majority of his time researching Classical Irish manuscripts.

When he wasn't researching and translating, he would go with his wife through the beautiful Irish countryside, where the weather is very much like St. Louis' in early spring.

While living in Ireland, Finan found many opportunities to compare it with the United States. For instance, Finan noted that there are many differences in trying to purchase goods, as Ireland lacks stores that are open 24 hours. "Shops are smaller and they're not open all day," he stated, "so you have to get things at a certain time or not at all. You can only buy milk on Saturday."

One of the more difficult adjustments Finan faced during his year abroad concerned the seasons: in the winter, the sun rises at 9 a.m. and sets at 2 p.m., while in



see FINAN, 8

**Dan Lawo and Kevin Moore**  
Reporter, Core Staff

After growing up on the plains of Billings, Montana, Kevin Nelstead has come to SLUH to be a chemistry teacher.

Nelstead lived in Billings for most of his childhood, going to high school there and staying very active in his church. He still visits his hometown frequently.

Nelstead attended six colleges and enjoyed all of them, recently receiving his teaching certificate at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). His best memories were probably at Washington State. "I'll never forget the great friendships I made at that school," Nelstead said. It was also there where he earned his Master's Degree.

Nelstead worked at the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in St. Louis for 12 years. Although he liked the job, he "was looking for something...in a more serving capacity." This decision led him to decide to become a teacher; he is now underway on his first year teaching. "So far SLUH has been great for me," said Nelstead. "I love the faculty, and the students are just great."

He has lived in St. Louis since 1988 and has been raising a family of four kids ranging from three to ten years of age. He loves the city and has many friends here. While he likes St. Louis and has had a positive first week of teaching, he will be teaching at SLUH for only one year. Next year he will be leaving for Bucharest, Romania, where he will teach science at a small mission school.



see NELSTED, 8

# Nightbeat: Gridbills stumble against Pats

**Matt Snively, Shawn Furey**  
Assistant Sports Editor, Reporter

In the thick night air Thursday night at SLUH stadium, the SLUH Jr. Billiken football team valiantly battled the Patriots of Parkway South. In a hard fought match, the Gridbills were overcome 17-14 in a game that came down to the wire.

The Bills came out slowly, falling behind 3-0 in the first quarter as their offense struggled to convert on any opportunities. Things continued to worsen as South's running game relentlessly pounded away at the SLUH defense, scoring again before time expired at the half. Going into halftime, the Gridbills were faced with a 10-0 deficit.

Scoring picked up in the second half,



The Jr. Bills grapple with the Patriots and the heat.

as SLUH's Zach Schmitt scored on a five-yard run after Matt Sinclair recovered a Patriot fumble, slicing the Patriot lead to three. As the game progressed, raucous fan support helped the SLUH defense to hold South on numerous scoring opportunities.

Said junior Adam Seibenman, "The crowd was unbelievable, and they helped

the defense more than they know. We look forward to that kind of support all year."

However, the fans could not carry the team forever, as South added a late touchdown that seemed to squash any hope of a comeback. Not to be outdone, quarterback Tim Vreeland led the Jr. Bills downfield in a last ditch attempt to make a comeback, and his efforts paid off when Dan Chik caught a touchdown pass that again pulled the Bills within grasp of a victory. However, three failed onside kick attempts and one South first down later, the Patriots were able to run out the clock, snuffing the SLUH comeback.

Sinclair reflected on the setback by saying "Losing this one is tough, but a lot of positives came out of this game...and nobody wins the tournament who enters undefeated."

He also enjoyed working with the various people he encountered during his research, many of whom he still keeps in contact with via e-mail.

## NELSTEAD

(from 7)

"I have taken two trips to Romania, and I started to plan service activities there." Nelstead became involved with service trips to Romania through his church, which has sent workers to Romania since 1989.

"I want to teach in Romania. . .and this (teaching at SLUH) is one of the steps in that process," said Nelstead. Nelstead and his family will move to Romania to teach for an initial commitment of three years, but he says his "hope is to be over there for the rest of (his) teaching career." However, Nelstead says that he will probably bring his family back to the U.S. when he retires.

## Quote of the Week

*"T.S. Eliot!"*

-ex-P.F.C. Wintergreen

## GRIER

(from 7)

On the atmosphere here at the U. High, he said, "the students are lively and the classes are full of energy." Also, he was very excited to see that his English students shared his level of energy.

He then stated with a grin, "I'll see what I think of the students' intellectual abilities after the first round of tests and papers."

The main goal of his classes is to create a better reader—someone who can identify an author's intentions, while at the same time understanding what symbols and objects mean in a larger context.

Regarding his new colleagues he said, "I love the English Department." He enjoys the department's "witty behavior," and the fact they "are excellent scholars of Literature and fine people to be around."

His plans for the near future are to teach. He also dreams of becoming a lecturer at colleges of his choice because he feels he can expand himself to a larger audience with this "mobile classroom." He hopes to enjoy his time here and to teach well.

## FINAN

(from 7)

the summer, it rises at 4 a.m. and sets around 11 p.m.

Although he found many contrasts between Irish and American life, he also found interesting similarities. He offered, "My friends said they could tape some television shows for me if I wanted, and even though I don't watch 'Friends,' it was on three times a day there." He adds that this—and the fact that you can eat at an Irish McDonalds—"shows how much America has influenced the world."

One special moment on the Emerald Isle occurred when Finan literally walked into Gabriel Byrne in a bookstore. A famous Irish actor, Byrne has appeared in the American films "The Usual Suspects" and Arnold Schwarzenegger's "End of Days." Finan also met The Edge, a member of the band U2.

Besides all of his research, Finan thinks that the most valuable thing he took away from his residence was the experience of living in a foreign country and seeing that the way things are done in the U.S. is not the only way they can be done.

# Soccerbills ask not what they can do for JFK

**Tony Albright and Mike Gau Reporters**

Despite returning only eight players from the 1999 state finalist soccer team, the Junior Bills appear fired up and ready to make another run at the state title. A preseason poll by Fox Sports ranks the Soccerbills as the fifth best team in the nation, an honor which will be a difficult task for the boys to live up to.

Senior midfielder Kevin McCarthy is confident that the team can handle the high expectations following their second place finish, stating, "The sky is the limit" for the team this year. If that quote sounds familiar, it is because a major St. Louis newspaper took Kevin's sparkling confidence and turned it into the headline for the SLUH preseason article.

The eight returners from a year ago fit together nicely, so they should not skip

a beat after last season's success. Led by goalkeeper Mark Valdez, voted the best in the state last year, along with the rock solid combination of Stan Simek and Kyle Ottwell in the defense, goals will be a luxury hard to come by for the opposition. Look for James Twellman to lead Missouri in goals, as well as fouls suffered. The midfield will also perform well, with Kevin McCarthy and sophomore sensation Frank Simek holding down the center.

The Martelbills feature a plethora of underclassmen to complement the experience of the returners. The team has three freshmen and six sophomores, making this one of the youngest teams in recent memory. But the amazing skill of these youngsters will more than make up for what they lack in experience, as their ball-handling acrobatics will surely score some goals this season.

In their first match of the season, the Jr. Bills took on the Celts of JFK. The fan support was what would be expected of a SLUH sporting event, as the rowdy spectators made a ruckus during the entire game. One of the two main cheers during the game consisted of the SLUH version of the terrible song, "Who Let the Dogs Out?" The other was the obnoxious clamor of the Jr. Bills' faithful whenever the innocent JFK cheerleaders attempted to do a cheer, drowning them out completely with an ear-splitting symphony of shouts and screams. Even the JFK cheerleaders were impressed by the Jr. Billiken spirit.

The game itself was not much of a contest, as James finished off a Timmy Fetter cross with a beautiful scissor kick less than five minutes into the match. Only moments later, it was Twellman doing the crossing, finding sophomore

see SOCCER, 12

# Water Polo starts season with 1st match tonight

**Jeff Dueker Reporter**

Water Polo 2000 promises to be a season to remember. The combination of strong, experienced seniors and an unusually powerful cadre of underclassmen should prove the SLUH team a step above the rest. This polo team, however, will have to overcome the serious disadvantage of not having a home pool readily available to them. The beloved Forest Park Community College pool is unavailable for the entire season.

"We've been practicing all over," said Varsity Coach Charlie Busenhart. The teams have had to use the facilities at John Burroughs, MICDS, and Affton to get their practices in.

Busenhart adds, "The players have to adjust to a new biological clock this year: school, homework, then practice." This inconvenience should not affect the play of the Polobills, but it still takes some adjustment. Busenhart also remarked on this

year's starters, but he is still unsure about who will fill a couple of starting spots.

"We are sure of Charlie Maitz, Brien Rea, Zach Hartwig, and Greg Auffenberg," said Busenhart. The rest of the decisions will hopefully come before the start of the season. Although the team itself is still under construction, its goals for the season are still the same.

"We have the talent to play in the championship game this year," boasts Busenhart. "But the real test," he adds, "will be MICDS (ranked first by coaches) and the first three games of the season," in which the polo team will take on Parkway South, Lafayette, and Marquette.

But no polo team is complete without the B-team and Freshman team. Coach Baudendistel, when questioned about the predicted performance of these teams, replied with a straightforward, confident answer: "Well, they're good." He then offered details about the teams, mentioning that "this B-team is the best B-team I've seen, and this is my sixth year coach-

ing B-teams here."

"Also," he added, "nine of the ten sophomores played in the summer," commending, "that really helps." But by far the biggest surprise was the large freshman turnout.

"I didn't even have to recruit from Direction Days this time," joked Coach Baudendistel. "But the amazing part was that eight incoming freshman had previous polo experience, shattering the old record of five freshman." With that, SLUH wishes the water polo teams good luck during the 2000 season. For further information about games, consult the schedule, or just ask the coaches or players.

This season will have an exciting start, so be sure not to miss those games, especially the Parkway South game this Friday at Parkway South, with the B-game starting at 4 and Varsity at 5.

Everyone is also encouraged to check out the Water Polo article printed in the *South Post*, a copy of which is posted on the bulletin board outside of the cafeteria.

# Footbills prepare for a rowdy '00

**Shawn Furey**  
Reporter

In the waning weeks of the 1999 football season, the Junior Bills pulled out some big wins in key games and seemed headed to play for the state title at the TWA dome. They even went so far as to practice their game on the turf at Rams Park. Sadly, a tough loss to eventual state champs Mehlville in the state semifinal prevented them from competing for the championship. The Junior Bills 2000 football team looks to finish the job this season.

With school starting later than usual this year it may seem as though the season is starting before the boys have had much time to prepare. However, the Gridbills have been working hard for weeks before classes started. Enduring practices in sweltering heat, sometimes more than one per day, the team has gotten its fire back and has managed to stay healthy and focused. The players can hardly wait to get to work in their first game against Parkway South.

In order to get the team some game experience before the season, Coach



Joe Billiken struts his stuff

Kornfeld arranged a Jamboree with Washington and Lindbergh. It served as an opportunity for the team to face some real opponents before the opening game. Kornfeld expressed approval of the arrangement, saying, "I was real happy with

how it went. I am going to look to (have Jamborees) again in future years."

Another game simulation that the players ran was the annual Blue-White Game. The intra-team scrimmage gives the coaches a great opportunity to see the players in a game situation.

So far as the upcoming season goes, the Junior Bills are incredibly optimistic. Resident bruiser Matt Sinclair said, "With Timmy Vreeland at quarterback and our strong defense, I expect nothing less than a state title."

Co-captain Zach Schmitt said "I am just going to try to run the ball hard, which will open up our great passing game."

Younger players, too, displayed confidence in Junior Billiken strength. Junior Adam Siebenmann said, "The season should be fun, especially toward the CBC game."

The attitude of the team should assure the entire student body that we are in for a fun year watching the football team. They will play hard, smart football. Come and see this team show you that for which they have trained so hard.

## Harrierbills plan to run opponents down

**Matt Snively**  
Assistant Sports Editor

It is hard to imagine that this year's cross country team would be able to top the level of success achieved by last year's state champion team, especially as last year's team was dominated by seniors, but the HarrierBills have no plans of letting up on the competition this season.

"We plan on picking up right where we left off," asserts Senior captain Dan Leinauer. "I know we have some top-level talent this year and we could do great things."

Along with Leinauer, Seniors Dave Godar and Ryan Hatch lead the team as captains. Chris Cruise, Jason Roehr, and Raj Joseph will also provide senior leadership for this relatively inexperienced team. Only Hatch and Leinauer ran in the

state meet last year, and they will also rely on support from up-and-coming Juniors John Parr, Tom O'Brien, and Pat Leinauer. Sophomores Drew Knobloch and Peter Schaefer are also prepared to step up and carry part of the scoring burden.

The team is not looking for success at solely the top level, however. The freshman and JV teams are not forgotten, as they are the foundation for future teams is laid here every year.

The coaching staff has changed as well. Besides stalwart Head Coach Jim Linhares and his ever-present assistants Pat Hamil, Rob Behm, and Tom Flannigan, an addition to the staff was made this year. Former SLUH student and new teacher Tim Chik returns to the cross country team, only this time as a mentor.

The positive feeling that surrounds the team has reached the coaches as well.

Mr. Flannigan notes, "We're really excited this year to try and match the success of last year's team."

The HarrierBills are not the only ones who feel optimistic about their ability to succeed this year. They were recently featured in the *Suburban Journal* in an article that will draw the attention of other teams. Since SLUH won the state title last year, many of the teams they beat on their amazing run to state will be gunning especially for SLUH.

Captain Dave Godar summarizes this sentiment perfectly, saying, "Even though there is a lot of tough competition this year, we still have enough talent to make another run at the state title."

The team starts on its quest this Tuesday at McNair Park in the First Capital Invitational. Races start at 4:00, and fan support will be appreciated.

# D-Days: 20 years of freshman frivolity

**Justin Austermann**  
Features Editor

Every August, groups of incoming freshmen gather to experience their first real taste of SLUH. Nervous and shy at first, most freshmen are reluctant even to join hands for the first teambuilding initiative. But by the conclusion of this one remarkable "Direction Day," these same freshmen are confident enough to dive headfirst into the expectant hands of their peers. A good idea? Sure. A testament to the lessons and friendships created that day? Absolutely.

The first Direction Day took place in the fall of 1980, thanks to the efforts of the pastoral program and Thomas Valiquette, S.J., then freshman class moderator. The goals were to "welcome the class, introduce them to their classmates, faculty, and senior advisors, and just to have a good time," according to one of the current Direction Day organizers, Rob Garavaglia.

These goals have remained the same for two decades.

Though the goals have not changed, the day itself certainly has. Phillip Steele, S.J., instrumental in the development of Direction Day from 1981 to 1993, recalls that early Direction Days involved a strenuous ropes course at Tower Grove Park. The course focused on teamwork and trust. When certification for the moderately dangerous course became too complicated, SLUH constructed its own ropes course at Green Hills, the current home of

Direction Day. As years passed and incoming classes presumably became wimpier, *that* course became a liability and organizers sought other means of teambuilding. No longer would freshmen be initiated by falling off a twelve foot

inexperienced freshmen about the shark-infested "Turtle-Crossing" and the harmful effects of radio-activity in "Remote Control." Parents, do not worry: it is nothing a SLUH freshmen cannot handle.

One constant feature of Direction Day has been its senior leaders, many of whom go on to be advisors in the freshman homerooms. Though faculty members plan and supervise activities, much of the day's success depends on its senior leaders, who provide assistance and encouragement. This success is hard to measure but easy to see. When almost every egg breaks after being dropped out the window of room M209, the day is hardly a failure. The excitement of working together as a class for the first time is an achievement unmatched by even the best-designed egg-parachute.

Former Direction Days have ended with campouts at Green Hills, and

even one night spent in SLUH classrooms. Perhaps that year freshmen were introduced to each other (and their classroom) better than they may have hoped. Two years ago, Paul Sheridan, S.J. began a new tradition of ending the day with a mass and dinner attended by the freshmen parents.

By the time it is all over, most freshmen are willing to pass up even the chance to sleep on a classroom floor. All they want to do is go home to their beds, while visions of Billikens dance in their heads...



Drawing by Mike Garcia

wall. Too bad.

The current program's "trust initiatives" are the work of Dan See, who has worked on Direction Day on and off since 1988. Prior to his work at SLUH, See worked for ten years leading group initiatives. The activities emphasize trust and cooperation, gradually increasing in difficulty as the day progresses.

Don't misunderstand. Just because they won't break any bones doesn't mean danger doesn't still lurk around every corner at Green Hills. See is quick to warn

# Calendar

by Ryan Oldani

September 1 - September 8

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Schedule #1

Freshmen Class Meeting

@ Activity Period

Prep News Meeting After School

STUCO Back to School Mixer

B-FB @ Parkway South @ 4:15pm

B/V-SC @ Gibault @ 6/4pm

JV/V-WP @ Parkway South @ 4/5pm

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

C-FB vs. Alton 10:00am

B/V-SC vs. Ft. Zumwalt South @ 5/7pm

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

LABOR DAY

No Classes

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Schedule #1

Frosh English Tutorial

College Visit: Southwest Missouri

State University @ Activity Period

V-SC vs. Vianney @ CBC Tourney

@ 6pm

B-SC @ DuBourg @ 4pm

C-SC @ Vianney @ 4pm

JV/V-XC @ First Capitol Inv.

@ McNair Park @ 4pm

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Schedule #5

Faculty Meeting @ 1pm

Back to School Night for Parents

C-XC vs. Parkway South

@ Manchester Park @ 4:30pm

JV/V-WP @ Lafayette @ 4/5pm

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Schedule #4

V-SC vs. DeSmet @ CBC Tourney

@ 6pm

B-SC vs. DeSmet 4pm

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Schedule #1

College Visit: University of South

ern Carolina @ Activity Period

Prep News Meeting After School

V-FB @ Kirkwood @ 7pm

C-SC vs. Edwardsville @ Forest Park #3

@ 4:30pm

JV/V-XC @ Mizzou Inv. @ Columbia

@ 3:30pm

## SOCCER

(from 9)

Matt Kreikmeier in front for the finesse touch by the keeper. The score remained 2-0 for most of the first half, as McCarthy ripped a shot off the crossbar ten minutes into the game. The Bills settled into a possession game, as Mark Valdez did not face a shot on goal in the first half. The Jr. Bills went on the attack late, however, as the sensational Kreikmeier netted his second goal in the half, once again taking the pass from Twellman. The half ended that way, with the SLUH dominating the Celts, 3-0.

After a halftime show involving a Blue Crew pyramid, it was back to business for the Martelbills. The Jr. Bills once again came out gunning, as Twellman rattled the post five minutes after half. Junior Dan Hartwig followed a minute later with his own shot, which slammed off the crossbar. Finally, the Jr. Bills cracked the stingy JFK defense, with James finishing a John Doyle cross with a header into the back of the net fifteen minutes after the break.

With a commanding 4-0 lead, the starters took a seat, allowing the second string to strut their stuff, and strut they

did. Junior Neil Sanders netted two rebound goals off shots by freshman phenomenon Joe Germanese and Frank Simek. The only save of the game was made by Pat Meier, on a low shot he had a bit of trouble handling. However, he was able to stop the kick. Ian Mulligan added a late goal off a Geno Burmester free kick, rounding out a thorough 7-0 pounding of the Kelts.

After the match, James Twellman commented that the performance was "a good start to the season," adding, "The young guys really stepped up." The next match is on Friday at Gibault, but next week is the C.B.C. Tournament. So, Jr. Bills, it is about time for us to get hyped up about our soccer team, as they make what is sure to be another strong bid at the state title.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loyola Academy is looking for a second-hand piano for use with their choral program. They will pay for the moving costs, and provide a tax deduction for the donor. If you have a piano, please call them at (314) 531-9091.

For Sale — Senior English paperback books: *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *Henry IV Part One*; *Poems: American Themes*

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Volume LXV, Issue 1

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